#### Olmec Art

Para.1

**The earliest Mesoamerican art and architecture （to combine ideological complexity, craft, and permanence） was that of the Olmecs, whose civilization flourished between about 1500 B.C. and 100 B.C.** The early Olmecs established major ceremonial centers along the rich lowlands of the modern Mexican states of Veracruz and Tabasco. At distant Teopantecuanitlan, the Olmecs established a sacred precinct, the first monumental evidence of the Olmecs in the highlands. **||** But the Olmecs had an advanced social and economic system, with networks for commerce extending far to the west and south. The fertile gulf plain probably allowed for允许；考虑到 an agricultural surplus, controlled by only a handful of individuals. **||** From the art and architecture of their ceremonial centers (we know too little about Olmec domestic life to call their sites cities), it is clear that for the Olmecs, social stratification was sufficiently advanced for their society to place/ **attach ...to**/ put great importance on the records of specific individuals, particularly in the form of colossal heads (enormous stone sculptures of human heads and faces).

stratification

stratify

social stratification 社会阶层

1.The word that in the passage refers to

1. Mesoamerican art and architecture
2. the ideological complexity, craft, and permanence
3. the earliest civilization
4. the permanent art and architecture

2.The word surplus in the passage is closest in meaning to

1. advantage
2. excess quantity
3. system
4. supply

充分的：sufficient, ample, adequate, abundant,

3.According to paragraph 1, which of the following is true about the ceremonial centers e stablished by the Olmecs

1. The centers served as the burial places of ancient Olmec rulers.
2. The inhabitants of each center had little or no contact with those in other centers.
3. The centers featured major works of art and architecture that were made to last.
4. The first and most important centers were built in the highlands.

4.Paragraph 1 supports which of the following ideas about Olmec society

1. Major artists and successful traders had roughly equal status.
2. The most important members of Olmec society resided in the highlands.
3. More people were engaged in producing monumental works of art than were engaged in agriculture.
4. There was a well developed social structure in which some individuals held more power than others.

Para.2

Long before modern radiocarbon 放射性碳dating testified to证明 the antiquity古物 of this culture, archaeologists and art historians had become aware of 感觉the power of Olmec art through individual objects. Some even identified the Olmec culture as the oldest of Mesoamerican civilizations, perhaps a mother culture from which all others derived由来, as the art historian Miguel Covarrubias once thought. Eventually the antiquity of Olmec culture was confirmed, and today many important elements of Mesoamerican art and architecture can be seen to have had a probable大概的 Olmec origin: ball courts球场, pyramids, portraiture, and mirrors. Some later Mesoamerican deities神【发音？】 probably derive from起源于 Olmec gods, and even the famous “**Maya”** calendar was already in use被使用 by peoples in the Olmec area at the dawn of Maya civilization.

5.The author put the word Maya in quotation marks in order to indicate that

1. few Mesoamericans were familiar with the Maya calendar
2. the calendar commonly attributed to the Maya was not actually developed by them
3. the names of Mesoamerican gods were included in the Maya calendar
4. it is doubtful that the Olmec and the Maya used the same calendars

**“阿拉伯数字”：**西方或欧洲形式的印度-阿拉伯数字。阿拉伯数字系统最先由印度的婆罗米人发明，之後由阿拉伯传入西方。很多地區都引用了這個系统，但是都根据自己的文字改造。

6.According to paragraph 2, how was the antiquity of Olmec culture confirmed

1. ~~Through close study of the Maya calendar~~
2. By archaeologists' success at tracing later Mesoamerican gods back to those of the Olmec
3. By radiocarbon dating of Olmec objects
4. By comparing different references to an ancient mother culture

Para.3

**One of the first important Olmec objects** to come to modern attention was the Kunz axe, acquired已获得的 in the 1860s in Oaxaca, Mexico. The ceremonial axe puzzled使困惑 and intrigued使迷惑 investigators for years **because** **on the one hand,** it was clearly neither Aztec nor Maya, the best-known ancient Mesoamerican cultures, and in fact it had no features that could be linked with与...有关 any known civilization, **while on the other hand,** it had surely been made in Mesoamerica in antiquity.

7.Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage. Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

1. Because the Kunz axe could not be linked with known Mesoamerican cultures of antiquity, investigators concluded that it was neither Aztec nor Maya.
2. The ceremonial axe puzzled and intrigued investigators because it was neither Aztec nor Maya, nor was it from any other ancient Mesoamerican civilization.
3. On the one hand the ceremonial axe was puzzling because it was not Aztec or Maya, and on the other hand it was intriguing because no other Mesoamerican culture made ceremonial axes.
4. The Kunz axe puzzled investigators for years **because, although** it was clearly made in ancient Mesoamerica, it could not be attributed to归因于... any known Mesoamerican culture.

Para.4

The axe exhibits many qualities of the style we now call Olmec: precious blue-green translucent透明的，半透明 jade, worked to reveal揭示；揭露 a figure in both two and three dimensions维度. More than half the axe is devoted to致力于 the creature's face: an open, toothless mouth, and closely set, slanting斜的 eyes which has often been likened to 被比作the face of a howling咆哮的；哭哭啼啼的 human infant. The creature's hands are worked in lower relief, and in them he grasps a miniature卫星的；小型的 version of himself. Feet and toes are indicated only by incision切口 (carved lines), and incision also marks the face, ears, and upper body, perhaps to suggest tattooing, ear ornaments, and a tunic. For over two millennia千年期；千年纪念日 this large, precious axe was presumably kept as a treasure or heirloom**[发音？]. It was not until** 1955, after several seasons of excavation at La Venta had produced many fine jade objects and a convincing series of radiocarbon dates in the first millennium B.C., **that** objects such as the Kunz axe were at last understood by scholars to **embody** the principles of the first great art style of Mesoamerica.

8.The word exhibits in the passage is closest in meaning to

1. displays
2. includes
3. combines
4. introduces

9.The word embody in the passage is closest in meaning to

1. utilize
2. reveal
3. incorporate
4. clarify

10.It can be inferred from paragraph 4 that the author provides a very detailed description of the Kunz axe because

1. the Kunz axe is more like later Mesoamerican art than it is like Olmec art
2. the Kunz axe is a characteristic example of Olmec artistic style and principles
3. the Kunz axe is the single most important and valuable piece of Olmec art so far discovered
4. the face of the creature represented on the Kunz axe resembles a human infant

Para.5

Early scholars of the Olmec style noticed a pattern of imagery 图像repeated on many of the carved stone objects. Many howling baby faces were found, and other faces seemed to combine the features of humans and jaguars美洲虎 (large cats). Today, while the presence of jaguar imagery is still acknowledged公认的, scholars have discovered that aspects of many other tropical rainforest fauna can be identified in the carvings. The caiman (a kind of alligator), eagle, toad, jaguar, and snake all appear in the Olmec supernatural迷信的 repertoire全部节目【发音？】. Anthropologist人类学家 Peter David Joralemon has suggested that most of the motifs图形 and images can be allocated to 被分配到a few Olmec deities神. The paw-wing motif, for example, can be shown to be an element of the winged dragon, itself perhaps derived from起源于 the eagle and caiman. This whole intricate 复杂的symbolic code appears to 似乎have been in use 在使用 from the first appearance of the Olmecs, and to have been employed consistently连续工作 for a thousand years.

11.In paragraph 5, the author uses the example of the paw-wing motif in order to illustrate

1. how Olmec images may be related to a few Olmec deities
2. why jaguar imagery is the most important of Olmec animal imagery
3. the importance of the paw-wing motif in cultures before the Olmec
4. how images of animals from beyond the rainforest were represented in Olmec art

12.According to paragraph 5, which of the following is true about the Olmec symbolic code

1. It included only animals that have paws or wings.
2. It did not change significantly from one century to the next.
3. It was not strongly connected to Olmec religion.
4. It developed gradually over a thousand-year period.

Para.2

Long before modern radiocarbon dating testified to the antiquity of this culture, archaeologists and art historians had become aware of the power of Olmec art through individual objects. ■ Some even identified the Olmec culture as the oldest of Mesoamerican civilizations, perhaps a mother culture from which all others derived, as the art historian Miguel Covarrubias once thought. ■ Eventually the antiquity of Olmec culture was confirmed, and today many important elements of Mesoamerican art and architecture can be seen to have had a probable Olmec origin: ball courts, pyramids, portraiture, and mirrors. ■ Some later Mesoamerican deities probably derive from Olmec gods, and even the famous “Maya” calendar was already in use by peoples in the Olmec area at the dawn of Maya civilization. ■

13..Look at the four squares that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage.

**But these opinions lacked proof.**

14.. An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage. This question is worth 2 points.

**The Olmec culture was identified as the oldest of Mesoamerican civilizations, perhaps a mother culture from which all others derived.**

1. Between 1500 B.C. and 100 B.C., the Olmecs developed complex ceremonial centers, an extensive agricultural and trading economy, and a highly distinctive art.
2. Early in their history, the Olmec left the fertile gulf plain and moved to Teopantecuanitlan.
3. The frequent reappearance of Olmec images in the art of the Maya and Aztecs suggests that the Olmecs gave rise to these later civilizations.
4. The Kunz axe, once linked with Maya culture after being found at an ancient Maya site, was eventually attributed to Olmec artists.
5. Many cultural innovations are now attributed to the Olmecs that were once attributed to other Mesoamerican cultures, including the calendar used by the Maya.
6. Olmec art involved a complex symbolic code, including various animal images and the howling baby seen on the Kunz axe and elsewhere, that was used consistently for a thousand years.