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Hali Abdelkarim secondary school **Level/3rd year lit stream**

The first Examination of English

Read the text carefully,then do the activities that follow:

Gladiators

A gladiator was a professional fighter who specialised with particular weapons and fought before the public in large purpose-built arenas throughout the Roman Empire from 105 BCE to 404 CE (official contests). As fights were usually to the death, gladiators had a short life expectancy and so, although it was in some respects a glamorous profession, the majority of fighters were slaves, former slaves or condemned prisoners. Without doubt, gladiator spectacles were one of the most watched forms of popular entertainment in the Roman world.

Roman gladiator games were an opportunity for Emperors and rich aristocrats to display **their** wealth to the populace, to commemorate military victories, mark visits from important officials, celebrate birthdays or simply to distract the populace from the political and economic problems of the day. The appeal to the public of the games was as bloody entertainment and the fascination which came from contests which were literally a matter of life and death. Hugely popular events were held in massive arenas throughout the Empire, with the Colosseum (or Flavian Amphitheatre) the biggest of **them** all. Thirty, forty or even fifty thousand spectators from all sections of Roman society flocked to be entertained by gory spectacles where wild and exotic animals were hunted, prisoners were executed, religious martyrs were thrown to the lions and the stars of the show, symbols of the Roman virtues of honour and courage, the gladiators, employed all their martial skills in a kill or be killed contest. It is a popular misconception that gladiators saluted their emperor at the beginning of each show with the line: (Hail emperor, we who are about to die salute you!).

Gladiators most often came from a slave or criminal background but also many prisoners of war were forced to perform in the arenas. There were also cases of bankrupt aristocrats forced to earn a living by the sword. It is also of note that until their outlaw in 200 CE, women were permitted to fight as gladiators. There were special gladiator schools set up throughout the Empire, Rome itself had three such barracks and Capua was particularly famous for the gladiators produced there. Conditions in the schools were similar to any other prison, small cells and shackles for all, however, the food was better and trainees received the best possible medical attention; **they** were, after all, an expensive investment.

By Mark Cartwright-published on 6.11.2013

Ex1.Is the text above about:

a-Greeks' scientific achievements b-Roman way of entertainment. c-Mesopotamians' religion .

.Ex2.Say if these statements are (True) or (False) according to the text:

a-A gladiator used to be amateur fighter without experience.

b-Gladiator games were witnessed by small crowd.

c-Only males could perform as gladiators in ancient Rome.

d-All gladiators greeted their master at the beginning of the fight.

Ex3.Answer these questions according to the text:

a-How did Emperors & rich aristocrats exploit gladiator games?

b-Did all gladiators come from the same background?

c-How did the writer describe gladiator games in the second paragraph?

Ex4.What or who do the underlined words refer to in the text:

a-their(§2) b-them(§2) c-they(§3)

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Ex5.In which paragraph is it mentioned that the Romans established specific institutions to train gladiators?

B-Text exploration:

Ex1.Find in the text words or phrases that are opposites in meaning to:

a-certainty(§1) b-domestic(§2) c-volunteered(§3)

Ex2.Complete the following table:

verb	noun	adjective
……	permission	……
To achieve	……	……
……	……	practical

Ex3.Ask questions that the underlined words are answers:

a-Gladiators **fought** before the public in large purpose –built arenas.

b-Gladiators had employed **all their martial skills** in a kill or to be killed contest.

Ex4.Classify these verbs according to the pronunciation of the final /ed/:

watched – executed – employed – forced – permitted – flocked

/t/	/d/	/ Id/

Ex5.Fill in each gap with one word from the list:(sacrifice – religious – predecessors –gladiatorial)

The Romans were influenced by their……1…… in Italy,the Etruscans,in many ways.For example,in the use of animal……2…… for divining the future,the use of the symbolic fasces and organizing……3……games.The Etruscans associated these contest with the rites of death and so they had a certain ……4…… significance.

3.Written expression:

Choose only one of the following topic

Topic1: Using the following notes,write a composition of 120 to 150 words to describe the daily life of the people in ancient Rome.

-Houses:built,clay-brick,stone,more than one room,a courtyard.

-Food:varied,vegetables,fruits,fish,rarely eat meat..only rich people.

-Clothes: home-made,decorated & well-designed.-Entertainment: dance,music, gladiatorial games……

Topic2: Do you think that the study of ancient civilizations is so important?? Justify……

Good luck for all

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