

Alfaj Pre-Reading Comprehension Exercises

Part 1.

Scan the text on traditional irrigation methods (falaj) and match the paragraphs below

Paragraph	Title
Paragraph 1
Paragraph 2
Paragraph 3
Paragraph 4

[Modern irrigation methods are more effective] [Preserving broken systems]

[The Garden City’s cultural history recognised] [How falaj systems operate]

Part 2.

Match the meanings (below) to the words in the table (there are more meanings than words!!!)

Word	Meaning
Channels
Tunnels
Wells
Transporting
Settlements
Survived
Sustainable
Efficient
Consumption
Vulnerable

[Continued to exist] [Long lasting / Renewable] [Carrying] [Large scale / Widespread] [Dangerous]

[Effective] [Communities/Towns] [Deep holes in the ground, used to store water] [Scientific]

[Underground passageways] [Small canals in the ground] [Drinking] [Use] [Needing protection]

Part 3.

Which of the following of statements is true? (choose either **a** or **b**)

Paragraph 1

- a. Al Ain is famous for its traditional system of irrigation*
- b. The UN encourages people to use traditional systems for irrigation*

Paragraph 2

- a. The towns using the falaj system did not last for very long as it was not a sustainable system*
- b. Towns could develop in dry desert areas because of the falaj system which provided water for drinking and also to water crops*

Paragraph 3

- a. Some falaj systems have been fitted with modern machinery but have limited use*
- b. The falaj system is proving to be more efficient than modern systems of irrigation*

Paragraph 4

- a. The UAE is working to preserve these ancient systems as the stone and clay which they are made of can be destroyed by the flow of water*
- b. Stone and clay are excellent materials to make these systems from as they are not affected by water*

Part 4.

Complete the gap fill below based on information in the text

The falaj system or irrigation is an ancient system that was used in desert areas as long as 3000 years ago. It is a system, using wells, channels above the surface, and tunnels below, to transport and water, to water gardens and farms.

The system was one of the main reasons settlements In this region, as they provided a source of water for drinking and for agricultural use. Nowadays however very few Alflaj systems are in use and these have been, using modern machinery including pumps, to move the water supply.

Modern systems are more and less water, so have replaced these ancient, but many falaj systems are being as a reminder of the history of this area and of the..... of the past.

- [waste] [methods] [developed] [permanent] [adapted] [efficient] [restored]
- [innovations] [complicated] [distribute]