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# Cultures across borders

## Vocabulary and collocations

- 1 Conversion is a word-formation process in English where a word changes its grammatical category without changing its form. This makes one word serve multiple purposes depending on how it is used. Complete the following sentences with the proper form of the words in the box.

conflict  
benefit

ship  
forge

shape  
host

transfer  
project

- 1 By participating in international exchange programs, students can \_\_\_\_\_ a global perspective and better understand diverse cultures.
- 2 A small town near the ancient Silk Road has decided to \_\_\_\_\_ a folk music festival to promote people-to-people exchanges.
- 3 Trade along the ancient Silk Road not only brought goods but also \_\_\_\_\_ people's diets.
- 4 In ancient times, merchants \_\_\_\_\_ luxurious silk fabrics from China to other parts of the world along the route.
- 5 A smooth \_\_\_\_\_ of goods and services was essential for the prosperity of the ancient Silk Road trade.
- 6 As different artistic traditions converged on the ancient Silk Road, the new and old styles sometimes \_\_\_\_\_, giving rise to fascinating cultural blends.

- 7 The Belt and Road Initiative, a global cooperation framework, has generated extensive \_\_\_\_\_ for partner countries.
- 8 The Belt and Road Initiative is \_\_\_\_\_ to continue to strengthen cultural bonds between countries.

**2 Complete the following sentences with the proper form of the words in the box.**

legacy  
prioritize

exotic  
reliant

entice  
refreshingly

glimpse  
strive

- 1 Modern cross-cultural exchanges are \_\_\_\_\_ on digital platforms that break down geographical barriers.
- 2 The Belt and Road Initiative promotes trade efficiency in a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ innovative way, like building e-commerce platforms across borders.
- 3 When planning the Silk Road tourism project, local governments should \_\_\_\_\_ environmental protection to maintain the natural beauty of the route.
- 4 We should spare no effort to protect our cultural \_\_\_\_\_, especially old buildings which can tell us ancient legends.
- 5 Uzbekistan, a Central Asian nation, could be one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ destinations for your next vacation.
- 6 In ancient times, the countries along the ancient Silk Road \_\_\_\_\_ travelers to cross mountains and traverse oceans of sand in order to access exotic goods.
- 7 The Belt and Road Initiative \_\_\_\_\_ for sustainable economic development and prosperity for all participating countries.
- 8 The exhibition offers a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ into history, exhibiting paintings by some artists depicting Zheng He's voyages.

**3 Complete the following sentences by choosing the suitable words in brackets.**

- 1 Some historical artifacts were discovered (by / in) *accident* at construction sites.

- 2 Some words borrowed from other languages during cultural exchanges along the ancient Silk Road remain (in / for) *use* today.
- 3 He traveled to the home country of his parents (in / on) *search of* cultural identity and belonging.
- 4 In the Tang Dynasty, tea was one of the main commodities and was used as a popular drink (on / under) social *occasions*.
- 5 As (in / of) *now*, researchers continue to uncover new evidence about trade routes along the ancient Silk Road.
- 6 Traders from different regions *set* (in / up) numerous trading posts along the ancient Silk Road, facilitating the exchange of goods and cultures.
- 7 The ancient Silk Road was Eurasia's most important trade route (in / on) *its heyday*.
- 8 After falling behind during the long journey, the caravan hurried along the road to *catch* (for / up).
- 9 (By / In) *terms of* cultural exchange, the ancient Silk Road played an extremely important role in connecting China and other parts of the world.
- 10 (In / On) *retrospect*, the ancient Silk Road was not only a trade route but also a significant corridor for cultural dissemination and technological exchange.

**4 Complete the following sentences with the proper form of the words in each group.**

**1 thrive                      survive**

- A. Despite the harsh conditions and lack of resources back at the time, the travelers \_\_\_\_\_ the desert crossing and reached their destinations.
- B. Daisy gave her children plenty of love and attention, and all of them \_\_\_\_\_ and enjoyed a happy life.

**2 respectful                      respectable**

- A. Zheng He was a \_\_\_\_\_ figure who helped China establish peaceful ties with foreign countries during his seven voyages.
- B. Newcomers brought diverse cultures from their \_\_\_\_\_ homelands and enriched the local culture.
- C. In cultural exchanges, we seek to establish a harmonious and mutually \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with other nations.

**3 salient                  silent**

- A. Along the ancient Silk Road, the \_\_\_\_\_ desert witnessed cultural exchanges between China and the rest of the world.
- B. Her resolute leadership, the most \_\_\_\_\_ aspect of her character, motivated the team to achieve remarkable success.

**4 personal                  personnel**

- A. This paper presents the author's \_\_\_\_\_ perspective on the significance of Zheng He's expeditions in the Ming Dynasty.
- B. In the United Nations \_\_\_\_\_ from different countries work together, offering opportunities for closer cultural exchange.

**5 factual                  actual**

- A. We found a few \_\_\_\_\_ errors in the book about the cultural exchanges in that period.
- B. The ancient Silk Road was not a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ road but a network of trade routes connecting China and other parts of the world.

**6 literate                  liberate**

- A. As the isolated village opens up to the outside world, more villagers gain access to education and become \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. New technologies that immigrants brought from their homelands \_\_\_\_\_ local people from heavy manual work.

**7 transcribe                  prescribe**

- A. The Belt and Road Initiative \_\_\_\_\_ a framework for future international trade and cultural exchange.
- B. Some foreign words are \_\_\_\_\_ into Chinese characters during cross-cultural exchanges between China and other countries.

**8 shed                  shield**

- A. Recent research on the history of the ancient Silk Road has \_\_\_\_\_ more light on the development of cross-cultural communication in ancient China.
- B. Local authorities have attempted to \_\_\_\_\_ native plants from the invasion of foreign species.

**5 Complete the passage with suitable words from the word bank. You may not use any of the words more than once.**

materials	treasured	transferring	representative
tastes	exotic	expedition	mainstream
intertwined	use	heyday	heated
necessities	purchasing	well-developed	

The development of porcelain offers a glimpse into the changes of folk customs that took place in different historical periods as the porcelain in each dynasty had its distinctive features.

During the Tang Dynasty, porcelain pieces were in daily 1) \_\_\_\_\_. They substituted wares made of gold, silver, jade and other 2) \_\_\_\_\_. As porcelain entered the global market, its Chinese patterns were appreciated by foreign people because of their 3) \_\_\_\_\_ appeal. During the Song Dynasty, diverse styles of porcelain emerged. It became popular and people showed great interest in 4) \_\_\_\_\_ and collecting certain wares aligned with the fashion trends at the time. Ru, Ding, Ge, Guan and Jun were the kilns (窑) 5) \_\_\_\_\_ of that age and became known as the Five Great Kilns. The porcelain made in each kiln had distinctive features. The Ru kiln in today's Henan Province, for example, added 6) \_\_\_\_\_ agate (玛瑙) into the glaze so that the color and texture of the porcelain became uniquely creamy and resembled jade.

Blue and white porcelain, 7) \_\_\_\_\_ in the Yuan Dynasty, was the 8) \_\_\_\_\_ stylish artistic ware in the Ming and Qing dynasties. The unglazed porcelain body was first painted with natural cobalt (钴) which would turn blue after being 9) \_\_\_\_\_ in the kiln. The blue flowers and other patterns appealed to both refined and popular 10) \_\_\_\_\_. With a wide diversity in the use of cobalt, themes, and painting styles, blue and white porcelain had numerous variations and unique pieces.

# Grammar and structure

- 1 Scan the QR code in Grammar and structure in the Student's Book to learn about the sentence pattern "given (that) ..." Then complete the following sentences by translating the Chinese in brackets into English using this pattern.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ (考虑到他缺乏经验), he spent a lot of time preparing and researching historical classics for the cultural exchange project.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ (考虑到不同文化的差异), tolerance is a top priority in cultural exchange.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ (鉴于北方出现新的军事威胁), the expeditions were halted after Zheng He's final voyage.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ (鉴于文化冲突不可避免), we should learn to respect other cultures.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ (鉴于他的杰出表现), he was named Goodwill Ambassador by UNESCO.

- 2 Read the following tips and rewrite the sentences with "so / neither / nor ..."

## so do ...

so do ... 这个结构主要用于说明前面句子所说的情况也适用于后面句子中的人或物。该结构中的 do 可以根据前面的句子结构换成 is / am / are / was / were / did / does / can / could 等。如果前面使用否定式, so 要换成 neither / nor。例如:

Used in monasteries throughout the first millennium, Sanskrit attracted students, and so did Tibetan. (Para. 11, iExplore 1)

- 1 Many customs in Japan and Republic of Korea were influenced by Chinese culture.

- 2 *The Peony Pavilion* is a classic love tragedy, and *Romeo and Juliet* is a classic love tragedy, too.
- 

- 3 The diplomat couple, as well as their daughter, love Peking opera.
- 

- 4 Both the ancient Silk Road and Zheng He's voyages promoted exchanges between China and other parts of the world.
- 

- 5 Violence cannot solve ethnic conflicts; repression cannot, either.
- 

**3 Read the following tips and complete the sentences by translating the Chinese in brackets into English using ellipsis structures.**

**并列句中的省略现象**

在英语并列句中，如果两个并列分句的助动词或者主要动词相同，为避免重复，无论二者主语是否相同，都可以在第二个并列分句中省略助动词或者主要动词。例如：

Frequent migrations of people fleeing war or political conflicts meant that some technologies moved east, others west. (Para. 9, iExplore 1)

- 1 *The Aeneid* depicted the prosperity of the Roman Empire, and \_\_\_\_\_ (《清明上河图》描绘了北宋的黄金时代).
- 2 He loves reading *Outlaws of the Marsh* and \_\_\_\_\_ (他的朋友喜欢读《三国演义》).
- 3 It is believed that during early human migrations, some human ancestors went to Asia, \_\_\_\_\_ (另一部分去了欧洲).
- 4 The Song Dynasty produced monochrome porcelain (单色瓷), and \_\_\_\_\_ (元朝出产青花瓷).
- 5 Su Dongpo's *ci* poems are bold and free, and \_\_\_\_\_ (温庭筠的词华丽婉约).

# Reading

## Section 1

**Read a passage with 10 statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once.**

- A** Over 2,000 years ago, traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) spread to the world along the ancient Silk Road. Since the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), TCM has continued to traverse the world, building a “health bridge” and promoting exchange and mutual learning among countries. Over this bridge, experts from Hebei University of Chinese Medicine (HUCM) visited Brazil from October 28 to November 10, 2023. During the period, they organized seven popular science exhibitions, four academic lectures, and more than 10 free clinics in three Brazilian cities, further promoting the recognition of TCM by the Brazilian public.
- B** Through these activities, TCM, an ancient treasure of Chinese wisdom, is serving as a health ambassador to help promote people-to-people exchanges and cultural integration between China and Latin America, as well as the whole world. “Via our activities, the Brazilians experienced the advantages of ‘simplicity, affordability, and effectiveness’ of TCM diagnosis and treatment firsthand. Many people have said that TCM is truly amazing, and as a result, we have gained a group of fans. Some followed the delegation throughout the 14-day visit, while others expressed their intention to come to HUCM to study TCM,” the president of HUCM said.
- C** When asked about her first impression during the visit, the president said that she did not expect that TCM would enjoy such a high level of popularity among the Brazilian people. “From what I learned during the visit, there are nearly 200,000 TCM practitioners in various regions in Brazil. Acupuncture has also been incorporated into the Brazilian public healthcare system (SUS),” she said.

- D** Brazil is one of the first Latin American countries to incorporate TCM into its public healthcare system. In 2006, the Brazilian Ministry of Health implemented the National Policy on Integrative and Complementary Practices of the SUS, which included acupuncture and other TCM practices in the system, allowing more Brazilians to access services through Chinese medicine.
- E** TCM is becoming a popular healthcare approach in Latin America, promoting exchange and integration between China and the world with its unique appeal. It has also become a unique channel for people in Latin America to learn about Chinese culture. In Brazil, the channel is based on the Confucius Institute of Chinese Medicine at the Federal University of Goiás (UFG), which was founded in October 2019. By the end of December 2023 it had hosted a total of 41 classes, including 27 levels of Chinese language classes, and 14 classes offering an overview of TCM, acupuncture, massage, and T'ai Chi, attracting a total of more than 700 students. It had also held nearly 100 cultural exchange activities related to Chinese culture. The recent online Chinese Bridge project with a TCM theme attracted students from nine countries including Brazil, Canada, and Egypt to learn Chinese and TCM courses, promoting the global understanding of TCM.
- F** Mesa is a teacher at the University of Brasília and a student who has signed up for the online acupuncture class at the Confucius Institute of Chinese Medicine at UFG. After learning about the effectiveness of TCM in treating bone and joint diseases, rheumatic joint muscle pain, and neurasthenia, Mesa has been looking forward to personally experiencing the magic of acupuncture. Upon learning that the online class instructor was coming to Brazil together with the delegation, she traveled from Brasília to Goiânia specially to attend the acupuncture lecture and get insights into the effectiveness of the ancient form of treatment. "This time I appreciated the benefits of TCM's involvement in Brazilian public health; I think it is truly amazing," Mesa said.
- G** Douglas, a student from the Confucius Institute of Chinese Medicine at UFG, not only followed the expert team in Goiânia, but also drove 200 kilometers to Brasília with the team to continue to be part of their activities. He believes that TCM techniques such as acupuncture, massage, cupping, and bone setting are

“miraculous” and have extraordinary therapeutic effects on sports injuries.

- H The popularity and recognition of TCM among the Brazilian public were fully demonstrated during the HUCM delegation’s medical consultations. On the first day, the patients were mainly students from the Confucius Institute of Chinese Medicine at UFG, but news of the effectiveness of the treatment spread by word of mouth, and on the second day, a large number of patients from the surrounding areas attended the consultations. On the third day, the number of patients doubled, said the Chinese director of the Confucius Institute of Chinese Medicine at UFG. Over a 14-day period, the delegation’s clinics attracted a total of 1,800 patients.
- I Other Latin American countries such as Argentina, Chile, Peru, Cuba, and Venezuela are also increasingly focusing on learning the concepts of TCM. Some countries have already incorporated TCM into their medical schools’ curricula, while others are exploring the possibility of cooperation with Chinese medicine institutions.
- J According to a representative from the International Education College at Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (SHUTCM), Latin American experts and young students have been among the most enthusiastic participants in the SHUTCM summer schools for foreigners. Since 2012, 48 students from this region have attended SHUTCM’s summer schools. Other workshops for senior health officials from countries associated with the BRI have seen 44 participants from Brazil, Argentina, and Chile.
- K TCM is a precious gem of ancient Chinese science and also a key to unlocking the treasure trove of the Chinese civilization. China has attached great importance to TCM, and the inheritance, innovation, and development of this ancient science have benefited this industry as a whole. As a facilitator of cultural exchange between China and other countries, TCM not only serves as a beautiful calling card but also promotes people-to-people connectivity as people from other countries experience the miracle of traditional Chinese medicine and want to learn more about China.
- L In the future, the Chinese TCM industry should increase the cultivation of

high-level talent, especially cultivating students' international perspectives and building a first-class talent pool. We should firmly go global, not only to Latin America but also to Southeast Asia and Europe, so that the therapeutic effects of TCM can benefit people around the world.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Many Brazilian people have been captivated by TCM, and some have shown interest in learning it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 The emphasis on and inheritance and innovation of TCM are beneficial to the development of the entire industry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Several Latin American countries are showing greater interest in TCM and have integrated it into the curricula for medical students.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4 One student believes that certain techniques in TCM work wonders for sports injuries.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5 As a favored healthcare method, TCM has emerged as a distinctive avenue for Latin Americans to explore and understand Chinese culture.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6 The ancient Silk Road served as the channel through which TCM began its journey across the globe more than two millennia ago.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7 The Brazilian government has included TCM practices into its healthcare system in the last two decades.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8 The number of patients increased with each day during the two-week consultations due to successful treatment outcomes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9 A teacher made a special journey to another city to learn more about the efficacy of acupuncture.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10 The president of HUCM was surprised to find that TCM had gained such popularity in Brazil.

## Section 2

**Read the following two passages and choose the best answer to each of the questions after the passages.**

**Questions 1-5 are based on the following passage.**

Tea's remarkable journey began in ancient China, evolving from a medicinal brew to a cherished everyday beverage. According to a legend, the tea plant was

discovered by Shennong when leaves from a wild tea tree accidentally fell into his pot of boiling water.

In the Han Dynasty, tea drinking became widespread. Later in the Tang Dynasty, the custom of drinking tea became even more prevalent. This era also saw the emergence of an early tea industry, driven by the increasing demand for tea. As tea's popularity grew, it became a significant part of the Chinese culture. Elaborate and beautifully crafted tea wares symbolized wealth and status, reflecting tea's cultural importance.

The Chinese tea culture eventually extended beyond its borders. The global trade of tea began to influence the global economy, making tea a valuable commodity. The export of tea, spurred by trade with Europeans, exemplified the global exchange and evolution of tea. The history of tea in ancient China laid the foundation for its integral role in local traditions and the global economy, underscoring tea's lasting impact on societies worldwide.

The intricate web of tea trade routes connected China with diverse regions, fueling economic growth and cultural exchange across continents. The historic Silk Road facilitated the exchange of tea, fostering international commerce. When European powers established sea trade routes, they aimed to meet the burgeoning demand for tea in the West which greatly expanded global markets and shaped economies worldwide.

The global tea trade routes were pivotal in influencing international relations. As tea became a sought-after commodity, it spurred cultural exchange and economic interdependence between trading nations. These trade routes didn't just transport tea leaves; they carried ideas, customs, and traditions, creating a complex tapestry of shared human experience.

The tea trade has significantly bolstered economic growth and facilitated cultural exchange worldwide. The global tea industry is a significant economic force, providing millions of jobs and shaping the economies of tea-producing regions such as China, India, Sri Lanka, and Kenya. The economic influence of tea cultivation and harvesting is substantial, generating billions in annual revenue and deeply impacting the financial stability of these regions.

- 1 What was the earliest use of tea?
  - A. A daily drink.
  - B. A medicinal drink.
  - C. A religious offering.
  - D. A trade commodity.
- 2 Which of the following became a symbol of wealth and status when tea became popular?
  - A. An elaborate tea set.
  - B. High-grade tea.
  - C. An expensive tea pot.
  - D. Knowledge of tea culture.
- 3 What does the passage say about the global tea trade?
  - A. It helped Europeans have a comfortable and wealthy life.
  - B. It encouraged European powers to build the tea industry.
  - C. It made it possible for visitors to travel to the West.
  - D. It improved economic growth and promoted cultural exchange.
- 4 How did the establishment of sea trade routes by European powers affect the tea trade?
  - A. It greatly expanded global markets and shaped the world economy.
  - B. It restricted the tea trade to Europe.
  - C. It increased the demand for tea in the West.
  - D. It shifted the focus of the tea trade from land routes to sea routes.
- 5 Which aspect of tea does the passage emphasize the most?
  - A. The different flavors of tea in the world.
  - B. The complex web of tea trade routes.
  - C. The economic and cultural impacts of tea.
  - D. The modern advertising strategies for tea sales.

**Questions 6-10 are based on the following passage.**

The “Silk Road of the Sea” (or the Maritime Silk Road) refers to the important sea routes linking China to the rest of the world. The name was coined by a Japanese scholar in 1968 to distinguish it from the traditional Silk Road. There were two major routes – the East China Sea Silk Route and the South China Sea Silk Route.

Guangzhou represented the starting point of the South China Sea Silk Route in the Tang Dynasty, which extended across the Indian Ocean and then to countries

around the Persian Gulf. The exported goods consisted mainly of silk, china and tea, while imported merchandise included a variety of spices, flowers and ivories. The route was first used in the Qin and Han dynasties, and increased in popularity from the Three Kingdoms Period to the Sui Dynasty. Up until the An-Shi Rebellion in the Tang Dynasty this route was viewed as a secondary alternative to the Silk Road. However, in the latter half of the 8th century, owing to the wars in the Western Regions, trade volumes along the Maritime Silk Road boomed as those on its overland counterpart steadily declined.

Technological advances in shipbuilding and navigation led to the opening of new sea-lanes to Southeast Asia, Malacca, and areas in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf. Guangzhou became a great harbor in China around the time of the Tang and Song dynasties, although it was later replaced by Quanzhou in the late Song Dynasty as the most important trade port.

Zheng He's expeditions in the early Ming Dynasty demonstrated the great importance of the Maritime Silk Road and was to represent its peak of popularity. Later governments of the Ming and Qing dynasties issued bans on maritime trade, contributing to the massive decline in its use. After the Opium War broke out in 1840, the Maritime Silk Road ceased to function as a major global trade route.

In 2013, China proposed the construction of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, which, together with the Silk Road Economic Belt, forms the core of the Belt and Road Initiative, aiming to enhance trade, cultural exchange, and infrastructure connectivity across the globe.

- 6 What does the Maritime Silk Road refer to?
- A. The East China Sea Silk Route.
  - B. The traditional Silk Road.
  - C. The trade routes opened up by Zheng He.
  - D. Both the East China Sea Silk Route and the South China Sea Silk Route.
- 7 Which of the following was imported to China through the Maritime Silk Road?
- A. Indian tea.
  - B. Various flowers.
  - C. Stained glass.
  - D. Western porcelain.

- 8 What was the consequence of the opening of new sea-lanes?
- A. It made shipbuilding technology develop more slowly.
  - B. It expanded the types of goods that could be traded.
  - C. It expanded the scope of the Maritime Silk Road.
  - D. It caused conflicts between different trading ports.
- 9 What led to the decline of the Maritime Silk Road?
- A. Wars in the Western Regions.
  - B. The An-Shi Rebellion.
  - C. Technological advances.
  - D. Bans on maritime trade.
- 10 What is the passage mainly about?
- A. The importance of a new sea route.
  - B. The ups and downs of some dynasties.
  - C. The history of the Maritime Silk Road.
  - D. The traditional Silk Road and the Maritime Silk Road.

## Translation

### 1 Translate the English paragraph into Chinese.

The Maritime Silk Road was a network of sea routes in use from the 2nd century BC to the mid-to-late 19th century, before steam-powered ships replaced sailing ships. Through those routes, the ancients took advantage of natural conditions, such as monsoons and ocean currents, and used traditional navigation techniques to carry out multi-disciplinary exchanges with major sea areas and coastal zones in the middle and low latitudes of the world. As a composite transportation system, the Maritime Silk Road extended to Japan in East Asia, Africa's eastern coast, and the Mediterranean Sea.

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## 2 Translate the Chinese paragraph into English.

中国古典文明研究院既是古老的中华文明向世界展示自身的窗口，也是中希两国和世界各国文明交流互鉴的新平台。该院致力于推动文明传承发展，倡导从不同文明中寻求智慧、汲取营养，践行全球文明倡议，携手解决人类共同面临的各种挑战，为建设人类文明新形态和构建人类命运共同体贡献中国古典学研究智慧。

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## Writing

- 1 Write an English summary of the text “Ten years of the Belt and Road Initiative.” You should write no more than 100 words.
- 2 Write an essay on the topic “Cultural exchange brings people together.” You should write at least 120 words. You should write in three parts:
  - In the first part, state your view with a clear thesis statement.
  - In the second part, support your view with appropriate evidence.
  - In the last part, bring your essay to a natural conclusion or a summary with suggestions.