

Handwritten notes and signatures in red and blue ink, including the number '17' and the name 'E'.

Question 1. Reading Comprehension (13 marks)
Read the following passage then answer the questions below.

Concrete is the most widely artificial building construction material used in the world. It is not harmed by fire, water, weather, or heavy pressures. It is a carefully proportioned mixture of Portland cement, water, fine aggregate, coarse particles, and a small amount of air.

The two main components of concrete are wet cement and inert materials. When Portland cement is mixed with water, the components of it react and harden. As the cement hardens, it binds the particles into a solid mass. After exposed surfaces of concrete have hardened, they should be sprinkled with water or kept moist. The longer concrete stays moist, the stronger it becomes.

Concrete is the only major building material that can be delivered to the job site in a soft state. This unique quality makes concrete desirable as a building material because it can be molded to any shape. Concrete can be used to construct a wide variety of structure, such as homes, highways and streets, bridges, dams, large buildings, skyscrapers, airport runways, irrigation structures, break waters, piers and docks, and ships. Other desirable qualities of it as a building material are its strength, economy, and durability. This last quality is evidenced by the fact that concrete columns built by the Egyptians more than 3600 years ago are still standing. So, you can see how much can be done with concrete to make it serve special needs in construction.

A. Answer the following questions.

- 1- In which paragraph does the writer give examples of the various structures in the construction of which concrete is used?
- 2- what does the phrase "this last quality" refer to?
3. What does the word 'they' refer to?
- 4- Concrete can last long. Prove.

B. Say whether the following sentences are True or False

- 1- Concrete consists of air and water only T / F
- 2- Concrete gets weaker by time T / F
- 3- Concrete is a desirable building material for its flexibility and durability T / F

C. Choose the correct answer from a, b, c, or d:

- 1.....does not have a harmful effect on concrete.
a) Cement b) Weather c) Forces
- 2- When concrete hardens,.....to become stronger.
a) it should be exposed b) it should be moisturized
c) it should be turned into a solid mass
- 3- One of the unique qualities of concrete is that.....
a) it is soft so it can be easily shaped b) it is a desirable building material
c) it is used in constructing a variety of structures

