Unit 18  A play

B  Reading

1. Before you read (SB page 157)

Answer

The proverb ‘Birds of a feather flock together’ means that people of similar character look for one another’s company.

2. Questions (SB page 158)

Answers

1. His master has resorted to desperate measures to make some money.
2. They show each other what is in the bags they are carrying to the market.
3. They are both on the way to the market to sell their goods and by travelling together they can protect each other.
4. They can swop their ‘goods’ without going to the market.
5. Each of them is a trickster.
6. Both of them make up their minds quickly.
7. The grin on his face may give the game away.
8. They do not want their trick to be discovered too soon.
9. They realise that the servants had discovered their lies.
10. ‘A man after my own heart’ means someone having the same interests as you.

C  Vocabulary development

2. The register of theatre (SB page 159)

Answers

Last Saturday, we all went to the (1) theatre in a group. At the (2) box office, our teacher collected our (3) tickets. We then trooped through the entrance and down the (4) aisle and took our (5) seats in the front (6) row.

We sat down and, while we waited, read the (7) programme which gave details of the performance, including the (8) cast-list. The play was by the renowned Nigerian (9) playwright Wole Soyinka. The play, which was called The Trials of Brother Jero, was a (10) comedy about a fraudster named Jero who pretended to be very holy and religious. The play is a satire about tricksters who pretend to be religious leaders.

Soon, the (11) curtain rose on the play: the (12) scenery was simple, but effective: the play was set near the sea, and the (13) backcloth depicted a beach scene — sky, sea and sand, with a palm tree or two at each side. On the (14) stage there was a make-shift building, representing the hut where Jero conducted his beach-side services. The (15) costumes worn by the cast were modern dress; Jero himself was clad in white, but you could tell immediately that he was thoroughly untrustworthy, and the (16) audience settled down to enjoy the performance and eagerly awaited the (17) climax of the play when, they hoped, Jero would get his just desserts.

I am not going to give away details of the (18) plot, and how the play ends, because that might spoil your enjoyment.

3. Cloze (SB page 160)

Answers

The civil unrest that pervades our society today is (1) uncalled for. The civilised world cannot (2) understand the type of hatred that would have provoked people to murder their fellow citizens in hundreds, as has happened in many parts of the country. The fact that
this is widespread makes it all the more (3) worrying. The argument has always been that people were manipulated into killing one another by those who (4) benefit from such killings. But what kind of people can be so easily manipulated to do things they would not (5) ordinarily have done of their own accord?

Education is very (6) important and people should have a reason for wanting to live. With mass poverty and unemployment existing alongside the (7) scandalous wealth of a small greedy minority, security is likely to be threatened in our country. Any government that sincerely wants to end religious and ethnic (8) conflicts must provide meaningful education and jobs for its own people. Education (9) cures ignorance. It is also the (10) duty of government to provide security for the governed.

Traditional religious believers in the community did not take the matter lightly. They resorted to a series of sacrifices to (8) appease (C) the gods of the land over the strange development. When that effort failed, a committee (9) was set up (B) to trace the source of the contaminant. This action (10) yielded (A) results, as a point of petroleum products leakage was detected at a nearby primary school.

Practice answers

The legal representative of the Baruwa community, Mr Bob Olukoya, said (Past Simple) the spillage in Baruwa has been (Present Perfect Simple) a problem to Lagos State since 1994. ‘Baruwa is sitting (Present Continuous) on a time-bomb waiting to explode,’ the lawyer said. (Past Simple) He added (Past Simple) that the services of experts and consultants have been employed (Present Perfect Simple), but ‘Up till now we have not been able (Present Perfect Simple) to detect the exact point of the leakages. I first got (Past Simple) involved in the issue early in 2000, but we are still fetching (Present Continuous) petroleum products from over 300 wells in Baruwa. It is (Present Simple) unfortunate that we cannot (Present Simple) find the source. Nigeria is losing (Present Continuous) money, the masses are not getting (Present Continuous) the benefit of their borehole, and they are living (Present Continuous) under the fear of explosion at any time because of the volatility of petroleum products.’ He went (Past Simple) on to say that ‘for the past twelve years the people of Baruwa have not been able (Present Perfect Simple) to get potable water. Currently, they travel (Present Simple) kilometres every day to get water, and the road to the community is (Present Simple) so bad that water tankers cannot (Present Simple) even get there.’
Practice (more about irregular verbs)
Answers (SB page 162)

1. The book cost N260.00 so I refused to buy it.
2. When they saw his face, they all burst out laughing.
3. After the people had cast their votes, the ballot boxes were taken away.
4. Rafiu has been chosen to represent us.
5. He has forgotten most of what he learned at school.
6. The corpse stank because the man had been long dead.
7. They have split the association from top to bottom.
8. I lost all my money when I was on my way to school.
9. The recipe said I should add ground pepper.
10. I forbade her to leave the house, but she disobeyed me.