

SECTION II

Time—35 minutes

27 Questions

Directions: Each set of questions in this section is based on a single passage or a pair of passages. The questions are to be answered on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage or pair of passages. For some of the questions, more than one of the choices could conceivably answer the question. However, you are to choose the best answer; that is, the response that most accurately and completely answers the question, and blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet.

The palaces built by the Ottoman Sultans who ruled from 1299 to 1923 have little in common, the architecture of each building being a unique product of its time, place, and the intent of its constructors. However, even though such a diversity, a clear pattern emerges – a distinction between the palaces which served administrative purposes as the center of government and the court of the monarch, and the palaces which were simply designed to be residences for the wealthy dynastic rulers. This difference is very important in understanding the palaces found in modern day Turkey, and perhaps elsewhere as well.

For instance, the Ciragan Palace in Istanbul was built by Sultan Abdulaziz in 1867 on the shores of Bosphorus as part of the longstanding custom that each Sultan would build his own residence. As the residence of a powerful monarch, the Ciragan Place was adorned with all that could be expected, from beautifully colored walls to ornately crafted stairs to dazzling chandeliers. What the Ciragan Palace lacked, however, were many things present at the nearby Yildiz Palace – things like offices, kiosks, and generally multiple buildings with multiple uses, including a theater to entertain guests. The discrepancy is one that flows from a discrepancy of purpose, as the Yildiz Palace was the seat of government for the Ottoman Empire for decades. Sultans could and did convene tribunals at the Yildiz Place; indeed, important trials took place there.

Topkapi is perhaps the best example of a palace like Yildiz. First constructed but a few years after the Ottoman Conquest of Constantinople, the palace served as the seat of the Ottoman government for most of their reign. Naturally, it was complete with multiple structures, courtyards, an outer wall, a hospital, library, mosque, and buildings and rooms for administrative functions. Capable of housing over four thousand people, Topkapi was like a compact capital city, complete with a mint, a meeting tower for the Imperial Council, and an entire separate auditorium for the Sultan to consult with “viziers” – those who came bringing reports. While other purely residential palaces like Kucuksu and Khedive exhibited beautiful architecture, they lacked those elements which were clearly constructed out of a need present at palaces like Topkapi. The former two were invariably used as summer or vacation residences for the

Ottoman Sultanate, and while their architecture is beautiful and their interiors are lavish, they are clearly not designed for the convention of the court of a powerful dynasty that ruled a sizeable fraction of the civilized world for centuries, as Topkapi was. Indeed, the majesty and size of Topkapi was almost gratuitous, serving a purpose as a symbol of the capabilities of such a large and powerful ruling dynasty.

1. Which one of the following most completely and accurately summarizes the contents of the passage?

- (A) The palaces built and used by Ottoman Sultans were of a wide variety of features and sizes, such that no two palaces were substantially alike.
- (B) Sultans of the Ottoman Empire, unlike other contemporary governments, utilized palaces for administrative purposes as well as merely as residences.
- (C) Ottoman Sultans constructed a wide variety of palaces, and the distinction between those which served governmental functions and those which were purely residential constructions is clear from their various differences.
- (D) The rulers of the Ottoman Empire constructed a wide variety of palaces, but they all had one common feature of being utilized for political purposes in the leaders’ rule of the empire.
- (E) During their long reign, Ottoman Sultans constructed palaces which contained notable features such as meeting rooms, offices, and halls for the convention of a tribunal.

2. The passage mentions each of the following things as being found within an Ottoman palace EXCEPT:

- (A) A theater
- (B) A chandelier
- (C) A mint
- (D) A stable
- (E) A hospital

3. Which one of the following most accurately describes the organization of the final paragraph?

- (A) An illustration is made; the reasons why it is not a perfect illustration are pointed out.
- (B) A subject is introduced, two additional subjects are compared and determined to be inferior.
- (C) A specimen is described, and another specimen is introduced and detailed in a similar fashion.
- (D) A general principle is articulated; three examples are given in support of the principle.
- (E) An example is given and elaborated upon, and two counterexamples are given for contrast.

4. Based on the passage, which one of the following must be true of the Ottoman Sultans?

- (A) They typically did not reside at palaces which served administrative functions for long periods of time.
- (B) Most of them had a strong need to receive the advice of viziers.
- (C) It was customary for each to construct a palace during his reign.
- (D) They ruled for a significantly longer period of time than most major contemporary dynasties.
- (E) All of the palaces they constructed were primarily for use either in the governing of the Ottoman Empire or as residences.

5. The purpose described in lines 50-54 is most analogous to

- (A) a toxicologist who tests water for contaminants even though no complaints have been received out of a need to nonetheless ensure safety
- (B) a baker who makes a cake far too large to be practical to demonstrate skill and ability
- (C) a sculptor who makes one large sculpture project with many individual components instead of multiple smaller sculptures
- (D) a experienced tennis player who lets the other player win out of a desire not to hurt that player's feelings
- (E) a wine seller who stocks a large amount of wine that includes many varieties in the event that a customer will ask for a rare or vintage wine

6. Which one of the following can be properly inferred from the passage?

- (A) The Yildiz palace did not serve as a seat of government as long as Topkhapi palace.
- (B) The Topkapi palace was the only palace which had a special meeting room for the Sultan to receive the reports of "viziers."
- (C) The Khedive palace was only inhabited during the vacations of the Ottoman Sultans.
- (D) The Ciragan palace was smaller than the Topkapi palace.
- (E) More important tribunals were convened at the Topkapi palace then at the Yildiz Palace.

7. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with

- (A) exploring the many reasons for different style choices in the construction of Ottoman palaces
- (B) evaluating which of the Ottoman palaces exhibit the best art and architecture
- (C) articulating the various features that make each Ottoman Palace unique
- (D) pointing out an architectural distinction resulting from a formalistic difference.
- (E) determining what factors were important to Ottoman Sultans when they constructed their personal residences

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE