



CLASS X
ENGLISH COURSE BOOK
UNIT V - TOURISM
LESSON 13
A TOURIST'S ACCOUNT OF YANGON

SOLUTIONS

TEXTUAL EXERCISE

A. Based on your reading of the text, complete the following statements:

- i. The huge customs arrival hall has **the serenity of a church.**
- ii. During Thingyan, Myanmar's New Year Water Festival, people douse **each other in symbolic cleansing of the past year's sins.**
- iii. There are many ruins and the government has a programme **to restore many of them, with over 180 buildings on a preservation list.**
- iv. The writer reserves his second day **for the most famous sight in the city, the Shwedagon Pagoda, eight kilometres north of old Yangon.**
- v. When a pleasant middle aged Burmese **freelance guide, Lily, offered to take the writer on a one-hour orientation walk of the Shwedagon Pagoda, he leapt at the offer.**
- vi. There is history **everywhere you turn.**
- vii. On the third day, the writer heads to **Bogyoke Aung San Market, a bazar about a 45-minute walk north of downtown.**
- viii. One British tourist admitted that the Burmese are **surprisingly sunny and welcoming.**

B. Answer the following questions in a word, phrase or sentence each:

- i. **What, according to the writer, are the characteristics of the land of Buddha?**

Ans: According to the writer, the characteristics of the land of Buddha are calmness, tranquility and quietude.



ii. **From where did the writer think the best place to start his journey?**

Ans: The writer thought the best place to start his journey was Yangon.

iii. **From where did the British rule Burma?**

Ans: The British ruled Burma from the British Secretariat which was built near the end of the 19th century located at old Yangon.

iv. **What distracted the writer as he moved from the centre of the town southward?**

Ans: As he moved from the centre of the town southward, the writer was distracted by the alluring aromas of food stalls across the street.

v. **What was the only traffic at the Yangon river front?**

Ans: The only traffic at the Yangon river front was a small freighter from Singapore and a creaky ferry.

vi. **‘Towering over it is a mammoth stalagmite of.....’ How did the stalagmite look like?**

Ans: The stalagmite looked like it was glowing in the morning sun.

vii. **How is Wednesday different from the other days in Buddhist week?**

Ans: In Buddhist week there are eight days, Wednesday is different from the other days as it is the only double day, divided into am and pm.

viii. **At Bagyoke Aung San Market, what was the chief appeal for the writer?**

Ans: At Bagyoke Aung San Market, the chief appeal for the writer was people watching and not buying things.



C. Answer the following questions briefly:

i. What was the writer's impression on landing at Yangon airport?

Ans: On seeing the serenity in the huge customs arrival hall at Yangon airport and how everyone in line was self-possessed and at ease, the writer's impression was that in the land of Buddha, serenity, calmness and quietude prevailed.

ii. 'I clear customs and step outside to total pandemonium.' Why does the writer say so?

Ans: When the writer cleared customs at Yangon airport and stepped outside, it was total pandemonium. The air was thick with the fumes of beat-up old buses, trucks, taxis, scooters and cars all rushing to leave at once. And a lone policeman was frantically blowing his whistle in a futile attempt to control a tsunami of vehicles. Seeing the chaos, the writer made the remark.

iii. How is Thingyan, Myanmar's New Year festival, observed?

Ans: Thingyan, Myanmar's New Year Water festival is observed by dousing water over each other in symbolic cleansing of the past year's sins. There will be rock concerts and the huge stages which rise up on the either side of the roads are outfitted with hoses to spray water at passing cars.

iv. Why did the writer think it best to start his journey from Yangon?

Ans: The writer thought it best to start his journey from Yangon because it was not only Myanmar's biggest metropolis with four million people, but also the cultural centre and the seat of government until it was shifted to Naypyidaw in 2005.



v. **Why did the writer, on his first day, get up shortly after dawn?**

Ans: The writer, on his first day, got up shortly after dawn partly because he wanted to do his exploring before the heat built and partly to get some fresh air as the air conditioning in his windowless hotel room had quit at 1:30 in the morning due to daily black-outs.

vi. **What does the writer feel about the dress of the Burmese women?**

Ans: The Burmese women dress themselves in tunic tops which are buttoned to the chin and ankle-length skirts. The writer feels surprise at how modestly they dress.

vii. **Why was the Shwedagon Pagoda built?**

Ans: The Shwedagon Pagoda, a solid structure covered in some 60 tonnes of gold leaf and containing holy relics was built to house eight hairs of Buddha which were brought from India by two Burmese merchants.

viii. **“There is history everywhere you turn.” Why does the writer say so?**

Ans: The Singuttara Hill is not only famous for the Shwedagon Pagoda but it has historic value also. The hill was also the scene of a bloody hand-to-hand fighting during the Anglo-Burmese Wars in the 1800s. Further, there was a memorial to eleven student protesters who, in 1920, demonstrated against the British. That is why the writer says that there is history everywhere you turn.

ix. **What did the writer do when two child Monks approached the writer for donations?**

Ans: When two child Monks, carrying a large wooden begging ball, approached the writer for donations, he put in some Burmese money but as the script of the paper money was unreadable to him, he did not know whether it was a small or a big amount.



x. Why did the writer decide to go to the museum?

Ans: The writer decided to go to the museum partly to glimpse the glory days of Burma and partly because it was the first day of the water Festival. Since the holiday was celebrated with the antic carnival fervour, everyone was fair game and he did not want to be soaked.

