

**Select Readings, Second Edition**  
**Elementary, Chapter 12 Test**

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

**The Geisha Tradition**

If you say "Japan," a common image for many people is the geisha. The white makeup, the elaborate<sup>1</sup> hairstyles, and the beautiful costumes are a symbol of Japan around the world.

The geisha is an important part of Japan's artistic tradition. The word *geisha* means 'performing artist.' Becoming a geisha is very difficult and can take years to complete. A young girl who wants to become a geisha must study different types of songs, dances, and music, as well as the traditions of geisha makeup.

The way to become a geisha is very strict<sup>2</sup>. Girls who want to become a geisha must follow many rules to move to the next stage of training. Near the beginning of their training, a young geisha-in-training, or *maiko*, must learn many Japanese traditional arts, such as the tea ceremony. New maiko work with a senior maiko who acts like an older sister, teaching them and introducing them to the daily activities of the geisha life.

After a maiko completes the final parts of training, she is finally introduced to the public<sup>3</sup> as a performer. However, geisha continue to take other classes all their lives.

The hairstyles and makeup of a geisha take a very long time to prepare. New maiko must put on a lot of makeup every day and wear it almost all of the time. Older geisha often only wear simple makeup, but it still takes a lot of time to put on.

Most modern geisha think that being a geisha is a job. They work very hard when they are performing. But when they are not working, they are the same as other young women in many ways.

Although there are not as many geisha in Japan now as in the past, their beauty is still one of the biggest symbols of Japan's traditional culture.

1. The passage talks about all of these parts of the geisha's image EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. makeup
  - B. hair
  - C. costumes
  - D. shoes
2. A geisha must study very hard to be \_\_\_\_\_ in her training.
  - A. success
  - B. successes

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<sup>1</sup> **elaborate** has many details or parts

<sup>2</sup> **strict** very difficult and serious

<sup>3</sup> **the public** people

- C. succeed
  - D. successful
3. One of the traditional arts that a maiko must learn is \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. the tea ceremony
    - B. simple makeup
    - C. daily activities
    - D. following rules
  4. A senior maiko acts like a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ for a young maiko while she trains.
    - A. performer
    - B. older sister
    - C. maid
    - D. artist
  5. A maiko studies all of these EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. singing
    - B. putting on makeup
    - C. cooking
    - D. dancing
  6. A new geisha is introduced as a performer after finishing her \_\_\_\_\_ parts of training.
    - A. first
    - B. early
    - C. senior
    - D. final
  7. Many geisha continue to study their artistic traditions \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. when they are young
    - B. for a year
    - C. until they perform for the public
    - D. all their lives
  8. White makeup is part of the geisha's \_\_\_\_\_ style of makeup.
    - A. tradition
    - B. traditions
    - C. traditional
    - D. traditionally
  9. Most older geisha wear \_\_\_\_\_ makeup than younger geisha do.
    - A. more
    - B. less
    - C. hard
    - D. easy
  10. The article says that most modern geisha think of their work as \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. not working
    - B. traditional
    - C. a job
    - D. too hard