



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Level 6 Mock Paper 17 – Race to the Top (Answers)

Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

### Race to the Top

Humanity has always tried to push things to their limits, always wanting to go further and faster than before. Nowhere is this more evident than when it comes to the world's tallest buildings. The current record-holder is Burj Khalifa in Dubai. At an astonishing 829.8 metres tall, **it** is truly a great human achievement and set to hold the record for many years to come.

But when did this race to the top begin? A very long time ago, as it turns out. For 3,800 years, the tallest building in the world was the Great Pyramid of Giza, built by ancient Egyptians in around 2560 BC. Unlike tall buildings today, this was a tomb built in honour of King Khufu, who ruled Egypt at that time. What is amazing is that this enormous structure was built without any modern technology. Instead of using cranes like Burj Khalifa, thousands of slaves worked to complete the pyramid, and at 146 metres tall, it was quite a lot shorter than Burj Khalifa too.

From around 1300 to 1900 AD, it was churches and cathedrals which regularly took the title of the world's tallest building. For example, the main tower of Lincoln Cathedral in England, built in around 1300, was 160 metres tall. These buildings were designed to glorify God, and so they had to be impressive. Seeing such big towers reminded people of the vastness of their God. The Eiffel Tower, however, built in Paris in 1889 and standing 300 metres tall, was a celebration of human engineering rather than anything religious. It remains one of the most famous buildings in the world to this day.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, most of the tall buildings have been offices or residences - Burj Khalifa is in fact both. However, we might well ask: where does it end? Humans cannot keep building higher and higher forever. In this sense, we will never be satisfied. It will be fascinating to see what the future holds after Burj Khalifa. Only time will tell whether we can reach higher than 829.8 metres.

1. What does "it" in paragraph 1 (line 3) refer to? (2 marks)

"It" in line 3 refers to Burj Khalifa.

2. What word in the first paragraph has the same meaning as “surprising and impressive”?  
(2 marks)

“Astonishing” has the same meaning as “surprising and impressive”.

3. Who built the Great Pyramid of Giza? Why? (2 marks)

Ancient Egyptians built the Great Pyramid of Giza as a tomb / in honour of King Khufu.

4. What **two** differences does the writer highlight between the Great Pyramid and Burj Khalifa? (2 marks)

The pyramid was built using slaves rather than cranes, and it is shorter than Burj Khalifa.

5. Why were churches and cathedrals built so tall? (2 marks)

They had to be tall and impressive in order to glorify God.

6. What is Burj Khalifa used for? (2 marks)

It is used for offices and residences.

7. Describe one negative aspect of humans building tall buildings from paragraph 4. (2 marks)

We will never be satisfied because we cannot keep building higher and higher forever.

8. Which of the following statements are **TRUE**? (2 marks)

a) The writer thinks that Burj Khalifa is impressive.

b) The Eiffel Tower is not very well-known.

c) The Great Pyramid of Giza was not the tallest building in the world for a long time.

d) The Eiffel Tower was built much later than Lincoln Cathedral.