PERFUME has appealed to both men and women's sense of smell for many centuries. The word 'perfume' comes from the Latin 'per fumes' which means 'by smoke'. This is because, many centuries ago, people noticed that the smoke rising from fires smelled sweet and strong. They realized that by burning certain kinds of wood they could obtain a pleasant smell. In other words, they were able to obtain scent by burning wood.

It is not known exactly when women first began to use perfume but it was probably in prehistoric times. Egyptians used scent very generously. They taught the whole ancient world how to use it and, in particular, they passed their knowledge on to the Jews, who were slaves in Egypt at that time. The Jews used it mainly for religious purposes. Later, the Romans began to use scents for cosmetic purposes and invented a scented face cream which became a status symbol among rich women at the time. The Greeks went further, using different perfumes for different parts of the body.

The great breakthrough in perfumery came in the 11th century with the invention of distillation. It was discovered that the aroma from plants and flowers could be preserved by distillation —and rose water was born. In the Middle Ages, people sprayed themselves with perfume to hide the bad smell of their bodies and baths were used less and less. Over the years, the taste for perfume grew, particularly in Italy and France and men also began to use it. When Elizabeth I was the queen of England, using perfume was very fashionable. However, with Queen Victoria, the fashion for exotic perfumes disappeared.

Today the materials the perfumer uses have changed very little, except that synthetic essences have taken over from the more hard-to-get ingredients but basically perfume making remains the same.
LISTENING (15 pts.)

You are going to hear a talk about "Perfume". You are going to hear it twice. Answer the questions as you listen.

PART A- Fill in the blanks with appropriate information from the talk. (1 pt. each; 9 pts.)

A SENSE OF SMELL

Centuries ago, people understood that the smoke from fires had a pleasant smell. The word 'perfume' originally meant 'by (1) ______________ '. This is because people long ago understood that the smoke from fires had a pleasant smell. Therefore, by (2) ______________ they were able to obtain scent.

The whole (3) ______________ learnt to use scent from the Egyptians. It was used for (4) ______________ purposes by the Jewish people. The Romans and (5) ______________, however, used it for cosmetic purposes.

With the discovery of the distillation method (6) ______________ was born. In (7) ______________ , perfume was often used instead of (8) ______________.

Today, although synthetic essences replaced some ingredients that are difficult to find, the (9) ______________ used in perfume making have remained almost the same.

PART B- Mark the following TRUE (T) or FALSE (F). (1 pt. each; 6 pts.)

T  F  1. Many centuries ago people discovered the sweet and strong smell of smoke.

T  F  2. Egyptian women were the first users of perfume.

T  F  3. The Jews learnt how to use scent in Egypt.

T  F  4. Using scented face cream was a sign of a woman's wealth during the Roman times.

T  F  5. The method of distillation was discovered in the eleventh century.

T  F  6. Exotic perfumes were out of fashion during the rule of Elizabeth I.