Bullfighting is the national sport of Spain, in which a matador fights and kills a bull in a large flat area called the arena. (1) The game as we know it today started in village squares in Spain in the 17th century; however, its concept dates back to Roman times. (2) At that time, it wasn’t a popular sport with poor people. It was practised only by aristocrats as a leisure activity. When King Felipe V banned aristocrats from taking part, ordinary people started to practice it. After the famous bullring in Ronda was built in the 18th century, it became a more popular sport. (3) According to historians, bullfighting was originally done on horseback. When this caused severe injuries, horses started to be given protection. (4) However, the sport was still very dangerous and people couldn’t perform it. Later, the sport was transformed from horseback to foot, which made everything safer.

Today, bullfighting is done in a particular sequence of events and has the features of a ritual. It is a ceremony that is carried out in carefully arranged steps. The leading roles are played by the bull and the matador. It is a ritual, and it requires a sacrifice, a sacrifice to the death. (5) Why do people take this big risk? This hasn’t been completely answered by experts yet. Maybe, it is a continuation of an old tradition, or it is a show to depict mankind’s power over other living creatures, but something is for certain: (6) Spanish people started to practise bullfighting ages ago, and it seems quite likely that they will continue this tradition for a long time.

1. Although _____________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________to Roman times.

2. At that time, it ________________________________________________________with poor people.
   (used to)

3. Historians_______________________________________________________________.
   (think)

4. However,_______________________________________________________________.
   (too)

5. _________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   by experts yet.

6. Spanish people _________________________________________________________ for ages.
B. Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verbs in parentheses.

Dolphins are mammals that are closely related to whales. There are almost forty species of dolphins, and they (1)__________________________ (find) worldwide, mostly in the shallow seas.

Human beings (2)__________________________ (have) an interest in these intelligent creatures since ancient times. In Ancient Greece, dolphins (3)__________________________ (consider) messengers between humans and gods. Ancient Greek and Roman works of art included stories about dolphins, showing them as friendly and helpful animals. In one Roman tale, for example, there was a dolphin that rescued a boy who (4)__________________________ (fall) into the sea.

Today, these animals are still at the centre of attention because of their intelligence and ability to learn. People employ them in many areas such as entertainment, medicine and the military. Dolphins are also a source of food and income in some countries. Japan and Peru are two of those countries where people (5)__________________________ (hunt) dolphins for their meat. Unfortunately, due to overhunting, dolphins face an uncertain future. Although there are laws that (6)__________________________ (introduce) recently, people still keep on hunting these animals. It is reported that some species of dolphins (7)__________________________ (become / already) extinct. The rate of extinction is terrifying, and only a few environmental groups (8)__________________________ (try) to do something about it at the moment. This is because there isn’t enough public awareness. That is, not many people are aware of the danger these animals face. If more people (9a)__________________________ (have) an awareness of the importance and value of these creatures, many of the extinct dolphin species (9b)__________________________ (be) alive today.

Experts working on this subject are warning us that, if we (10a)__________________________ (take) the problem seriously, soon we (10b)__________________________ (be able to) find even a single dolphin in the oceans of our world.

C. Complete the following text with ONE WORD ONLY.

Millions of nameless baby girls in China are disappearing and many families throw (1)__________________________ their female children like garbage. It sounds very sad, (2)__________________________ it? This is because a married couple is allowed to have only one child in China, and ninety percent of the families would (3)__________________________ have a boy than a girl.

The one-child policy law, which the government introduced in 1979 (4)__________________________ reduce the population growth, has been successful; however, according to some statistics, there are 120 male babies for every 100 female babies. This (5)__________________________ that the sad story about female babies is true. Sociologists are worried (6)__________________________ the consequences this might bring about in the future, and they say that the law (7)__________________________ to be changed.