

# BANGLADESH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, (ES), RIYADH

## Notes & Worksheet on English Literature The Rosetta Stone

### ANSWER KEY

#### Short questions and answers.

##### **1. What is the Rosetta Stone?**

Ans: The Rosetta Stone is a stone with writing on it in two languages (Egyptian and Greek), using three scripts (hieroglyphic, demotic and Greek).

##### **2. Who found the Rosetta Stone and where?**

Ans: The Rosetta Stone was found by French soldiers rebuilding a fort in Egypt. It was found in a small village called Rosetta (Rashid) in the delta of the Nile River.

##### **3. What does the Rosetta Stone say?**

Ans: The Rosetta Stone is a text written by a group of priests in Egypt to honor the Egyptian pharaoh. It lists all of the things that the pharaoh had done that were good for the priests and the people of Egypt.

#### Broad questions and answers.

##### **1. What is an expository text? Why do you think that ‘The Rosetta Stone’ is an expository essay?**

Ans: An expository text gives facts that explain a person, thing or event. It may use a question-and-answer text structure to deliver information more quickly. Some expository texts include graphics, such as charts and photos, to give readers even more information.

I think The Rosetta Stone is an expository text because it gives us facts that explain a thing, that is, the Rosetta Stone. It also has a question-and-answer text structure to deliver information more quickly. It includes graphics such as photo. It gives us information about ancient Egyptian culture and how the mystery of the Rosetta Stone was resolved.

##### **2. How did Champollion decipher hieroglyphs?**

Ans: Champollion could read both Greek and Coptic. He was able to figure out what the seven demotic signs in Coptic were. By looking at how these signs were used in Coptic he was able to work out what they stood for. Then he began tracing these demotic signs back to hieroglyphic signs. By working out what some hieroglyphs stood for, he could make educated guesses about what the other hieroglyphs stood for.

##### **3. Describe the three different scripts on the Rosetta Stone.**

Ans: 1. The first was hieroglyphic, which was the script used for important or religious documents.

2. The second was demotic, which was the common script of Egypt.

3. The third was Greek, which was the language of the rulers of Egypt at that time.

#### Learn the meanings of the words and make sentences with them:

expository - intended to explain or describe sth  
Have you read any expository texts recently?

script - a written text of a play, film/movie, broadcast, talk, etc  
That line isn't in the original script.

priest – a person who is qualified to perform religious duties *a parish priest*  
The priest delivered a speech on religion in the church.

delta - an area of land, shaped like a triangle  
We have recently visited the Nile delta.

religious - connected with religion or with a particular religion  
Some students are studying religious subjects in the university.

demotic - used by or typical of ordinary people  
There were some demotic languages in Egypt.

extinct - ( of a type of plant, animal, etc. ) no longer in existence  
The dinosaurs are extinct now.

decipher - to succeed in finding the meaning of sth that is difficult to read or understand  
Champollion was able to decipher the writing in the Rosetta stone.

figure out – to think about sth/sb until you understand it/them  
Can you figure out the total cost of journey from London to New York?

trace - to find or discover sb/sth by looking carefully for them/it  
We finally traced him to an address in Chicago.

### Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

1. The Rosetta Stone was written in two languages, Greek and **Egyptian**
2. The first was **hieroglyphic** which was the script used for important or religious documents.
3. Many people worked on **deciphering** hieroglyphs over several hundreds years.
4. **Jean-Francois Champollion** deciphered hieroglyphs in 1822.
5. The Rosetta Stone was found in a village called **Rosetta (Rashid)**.
6. **Expository** text gives facts that explain a person, thing or event.
7. The Rosetta Stone is a text written by a group of **priests** in Egypt.
8. Champollion could make **educated** guesses about what the other hieroglyphs stood for.
9. Egyptian and **Greek** are two languages used to write on the Rosetta Stone.
10. The Rosetta Stone lists all of the things that were good for the priests and the **people** of Egypt.

**Choose the best answer.**

1. The Rosetta Stone is a \_\_\_\_\_  
a. **Stone with writing** b. stream with water c. sign with pictures
2. The Rosetta Stone is written in \_\_\_\_\_ scripts.  
a. two, b. **three** c. four
3. The third script of Rosetta Stone is \_\_\_\_\_  
a. Demotic b. **Greek** c. hieroglyphic
4. The stone was carved in \_\_\_\_\_  
**a. 196 BC** b. 197 BC c. 199 BC
5. The Rosetta Stone was written by  
a. A group of scientists b. **a group of priests** c. pharaoh

**Determine the following statements as true or false.**

1. French soldiers who were rebuilding a fort in Greece. F
2. The Rosetta Stone was found in a small village in the delta of Nile river. T
3. Champollion could read only Coptic. F
4. Champollion was able to figure out what the seven demotic signs in Coptic were. T
5. Many people worked on deciphering hieroglyphs over thousand years. F

**Answer each question in a phrase.**

1. What is the other name of the Rosetta village?

Rashid

2. On which purpose did many people work for years?

To decipher hieroglyphs

3. Why did the priests of Egypt write the texts on the Rosetta Stone?

To honor the Egyptian pharaoh

4. Name three different scripts used to write on the Rosetta Stone.

Hieroglyphic, demotic and Greek

5. For whom was the Rosetta Stone written in all three scripts to read?

The priests, government officials, and rulers of Egypt

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