

Sequence IV
THE ARAB CONTRIBUTION TO
CIVILISATION

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Reading comprehension

Pronunciation

Vocabulary Building

Mastery of Language

Writing

THE ARAB CONTRIBUTION TO CIVILISATION



Mosque near ancient Babylon

The Arab conquest and the early Islamic period

By the end of 638, the Muslims had conquered the neighbouring provinces and mass immigration of Arabs from eastern Arabia and Mazun (Oman) followed. The new settlers established two new garrison cities, at al-Kūfah, near ancient Babylon, and at Basrah in the south.

The area of modern Iraq north of Tikrit was known in Muslim times as Al-Jazirah, which means "The Island".



View of Tikrit Mosque

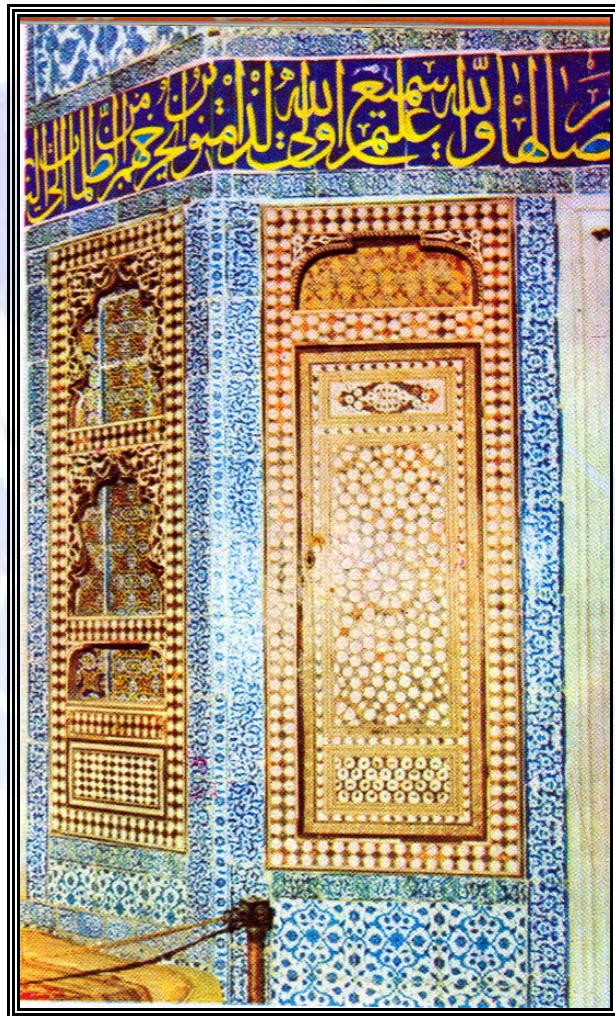
A. Reading Comprehension:

. *Read the following text carefully*

- Find out the three basic elements that helped Science to develop.

The three basic elements that helped Science to develop are

.....
.....



The Glory that was Islam

When Christian Europe was still in the Dark Ages, Arab science and philosophy were at their apogee.

The Arab world was the most important centre of scientific thought and remained so from the 3rd century BC to the 5th century AD. For a period of 800 years, the greatest thinkers, whose works were later translated, came from Mesopotamia Egypt, and western Asia.

Europe **was able to develop** as it did only because the Arabs brought with them the seeds of a new enthusiasm for science:

- A language which was emerging as a means international communication.
- a strong, centralized government.
- and a religion which exalted knowledge (the Qur'an states that the ink of the scholars is more precious than the blood of the martyrs).



The Arab contribution to civilization spans philosophy and art as well as sciences. It not only includes an important number of inventions and theories, but is also the starting point of contacts and exchanges between cultures.

Extract from "The Glory that was Islam"
by William Montgomery

Activity2:

**Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)?
Justify your answer by quoting the text.**

e.g.: Ignorance dominated Europe for a long time. (T)
“ ... Christian Europe was still in the Dark Ages ...”

1. The Arab civilization was at the highest point of civilization.
2. The Arab world contribution to civilization was limited to sciences.
3. At that time ignorance characterized Europe.
.....
4. In light of Islam there is nothing more precious than knowledge.
5. There were only a few inventions recorded.
.....
6. **Tolerance and respect dominated the Arab world.**
.....

B. Pronunciation:

- *Some English words have the same pronunciation but different meanings and spellings.*

e.g.: /nəʊ/ => no, know /raɪt /=> right , write

Activity 1:

Write the different spelling for each word:

1. /tu:/ :

2. /baɪ/ :

3. /mi:t/ :

4. /wud/ :

5. /wei/ :

6. /weit/ :

Activity2:

Supply the correct word in the sentences below:

1. How much does the parcel?

The is 3,250 kg.

2. - I like read 'The Glory that was Islam'.

- Me Let's ask the librarian if it is available.

- I think there are samples on the shelf.

3. Let's at the theatre and tickets for next week.

4. He does not eat *He is vegetarian*

C. Vocabulary Building:

a)- Compound adjectives:

A compound adjective is an adjective which is made of two parts and is usually written with a hyphen (-).

Article	Adverb	hyphen	Noun	ed	Singular or plural noun
A	Well	-	manner	ed	person.
A	Short	-	sight	ed	Man
Ø	High	-	heel	ed	Shoes
An	Open	-	mind	ed	Woman

- He is a **well-mannered** person.
- Isn't he rather **short-sighted** man?
- She is wearing **high-heeled** shoes.

- She is an **open minded** woman.

Activity 1:

- Rewrite the sentences below using compound adjectives:

e.g.: Helen has curly hair and blue eyes.

Helen is a **curly-haired** and **blue-eyed** girl.

1. Melissa has rosy cheeks and long legs.
Melissa is a girl.
2. *Would you say the boy behaves well?*
Would you say he is a?
3. My brother is tall and has broad shoulders.
My brother is a tall and man.
4. *Do all the hotel rooms have air conditioner?*
Are all the hotel rooms?
5. My young sister writes with the left hand
My young sister is
6. I bought a pullover with an open neck.
I bought an

b)- Suffixes:

a)-The suffixes **-al and -ed** are added to some nouns and verbs to form adjectives.

e.g. : culture cultural refuse refusal
 centralize centralised

b)-The suffix **-able** (meaning **can be done**) is added to some verbs to make adjectives:

e.g.: drink drinkable

c) -The suffix **-ity** is added to some adjectives to make abstract nouns.

e.g.: complex complexity

d) - The suffix **-tic** is used to make abstract adjectives:

enthusiastic sympathetic

To summarize:

<p>- verbs + -ed or -able => adjectives</p> <p>e.g.: centralize centralized drink drinkable</p>	
<p>- adjectives + -ity => abstract nouns</p> <p>e.g.: responsible responsibility</p>	
<p>- nouns + -al / -ic => adjectives</p> <p>e.g.: culture cultural enthusiasm enthusiastic</p>	

Activity 1:

**Add the correct suffix –al or –ed –able or -y to the words in the box so as to make adjectives or nouns:
Check the meaning of words you don't know in the dictionary.**

Vocabulary box:

Nouns:

leg – origin – practice – optimism - nation – science - realism - universe – continent – form - pessimism

Verbs:

refuse - confirm - inspire - read - commit - practise – civilize - devote - wash – forgive -

Adjectives :

secure - stupid – popular – sensitive - hostile - curious - absurd - generous – intense -

adjectives	Nouns

Activity2:

Now, complete the sentences below with the right noun, verb or adjective listed in the vocabulary box :

1. I prefer watching films in the version.
2. You have to be about you chances of winning.

3. He is so about art that he can't talk of anything else.
4. Someone willing to work very hard on something is a person.
5. You must wear clothes for the party.
6. He does everything he can to help his students. He is a very teacher.
7. I usually prefer buying machine clothes.
8. He always tries to help his friends. His to people's problems is known.
9. I admit that what he did was wrong but I still believe it is a mistake.
10. He always rejects new ideas concerning the plan.
His towards the project is evident.

D. Mastery of Language

a)- Consider the example below:

Arab-Islamic scholars **were able/ managed to establish** longitudes and reform the calendar.

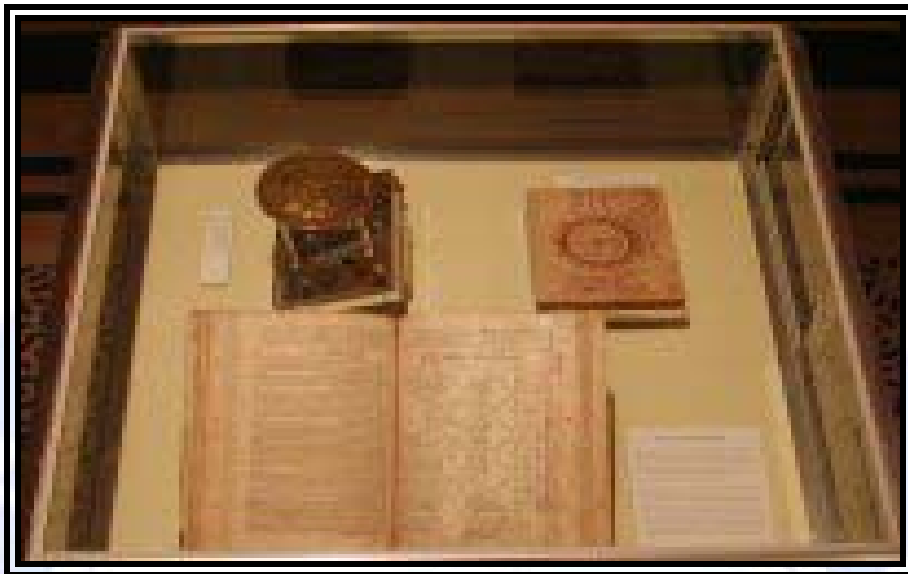
Europe **was able / managed to develop** because the Arabs brought with them the seeds of a new enthusiasm for science.

- For expressing **ability** in a particular situation,
we use :

was/were able to + stem

or

managed to + stem



Qanun fi'l-tibb (Canon of Medicine)

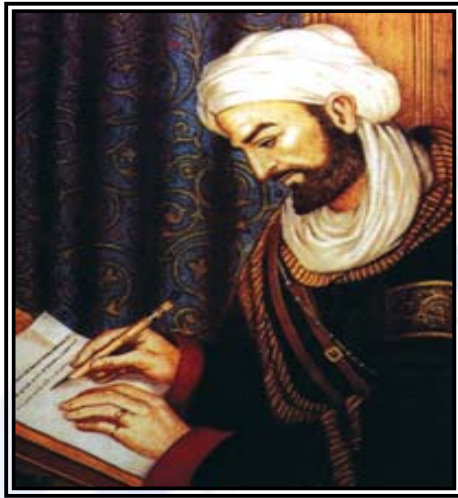
The Arabic text in *naskh* script in brown ink on buff paper; has an opening title a -page decorated with central *shamsa*. became the textbook reference of the medical schools both in the Islamic world and in Europe almost until the beginning of modern times.

Thanks to Ibn Sina's tremendous and most valuable work, doctors **were able to treat** their suffering patients and medical students **were able to study** medicine.



Activity 1:

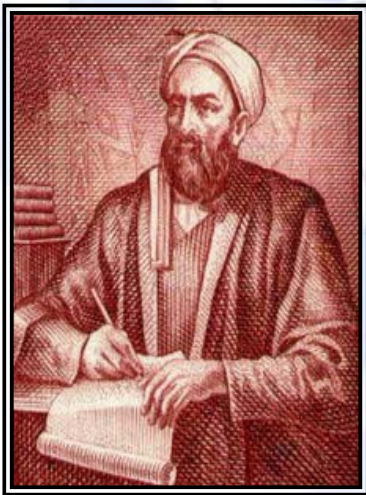
- Complete the sentences with **was/ were able to**.



1. Ibn Sina, the outstanding figure in Arab medicine,to describe the symptoms of numerous diseases in his famous Canon of Medicine.

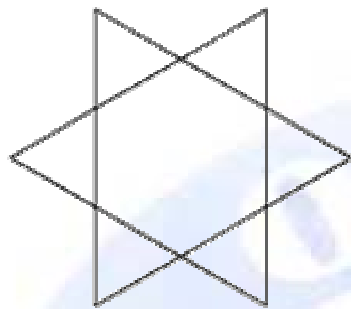


2. Ibn Rushd show the relation between the Holy Quran and the philosophical work.



3. Al-Biruni give Arabic culture a universal dimension.

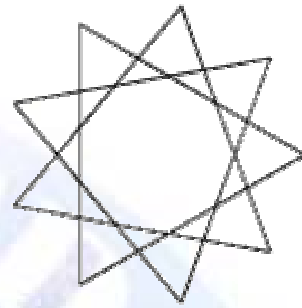
4. Arab mathematicians superpose star-like polygons with six, eight, ten or twelve points.



hexagram



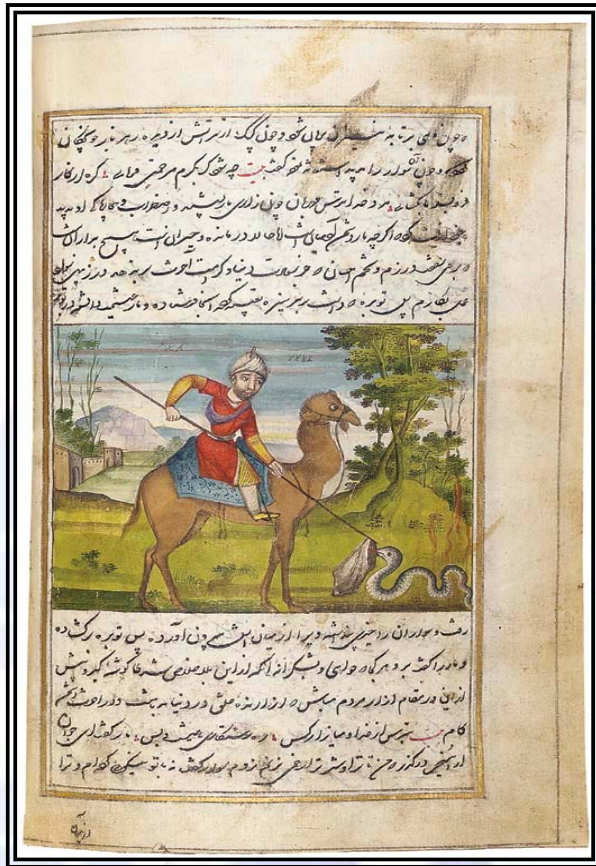
star of Lakshmi



nonagram

5. Ma'mun, The son of Harun Al-Rashid, found the first great Arab centre of translation and thought: The Bayt Al-Hikma ('the house of wisdom').

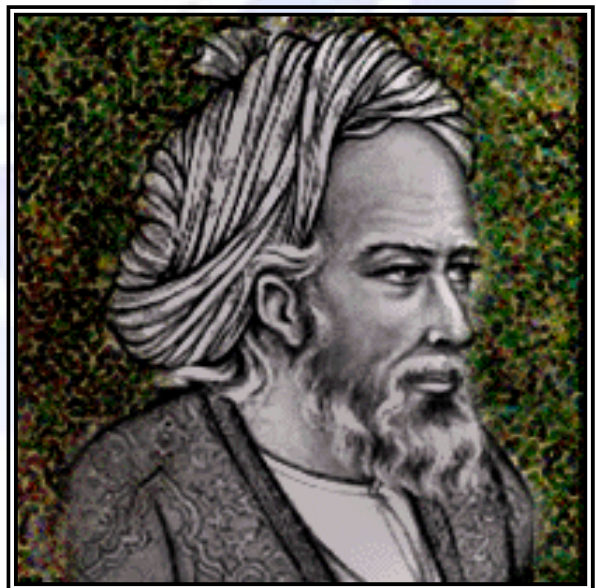




A page from Al Muqaffa's book
'Kalila wa Dimna'

6. La Fontaine
to write 'Les Fables'
after he had read a
translation of Ibn Al -
Muqaffa's masterpiece
of Arabic literature:
"Kalila Wa Dimna".

7. The great mathematician and
poet Omar Khayyam
..... propose
solutions for equations of the
third degree.



Arab Names for Arab Gifts



"Could I invite you to have something with me in this café? Take off your jacket and sit down on the sofa or on the divan. Would you like a cup of coffee with one sugar lump or two? Or perhaps a cool carafe of lemonade? Let me buy you lunch! What about artichokes as a starter? And rice and spinach to follow? For dessert, would you like a piece of apricot tart, or an orange sorbet?"

Did you know that all these things, which are part of our daily life, were all borrowed from the Arab culture? The sofa, the divan or the mattress, this café and the cups of coffee they serve with the sugar, the lemonade and the carafe, the jacket and the same goes for candy, oranges, sherbet and many other good things. We also owe to the Arabs useful and precious textiles such as muslin, cotton, taffeta, soft mohair, elegant satin, beautiful moiré, sumptuous damask etc...

You encounter a lot of Arab "discoveries" whenever you set foot in a pharmacy or a herbalist's. You might find camphor, benjoin and benzine, saccharine, amber, and cumin, not to mention, ginger and saffron . The gauze, talc or hair lacquer that you might buy at the pharmacy are also of Arabic origin, as are numerous chemical terms such as alkali or aniline.

Did you know that the game chess was introduced to Europe by an emissary of the Caliph Harun Al Rashid? So there you are – checkmated! And once again, we're using Arabic without even thinking about it because the expression "**checkmate**" is a direct derivation of the Arabic ``**al-shah mat**``, meaning simply "the king died!"

There's no denying that a lot of the Arabic words which have found their way into our language refer to items introduced to us by the Arabs. In fact, we in the West ought to thank the Arabs for making our lives healthier and more hygienic, as well as more comfortable and elegant.

Translated and adapted from ‘‘Le Soleil d'Allah brille sur l'Occident ‘‘ by Sigrid Hunke



II - Mastery of Language :

- Use and omission of the definite article

We do not use `the` when we talk about things or people in general terms	We use `the` when we talk about particular things or people
<p>Sofas and divans are comfortable seats.</p> <p>Culture is what distinguishes a society from another.</p> <p>Civilization comes from the Latin word <i>civis</i>.</p> <p>Progress includes all forms of developments .</p>	<p>Sit down on the sofa or on the divan.</p> <p>Many words were borrowed from the Arab culture.</p> <p>The earliest civilization arose in Mesopotamia.</p> <p>The progress he made is astonishing.</p>

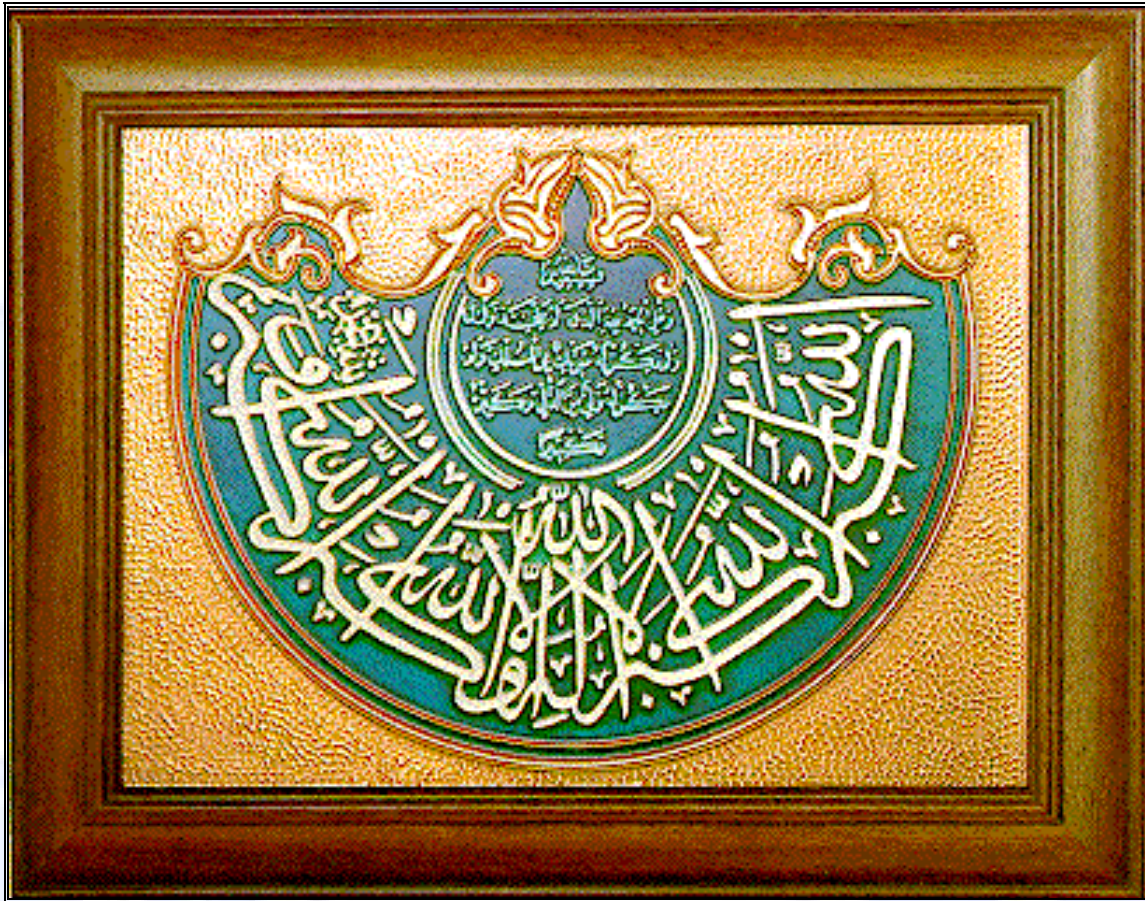
Activity 1:

Supply the where necessary:

1)- Calligraphy :

(1) ... Calligraphy lies at (2) ... very heart of (3)... Arabic - Islamic art. In (4) ... Islamic tradition, (5) ... writing is a gift of (6) ... God, first taught to Adam. Furthermore, (7) ... Arabic is (8) ...language in which God transmitted his message to(10) ... mankind, through (11) ... the Prophet Muhammad (Peace upon Him). (12) ... introduction of paper and (13)

...spread of (14) ... books contributed to (15) ...development of (16) ... calligraphy.



2)- Mathematics

(1) ...golden age of (2) ... Arab science was marked by (3) ... great mathematicians such as (4) ... poet Omar Khayyam, who in addition to (5) ... famous Quatrains also proposed solutions for equations of (6) ... third degree.

(7) ... history of mathematics is full of (8) ... Arab inventions (9). ... Arabic word “algorithm”, for example, comes from (10) ... title of “**Kitab Al-Jabr**” (from **jabara**, “to set bones”) written by (11) ... great mathematician **Al-Khawarizmi** .



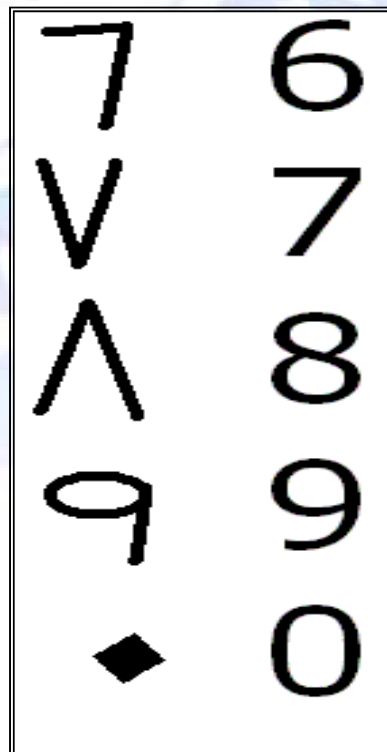
Page from al-Khwarizmi's
Kitab al-Jabr wal-Muqabala,
the oldest Arab work on
Algebra 9th century.

The Arabs named (12) ... “0 al-sifr as the name for (13) ... symbol indicating (14) ... absence of quantity. (15) Latin changed (16) ... Arabic word into **cifra**, which in Italy became **zefero**, and then **zero**. Then it passed into (17) ... English and (18) French . At (19) ...same time, French borrowed (20) ...



A stamp issued in 1983 to
commemorate the 1200th
anniversary of Muhammad

al-
Khawarizmi the father



word **cifra** and transformed it into (21) ... **chiffre** (“number”), to refer to (22) ... numbers in general.

(23) ... letter “**x**”, used by (24) ... mathematicians all over (25) ... world and referring to (26) ... unknown quantity is a deformation of (27) ... Arabic “**shay**”, meaning “thing”.



Writing

Reorder the words so as to write coherent sentences:

1. religious / combination / treatment / Ancient / of / practiced / civilizations / a / and / medical /.
-

2. responsibility / In / medical / the / and / of / treatment / Egypt / was / Egypt / magician /the/ both/ Mesopotamia /and/ the physician /.
-

3. / was / Progress / human / the / corpses / hampered /of/ religious / in/ science / ban/ on / the / medical /by/ dissection /
-

4. could/ itself / 600 BC / science /Medicine /as / /rational / science / / establish / a / around
-