

KEYS

Chapter 01 Land & People

1

- 1) B 2) A 3) D 4) C

2

- 1) The discovery in 1974 of Dinkenesesh, the oldest known hominid skeleton.
- 2) Amharic.
- 3) Highland.
- 4) Menelik II.

3

- 1) Addis Ababa is the capital of Ethiopia and one of two chartered cities in the country, as well as the largest city by far. It was founded in 1887 by Emperor Menelik II. His wife, the Empress Taitu, who gave the name Addis Ababa (“new flower” in Amharic) to the emergent town. In Meskel Square, the heart of the city, big national events take place. The Mercato is a huge market area and forms a distinct community within the city. The proportion of Muslims is higher than elsewhere, and the various nationalities of Ethiopia mingle with long-established foreign communities, of which the

Yemeni is by far the biggest. Trading and commerce in both traditional and new commodities, from hides and skins to laptop computers, is based on relationships of trust that sometimes go back several generations. Easier for foreigners to manage when purchasing goods are either the many arcades springing up all over town, or the Piazza, another traditional commercial area.

- 2) Ethiopians have always tried to balance foreign influences to their advantage. This means they maintain close relations with Israel as well as with Arab countries, and with China and Russia, as well as with the USA and the European Union. Addis Ababa is the diplomatic center of Africa, with the headquarters of the African Union in the city, and every African country maintaining a diplomatic mission there. The United Nations' Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is housed in a historic multistory block off Meskel Square.

Chapter 02 Values & Attitudes

1

- 1) T 2) T 3) F 4) F 5) F

2

- 1) Close mourners beat their breasts and cry openly, while others maintain a respectful silence.
- 2) In the early twentieth century.

3

- 1) Yes, militarism is a traditional virtue and carries respect in Ethiopia. Power has almost always been gained militarily, and the present regime is no exception. Many impartial Ethiopians see the use of force to control dissenters and disaffected groups as a necessity. Many Ethiopians used to carry guns as a matter of pride. With a natural tendency to hierarchy, and a need to place oneself under the protection of a powerful patron, the obligation to bear and use arms was always unquestioned in the feudal era. Nowadays, there is a core professional standing army and air force. Few doubted the rightness of going to war in 1998 when Ethiopia's integrity was at stake, and recruitment among poor, rural young men was not a problem. Today there is no national service and no conscription, but the armed forces are adequately manned. Readiness to fight to protect the country's freedoms, and its national territory, remains part of Ethiopia's national psyche.
- 2) According to the belief of Ethiopians, if God will not remove the pain and suffering, you need to bear them. There are evidently many poor people in Ethiopia, and begging is in no way shameful for them. Indeed, supplication is done throughout all levels of society, but it is combined with an extraordinary patient and fatalistic endurance of hardship and pain. For ascetic or stoical reasons, pain is endured and sick people often do not consult a doctor unless the symptoms are very advanced. Both modern medicine and traditional medicine are used, simultaneously with holy water from a saint's shrine as an extra precaution.

Chapter 03 Religion & Tradition

1

- 1) D 2) B 3) C 4) D

2

- 1) T 2) T 3) F

3

- 1) Baptism is one of the sacraments of the Church, along with confirmation, penance, Holy Communion, the Unction of the Sick, matrimony, and Holy Orders. It marks the “rebirth” of a child into the Christian family. Baptism takes place forty days after the birth of a boy, or eighty days for a girl. The rite is long and includes the churching of the mother and the purification of the child. The child is anointed thirty times with holy oil all over its body; it is then dipped three times in water while the Holy Trinity is invoked. Sponsors and godparents are appointed, as in Western Churches.
- 2) When a wedding takes place, it is a protracted affair that can take several days, during which there is a boisterous and noisy cavalcade of hooting cars. Pride of place goes to the cameraman perched in a car that drives back and forth to catch every moment. The giving of presents by guests is not as common in Ethiopia as in the West. The pinning of money to the bridal couple for luck during dancing at the

reception is done, but not at very posh weddings. The bridegroom presents the bride with a trousseau of dresses to which she is supposed to express scorn, but to accept them nevertheless. In the Oromo countryside you'll see a party of traditional horsemen, their steeds ornately and colorfully saddled and bridled, galloping about in good-natured drunkenness.

Chapter 04 Making Friends

1

- 1) F 2) F 3) T 4) T

2

- 1) A cake or flowers.
2) To find a business partner, to find romance or to get around the country.

3

- 1) Inter-marriage between Ethiopians and foreigners is not at all unusual, especially between Ethiopian women and men from the Eastern Mediterranean, who have been settling in the country for centuries. Romance and marriage between Ethiopians and Western foreigners is also becoming increasingly common. These relationships are often very happy and successful, though of course they can and do incur cross-cultural strains. Marriage here, even in the more traditional parts of the country, is not always a lifelong relationship. Exploitative

relationships between men and women are no more unknown in Ethiopian culture than they are in the West. Divorce, and extramarital relationships, are as common in the countryside as they are in the cities.

- 2) Ethiopians greet their friends, including their foreign friends, in various ways, often with an embrace and a kiss on each cheek, and again on the first side, if they have not seen each other for a long time, but always at least by shaking hands. It is conventional for each party to ask the other if they are well, and to reply that they are, and to add “*Egziabher Yimesgen*,” which means “Thanks be to God.” Muslims often prefer to say “*Alhamdulillah*,” which means the same thing in Arabic.

Chapter 05 The Ethiopians at Home

1

- 1) D 2) A 3) D

2

- 1) mud; wood; stone
- 2) compound
- 3) Mercato
- 4) early marriage; the need to help domestically

3

- 1) Orthodox Christians are regular churchgoers. Many will have a

close link to a church dedicated to a particular saint or archangel, and they will attend that church early on Sunday mornings, and on regular church festivals. Catholic and Protestant Christians will also devote their Sundays to Church activities. Protestants, however, do not observe saints' days, and do not generally observe the fasting regulations of the Church. Muslims will generally attend Friday midday prayers at the mosque, and will also observe Ramadan. As Sunday remains the official day of rest, they may go out to lunch at a restaurant, or on a picnic that day. Picnics, if taken, are generally at a park outside town, or in an enclosure just on the edge of a main road, enhanced with flower beds and chairs and tables.

- 2) Recent years have seen a huge expansion in the provision of both state and private higher education in Ethiopia. Many Ethiopian families also now wish to provide this opportunity for their children, which means that offspring of college-age often continue to live at home, or with relatives in the larger towns, until well into their twenties. Wealthier families often look for a university education abroad for their children, in India, in Europe, or in North America. Universities in Ethiopia, both private and state funded, are expanding every year.

Chapter 06 Time Out

1

- 1) modern sports, intellectual sparring

- 2) banknotes
- 3) Honey
- 4) Meskel Square

2

- 1) It is New Year's Day in the Ethiopian calendar.
- 2) Religious, Epiphany or the Baptism of Christ.
- 3) A board game played with stones and a number of holes.
- 4) Recreation parks, a place for getting fresh air.

3

- 1) Ethiopia regularly gains a formidable medal haul at the Olympic Games, especially in the 5,000 meter, 10,000 meter, and marathon events. Ethiopians are famous throughout the world for their long-distance running and are particularly noted for their “finishing kick,” a ferocious finishing sprint. High-profile athletes include Haile Gebreselassie, Kenenisa Bekele, and Tirunesh Dibaba etc. Groups of runners can be seen training on main roads or on the slopes of Entoto, the mountain behind Addis Ababa. The Great Ethiopian Run, a major annual charity event, attracts thousands of participants on a six-mile (ten-kilometer) run around Addis Ababa, which starts and finishes in Meskel Square, in the center of Addis Ababa.
- 2) In Addis Ababa, do visit the National Museum, which houses the remains of the prehistoric hominid, Lucy; the Museum of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, located in Addis Ababa University

(AAU); the Museum of Natural History, which is in the Science block of AAU; and the Addis Ababa Museum, in an old house on the south side of Meskel Square.

Chapter 07 Travel, Health & Safety

1

- 1) F 2) T 3) T 4) F

2

- 1) Bole Airport
- 2) private taxi; yellow
- 3) Sudan; Metema; Gondar

3

- 1) Drive on the right. The speed limit on open roads is 65 mph (110 kmph); in towns it is 25 mph (40 kmph). Seat belts are obligatory in all regions. Cell phones may not be used while driving. Priority is given to vehicles on traffic circles.
- 2) For anyone planning on staying for some time, houses or apartments can be rented through an agent, or by recommendation. Agents can also be found by word of mouth, and there are notice boards at the big hotels and supermarkets serving affluent areas that advertise accommodation, cars, or sales by expatriates leaving the country. Renting a house will certainly involve a contract with payment in

advance for several months.

Chapter 08 Business Briefing

1

- 1) D 2) A 3) B

2

- 1) agriculture-led industrialization
- 2) wholly foreign-owned company; a joint venture
- 3) business transaction

3

- 1) Regulations in foreign investment in Ethiopia change from time to time, but some broad guiding principles are always available: No foreigners may invest in banking, insurance, telecommunications, or large-scale aviation. Foreigners who are Ethiopian by birth may invest in a wider range of activities than other foreigners. Foreigners who do not seek the tax privileges and guarantees associated with an official foreign investment may operate as domestic investors along with anybody else. A minimum of US \$100,000 is required for a wholly foreign owned investment, and US \$60,000 for a joint venture with an Ethiopian. There is no minimum percentage for the equity participation of the Ethiopian partner in a joint venture.
- 2) The rise of many women to the top in business is a feature of modern

Ethiopia. They will expect to be treated by men as equals, and if they are in senior positions they are likely to be both tough and decisive. They have been helped on their way, despite the constrictions of traditional culture, by the passion of Ethiopians for modernity. They have also been helped by the presence in Addis Ababa of a vast array of international organizations, which have brought contemporary standards of equal employment to the country. Women with power and influence are now a permanent feature of the Ethiopian scene.

Chapter 09 Communicating

1

- 1) A 2) C 3) C

2

- 1) T 2) T 3) F

3

- 1) The official language of the federal Ethiopian government is Amharic, or *Amarinya*, a member of the South Semitic language family. Amharic is a grammatically complex and subtle language. Amharic is written in Ge'ez script, derived from an ancient South Arabian alphabet. It is written from left to right and each letter represents a syllable, consisting of a basic consonant with a vowel added to it. There are more than 224 possible written letters, made

up by multiplying each of thirty-two consonants by seven variants, denoting the following vowel sound. The total number varies slightly depending on which of Ethiopia's Semitic languages the alphabet is used for.

- 2) Not exactly. Ethiopians have a good sense of humor beneath their rather sober and self-controlled exterior. They thoroughly enjoy banter using wit and pun. At a more basic level they love slapstick and, while they might sympathize, they would still laugh at a friend's misfortune, say, if he fell off a horse. They would not be so rude as to laugh at a stranger's misfortune, and they would be deeply sympathetic if the misfortune were illness or financial.