

1. Write down the names of the ancient engineering projects.

The Great Wall	The Dujiang Dam	The Grand Canal
----------------	-----------------	-----------------

2. What information about the Grand Canal are you going to find out in the text?

- 1) the reason why the canal was built
- 2) the roles/functions it performed /served in Chinese history

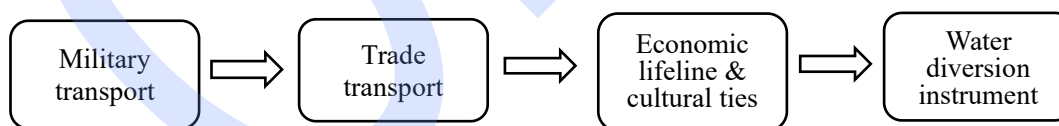
3. Skim Para. 2-8 and do the match work

Para. 2-3	A Major Change
Para. 4-5	A Busy Waterway
Para. 6-7	The Initial Construction
Para. 8	The Canal Today

4. Read Para. 2-8 carefully and match

Historical period	What happened to the canal?	What was its function?
Spring and Autumn period	construction began, linked different rivers	to transport goods and military supplies
Sui dynasty	rebuilt and connected old waterways, damaged in wars	to speed its flow
Ming dynasty	restored	to transport grain and salt from south to north; cotton, wool, coal, flour, precious stones and dried meat from north to south
Today	still in use	to divert water from south to north

5. The changing roles of the canal



6. Notes for the dialogue

7. Write a research report of 120 to 150 words based on the dialogue in class.

For TYPE 2 questions:

The Grand Canal underwent major restoration in the Ming dynasty. With the capital transferred from Nanjing to Beijing, the canal was chosen to transport grain northward. The canal was not well preserved in the hundreds years prior to the 15th century, so restoration project was badly needed. It might be the most large-scale canal project in history ever. Gradually, not only grain was transported, but other sources of income like salt, cotton and flour were carried along the canal in both directions.

As a result, the port cities along the river began to thrive. Cities like Suzhou, Hangzhou, and Yangzhou became trade centres, where hotels, restaurants, and many other businesses prospered. In this way, the canal promoted the economic growth of the districts along it. The country in the Ming dynasty would not have been so developed without the canal. With the passing of time, cultural exchanges between the south and the north occurred, closely uniting the country.

Though the canal is now not the major trade routes within our country with the rise of high-speed means of transport, it has its own ecological and cultural values. For example, the modern water diversion project makes the best use of the canal, benefiting the northern arid provinces. The ancient port cities now feature canal museums, where visitors can walk and feel like part of the history. In this sense, the traditional culture can be passed on to future generations through our preservation of the canal.