**ENGLISH COMPREHENSION**

**Passage 2**

The holiday was super, whichever way you look at it. The traffic in Accra Central was extremely heavy. All types of vehicles, many of which should have been in the fitting shop, were on the road, loaded with passengers and all sorts of items- biscuits, mattresses, bicycles, dresses, shoes and many more.

It was good **opportunity** for the business-minded to sell all manner of goods. There was corned beef from no known country of origin. Biscuits and cakes baked from sugar and expired flour were everywhere. There were also many dresses made from fabrics suitable for only cold climates. Those who could not buy new clothes bought from the second-hand clothing market, euphemistically called ‘bend-down boutique’. Of course, they could not try them on in the open, so their necks provided the ‘tape measure’. I was to learn later, to my utter surprise, that if the waist of a pair of trousers or a skirt could go around one’s neck it would fit one’s waist perfectly! Trust the folks for finding **ingenious** and practical solutions to their problems.

A **sorry** sight was that of animals. Livestock were dragged mercilessly, their bleating and struggle **ignored** by their masters. Dizziness was felt by those animals that had to hang on to the carriages on top of vehicles, fighting for space with goods. Their owners, **definitely**, did not care whether they were afraid of height. Chickens and ducks also became dizzy from being held face down. Sometimes, they had to sweat the journey out from black polythene bags with their heads popping out through little holes so that they could have a gasp of fresh air. No wonder some zealous Christians believe that Christmas has lost its piety and religious flavour.

The struggle to get in and out of the city centre was fierce. Taxi drivers had a field day; their word was law. One had to charter the taxi, what they called ‘dropping’, or get stuck. However, some passengers broke the ‘law’. The price? They had to make their journeys on foot. The other way out was to set off early, about 3.00 a.m. By so doing, one could easily catch a bus or taxi and be charged the usual fare.

The bars also did serious business as revelers ate and drank various kinds of liquor with careless abandon, amidst the blaring of music from big, black loud-speakers. After the holiday, some of them suffered from hangover and indigestion while others hardly had anything to eat. The annual churchgoers were dressed to kill in their best-brand new or second-hand-as they performed the **ritual** of attending the last church service of the year. As usual, some churches made a windfall as collection was fatter than normal.

**Questions**

a. According to the writer, why was the traffic heavy?

b. …….*Christians believe that Christmas has lot its piety and religious flavour.*

According to the writer, what has brought about this belief?

c. Mention two unpleasant consequences of eating and drinking during the holidays.

d. ……*some passengers broke the law.* What law did they break?

e. What is the overall attitude of the writer to the society?

f. For each of the following words underlined in the passage, give another word or phrase which means the same and can replace it in the passage:

i) opportunity ii) ingenious iii) sorry

iv) ignored v) definitely vi) ritual