

Answer Key

In 1905 Sheikh Muhammad Ali Zainal Alireza established the first boys' school in Jeddah and seven years later, he did the same in Makkah. That was at a time when the Hijaz, the western part of modern Saudi Arabia, was under Ottoman Turkish rule and both poverty and illiteracy were common. Against many odds, Al-Falah School has continued to the present day, due in large part to the vision and determination of its founder Sheikh Muhammad Ali Zainal. The school was the beginning of modern education in Saudi Arabia and from it, many of the country's ministers, businessmen, professors, doctors and other professionals have come. Later, branches of the school were opened in Bahrain, Dubai, India and other countries. Today, Al-Falah Schools still stand in old Jeddah and in Makkah as symbols of resilience and enlightenment.

Derelict old buildings or houses with a fast disappearing history? The dilemma of the Yemen Quarter in downtown Jeddah (Harat Al-Yemen) is a bit of both. Buildings made of coral blocks loosely mortared together crowd along narrow alleyways to create an intimate but decaying atmosphere. To some people, however, the quarter is home and they say they will never leave it.

The Yemen Quarter, many say, is the heart of Jeddah. It is itself an ancient monument full of history. Not so many years ago, it overlooked Jeddah's port. A number of well-known Jeddah families lived in the area; even a partial list of names is impressive: Abdulsamid, Abduljawad, Fitaihi, Humais, Ajlan, Ba Jawa, Deyab, Shalabi, Attar, Halawani, Ghhrab, Bahader, Ghalib, Ashmawi, Bugary and others. Most of these people worked as Haj agents or in business or for the government. The history of the area goes back many, many years.

Punctuation Exercise

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