

1. Read and translate the text.

## **The Republic of Kazakhstan**

The Republic of Kazakhstan is an independent state, situated in the central part of Eurasia. Kazakh is the official language; Russian is the language of international communication.

The total length of state borders is over 15,000 km. It is the ninth biggest country in the world with the territory 2,7 million square km. The territory of Kazakhstan stretches 3000 km from west to east and 1600 km from north to south. In the west and north Kazakhstan borders on Russian Federation, in the south - on Turkmenia, Uzbekistan, Kirgiziya, in the east - on China.

The relief of the country varies very much. If you look at Kazakhstan from the space, you will see high ice-covered mountains, hills and highlands. Vast plains and lowlands stretch like green lines. The country spreads from Western-Siberian plain in the north to the Tian Shan Mountains in the south and from the Lower Volga in the west to the Altai in the east. There are quite a lot of rivers and lakes in Kazakhstan. The main rivers are the Irtysh, the Ural, the Chu, and the Syrdarya. The main Lakes are Balkhash, partly Aral and the Caspian Sea.

The country is situated far from the oceans. The climate is sharply continental and zonelike due to its vast territory. The average winter temperature in the north is about — 20°C. In the central parts winters are not so cold, but in the south they are mild and warm.

Summer is dry; in the south it is hot. In the mountains it is short. The summer temperature in the north is about +20° C, in the central parts it is +30°C. In the south it can reach +45°C.

The Republic of Kazakhstan consists of 14 oblasts and 2 cities of republican submission. Nowadays it has 85 cities, 169 regions, 195 settlements and 2150 districts (rural and auls).

The Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan is the main law of the country. The first Constitution was adopted on January 28, 1993. It was of certain historical importance in the making of a young sovereign state. The new Constitution was adopted on August 30, 1995 by the all-nation referendum. In 1998 on the President's initiative Parliament made about 20 additions and amendments to the Constitution. These amendments widened Parliament powers and democratic bases of public life.

According to the Constitution, the Republic of Kazakhstan is a unitary state with a presidential form of government. The head of the state is the President. The President has wide powers. He forms government, appoints a Prime Minister with the Parliament's consent and releases him from office. The President is the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic. The first President of the country, N.A.Nazarbayev was elected in 1991. The President in accordance with the Constitution is elected for a five-year term.

But this term is prolonged to seven years under the amendments to the Constitution of 1998. In 1999 extraordinary elections of the President took place and N.A.Nazarbayev won them. The highest representative body performing legislative functions is Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Parliament consists of two structures: upper chamber — the Senate and lower chamber — the Majilis. The Senate is composed of deputies elected in twos from each oblast, major city and the capital of the Republic. Seven deputies of the Senate are appointed by the President.

The Majilis consists of deputies elected in constituencies having one mandate. Parliament's term of powers is four years.

The Government is the highest body implementing the executive power. The head of the government is the Prime-Minister. He is appointed by the President with the Parliament's consent. The Government develops the main directions of the social-economic policy of the state, its defense capability, security, guarantee of public orders. Judicial power is exercised by the Supreme Court and local courts. The main achievements in judicial bodies reforming are reflected in the constitutional law of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Local representative bodies — maslikhats - express the will of the population of corresponding administrative - territorial units. Local executive power is exercised by oblast administration - akimats with akims of the oblasts at the head. Akims of the oblasts are appointed by the President of the country on the recommendation of the Prime-Minister.

Nowadays the Republic of Kazakhstan being an independent state is striving to become one of the 50 developed countries of the world.

2. Make up an outline of the text.

Составьте план текста. Можно использовать обычный план –

1. ....

a) ....

2. ....

3. ....

Или Вы можете составить схему текста – Spider-map

