IELTS READING

ANSWER to Exercise 7: Paraphrasing

1) The word ‘Songkran’ has more than one meaning.  
   This sentence summarizes Paragraph B

2) People do different types of activities during the festival.  
   This sentence summarizes Paragraph C

See the yellow highlighted keywords/phrases which give you clues!

Suggested summaries for Paragraph A & D:

Paragraph A –
   In Thailand people celebrate different kinds of New Year.

Paragraph D –
   What happens when people splash or throw water.

See the yellow highlighted keywords/phrases which give you clues!

PASSAGE

A. Thailand celebrates at least three New Years. There's the usual year's end celebrations on 31st December and just like the west there are many New Year's Eve parties. Then there's the Chinese New Year, which is a 'moveable' feast. This year it's on 28th January and starts the Year of the Tiger. The Thai New Year is the Songkran Festival and their new year's day falls on 13th April.

B. Songkran comes from an old Sanskrit word meaning 'Beginning of the Solar Year'. The summer solstice in these latitudes falls in April and in ancient times the festival was probably much like the 'mid summer' festivals which originated from pagan times in Europe. It is variously referred to here as 'The Beginning of the Lunar Year', 'The Start of the Returns of the Rains' and of course 'Thai New Year'.
C. These days the Thais clean their houses thoroughly prior to the Songkran celebrations, and on Songkran day merit (offerings) is made at Buddhist temples. Children show their respect to elders by performing the water ceremony, by pouring water into the palms of parents and older relatives’ hands. In the streets, people splash water on one another. Songkran lasts for 3 days and is called 'Home Coming Day', as families have a get-together.

D. The most visible sign is this ‘splashing of water' in the streets. It goes on all day from dawn till dusk. It’s usually far more than 'splashing' and in my experience anyone who ventures out is in for a good soaking, and a liberal coating of perfumed powder on the face! It's a good natured day with almost everybody joining in. People fill the backs of pickup trucks with huge containers of water, buckets, water cannons, friends and family and join a slow moving procession through the streets. Even the policemen, in full uniform, gladly submit to a soaking, the only concession being to keep their hand radios in a plastic bag!