Read the passage about Liverpool and answer the questions. (25 marks)

Liverpool is one of England's largest ports. In fact, it is known as "the city of ships". It is located on the Mersey River, five kilometres inland from the Irish Sea. It is the natural outlet for the textiles and machinery which are produced in the region. The chief imports are cereals, ores, scrap metal, sugar, wood, and pulp. Exports include chemicals, iron, and steel.

One of the interesting sights in Liverpool is the docks, where ships are loaded and unloaded. Perhaps the most interesting dock is the Albert Dock, which is a distinctive example of early 19th-century architecture. The Albert Dock was designed by Jesse Hartley and Philip Hardwick. When it opened in 1846, it was the first structure in Britain to be built from cast iron, brick and stone, with no structural wood. As a result, it was the first warehouse system in the world which was non-combustible. In other words, it was safe from fire because cast iron, brick and stone will not burn.

The commercial section of the city has impressive business buildings. In the residential sections are many Georgian houses. This is a style of architecture which was popular between 1720 and 1830, when George I was the king of Great Britain. The University of Liverpool, established in 1903, is noted for its School of Tropical Medicine. The Walker Art Gallery displays many famous pictures and contains one of the largest art collections in England, outside of London. Other cultural attractions include a professional symphony orchestra and two large choirs and the city's most famous building, St. George's Hall, which was built in 1854 in a Classical Greek style.

Liverpool's commercial importance began to emerge in the 17th century. Some historians point out that this was because Liverpool was a major slaving port and its ships and merchants dominated the brutal slave trade from Africa to America in the second half of the 18th century. By the 1730s, 15 ships a year were leaving for Africa. This rose to 100 ships a year in the early 1770s. As a result, the city became prosperous.

Liverpool reached the pinnacle of its commercial importance in the 18th century, when the power loom made the county of Lancashire the world's greatest cotton-manufacturing centre and Liverpool its chief port. However, the city suffered heavy damage from German aircraft attacks in World War II, with the first major air raid taking place in 1940. Consequently, after the war, Liverpool declined as an exporting and passenger port. Unemployment rose and there was low capital investment in the docks.

Liverpool gained worldwide attention and a reputation as a thriving music city during the 1960s, with the appearance of a singing group called the Beatles. The group had a distinctive local sound derived from the rhythm-and-blues musical style of African-Americans. This popular music was called the Mersey Beat, or Liverpool Sound. This musical focus on the city had declined by the early 1980s, but music remains a notable Liverpool cultural characteristic.