Valentine's Day

Grammar task: Past Tenses and Passive Revision

The Lottery (Choose the correct answer)
For eight hundred years prior to the establishment of Valentine's Day, the Romans ________ (practice/had practiced) a pagan celebration in mid-February commemorating young men's rite of passage to the god Lupercus. The celebration featured a lottery in which young men _______ (will draw/would draw) the names of teenage girls from a box. The girl assigned to each young man in that manner would be his sexual companion during the remaining year.

Party Pooper Pope (put the verbs into correct time)
In an effort to do away with the pagan festival, Pope Gelasius _______ (to order) a slight change in the lottery. Instead of the names of young women, the box would contain the names of saints. Both men and women ________ (to allow) to draw from the box, and the game was to emulate the ways of the saint they ______ (to draw) during the rest of the year. Needless to say, many of the young Roman men were not too pleased with the rule changes.

Instead of the pagan god Lupercus, the Church _____ (to look for) a suitable patron saint of love to take his place. They ______ (to find) an appropriate choice in Valentine, who, in AD 270 ________ (to be beheaded) by Emperor Claudius.

The Tradition Begins (Find an extra word)
Although the lottery for women had been banned by the church, the mid-February holiday in commemoration of St. Valentine was still been used by Roman men to seek the affection of women. It has became a tradition for the men to give the ones they has admired handwritten messages of affection, containing Valentine's name.

The first a Valentine card grew out of this practice. The first true and Valentine card was been sent in 1415 by Charles, duke of Orleans, to his wife. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London at the time.

Cupid, another symbol of the holiday, have became associated with it because he were was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty. Cupid often appears on Valentine cards.