Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

SKILLS TEST 7 Standard

READING

1 Read the article. Match the words with the information.

Does the weather affect your personality?

Most people have beliefs about people from other countries. It's not uncommon, for example, to find people who believe the British are polite, but cold and unfriendly. On the other hand, people from Australia might be considered to be more lively and generous.

One, rather common, stereotype is that the weather has a deep effect on people's personality. People from colder countries are said to be less friendly than those from warmer ones. After all, Britain is a generally a colder, rainier place than Australia, which might seem to prove the stereotype correct.

It is certainly true that the weather can have a strong impact on what people can do. In colder, darker periods, people end up spending more time indoors, and perhaps concentrating more on things like work or TV. Sunnier, warmer climates allow people to create more open architecture, and to get used to socialising outdoors. All the same, whether or not we can say that all people living in such conditions have the same personality is another matter.

Research has been carried out, aiming to find out whether these stereotypes are true. The findings suggest that, actually, the climate probably has no real effect on the personalities of people in different countries. However, it has a great deal of influence on how we *feel* about people from different countries.

Most of this is language-based. For example, weather-related words such as cold, dark and icy can easily describe people, too. It is easy to connect words like sunny and hot to *lively, generous* and *warm*.

In the research, several people were interviewed, and asked how they felt about other people from a range of different countries. People from hotter countries were thought to be warmer, livelier and more exciting. They also thought that people from warmer countries were easier to trust, and more open-minded. In contrast, people from colder countries were thought to be more unfriendly, but more businesslike, and probably wealthier.

There is little reason, however, to believe that these stereotypes are based on fact. For example, the research showed that most cultures thought of Italians as being a warm, lively culture. However, people from the south of Italy viewed northern Italians as being cold. What we should probably learn from this is that southern Italians are not necessarily describing people, but how they feel about the climate that those people live in.

0	British people	*e*
1	Britain	
2	cold countries	
3	warm countries	
4	weather-related words	
5	people from warmer countries	
6	people from colder countries	
7	people from northern Italy	

a have differently designed buildings.
b thought to be unfriendly.
c more fun to be with.
d bad weather.
e ~~thought to be polite.~~
f have more money.
g people match these with personalities.
h allow people to work harder.

7

2 Read the article again. Decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

0 A stereotype of British people is that they are not friendly. *T*
1 A stereotype of Australian people is that they are less generous than British people.
2 People from countries with cold weather are said to be less friendly than people from other places.
3 The article suggests that concentrating on work is easier in hot countries.
4 Research shows that climate has less of an effect on personality than most people believe.
5 The language people use to talk about weather is often used to talk about people.
6 In the research, people thought they could trust people from cold countries more than from hot countries.
7 People from colder countries were thought to have less money, because they were not so happy.
8 The article concludes that when people are describing people from other countries, sometimes they are just talking about their feelings about the weather.

8

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Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

SKILLS TEST 7 Standard

LISTENING

3 **Listen to a conversation between Hugh and Emma. Decide who has each opinion, Hugh (H) or Emma (E).**

1 Americans always speak with a loud voice. ☐
2 Americans eat unhealthy food. ☐
3 Not everyone from the US is the same. ☐
4 Watching films is a good way to understand people from a different country. ☐
5 Many Americans are friendly, and eat well. ☐
6 English people are friendly and pleasant. ☐
7 Some English tourists don't behave nicely when they are abroad. ☐
8 Not everyone from one country is the same. ☐

☐ 8

4 **Listen again and choose the correct answers.**

1 Emma says that tourists come to her city because of
A the summer weather. B the history of the place.

2 Hugh thinks that the burger and pizza places are popular because
A Americans like that kind of food. B there aren't any local people there.

3 Hugh says that the Americans he saw were
A not friendly with him. B talking loudly.

4 Hugh says that watching American films means that he
A is familiar with the way Americans talk. B doesn't like Americans.

5 Emma says that when she went to the US,
A she had a good relationship with people. B not all the people were loud.

6 Emma says that some English tourists
A don't like travelling. B only think about themselves.

7 Emma believes that
A not all people from one country are the same. B English people shouldn't go to other countries.

☐ 7

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Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

SKILLS TEST 7 Standard

WRITING

5 Write an article about people from your country (150–180 words). Use the questions and ideas below to help you.

- How would you describe people from your country?
- Do you think most people are like that?
- What do people from other countries usually think about the people from your country?
- Why do they think this?

_____

_____

_____

_____

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_____

_____

_____

20

SPEAKING

6 In pairs, read the role play situations and follow the instructions. Use the words and phrases to help you.

Role play 1

Student A

Invite your partner to do one of the following things with you:

- go to the cinema on Friday evening to watch a new action movie
- go to the skate park on Thursday afternoon after school
- your own idea

Student B

Listen and respond to your partner's request.

Inviting:

How about going …

Do you fancy …

Why don't you come along …

How about bringing …

Role play 2

Student A

Listen and respond to your partner's request.

Student B

Invite your partner to do one of the following things with you:

- go to the new shopping centre in town that has just opened
- watch a basketball match at the sports centre
- your own idea

Responding:

Yes, of course. That's a …

You'll have to count …

That would be …

20

TOTAL SCORE 70

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