Thanksgiving Day: NMT Test

READING

Task 1

Read the adverts. Match choices (A–H) to (1–5). There are three choices you do not need to use.

1. [ ]



2. [ ]



3. [ ]



4. [ ]



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5. [ ]



Which of the descriptions best matches the advertisement?

A A free charity concert raising money for a local food bank.

B A web-only clothing sale offering free shipping above a minimum spend.

C An early-opening in-store sale that rewards the first customers through the door.

D A guided tour of historic department stores.

E An exclusive preview for registered members before the general public.

F A one-day online offer on holiday travel bookings.

G A weekend neighbourhood event promoting independent traders.

H A cooking demonstration of seasonal dishes with free tastings.

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Task 2

Read the text below. For questions (6–10), choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

The Story Behind Thanksgiving



The story of Thanksgiving begins in 1620, when a ship called the Mayflower carried about one hundred passengers from England across the Atlantic. Many of them were Pilgrims, a Protestant group seeking the freedom to practise their faith without interference. After a gruelling voyage of more than two months, they landed at Plymouth, in present-day Massachusetts, just as winter was closing in. Without adequate shelter or food, roughly half of the settlers did not survive those first bitter months.

The following spring, the survivors received unexpected help from the Wampanoag people. A Native American named Squanto, who spoke English, taught them how to plant corn, catch fish and tell which wild plants were safe to eat. Thanks to this guidance, the colony's first harvest in autumn 1621 was plentiful. To celebrate, the settlers held a feast, and about ninety Wampanoag men, led by their leader Massasoit, joined them for three days of eating, games and shared company. Historians believe that the guests ate venison and wildfowl, and it remains uncertain whether turkey was served at all. Notably, nobody at the time called this gathering "Thanksgiving"; the name was attached to it much later.

For the next century and a half, days of thanksgiving were declared by individual colonies, usually after a military victory or a good harvest, and never on a fixed date. In 1777, the Continental Congress recommended a day of thanksgiving for the whole country after a key victory in the Revolutionary War. In 1789, George Washington, the first president, proclaimed a day of public thanksgiving to be observed on 26 November, giving thanks for the opportunity to establish a new form of government. Yet the holiday still had no permanent place in the calendar, and later presidents did not always follow his example.

The person who finally turned it into an annual event was Sarah Josepha Hale, the editor of a popular women's magazine. For more than thirty years she wrote articles and sent letters to presidents, arguing that a shared day of gratitude could bring together a divided nation. In 1863, in the middle of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln agreed and declared the last Thursday of November a national day of thanksgiving and praise.

The date was changed only once in modern times. In 1939, with the country still recovering from the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved the holiday a week earlier, hoping to give shops a longer Christmas shopping season. The decision split the nation: some states followed the new date, while others stubbornly kept the old one, and the confusion earned the nickname "Franksgiving". Congress settled the matter in 1941 by fixing Thanksgiving permanently on the fourth Thursday of November.

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6. What was the main reason for the feast of 1621, according to paragraph 2?

A To celebrate the end of a long sea voyage.
B To thank the settlers' king for sending supplies.
C To mark a successful harvest after a year of hardship and help from the Wampanoag.
D To sign a formal peace treaty between two peoples.

7. What does the writer suggest about the feast of 1621?

A Its participants immediately called it Thanksgiving.
B Some details of what was served are not entirely certain.
C It was attended only by the colonists themselves.
D It lasted for a single afternoon.

8. Which of the following is TRUE according to paragraph 3?

A Every colony held its thanksgiving on the same date each year.
B The first national proclamation was issued by a president.
C Washington's proclamation was linked to the creation of a new government.
D All later presidents repeated Washington's example every year.

9. According to paragraph 4, what role did Sarah Josepha Hale play?

A She personally organised the first national feast.
B She persuaded leaders over many years that a common holiday could unite the country.
C She advised Lincoln on military matters during the Civil War.
D She forced Congress to pass a law in 1863.

10. Which of the following is NOT TRUE according to the final paragraph?

A Roosevelt shifted the holiday to an earlier date.
B He hoped the change would boost trade for the shops.
C The new date was welcomed by every state.
D Congress later decided on a permanent date.

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Task 3

Read the texts below. Match the texts (11–16) to the choices (A–H). There are two choices you do not need to use.

Thanksgiving Around the World



11. [ ] In the United States, Thanksgiving is the biggest family holiday of the year, observed on the fourth Thursday of November. The day often begins with the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York, a spectacle of giant balloons and marching bands watched by millions of people on television, and the afternoon belongs to American football. Families sit down to roast turkey with stuffing, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie, and each person says what they are thankful for. As the saying goes, "Home is where the heart is." At the White House, the president also "pardons" a turkey, sparing it from the dinner table.



12. [ ] Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday of October, when the harvest in the colder north has already been gathered. The first celebrations are traced back to 1578, when the explorer Martin Frobisher and his crew gave thanks for surviving a dangerous voyage. Today the long weekend is a time for family dinners with turkey, vegetables and pumpkin pie, and for walks among the red and golden leaves. Compared with its American counterpart, the holiday is quieter and less commercial. As the proverb states, "All's well that ends well."



13. [ ] In Liberia, Thanksgiving is observed on the first Thursday of November. The tradition was brought to West Africa in the nineteenth century by freed African Americans who sailed there to build a new life. Today it is a public holiday that starts with church services, where people thank God for the blessings of the year, and continues with a large meal of traditional dishes shared with neighbours. Many hands make light work, and entire families cook together for hours.



14. [ ] On remote Norfolk Island in the South Pacific, Thanksgiving is held on the last Wednesday of November. The custom was introduced by American whalers who visited the island in the nineteenth century, and it has been kept alive by the islanders, many of whom descend from the Bounty mutineers and their Tahitian companions. Locals bring fruit, vegetables and flowers from their gardens to decorate the churches, and a service of thanks is held for the island's harvest. Small though the community is, "Every little helps."

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15. [ ] The Dutch city of Leiden has no national Thanksgiving, but it has a special link to the holiday. In the early 1600s, a group of English Pilgrims found refuge there from religious persecution and lived in the city for about eleven years before sailing on the Mayflower. Each year on American Thanksgiving, a service of remembrance is held in the Pieterskerk, a historic church where their pastor, John Robinson, is buried. Visitors, local residents and the American community gather to sing hymns and to honour those who once gave shelter to strangers. After all, "A friend in need is a friend indeed."



16. [ ] Japan marks Labour Thanksgiving Day on 23 November. Its roots lie in an ancient harvest ritual known as Niinamesai, in which the emperor offered the year's first rice to the gods. After the Second World War, the holiday was redefined to honour hard work, celebrate production and express gratitude between people. Today, schoolchildren often make handmade cards for police officers and firefighters, and many families enjoy a day off together. As the proverb says, "One good turn deserves another."

Which country/place...?

A honours work and the year's production

B was introduced by freed people who started a new life in Africa

C features a huge televised procession and a day of football

D sees people decorate churches with locally grown produce

E takes place earlier in the autumn, once the harvest is in

F pays tribute to a religious group that once found refuge there

G lights up the sky with a national fireworks display

H closes workplaces for a whole week

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Task 4

Read the text below. Choose the one from (A–H) that best fits each space (17–22). There are two choices you do not need to use.

The Rhythm of a Thanksgiving Day



Thanksgiving falls on the fourth Thursday of November, and for many Americans it is the one day of the year when everything else is put on hold. In the days beforehand, highways and airports fill with people hurrying home to their families, **(17)** _____. As the old saying goes, "Home is where the heart is," and few holidays prove it as clearly as this one.

The morning usually begins in front of the television, as millions of viewers tune in to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York. The parade, which started in 1924, always ends with the arrival of Santa Claus, **(18)** _____ Meanwhile, in the kitchen, the cooks are racing against the clock. The turkey has been roasting for hours, and the mashed potatoes, stuffing and cranberry sauce must reach the table **(19)** _____. Of course, "Too many cooks spoil the broth," yet on Thanksgiving most families gladly make room for extra pairs of hands.

In the afternoon, some relatives gather around the television to watch American football, a tradition that has existed for well over a century. Others prefer a brisk walk or a game of touch football in the backyard, **(20)** _____. Many people also spend part of the day volunteering, serving hot meals at shelters for those who have nowhere else to go.

When the table is finally set, the family joins hands and says grace. Many go around the table, with each person naming something they are thankful for, **(21)** _____ After the pumpkin pie has been served, the leftovers are packed away for turkey sandwiches the next day, and the most energetic shoppers are already planning their early-morning trip to the Black Friday sales.

Taken together, the parade, the feast, the football and the shared thanks each carry a different meaning, and yet all point towards the same essential message, that **(22)** _____ Some traditions, it seems, never go out of fashion.

A a ritual that turns an ordinary meal into a moment of reflection

B where the winner is rewarded with the largest slice of pie

C no matter how far they have to travel

D marking the unofficial start of the Christmas season

E being together matters more than what is on the table

F at exactly the same moment as the bird

G while delicious smells drift in from the kitchen

H and the leftovers are thrown away immediately

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USE OF ENGLISH

Task 5

Read the text below. For questions (23–27), choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

The Table That Tells a Story



Long before the first guest rings the doorbell, the smell of roast turkey has **(23)** _____ the whole house. Relatives who live far away have often **(24)** _____ hours on the road to be there. To an outsider, the scene may look like an ordinary family dinner. To those who know the tradition, it is something far more **(25)** _____ .

Every dish on the table has a story. The turkey, large enough to feed a crowd, stands for abundance. Cranberries, which grow wild in North America, were gathered by Native Americans and settlers alike. Pumpkin pie reflects the importance of the autumn harvest. At the centre of the table, a cornucopia, a horn-shaped basket overflowing with fruit and vegetables, serves as a classic symbol of plenty.

Before anyone picks up a fork, the host **(26)** _____ grace, and many families take turns to share what they are grateful for. **(27)** _____ the time dessert arrives, nobody can eat another bite, yet somehow there is always room for one more slice of pie.

23	**A** filled	**B** covered	**C** loaded	**D** stuffed
24	**A** passed	**B** spent	**C** taken	**D** kept
25	**A** hearty	**B** heartfelt	**C** heartless	**D** hearted
26	**A** tells	**B** says	**C** speaks	**D** reads
27	**A** By	**B** Until	**C** Since	**D** During

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Task 6

Read the text below. For questions (28–32), choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

A Day to Give and to Share



Not everyone spends Thanksgiving at a crowded table. If you **(28)** _____ through any American city on Thanksgiving morning, you will see volunteers handing out hot meals at shelters and community centres. For many people, giving is just as important as feasting.

At home, the afternoon is usually slow and relaxed. Many families spend the hours **(29)** _____ old photo albums and telling stories about relatives who can no longer be there. The meal itself takes days to plan and hours to prepare, yet it is finished far **(30)** _____ quickly than anyone would like.

What people remember, however, is rarely the menu. It is the **(31)** _____ atmosphere of a full house and the laughter around the table. It is not the size of the turkey **(32)** _____ the warmth of the company that makes the day special.

28	**A** drive	**B** drove	**C** were driving	**D** had driven
29	**A** to look through	**B** looking through	**C** looked through	**D** look through
30	**A** more	**B** most	**C** as	**D** much
31	**A** warmth	**B** warmly	**C** warm	**D** warming
32	**A** or	**B** but	**C** nor	**D** yet

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