

## UNIT 4: OUR CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

### C. READING

**I. Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct word or phrase that best fits each of the numbered blanks.**

Hi Nick,

Great to receive your email. Because you'll be here soon, I'd like to share with you my family customs and traditions. Well, we have the custom (1) \_\_\_\_\_ spending Saturdays together. You may ask why not Sundays. It's simply because my mum works on Sundays. On Saturdays, we always (2) \_\_\_\_\_ out. Sometimes we visit our grandparents in Vung Tau. Sometimes we go on a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in the park or a nearby beauty spot. You asked me about the Tet holiday, right? There's a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ that we make *tet* cake and cook braised pork and eggs (thit kho trung). Tet cake is similar to *chung* cake in Ha Noi, but it's long, not square. Braised pork and eggs is our traditional (5) \_\_\_\_\_ for Tet. It's so delicious! When you (6) \_\_\_\_\_ here, my mum will cook it for you. What about your family? Share with me the customs and traditions you follow.

Cheers,

Ha

- |               |           |         |              |
|---------------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| 1.A.for       | B.of      | C.in    | D.on         |
| 2.A.stay      | B.put     | C.find  | D.go         |
| 3.A.trip      | B.picnic  | C.camp  | D.day        |
| 4.A.tradition | B.customs | C.thing | D.regulation |
| 5.A.thing     | B.taste   | C.dish  | D.jam        |
| 6.A.go        | B.leave   | C.come  | D.depart     |

**II. Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions.**

#### GIFT-GIVING CUSTOMS IN VIETNAM

Gift giving is important in Vietnam because of the significance of interpersonal relationships in Vietnamese culture.

First and foremost, do not encourage corruption. There is a clear cut between gift-giving and bribery. Nevertheless, it is common in Vietnam for exchanging small gifts on certain occasions such as anniversary, Tet holiday... to express your respect, love, appreciation or gratitude.

Gift-giving customs depend on the context. If it is a private gift for one Vietnamese partner you should give the gift at a private occasion. If you have a gift for the whole office or company, you should give it after the business meeting with the whole office's employee.

Do not wrap a gift in the black paper because this colour is unlucky and associated with funerals in Vietnam. Gifts that symbolize cutting such as scissors, knives and other sharp objects should be avoided because they mean the cutting of the relationship.

Vietnamese may or may not open these gifts when they are received; leave the option to them. You will also receive gifts and should defer to your host as to whether you should open it when received or not. Regardless of when it is opened or what it is, profuse thanks are always appropriate.

**1. According to the passage, why is gift giving important in Vietnam?**

- A. Because it helps to establish a friendship.
- B. Because it's common in Vietnamese culture.
- C. Because it's the best way to build up a stable relationship.
- D. Because personal relationships play a vital role in Vietnamese culture.

**2. Which of the followings should not be a reason for gift giving?**

- A. To show appreciation
- B. To bribe somebody
- C. To express gratitude
- D. To show affection

**3. When giving a gift, you should \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. wrap it in black or white paper
- B. give it in the business meeting
- C. never give sharp objects, such as knives or scissors
- D. avoid giving it at a private occasion

**4. When receiving a gift, you should \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. always say "thank you?"
- B. try to find what is it
- C. open it in front of the giver
- D. ask your host to open it

**5. Which of the following is NOT true about gift giving customs in Vietnam?**

- A. Gift giving is a good way of strengthening relationships.
- B. Gifts for your partners should be given at private occasions.
- C. You should avoid giving anything sharp.
- D. It is considered rude not to open the gift in front of the giver.