

Read the text and do the following tasks.

## **National character of Belarusian people**

The formation of the modern national character of Belarusians was influenced by various historical and geographical factors and one of them is specific natural and climatic conditions of Belarus, which are characterized by many kilometers of forests, swamps, isolation of settlements, etc.

Geographically Belarus is located in the center of Europe and this feature played a cruel joke with the Belarusians during the Middle Ages. Neighbouring countries often fought with each other, and at that time Belarus was turning into a “staging post” for them. But the Belarusians managed to achieve peace with small sacrifices. After centuries, all this has transformed into a national trait: a Belarusian is able to come to an agreement with anyone and about anything. It is not for nothing that the national anthem begins with the words: “We, Belarusians, are peaceful people”.

One of the characteristic features of Belarusians, which is noted by all foreigners, is endless kindness. The Belarusian will lay the table for you (even if he has no money), will always help you for “thank you” (although he will not refuse to help in return) and is ready to “give the last shirt” if you really ask.

It doesn't matter what colour your skin is, what god you believe in and where you come from. You will be accepted as you are. Here, in Belarus you can easily find a cheerful company of Belarusian, African American and Asian among the students. Orthodox Church, Catholic Church and Synagogue can peacefully stand on the same square (as, for example, in Grodno).

Belarusians are the most hardworking people in Europe. This is not surprising because since childhood, young Belarusians have been cultivating responsibility and accuracy in their work. Belarusians, in general, are not prone to laziness and the desire to get as much as possible without making any effort.

Despite many difficulties, the majority of Belarusians continue to love and value their country. This is proved by a large-scale study, as a result of which 79% of respondents aged 18 to 70 said they are proud of Belarus and their nationality.

Belarusian cities are European-style clean and well-groomed. And this is typical not only for Minsk or Brest, where there are many tourists, but also for the towns (it's checked!). The secret here is not in the special infrastructure of cities, but in the fact that Belarusians are prone to cleanliness. For example, in many courtyards of blocks of flats, residents are independently engaged in the improvement of the surrounding territory and planting beautiful trees and flowers.

The Belarusians always remain faithful to high moral values and good traditions: Kolyady, Radonitsa, Kupala, Dozhinki and etc. All these are unique Belarusian holidays that Belarusians carried through the centuries into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As for the language, there is a stereotype that the Belarusians have completely abandoned their native language and you can only hear it in the Belarusian language lessons at school. This is not entirely true: of course, in the region centres Belarusians often use Russian for communication, but in small towns a huge number of people continue to speak either exclusively Belarusian or its dialects.

**I. Are the sentences true or false according to the text?**

1. The formation of the modern national character of Belarusians was influenced by various historical and geographical factors. **True / False.**
2. Geographically Belarus is located in the West of Europe and this feature played a cruel joke with the Belarusians during the Middle Ages. **True / False.**
3. One of the characteristic features of Belarusians, which is noted by all foreigners, is endless laziness. **True / False.**
4. Orthodox Church, Catholic Church and Synagogue can peacefully stand on the same square. **True / False.**
5. Belarusians, in general, are prone to laziness and the desire to get as much as possible without making any effort. **True / False.**
6. Despite many difficulties, the majority of Belarusians continue to love and value their country. **True / False.**
7. The Belarusians always remain faithful to high moral values and good traditions. **True / False.**
8. As for the language, there is a stereotype that the Belarusians have completely abandoned their native language and you can only hear it in the Belarusian language lessons at school. **True / False.**