

Burns Night

Each year Scottish people across the world celebrate a unique dinner known as “Burns Night”. This is (A) _____ called Robert Burns. Traditionally it happens on his birthday, the 25th January. Scotland can be very dark and cold at this time of year, so it’s (B) _____ with friends and family. Burns is still an important figure in Scotland and even though he died in 1796 at the age of 37, he was recently voted “The Greatest Scot”. His birthday has become as important as Scotland’s national day, St Andrew’s Day.

The idea for (C) _____ soon after his death, and these days is actually quite a complicated affair. To start people are sat down at the table and the host reads a poem called “The Selkirk Grace”. It’s normally done in a Scottish dialect which even English people find difficult to understand. Although Burns probably didn’t actually write this, he is known (D) _____. Next, soup is served. The highlight though is listening to a bagpiper playing as the main course of haggis arrives.

Haggis is a special dish made from a mixture of sheep heart, lung and liver and oats, which is a bit like a giant sausage and surprisingly tasty. So tasty in fact that Robert Burns wrote (E) _____. After dinner there’s a speaker, who may recite more poetry and a toast is made to the memory of Robert Burns. Next (F) _____ about ladies and a female guest replies with a funny speech about men. Throughout the rest of the night there is even more of Burns’ poetry.

1. to have read it at a dinner
2. the next course is served which is
3. a male guest makes a funny speech
4. to remember a famous Scottish poet
5. an excellent reason to enjoy a large dinner
6. a poem about it called ‘Address to a Haggis’
7. a dinner started over two hundred years ago

City of fountains

Peterhof is a monument of world architecture and palace and park art. Peterhof includes a palace and park ensemble of the 18-19th centuries, (A) _____. Peterhof is a city of fountains as it contains 173 fountains and 4 cascades (B) _____. Each year up to 3 million people come here to enjoy the splendour of numerous fountains and the unique parks of Peterhof.

The name Peterhof was first mentioned in 1705. It was a coastal manor, close to which the construction of a grand country residence began. The original plan belonged to Peter the Great. After the brilliant victory of Russian troops over the Swedes, security of St. Petersburg both from the land (C) _____. Since that time, the construction of the Peterhof residence grew immensely in scope.

According to the plan of Peter the Great, on the one hand, Peterhof was meant to be equal in splendour with the most famous royal residences in Europe, (D) _____ to access the Baltic Sea. Both were successfully done. The Great Palace was built on a natural hill here, (E) _____. Following the plan of Peter the Great, (F) _____, the Grand Cascade with the famous Samson fountain was constructed. This is still one of the most spectacular fountains in the world. In 1990 the palaces and parks of Peterhof were included in the list of the world heritage of UNESCO.

1. and from the sea has been firmly ensured
2. which is a former royal countryside residence
3. who designs many royal residences in Europe
4. and then rebuilt in the baroque style in the 18th century
5. who wanted to decorate the main entrance with waterfalls
6. that are located in the park on the coast of the Gulf of Finland
7. and on the other hand, to become a monument of Russia's struggle