

Read the following text about Saint Patrick's Day, and answer the 15 questions.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

Paragraph 1

Saint Patrick is Ireland's national saint. Every year, on March 17th, a celebration is held in his honour. It is said that Patrick introduced a new type of religion to Ireland. He was born in the UK in around 385 AD. When he was 14, he was captured by Irish pirates, brought back to Ireland and made a slave there. He spent six years working as a shepherd herding sheep before he managed to escape. Despite his awful childhood experience, Patrick returned to Ireland in his 30s to spread his religious faith.

Paragraph 2

So is Saint Patrick's Day a religious celebration? Perhaps it was mainly originally, but it has changed a lot over the years. The celebration we are familiar with today is very different from how it used to be. It did start as a quiet, religious event: a day of prayer for Irish people. Indeed, up until the 1970s, all pubs, bars and shops were closed on March 17th, and there was an official parade of army members through the streets of Dublin. It was quite a serious affair.

Paragraph 3

What changed? Well, the Irish celebration we recognise today was actually inspired by events in America. For several hundred years, Irish people have moved abroad in vast numbers to look for work and a better life. Many of these immigrants settled in the USA and Canada. Today, millions of Americans proudly claim to be of Irish origin. In the 1700s-1800s, though, the Irish people who went abroad were poor and not well educated. They were quite unpopular in their new home in America, so they decided to organise something they could be proud of: a day to celebrate being Irish.

Paragraph 4

One of the first American parades took place in Boston in 1737, and, by the end of the 19th century, Saint Patrick's Day parades has spread to most major American cities, including Chicago, New York and New Orleans. March 17th gradually became a day where the focus was on having fun and celebrating the best things about Irish American culture. Parades became more colourful and were full of music and dance. Irish Americans wanted to celebrate both their pride in being American and their Irish roots. Many Americans could relate to this idea of celebrating their background and their love of America at the same time, so, in time, this day of fun was embraced not just by Irish Americans, but Americans in general.

Paragraph 5

Meanwhile, back in Ireland, from the 1970s onwards, the focus of the celebration also began to change. Parades there became equally colourful and fun-filled, and something about the day began to have a wider appeal. Celebrations started being organised in more and more countries. In Japan, for example, the first parade was not organised by Irish people at all, but by locals who found the day interesting. In Moscow, Russia, the Saint Patrick's Day parade was the first public march through Red Square. Today, famous landmarks throughout the world, from the pyramids of Giza in Egypt to the Statue of Liberty in the USA turn green on March 17th, and people celebrate the idea of having fun and being proud of their identity, whether Irish or not.

Source: *Preparing for Trinity ISE II*

Questions 1-5

The text has five paragraphs (1-5). Choose the best title for each paragraph from A-F below and write the letter (A-F) on the lines below. There is one title that you don't need.

1. Paragraph 1
2. Paragraph 2
3. Paragraph 3
4. Paragraph 4
5. Paragraph 5

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|----------|--|
| A | How the Irish were the first nation to create a new fun way of celebrating Saint Patrick's Day |
| B | The international appeal of Saint Patrick's Day |
| C | The story of the man behind the Saint Patrick's Day celebration |
| D | How Saint Patrick's Day in America became popular across all groups in society |
| E | How Saint Patrick's Day was traditionally celebrated in Ireland |
| F | A way for poor emigrants to celebrate their identity |

Questions 6-10

Choose the five statements from A-H below that are TRUE according to the information given in the text. Write the letters of the TRUE statements on the squares below (in alphabetical order).

6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

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|----------|---|
| A | The religious importance of the Saint Patrick's Day festival in Ireland is greater today than in the past. |
| B | Although Saint Patrick's Day is popular with Irish Americans, it is not very popular with the general population of the US. |
| C | Before 1970, Saint Patrick's Day in Ireland was quite a formal event. |
| D | A Saint Patrick's Day celebration in an Asian country was introduced by locals, not Irish people. |
| E | Although Saint Patrick is Ireland's national saint, he was not born there. |
| F | Americans did not particularly like early Irish emigrants to the USA. |
| G | Before he became religious, Patrick was a pirate in Ireland. |
| H | In the late 1800s, there were Saint Patrick's Day parades in many big American cities. |

Questions 11-15

Complete sentences 11-15 with a word, phrase or number from the text (maximum three words). Write the word, phrase or number in the space provided.

11. Patrick spent six years of his early life _____ in Ireland before he escaped back to the UK.
12. The traditional Dublin parade involved _____ walking through the city's streets.
13. A huge number of modern Americans suggest they are of _____.
14. The _____ of American parades changed over time and became about having fun and celebrating the Irish identity.
15. _____ globally are lit up with the colour green to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day.