

UNIT 2 TEST

E' Class



Name:

Section 1 - Reading

/8

Celebrate New Year in Scotland



Ask anyone in Britain where their perfect New Year's Eve party would be and a large number of them would probably say "Scotland". The Scots certainly celebrate "Hogmanay" in a unique style.

The word itself probably comes from Old French or Norman. No one really knows. On Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands, French-speaking islands which are part of the British Isles, an "oguinane" is a New Year's gift. The Normans also had a word "hoguinane" which had the same meaning. Or did it come from Dutch where "Hoog min dag" means "a day of great love"? Wherever it comes from, there is a written record of a word "hagmonay" being used in 1604 which obviously changed to its current spelling sometime later.

There are many customs associated with Hogmanay. Immediately after midnight it is traditional to first-foot. It is considered lucky for the first person to enter your house to be a neighbour or friend carrying a gift. In Scotland, this person should be a tall, dark-haired man but, in other places there are slight differences. In Yorkshire, a place in England, the person should also be male but the hair colour is unimportant. The gifts represent certain things in life. There is a coin for financial luck, bread for food, salt for flavour, coal for warmth and drink for happiness. In fishing villages on Scotland's east coast, a fish is often given as a gift.

Another tradition, which is now seen all over the world, is the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*. This is a traditional poem which was rewritten by Robert Burns. Music was written later to make it into a song. Although in many places the singers hold hands while singing the whole song, in Scotland, you should only hold hands for the final verse.

Hogmanay in Edinburgh, the capital, was traditionally a simple street party held on Princes Street and the Royal Mile, the two most famous streets in the city. However, since 1993, it has been organised officially and it now attracts thousands of visitors. So many, in fact, that in recent years tickets have been sold with a limit of 100,000. Those lucky enough to get one can enter Princes Street to listen to live music, eat and drink and get a clear view of the fireworks at the castle. Other events take place in nearby streets but you need tickets for these too. The party doesn't stop on January 1st, though. It consists of four days of celebrations.

Other traditions take place in different towns and cities. In Stonehaven, in the north-east of Scotland, local people make balls of wire filled with old newspapers. Wire is attached to the ball and, at midnight, the balls are lit and swung round while the people swinging them march up and down the High Street. They are then thrown into the sea. So many people visit the town to see this spectacular show that more entertainment has been added to the traditional ceremony. Now you can see pipe bands before midnight and fireworks after the last fireball has been put out by the sea water.

In Glasgow the New Year party may be even better. The singing and dancing and the eating of steak pies while telling stories goes on well into New Year's Day. In fact the celebrations often last much longer. The second of January is also a holiday in Scotland and, if either the first or second is a Saturday or Sunday, the following days are made holidays instead. Which is great when the 1st is on a Saturday and you get the Monday and Tuesday off as well as the first and second. Another tradition, which has now died out, was Handsel Day, the first Monday of the New Year. Presents were given to the employees by their employers and to children by their parents. This was followed by a big piece of meat for dinner. Perhaps it died out because it was one celebration too much, even for the Scots.

1. Read the article and choose the best answer, A, B, C or D.

1. The word "Hogmanay" was first used
A. by the Normans.
B. on Guernsey.
C. in 1604.
D. at an unknown time.

2. First-footing
A. is only a Scottish tradition.
B. is thought to bring good luck.
C. originated in Yorkshire.
D. happens before the end of the old year.

3. The gifts brought by the first-footer
A. are always the same.
B. are chosen by the people in the house being visited.
C. are made specially for the occasion.
D. differ in different areas.

4. Robert Burns
A. wrote the original Auld Lang Syne.
B. wrote the music for Auld Lang Syne.
C. wrote a new version of Auld Lang Syne.
D. wrote the words to Auld Lang Syne after hearing the music.

5. The popularity of Edinburgh's celebrations
A. has decreased in recent years.
B. forced the events to be organised officially.
C. means that not everyone who wants to go is able to.
D. have led to the celebrations lasting for four days.

6. Stonehaven's traditional New Year celebration
A. doesn't now take place.
B. is now part of a longer celebration.
C. now takes place in different locations.
D. now takes place at a different time.

7. The Scottish New Year holiday can last for between
A. one and three days.
B. one and four days.
C. two and three days.
D. two and four days.

8. The Scots no longer
A. celebrate Handsel Day.
B. go to work on the first Monday after New Year
C. give presents.
D. eat meat at New Year.

Section 2 – Listening

2. Listen to a tour guide talking about a festival in England and complete the sentences with one or two words in each gap. /10

1. Cornwall has its own language and
2. The population of Helston is under
3. Helston had a market where were sold.
4. Flora day takes place on the of May each year.
5. The second dance starts at in the morning.
6. Everyone can join in the dance.
7. The other ceremony on the same day is called
8. The Cornish flag has a white cross on a background.
9. The music for the Flora Dance has never been
10. There are only two similar events in Luxembourg and

Section 3 – Vocabulary

3. Read the text and choose the correct answer.

/10

A family business

In our 1. ... lots of young people have jobs during the holidays or after school. Parents think it is important for 2. ... to learn about working and to earn their own money. In my family, because we live by the sea, it's become a 3. ... for us to work in the local seaside 4. My older siblings, who have now left home, used to work all summer in cafés and restaurants and one of my brothers even got a job feeding the fish at an 5. ... nearby. During the winter I worked 6. ... in a café after school on Tuesdays, Thursdays and at the weekend. Now that school is finished for the summer, I am working 7. ... - eight hours a day, six days a week - in a seafood restaurant. Of course I don't get much 8., and it can be 9. ... sometimes, especially when it's very busy. What is 10. ... for me is that the restaurant belongs to my parents and one day when I've finished studying, I hope to come back and manage the place.

1. A. ceremony	B. tradition	C. wedding	D. culture
2. A. adolescents	B. cultures	C. cowards	D. siblings
3. A. culture	B. usual	C. tradition	D. ceremony
4. A. crop	B. resort	C. gallery	D. temple
5. A. event	B. aquarium	C. art gallery	D. ice rink
6. A. part time	B. on time	C. full time	D. any time
7. A. in time	B. part time	C. time off	D. full time
8. A. time	B. on time	C. time off	D. time flies
9. A. relaxing	B. challenging	C. popular	D. informative
10. A. motivating	B. dull	C. weird	D. unbearable

4. Circle the correct word.

/6

1. The fireworks display was absolutely **relaxing/spectacular**.
2. Let's meet for lunch tomorrow at **noon/midnight**.
3. I was very disappointed with the show - it was a bit **dull/brilliant**.
4. Do the police know what the **result/cause** of the fire was?
5. As part of the ceremony the adolescents have to **shoot/dive** into a pool from a height of ten metres.
6. Sally, who enjoys dangerous sports, often has nasty **bruises/crops** on her body.

5. Complete the sentences with words from the box.

/7

first - mind - more - own - pair - sting - total

1. I didn't want to see anyone so I went for a walk on my
2. I wish you would stop changing your every five minutes.
3. My mum gave me a beautiful of leather gloves for my birthday.
4. How many times have you seen that film in ?
5. The wasp on your face must have hurt.
6. My grandmother doesn't enjoy family parties any
7. He fell head down the stairs but luckily he wasn't seriously hurt.

6. Complete the sentences with a preposition.

/5

1. David is always late - I wish that he would turn up time just once in his life.
2. Although we were a bit late, we managed to arrive time to see the beginning of the film.
3. From time time I like to do nothing for a whole day except for chilling out in the garden.
4. I have been working so hard lately! I need some time
5. Off to bed now please, children. Time's !

Section 4 - Grammar

7. Complete the text with one word in each gap.

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A spectacular evening

It was almost midnight but because the moon 1. shining brightly, it wasn't dark at all. I 2. to be really afraid of the dark when I was younger, but even now I was happy that there was a full moon that night. We 3. walking through the jungle, following a very narrow path, and after a few minutes we 4. at our destination. We had been invited to take part in an ancient ceremony to celebrate the full moon, a tradition that was centuries old. The members of the tribe 5. ready for the special event. In the middle of a circle of large flat stones a huge fire was 6. lit when we arrived, and delicious smelling food 7. being served onto large silver plates. Some people were already sitting down around the fire and so when a man pointed to three empty stones, my two friends and I 8. down too and waited. It 9. completely silent, something that, living in a busy city, we were not used 10. For a while nothing happened but then suddenly a series of spectacular fireworks rose into the sky and I knew the show had started.

8. Complete the sentences with the Past Simple or the Past Continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

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1. What you (do) when you heard the news about Sam?
2. He was the only person in my class who (not like) chocolate.
3. What primary school you (go) to?
4. I (have) ballet lessons for several years when I was a little girl.
5. I (watch) "Grey's Anatomy" when I decided to become a doctor.
6. I was having lunch when the phone (ring).

9. Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use the word in bold. Use no more than four words.

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1. I lived in Brazil a few years ago. **live**
I in Brazil.

2. Every night we lit a fire and sat round it telling stories. **light**
Every night we a fire and sit round it telling stories.

3. No matter how hard I try, I can't deal with this tropical heat. **get**
I can't this tropical heat, no matter how hard I try.

4. The restaurant used to offer a free dessert with every meal. **would**
The restaurant a free dessert with every meal.

5. Eating strange food is nothing new to me because I've travelled all over the world. **used**
I've travelled all over the world so I eating strange food.

6. When we were children, we used not to play with our cousins unless we had to. **didn't**
When we were children, we play with our cousins unless we had to.

Section 5 – Writing: Letter to a newspaper

10. You have seen this notice in an entertainment magazine.

READERS' PAGE

It's the Notting Hill festival next weekend, Britain's biggest street festival. But what about festivals in other countries?

Write a letter to us about a festival or celebration in a different country that you have seen.

- Tell us what happened.
- Tell us why it was special.

⇒ Write a letter of 120-180 words.

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