

Name:

Date:

Listening

1 ⓠ Listen to author Nina Banks talking about her new book. Put the topics in the order that Nina talks about them. (4 marks)

- How she discovered her passions
- What she gained from the experience
- Why she decided to write the book
- What activities she enjoyed

2 ⓠ Listen again. Complete the sentences. (6 marks)

- 1 Nina used to work _____ hours a week in a _____.
- 2 Nina knew that if she did not make a change, her _____ would get _____.
- 3 When Nina joined her cooking class she learned to cook and _____.
- 4 Nina didn't like every sport she tried, but she did like _____.

Reading

1 Read the text. Match sentences A–E to gaps 1–5. (5 marks)

- A The actual day of Diwali is on the third day of the festival.
- B During Diwali children are told these ancient stories by their parents to educate them about right and wrong.
- C If you stop to ask what is going on, you will be welcomed and asked to join the celebration!
- D People buy new clothes and the right etiquette is to give gifts to friends and family as a way of showing appreciation for each other.
- E The name Deepa means 'lamp'.

2 Read the text again. Then complete the sentences. (5 marks)

- 1 According to Deepa, Diwali is celebrated when the moon _____.
- 2 People leave their doors and windows open so that _____.
- 3 Diwali is a profitable time for shops because _____.
- 4 One of the Diwali traditions is for _____ to tell their _____ stories about the gods.
- 5 People visiting Britain during Diwali will see _____.

My culture – an essay on the festival of Diwali

by Deepa Singh

Diwali, or the festival of lights, is one of the most important festivals in my culture. It is a family and community celebration. There is a lot of interaction between family members during Diwali. The word means 'rows of lighted lamps'. Hindus and Sikhs decorate their shops and homes with small oil lamps or candles. I'm Hindu, and I was named after the festival. (1) _____

The festival is celebrated in autumn each year. It lasts five days and it starts with people lighting their oil lamps for the goddess Lakshmi so that she will come into their homes and bring wealth. (2) _____ This is when there is a new moon and the moon appears in a crescent shape. People usually clean their homes. They also leave their doors and windows open as a form of politeness to the goddess Lakshmi so that she can come inside their homes. They draw colourful patterns and shapes around their homes to welcome the gods – these are called 'rangoli'. Diwali is the biggest shopping period in India. (3) _____ These are usually dried fruits and sweets. During Diwali families get together for a meal, and there is a strong tradition of giving food to the poor. There is also a huge firework display that people attend.

Diwali is a festival about the victory of good over evil, light over darkness. There are different stories about the Diwali in different parts of India. In the Gujarat region, the festival honours Lakshmi. In Nepal, Diwali celebrates the victory of Lord Krishna over the evil King Narakaasura. Lord Krishna rescued his wife Sita from King Narakaasura. In Bengal, the festival celebrates the goddess Kali. (4) _____

Diwali is celebrated by Indians all over the world, including in Britain. Visitors to British cities during Diwali will see firework displays and street parties. (5) _____ It is a wonderful time to visit Britain and a great opportunity to experience the festival.

Diwali is a beautiful, meaningful festival. I'm very proud and happy to celebrate it with my family every year.