

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark: \_\_\_\_\_ / 80 marks

## Reading

**A** Read the article about food traditions.

### Food Traditions Around the World

#### A Austin Ice Cream Festival, USA

In boiling hot Austin, Texas, ice cream is more than a treat, it is a necessity. Austinites take their ice cream so seriously that they established the Austin Ice Cream Festival, where contestants compete to make the best homemade ice cream the old-fashioned way.

The festival began in 2007 and since then, hundreds of hopefuls have taken part. Contestants must use their own recipes and bring their own ingredients, ice-cream makers and utensils. The festival organisers bring the ice. Once everyone has made their ice cream, the judges conduct a taste test and the winner is awarded The Spoon.

Over the years, some astonishing ingredients have been used, but perhaps none stranger than 2009's winning entry, Bacon Maple Crunch. Americans say everything tastes better with bacon and it seems that includes ice cream too!



#### B Maslenitsa, Russia



Maslenitsa week, also known as Pancake week, began as a pagan ritual and was later adopted by the Eastern Orthodox religion in Russia. Originally, Maslenitsa celebrated the end of winter and the coming of spring. Once Russia became an Orthodox country, Maslenitsa was absorbed into the celebrations that took place before the start of the 40-day Easter fast, known as Lent. Meat is forbidden in the week before the start of Lent, but eggs, butter, milk and other dairy products are permitted. The pancakes called *blini* are made from flour, milk and eggs and the name for the festival comes from the Russian word for butter, *maslo*.

The pancakes are an integral part of the celebration of Maslenitsa. In pagan times, they symbolised the sun because they were warm, round, and golden. Today, blini are offered to friends and family throughout the week and are eaten with jam, sour cream, caviar, mushrooms, and of course, lots of butter!

#### C Nochevieja, Spain



New Year's Eve in Spain is called *Nochevieja*, which means *The Old Night*. Before midnight on New Year's Eve, thousands of people gather in Madrid's central square, Puerta del Sol, to wait for the chimes of the clock on the tower that dominates the square. There is a sense of excitement and anticipation as midnight approaches. Finally, at the stroke of midnight and the dawn of the new year, everyone eats twelve grapes, one for each chime of the clock. The Spanish believe that each grape represents a month of the year and eating all 12 grapes brings good luck for the coming year.

Though you might think the 12 'lucky grapes' are a religious tradition, they do, in fact, have a commercial basis. The story goes that in 1909 the grape growers in the province of Alicante had a huge grape harvest on their hands and had to come up with a solution ... and thus the tradition was born.

#### D The Thirteen Desserts, France

At Christmas in Provence, in the south of France, there is a tradition of a Christmas Eve meal containing no meat followed by 13 desserts. To have good luck for the whole year, diners must taste each dessert.



The desserts can vary depending on region and family tradition. Generally though, they are black nougat (symbolising evil) and white nougat (symbolising good); dried figs, raisons, dates; almonds, hazelnuts or walnuts; fruit such as oranges, apples, tangerines, pears, grapes and melons; quince paste; a cake made with orange flower water and olive oil; and marzipan, an almond-paste pastry, which is the most popular of the desserts. Marzipan was created in the 15th century, initially without almonds. Once almonds were brought to Provence in the 16th century, ground almond was included in the recipe and it became world famous.

**B Complete the Exam Task.****Exam Task**

You are going to read an article about four different food traditions. For questions 1–10, choose from paragraphs (A–D). The paragraphs may be chosen more than once.

**Which tradition(s)**

takes place in the summer?	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
do not have a religious foundation?	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
solved a problem?	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	
include food that represent something?	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
6 <input type="checkbox"/>	
is the newest?	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
8 <input type="checkbox"/>	
was originally connected to the seasons?	9 <input type="checkbox"/>
are said to bring year-long good fortune?	10 <input type="checkbox"/>

(\_\_\_\_ / 10 marks)