NEW YEAR'S DAY

New Year's Day is, of course, the first day of the year. It is a national holiday in most countries around the world. It is a time when families get together and celebrate with a meal. Many people make new plans for the rest of the year. These plans are called New Year resolutions. People decide to lose weight, get fit, stop smoking, study English every day or save lots of money. I think most people are serious about these plans on January 1st, but then forget about them before the end of the week. Then one year later, it's New Year's Day all over again and people make the same resolutions again. I guess people all around the world make the same kinds of plans. I guess they also break their resolutions at the same time.

One thing I like about New Year's Day are the TV programmes that look back at the previous year. They are like highlights shows of the news. These always remind me how lucky I am because a lot of the news is about wars, famines, natural disasters, plane crashes and other terrible things. The shows also look back at the lives of people who died that year. Hmmm… That all sounds a bit depressing really. But then there are happier things, like the top sports and music stories. Another thing that happens on New Year's Day is lists. The top ten movies of the year, the ten best sporting achievements of the year, etc. There is even a list for the top ten new English words of the year.

a) Short-Answer:

1. What is New Year's Day?
   .....
2. What do people usually do with their families on New Year's Day?
   .....
3. What are New Year resolutions?
   .....
4. Why does the writer feel lucky when watching the news highlights?
   .....
5. What kind of lists are often shown on New Year's Day?
   .....

b) Multiple Choice:

1. **New Year's Day is celebrated on:**
   A. The last day of the year
   B. The first day of the year
   C. The middle of the year
   D. A random day
2. **Many people make resolutions to:**
   A. Travel abroad
   B. Buy a house
   C. Improve their lives
   D. Quit their jobs
3. **According to the writer, many people forget their resolutions:**
   A. After one day
   B. Before the end of the week

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C. After one month
D. Never

4. **The TV programmes on New Year's Day often:**
   A. Predict the future
   B. Show cartoons
   C. Review events from the past year
   D. Teach languages
5. **Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the text?**
   A. Natural disasters
   B. Sports stories
   C. Music stories
   D. Cooking competitions

c) True/False

Statements	True	False
1. New Year's Day is a national holiday in most countries.		
2. People usually celebrate alone on New Year's Day.		
3. Many people forget their New Year resolutions quickly.		
4. TV programmes review important events of the previous year.		
5. There are lists of the most popular English words of the year.		

d) Gap-Filling:

Complete the summary using words from the text.

New Year's Day is the (1) _____ day of the year and is celebrated in many countries. People often spend time with their (2) _____ and make plans called (3) _____. Many people forget these plans after a short time. On television, there are programmes that review the (4) _____ of the previous year. There are also lists such as the top movies or new (5) _____ words of the year.

LIVEWORKSHEETS