

UNIT 1 TEST READING PAPER

Name

Date

First read the text. Then answer the questions.

A How many names?

People's names in the US and UK usually consist of two names: a given name and a surname, such as *John Smith*. The surname traditionally comes from the father's side. Sometimes there's also a middle name: *John William Smith*, for example, which might be taken from an older family member. In Spain and the Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America, it's traditional to give children more than one given name and surname. Children often have a combination of two names as a given name, such as *Maria Rosa* for example, and a surname from both the mother's and the father's families. Children in China receive three names: a family name, a personal name and a generational name. The generational name is shared by brothers and sisters but not by the mother and father, as it's used to indicate which generation a person belongs to.

B Choosing a name

In countries with strong historical traditions such as Turkey, children are sometimes named after historical figures that are a source of national pride. However, in China it's considered bad luck to give a child the name of a historical figure, famous person or even of an older family member. In some places there are other reasons for choosing a name. For instance, in some African cultures, such as that of the *Yoruba* people in Nigeria, children are given at least one of their names by the elders of the family. This *destiny name* describes the situation on the day they were born. For example, *Abiona* is the name given to a boy who is born during a journey.

C Forbidden names

In some places naming children is controlled by the government and parents follow rules when naming their children. A German couple, for instance, that wishes to give their child a name that the authorities consider unfair on the child isn't allowed to register the name. Unusual spellings can also be rejected by the authorities. Swedish authorities also reject names that they think might be embarrassing or in some way damaging to the child. Other countries where names can be forbidden for being offensive, unusual or not grammatical include Denmark, Japan, New Zealand and Iceland.

Match the information (1–6) to the correct paragraph (A, B or C). Write A, B or C.

- 1 Parents aren't allowed to choose any name they want for their child in every country. _____
- 2 In some cultures children have more than one first name and surname. _____
- 3 Not all cultures agree that it's a good idea to name a child after another person. _____
- 4 Parents aren't the only members of the family to choose the name of a child in some places. _____
- 5 In some places a child's name can reveal approximately how old they are. _____
- 6 In certain cultures a child's name tells you what happened at the time of their birth. _____

Choose True (T) or False (F).

- 7 Children in the UK are always given only two names. T / F
- 8 Children in China share two of their names with the rest of their family. T / F
- 9 Names of national heroes are sometimes used in Turkey. T / F
- 10 Swedish parents can't give children names that might make their child feel ashamed. T / F