HOMEWORK

READING. True / False / Not Given

EXERCISE 1[20]

Chinese Festivals

Dragon Boat Racing

The Dragon Boat festival, also known as the Dwanwu Festival, has been celebrated in China for more than 2,000 years. The festival occurs on the fifth day of the fifth month of the Chinese lunar calendar. The celebration emerged after the Chinese scholar, Qu Yuan, threw himself into the Mi Lo river in protest against the government of the time. Qu Yuan was drowned and the people were unable to find the body, so to prevent the fish from eating him, the locals threw rice patties into the river. Ever since then, rice dumplings or zongzi are prepared and eaten during this festival season. Other activities include drinking a special drink called realgar and dragon-boat racing to the sound of beating drums.

Harbin Ice and Snow Festival

Another spectacular festival hosted by the Chinese is the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival. This is an annual winter festival which takes place in Harbin, Heilongjiang, China, and is now the largest ice and snow festival in the world. Initially, the majority of participants were Chinese, but it has since become an international festival and competition. The festival includes the world's biggest ice sculptures. Officially, the festival starts on 5th January and lasts for one month. However, exhibits often open earlier and finish later, weather permitting. The ice sculptures are displayed throughout the city.

Lantern Riddles

Also in January there is the Lantern Festival, or the Shangyuan Festival, which is celebrated on 15th January of the Chinese lunar calendar. This festival marks the return of spring and is regarded as a day for appreciating family and the bright full moon. There are several different activities involved in this celebration, appealing to all age groups. These include: watching fireworks or solving the riddles featured on the lanterns.

Chinese New Year

By far the biggest celebration in the Chinese calendar, however, is Chinese New Year. In fact, the lantern festival signifies the end of this long celebration, which begins on Chinese New Year's Eve. It is a holiday filled with dragons, fireworks, symbolic clothing and flowers. Chinese New Year is a time for families to get together. The New Year's Eve dinner is called Reunion Dinner, and is believed to be the most important meal of the year. Families of several generations sit together, enjoying food and socialising.

[20] *Tham khảo Exercise 08, unit 08, trang 150, sách Mindset for IELTS Level 2 Student's Book*

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Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage?

TRUE	*if the statement agrees with the information*
FALSE	*if the statement contradicts the information*
NOT GIVEN	*if there is no information on this*

1. The Dragon Boat Festival celebrates when Qu Yuan was saved by the people who stoppedb the fish eating him.
2. When the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival first began, only the Chinese entered the competition.
3. If conditions allow, the exhibits at the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival are displayed when the official festival is over.
4. There are a variety of things to do and see at the Lantern Festival.
5. Chinese New Year is also known as the Spring Festival.

EXERCISE 2[21]

The Bristol International Balloon Fiesta

The Bristol International Balloon Fiesta is held annually in England. Teams from the UK and other parts of the world bring their hot air balloons to the site and participate in mass ascents where as many as 100 balloons may launch at a time.

The event was first held in 1979 and is now one of the largest in Europe. It is common to have crowds of over 100,000 on each of the four days of the festival. It takes place in a large country estate Ashton Court. Mass launches are made twice a day, at 6am and 6pm, subject to weather conditions.

One popular attraction is the night glow, when balloons are inflated and glow to music after dark. These are held on the opening Thursday night at approximately 9:30pm, followed by a spectacular fireworks display. There is another night glow at the same time followed by the fireworks on the Saturday night. Some people see these as the highlight of the fiesta. The balloon makers Cameron Balloons are near to the fiesta site, in Bedminster, and make many of the special shaped balloons, which have included Rupert the Bear, The Scottish Piper, Bertie Bassett, the Tesco Trolley, Stuart the Minion, and the BBC One Balloon. Many interestingly shaped balloons have also attended the fiesta from abroad,

[21] *Tham khảo https://www.ieltstutors.org/ieltstutors-tips-blog/reading-practice-4-true-false-not-given*

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over the years a UFO and a beaver have travelled from the USA, a kiwi bird from New Zealand, and an upside down balloon from the Netherlands.

In the past, the fiesta used to be held in the second week of September, but due to cancellations of flights and the muddy ground because of bad weather, it has been moved in the start of August. This has had a great effect as more flights manage to fly; cancellations are now normally due to high winds.

In 2003, the weight of crowds returning from the Balloon Fiesta and Ashton Court festival put such a great strain on the Clifton Suspension Bridge that it was decided to close the bridge to all traffic, including pedestrians, during these events from 2004 onwards.

In recent years, the event has diversified to include small scale air displays, attracting the likes of The Blades, Typhoon display team and the Red Arrows.

On 10 August 2013 the festival broke a balloon fiesta record after 74 balloons landed in one field near the former Somerdale Factory in Keynsham. The record was then broken a year later, when 90 balloons again landed in the former Cadbury's chocolate factory on 9 August.

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage?

TRUE	*if the statement agrees with the information*
FALSE	*if the statement contradicts the information*
NOT GIVEN	*if there is no information on this*

1. The largest mass balloon ascent ever occurred at the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta.
2. If the meteorological situation is acceptable, then more than one mass launch of balloons can occur per day.
3. A night glow event takes place on each evening of the festival.
4. One company is responsible for all of the balloons at the festival.
5. The festival benefits from being moved to an earlier time in the year.
6. The decision to close the Clifton suspension bridge in 2003 was made by the local traffic police
7. Different kinds of events have been introduced at the festival in the recent years.
8. Since 2013 the festival has broken records every year.

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