

Read this article about Blue Monday and then read the statements (22-29) following it. Mark a sentence A if it is true according to the article. Mark it B if it is false. Mark it C if there isn't enough information in the text to decide if the sentence is true or not. Write the letters in the white boxes next to the numbers as in the example (0).



A = TRUE B = FALSE C = THE TEXT DOES NOT SAY

BLUE MONDAY

Feeling miserable this morning? That is because January 15 is supposedly the most depressing day this year. A combination of three reasons makes the third Monday of the year the most miserable. Understanding that Christmas really is over, the realisation of all the holiday expenses and the fact that most of us are back at work all play a part. First invented in Britain, *Blue Monday* is especially sad in the northern half of the world, where it's also deep, dark midwinter.

It was in 2005 that Cliff Arnall, a university lecturer from Wales, dreamt up his gloomy calculation using the above three main factors to find the date of the most depressing day in the year. He also took into account things like the weather, the period since we've broken our New Year's resolutions and our general motivational level.

However, there is hope, say psychologists, as Blue Monday was really all a marketing trick. January in the UK is peak holiday booking time and the original research was paid for by a travel agent who wanted to persuade people to cheer up by heading to the beach. Preferably through them.

While there is no scientific evidence of Blue Monday on the third Monday of January – or any other Monday in a year – research shows us that our mood is significantly better on Fridays and over the weekend in general. This is generally because we get more sleep and “me time” to spoil ourselves.

Dr Burke, a psychologist, says that “since Blue Monday is a trick that may affect our thinking and emotions so much, we should turn it into Happy Monday. Instead of searching for all that is going badly on the day, think of all the good things that

happen around you – that woman who held the bus door to prevent it from closing, the old lady who smiled at you for no reason or the little boy who gave you a big hug.”

0) *The most depressing day of the year is called Blue Monday.* A

22) People feel sad on this day because they are worried about the cost of their summer holiday.

23) The phrase *Blue Monday* originally comes from Britain.

24) More and more people are refusing to work on Blue Monday.

25) Mr Arnall's calculation has nothing to do with the weather.

26) A holiday company managed to make a lot of money on Blue Monday.

27) Among Britons, seaside resorts are very popular in January.

28) There is scientific evidence that Mondays are sadder than Fridays.

29) According to Dr Burke, it depends on your attitude whether this day is sad.

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