WEDDING TRADITIONS

A Read the texts below. Match choices (A-H) to (1-6). There are two choices you do not need to use.

1 *Weddings in **Mexico** are an amazing mix of tradition and the latest international trends. One old custom that you still see today is that the groom offers the bride 13 gold coins during the church ceremony. This means that he trusts her with everything that is valuable and important to him.*





2 *Traditional weddings in **Turkey** begin on a sad note, with the bride saying goodbye to her family and leaving her home. But that sad note soon turns joyful, as she is taken to her new home on a horse with the sound of drums and dancing in the street. When the couple arrives at the groom's home, his mother breaks a jug in front of the house as a symbol of leaving everything sad behind as they enter.*

3 *Weddings in **Japan** have kept their ancient feel, though many Western traditions have now been added, such as rings and a wedding cake. For the bride and the groom, this means they have to change outfits several times throughout the ceremony, between the latest Western formal clothing and beautiful old-style Japanese kimonos, which are very expensive to rent and complicated to put on and take off.*



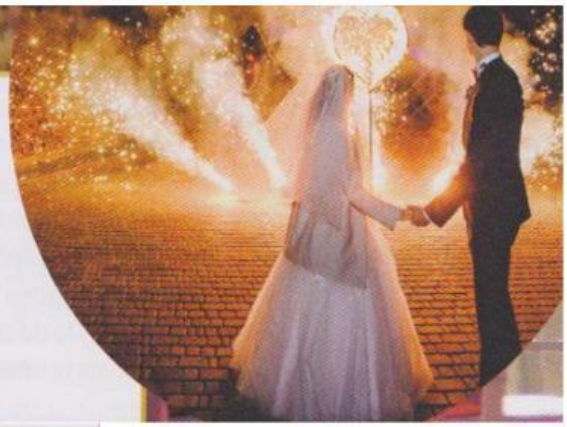
4 *Traditional **Nigerian** weddings are community affairs where everyone is invited, and often many hundreds of people show up for the lively party afterwards. The couple chooses brightly coloured fabrics which are used to make wedding clothes for their close relatives. These clothes are so exceptional that Nigerian weddings have recently caught the attention of the international fashion world.*





5 *A traditional **Ukrainian** wedding ties together two families, but the ceremony has changed a great deal over the years. Among the few things which haven't changed is the traditional braided wedding bread, the korovai, which is decorated with flowers, birds and a whole lot more, and is divided among the guests.*

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6 *In the villages of **Vietnam**, red is the colour that defines a couple's wedding day, and it is believed to bring luck. Fireworks are an important element as well. They announce the arrival of the groom at the house of the bride and the arrival of the couple at the house where they will live from then on. This transfer is at the heart of the tradition.*

In which country do people _____?

A. stick to all international trends in weddings ☐
B. eat something special at weddings ☐
C. face a problem because of a mix of traditions ☐
D. mark the beginning and end of the couple's journey to their new home ☐
E. invite very few people to weddings ☐
F. give something useful to their relatives ☐
G. send a message through money ☐
H. associate weddings with an unhappy event ☐

B Read the text below. For questions (1-5) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

British couples have developed a system of 'shift-parenting' to cope with ever-longer working hours, according to a new study of how families are adapting to the demands of modern employers. Parents have learnt to fit their working hours around one another so that as one of them gets home, the other is able to leave for work. The study, by the National Centre for Social Research (NSCR), looked in detail at the hours and times worked by more than 1,000 families. Despite women's advances in the workplace, fathers remain less likely than mothers to be fully involved in bringing up their children.

Almost one-third are now working more than a 48-hour-week, with 12% clocking more than 60 hours per week. Almost half of working fathers found they didn't have enough time with their children, helping them read and do their homework. Based on a year-long project, the study – *Happy families? Atypical work and its influence on family*, by Ivana La Valle – finds unusual working hours becoming the norm.

1. What is true, according to the NCSR study?
   A. Fathers are not able to bring up their childre
   B. Fathers often sacrifice successful careers fo their children.
   C. Mothers usually have more responsibility fo bringing up their children than fathers.
   D. Both mothers and fathers bring up their children to an equal extent.

2. According to the text, how can shift-parenting help parents?
   A. They can bring up their children in a better way.
   B. They can combine family life with a career.
   C. They can develop a closer relationship with their children.
   D. They can save money on babysitters.

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The NSCR study highlights the demands placed on middle-class parents to work anti-social working hours. 'Shift-parenting' developed as a result of these demands. It enables both parents to pursue careers while spending some time with their offspring. It can, however, lead to couples communicating largely via notes stuck on the fridge door and dividing their lives into strictly scheduled chunks of work, family time and sleep. On some evenings they will be able to organise a nanny to do shifts with the children, enabling both parents to work late.

The study found that fathers were less able than mothers to reorganise their work lives around their children, said La Valle, explaining that professional men are 'very career-oriented, very highly motivated and working in environments where a long working-hours culture is very popular.' It also illustrates the radical changes that have taken place in the working life of British people, said Gary Cooper, Professor of Organisational Psychology and Health at the University of Lancaster. 'Britain used to be a nine-to-five culture,' he says. 'People have seen a major change in the quality of their lives. They are working longer hours with less balance between their work and their life.' However, there is evidence some fathers may no longer be willing to remain in the office late at the expense of spending time with their children.

3. What does Professor Cooper point out?
   A. People can now enjoy a better quality of life
   B. The number of professionally successful people has increased in the last twenty yea
   C. Because of their demanding careers, many people don't have a normal personal life.
   D. People no longer pay attention to culture.

4. What does the text offer readers?
   A. advice
   B. information
   C. instructions
   D. guidance

5. What would be the best title for the text?
   A. Part-time parents
   B. Demanding parents
   C. Stay-at-home parents
   D. Tired parents

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- How do young people in Ukraine spend their free time?
- How has a father's role in the family changed in recent years?
- What makes a family happy?

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