12 Culture Shock

Reading

A **Look at some elements that make up culture. Discuss each one with a partner, give examples, and say how they contribute to your own culture.**

- symbols
- gestures
- language
- rituals
- values
- artefacts
- music
- clothes

B **Read the short texts about food as an aspect of culture. Then complete them with the words.**

community identity pleasure status

1 Food as _____ : The celebratory nature of food is universal. Every season, every harvest and every holiday has its own food. It helps define us.

2 Food as _____ : It's a way of showing your sophistication and worldliness, perhaps by going to a fine dining establishment or by knowing your wines.

3 Food as _____ : How a country savours a food is telling; where eating fast is not at all part of the culture, takeout is still relatively rare.

4 Food as _____ : In some cultures, one does not eat a single portioned and plated dish, but is expected to eat from shared, communal platters.

C **Quickly read the text. For whom was chocolate a status symbol?**

A cultural history of chocolate

A Chocolate – that delicious, dark brown, mood-altering delight – for more than 3 000 years was consumed primarily as a drink. While our modern conception of chocolate as a solid bar differs from its earliest mode of culinary delivery, the cultural significance has stayed relatively constant across the centuries; it is a currency of pleasure, luxury and ritual. Cacao and its seeds, or cocoa beans, have historical significance with the Olmec, Maya, and Aztec peoples – a significance that depends upon the context each culture provides. An Olmec site has yielded at least one ceramic container that evidences the preparation of cacao as a beverage dating to roughly 1 900 BC. The Olmec were the first major civilisation in Mesoamerica. Unfortunately, they did not use written language, so we know very little besides what their abandoned sites can tell us, but it is generally agreed that they were the first to domesticate the cacao tree, that the beverages they made from cacao were used for medicinal and ceremonial purposes, and that their cultural lineage extended through the Maya and Aztec Empires.

B The Maya, in contrast, left behind a rich record of data regarding their fondness for cacao drinks, which they associated with the gods. Incidentally, Carl Linnaeus, founder of taxonomy, clearly had this legend in mind when he named the plant *Theobroma cacao*, in the eighteenth century – *Theobroma* from the Greek for 'food of the gods' and 'cacao' being a European derivative of the indigenous Mayan *kakau*. The Maya also had a hieroglyph representing cacao in their art, and left behind depictions of rudimentary recipes for production. For the Maya, the cacao beverage was a treasured drink of the ruling class, and a treat for families who cultivated cacao in their home gardens. For the drink, the beans were fermented, dried and roasted, much like today, then ground and mixed with a variety of spices to form a paste that was heated and poured from vessel to vessel to produce a frothy foam.

C For the Aztecs, cacao beans were both a valuable commodity and a major form of currency and tribute payment in their empire. The neighbouring towns of Tenochtitlán and Tlatelolco each had large, well-organised markets that were visited by all the surrounding townspeople. Watched over by special government officials who ensured that weights, measures and prices matched the quality of goods, the Aztec market included both vendors of prepared chocolate and dealers of raw beans. The honest cacao seller would divide the beans into separate piles according to their origin. Dishonest dealers, meanwhile, used various ruses to sell counterfeit beans, artificially colouring inferior lots of cacao, or even disguising worthless avocado seeds with cacao hulls to fool customers. The Aztecs also used cacao ritually, both to be drunk during ceremonies and even symbolically in acts of human sacrifice. In this context, the cacao pod would symbolise the human heart.

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D **Read the *Exam Close-up* below. Then complete the *Exam Task*.**

Exam Task

You are going to read an extract from a book on chocolate. For questions **1 – 10**, choose from the sections (**A – E**). The sections may be chosen more than once.

In which section are the following mentioned?

1 the modern classification system of all living things ☐
2 the commercial applications available for the cacao crop ☐
3 the derivation of the word chocolate in different cultures ☐
4 a process that made chocolate more palatable to other cultures ☐
5 the ability of chocolate to influence human feelings and emotions ☐
6 the cultivation of the beans outside of their native environment ☐
7 the ingredient that had initially been rejected by European chocolate makers ☐
8 archaeological evidence in support of the consumption of liquid chocolate ☐
9 instances of fraudulent commercial practices in the cacao trade ☐
10 the steps required to prepare the raw beans for use as chocolate ☐

Exam Close-up

Pinpointing the answer

- When you do a multiple matching task, underline the section of the text that contains the answer and write the question number next to it.
- If you think two paragraphs give you the answer to the same question, compare the parts of the text you numbered, to quickly find the best answer.

E **Decide if the words 1–8 are Greek or Latin in origin. One of the words is a hybrid (a mix of both origins). Then match the words to their root meanings a–h.**

1	beverage ☐	a	belonging to the house
2	culinary ☐	b	arrangement + distribution
3	domesticate ☐	c	to drink
4	etymology ☐	d	sacred carving
5	hieroglyph ☐	e	kitchen
6	Mesoamerica ☐	f	sell
7	taxonomy ☐	g	middle
8	vendor ☐	h	true



D There are competing theories on the etymology of the word 'chocolate', but most have at least some connection to the Aztec language of Nahuatl. Some attribute the word to the Nahuatl word xocolātl meaning 'bitter water' – and it was indeed bitter, being sweetened with honey for those who preferred it that way. Another theory suggests the word is a hybrid of a Mayan word chokol, which means 'hot' and the Nahuatl word atl meaning water; thus 'hot water'. It could also be a combination of kakau and atl, simply 'cacao water'. Any way you look at it, the word 'chocolate' itself represents a combination of Maya and Aztec cultures; an appropriate blend considering the historical transmission of knowledge through the cacao trade. When enthusiasm for chocolate spread across Europe, European colonies in Africa and Malaysia began to raise 'cocoa', as the cacao bean came to be called in Europe.

E It was not until 1828 that chocolate changed from a sacred drink to the solid bar we know today, through the addition of cocoa butter. Not only did Coenraad Johannes van Houten of the Netherlands create the process of manufacturing cocoa butter, but he also discovered how to treat chocolate with alkalisto to remove the bitter taste that had until that point been characteristic of chocolate. While the addition of chilli had long since been dropped from the recipes by Europeans, vanilla was often retained, along with milk and sugar, the latter being unavailable to the Aztecs. Thus, chocolate as we know it came into existence after several thousand years of being consumed in liquid form with a pungent, bitter taste. These days, producers of chocolate are experimenting even further, by adding not just sugar and milk, but chilli, lavender, mint and other flavours, giving us new forms, new uses and new tastes, all continually inspired by its divine origins.



Ideas Focus

- What's the most iconic food in your culture? Why?
- What traditional foods from other cultures have you tried? Which did you like? Which didn't you like? Why?

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Vocabulary

A **Complete the text with the words.**

artefacts assumptions codes diversity heritage mannerisms stereotypes values

What is culture?

Culture is a set of shared **(1)** _____ and values that distinguishes one group from another. Very often, looking through our own cultural lens prevents us from seeing beyond national **(2)** _____ . Underneath the obvious physical appearance, **(3)** _____ , customs, practices and dress **(4)** _____ , lie attitudes, beliefs and **(5)** _____ that are not so obvious but that have been learnt over a lifetime and transmitted down the generations.

These, along with the material aspects of culture such as technology, architecture and **(6)** _____ like paintings and sculpture, form the cultural **(7)** _____ of a society. In an era of globalisation, this helps us to remember our cultural **(8)** _____ , and its understanding develops mutual respect among different cultures.



B **Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words.**

go hold honour long present root stand time

1 People are generally reluctant to change the age-_____ habits of their cultures.
2 It's quaint, but I can't say I'm a fan of the old-_____ music my grandparents enjoy.
3 It is our deep-_____ values that define us and make us who we are.
4 The echoes of the past are not gone – they are ever-_____ in our traditions.
5 As a long-_____ tradition, the first-born son is named after his paternal grandfather.
6 The area was once home to a nomadic people who are now long-_____ .
7 All of the wedding guests are given gifts, in the time-_____ fashion.
8 Among the tribe, there are strongly-_____ beliefs about their own divine origin.

C **Circle the correct words.**

1 The Renaissance period left behind a rich dowry / legacy of art and architecture.
2 These old buildings are the last vestiges / residues of the country's colonial past.
3 Alexander's conquests went down in the archives / annals of Greek history.
4 During his ten-year reign / regime , Richard the First spent only six months in England.
5 This ring is a family heirloom / relic that has been passed down for five generations.
6 My mother has traced her ancestry / descent back to the Norman invaders.
7 The statue was erected as a chronicle / memorial to those who had died in the war.
8 We have Baron Pierre de Coubertin to thank for the renewal / revival of the ancient Olympic Games.

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D **Choose the best answer a, b, c or d.**

1 Homer's Iliad and Odyssey were not written down but recited, and are part of a(n) _____ tradition.
a oral **b** vocal **c** aural **d** phonetic

2 The arrival of the colonists and their interaction with the tribes led to a violent _____ of cultures.
a battle **b** dispute **c** clash **d** riot

3 We don't know if the legend was purely fiction or based on truth as its origins are lost in the _____ of time.
a fogs **b** mists **c** hazes **d** blurs

4 In the mountain villages, the inhabitants _____ the local traditions that the city folk have all but forgotten.
a adhere **b** obey **c** support **d** observe

5 Some societies insist on strong conformity to their cultural _____ and do not tolerate deviance from them.
a laws **b** models **c** norms **d** morals

6 The Basque people constitute a(n) _____ ethnic minority in both France and Spain.
a indigenous **b** natural **c** original **d** primitive

Collocations & Expressions

E **Complete the sentences with the words.**

band close hold join sit stay

1 All they could do was _____ tight and wait for the elders to make their decision.
2 The members decided to _____ ranks and confront the menace.
3 Let's _____ forces with the other faction and run our own candidates.
4 We _____ fast to our traditions and the ways of our esteemed ancestors.
5 Despite the threat from loggers, the tribe choose to _____ put rather than leave.
6 'Unless we _____ together against the enemy, all will be lost,' said the chief.

Word Formation

F **Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs.**

diversify tear integrate turn your back on defy

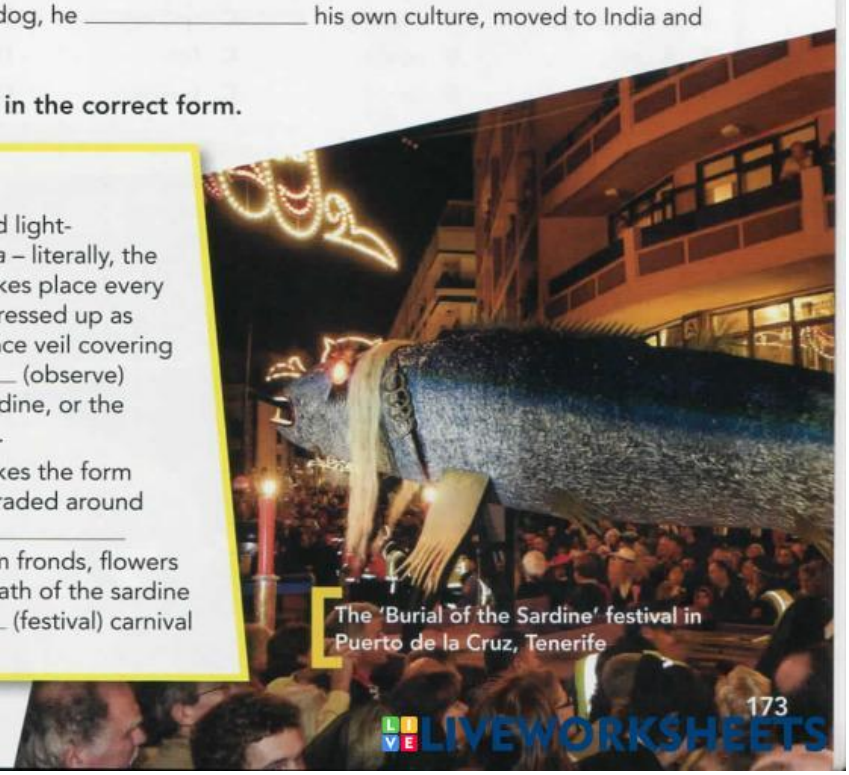
1 London is one of the most culturally _____ cities in Europe – over 300 different languages are spoken within the city.
2 By refusing to marry the match found by her parents, she was considered to have _____ her culture and was ostracised by her family.
3 Some second generation immigrants find themselves _____ between two cultures.
4 After five years in Munich, he finally considered himself fully _____ into the culture when he realised he knew all the words to *Ein Prosit*, the most popular song at Oktoberfest.
5 Having decided that America was too dog-eat-dog, he _____ his own culture, moved to India and became a hippy.

G **Complete the text with the words in brackets in the correct form.**

A bizarre tradition

In Spain an **(1)** _____ (reverent) and light-hearted ceremony called *El Entierro de la Sardina* – literally, the **(2)** _____ (bury) of the sardine – takes place every year. A large number of people, including men dressed up as weeping widows with the typical black Spanish lace veil covering their heads, gather for the **(3)** _____ (observe) of this centuries-old tradition in which a dead sardine, or the **(4)** _____ (like) of one, is cremated.

This **(5)** _____ (satire) ceremony takes the form of a funeral procession in which the sardine is paraded around the city streets in a coffin before it is **(6)** _____ (ceremony) burnt. The coffin is adorned with palm fronds, flowers and other **(7)** _____ (offer). The death of the sardine represents the end of the **(8)** _____ (festival) carnival season and the beginning of the Easter fast.



The 'Burial of the Sardine' festival in Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife

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H **Use the words in capitals to form a word that fits the gaps.**

1 He considered taking part in such a brutal ritual to be complete _____. **SANE**

2 In comparison to Europe and Asia, she found Australia rather _____ barren. **CULTURE**

3 One of the biggest mistakes you can make in this culture, is to speak to your elders _____. **RESPECT**

4 _____ of this barbaric practice is now widespread, and efforts are being made to eradicate it from their culture altogether. **CONDEMN**

5 Any interference into traditional cultural practices must be handled with _____. **SENSITIVE**

Exam Close-up

Predicting the answer

- Read the text quickly for general understanding.
- Read the text again and try to think of the word you need to complete the gap, without looking at the answer options.
- Then look at the options and find the one that is closest to your own answer.
- If you cannot decide, cross out the options you know are definitely wrong and then decide between the remaining answers.

I **Read the *Exam Close-up*. Then complete the *Exam Task* below.**

Exam Task

For questions **1 – 8**, read the text below and decide which answer (**A**, **B**, **C** or **D**) best fits each gap.

British humour

It's often said that non-native speakers don't **(1)** _____ the British sense of humour, and it's easy to see why this is so. Almost every conversation between Brits has an undercurrent of humour, making it difficult for a non-native speaker to **(2)** _____ when a Brit is joking or being serious. In addition, the British also have a particular **(3)** _____ for understatement. In refusing to be overwhelmed by anything, the British might retort 'Not bad' when they really mean, 'That's great'. Furthermore, the British don't like to **(4)** _____ their own trumpet. They tend to make **(5)** _____ of their accomplishments by being excessively modest and **(6)** _____ themselves down.

But the most difficult part of British humour for foreigners is that much of British humour is not obviously hilarious and does not result in **(7)** _____ of laughter. However, those unaccustomed to British humour need not worry, for the best thing about it is that it is not something you can learn, it's something that **(8)** _____ on you.

1	**A** find	**B** take	**C** get	**D** have
2	**A** decipher	**B** analyse	**C** deduce	**D** interpret
3	**A** attachment	**B** fondness	**C** appreciation	**D** delight
4	**A** blow	**B** play	**C** hold	**D** boast
5	**A** bold	**B** sense	**C** nonsense	**D** light
6	**A** making	**B** putting	**C** cutting	**D** turning
7	**A** sets	**B** spells	**C** fits	**D** bouts
8	**A** rests	**B** lands	**C** builds	**D** grows



Mr Bean is a British sitcom character with worldwide popularity

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Listening

A **Discuss these photos with a partner. Which of these people may engage in rituals? What kinds of rituals are common in your country/your daily life?**

B **Read the Exam Close-up. Then look at these sentences and decide whether the meaning is positive (+) or negative (-).**

1 Some deforestation is not illegal. ☐
2 We can't wait to see the wedding photos. ☐
3 They can scarcely understand each other. ☐
4 Members have unlimited access to all the facilities. ☐
5 Some tribes had barely any contact with the outside world. ☐
6 I don't believe that this is nonsense. ☐
7 The information they have is invaluable. ☐
8 Don't say you weren't warned about the consequences! ☐
9 I hope these mushrooms are non-toxic! ☐
10 They couldn't care less about the environmental damage. ☐

C 12.1 **Listen to six sentences and match them to their meanings.**

a It's illogical.
b It's illegible.
c It's indescribable!
d It's not unusual.
e It's unforgivable!
f It's perfectly reasonable.

D 12.2 **Complete the *Exam Task* below, focusing on what is implied by the speakers.**

Exam Close-up

Avoiding double negatives & other traps

- Negative prefixes or suffixes usually, but not always, give a word a negative meaning.
- Two negatives usually make a positive, except in non-standard English.
- In some varieties of English, positive and negative modals, e.g., *can* and *can't* sound very similar, especially when spoken quickly. Get used to distinguishing meaning from context.

Exam Task

You will hear three short segments from a radio programme. The programme is called "Unworldly Wealth". You will hear what three different radio guests have to say about three different topics. After each talk, you will be asked some questions. From the three answer choices given, you should choose the one that best answers the question according to the information you heard.

Segment One

1 What does Julian say about the Kayapo?
  a They need to adopt white culture.
  b They are key to protecting the rainforest.
  c They have always had government protection.
2 What is the main threat to the Kayapo?
  a lack of a formal education
  b illegal use of their land
  c inability to survive in the modern world

Segment Two

3 What is the difference between a routine and a ritual?
  a a routine is less meaningful
  b a ritual involves unusual behaviour
  c a ritual includes religious elements
4 Rituals are most useful
  a to relieve everyday anxiety.
  b before particularly stressful events.
  c when they are kept secret.

Segment Three

5 The oldest generation that Greg describes is
  a Generation X.
  b Generation Y.
  c Baby Boomers.
6 According to Greg, a person's generation
  a affects their outlook on life.
  b determines their character.
  c is their defining feature.

LIVEWORKSHEETS



Review 6 Units 11 & 12

A

For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

Nellie Bly

In the **(1)** ___ of investigative journalism, American Nellie Bly holds a special place. She earned acclaim in 1887 for her exposé on the conditions of asylum patients at a New York City institution. In order to uncover the **(2)** ___ , she impersonated a mental patient for ten days. In so doing, she pioneered undercover reporting and her **(3)** ___ of the abuses suffered by the inmates led to much-needed reforms.

Bly's career began when she submitted a response to a **(4)** ___ published in *The Pittsburg Dispatch* — a leading newspaper with a huge **(5)** ___. The writer of the piece had expressed the **(6)** ___-held belief that a woman's place was in the home. Bly, outraged by the sexism, sent a spirited letter which impressed the editor, who offered her a position. She later became the paper's foreign **(7)** ___ in Mexico where she reported on the everyday lives of the **(8)** ___ people.

She also undertook a trip around the world to beat Phileas Fogg, the fictional hero in *Around the World in Eighty Days*. Travelling by ship, train and donkey, she completed the journey in 72 days.

1	**A** annals	**B** histories	**C** memorials	**D** records
2	**A** dishonor	**B** rumour	**C** shame	**D** scandal
3	**A** narrative	**B** register	**C** chronicle	**D** archive
4	**A** post	**B** column	**C** discourse	**D** contribution
5	**A** distribution	**B** flow	**C** spread	**D** circulation
6	**A** much	**B** strongly	**C** ever	**D** age
7	**A** author	**B** reporter	**C** editor	**D** correspondent
8	**A** indigenous	**B** ethnic	**C** original	**D** homegrown

B

For questions 9–16, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space.

The Dreamtime

Most cultures have myths to explain the creation of the universe. From the prehistoric period before writing was invented, through the mists of **(9)** _____ to the present, myths have been preserved in the **(10)** _____ traditions passed down through stories and song.

(11) _____ is through such means that the Australian Aborigines understand the world. **(12)** _____ their traditions tell them is that time began when supernatural beings broke through the earth's crust. It wasn't **(13)** _____ they did so that the sun rose out of the ground and the land was awash with light for the first time ever. These beings were their ancestors who brought with them all knowledge and the laws of existence. In order to survive, they had to obey the laws and hold **(14)** _____ to their traditions.

Aborigines call the dawn of time 'The Dreamtime'. There is no **(15)** _____ how old the myth is, but the Aborigines have inhabited the country for upwards **(16)** _____ 40,000 years.

LIVEWORKSHEETS



Review 6 Units 11 & 12

C

For questions 17–24, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the space in the same line.

Celebrities under pressure

The **(17)** _____ that celebrities lead charmed, carefree lives is often mistaken. They have problems too, not the least of which is contemplating the	**ASSUME**
fleeting nature of **(18)** _____ and – with its loss – the fear of living the	**STAR**
rest of their lives in **(19)** _____ . They are vulnerable to the evaluations	**OBSCURE**
of a **(20)** _____ fickle public who ultimately determines whether their	**NOTORIETY**
careers continue. Other worries that blight their lives include gossip, being hounded by reporters and paparazzi, and the **(21)** _____ of their cherished and	**INVADE**
diminishing **(22)** _____ . In addition, their lives can become increasingly	**PRIVATE**
(23) _____ if they're away from their families for lengthy periods of time.	**CHAOS**
Then there are the inner torments. Even the most **(24)** _____ stars can be racked with self-doubt and wonder if they are worthy of the blessings they have received. So beneath the glitzy façade, there is often to be found a person filled with insecurities and the constant need for reassurance.	**EMINENCE**

D

For questions 25–30, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

25 The explorers just destroyed the tribal culture.
ALL
_____ the tribal culture.

26 Under pressure from his editor, the reporter apologised for the inaccurate story.
MADE
The reporter _____ by his editor for the inaccurate story.

27 She will never sell her life story to a gossip magazine.
WHAT
_____ her life story to a gossip magazine.

28 She is most interested in studying ancient civilisations.
IT
_____ interests her the most.

29 Before Sir Edmund Hillary, no one had climbed Mt Everest.
FIRST
Sir Edmund Hillary _____ Mt Everest.

30 Liam is very talented and could become a fine actor.
MAKINGS
Liam _____ a fine actor.

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