VOCABULARY & READING CHECK

I. Choose the word which has the underlined part pronounced differently from the other.

1. A. associated	B.crowded	C.flooded	D. traced
2. A. sombre	B. costume	C. flower	D. after
3. A. parade	B. dancer	C. atmospheric	D. ammunition
4. A.symbol	B. superstitious	C.insure	D. establish
5. A.nation	B.parade	C. mayor	D. pagan

II. Choose the word that has the stress differently from the others.

1. A.focus	B.sombre	C.raucous	D.control
2. A. pagan	B.parade	C.costume	D. firework
3. A. atmospheric	B. superstitious	C. symbolise	D. guarantee
4. A.carnival	B. religious	C. tradition	D. traditional
5. A.ammunition	B. associated	C. financial	D. elaborate

I. Use words in the box to complete the text.

Tourists	Local	controlled	flooded	economic
crowd	charging	fight	organise	financial

Spain's (1) _____ problems mean one of its most famous festivals is now a "pay-to-join" event. The cash-strapped town of Bunol will start (2) _____ people to take part in its Tomatina tomato-throwing festival. Tourists will have to pay 10 euros ($13) for the hour-long tomato fight. Regardless, all 15,000 tickets have been sold. (3) _____ residents will get 5,000 free tickets. The Tomatina costs 150,000 euros to (4) _____. A lot of that goes toward paying for the 130 tons of tomatoes used as ammunition in the street battles. The streets are (5) _____ with tomato juice at the end of the festival.

(6) _____ from all over the world have visited the Tomatina for decades. Bunol's mayor said the decision to charge for the first time was for both (7) _____ and security reasons. He said: "We need to limit the (8) _____ for safety reasons. We have had a problem for the past eight or 10 years. The Tomatina is not (9) _____. We don't know how many people are going to come." The festival began after the end of WWII. There are many reports about its origins. Some people say a (10) _____ between teenagers near a vegetable market ended up with the youths throwing tomatoes at each other.

IV. Fill in the blank with a suitable word.

The bagpipe is a musical instrument that (1)_____ played in Scotland during cultural festivals (2) _____ celebrations. It is considered Scotland's national instrument. (3) _____, it is believed to have originally come from the Middle East.It uses reeds and a bag to create (4) _____ sound. The sound is produced (5) _____ blowing into a blowpipe to make a sound that comes out of the three drones that come (6) _____ of the top of the bag. There are over thirty different types of bagpipe, but (7) _____ one used in cotland is the Highland Pipes. They are part of Scottish life and they are used on special occasions. All Scottish Army regiments have a piper to lay the bagpipes (8) _____ they go on parade. They are an important feature in (9) _____ songs, stories and poems as hey represent the cultural heritage of the Scots. One of the most popular songs played (10) _____ the bagpipes is Scotland the Brave.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

V. Read the text below and decide whether following statements are TRUE or FALSE. C4,9

Like many other holidays, Halloween has evolved and changed throughout history. Over 2,000 years ago people called the Celts lived in what is now Ireland, the UK, and parts of Northern France. November 1 was their New Year's Day. They believed that the night before the New Year (October 31) was a time when the living and the dead came together.

More than a thousand years ago the Christian church named November 1 All Saints Day (also called All Hallows.) This was a special holy day to honor the saints and other people who died for their religion. The night before All Hallows was called Hallows Eve. Later the name was changed to Halloween.

Like the Celts, the Europeans of that time also believed that the spirits of the dead would visit the earth on Halloween. They worried that evil spirits would cause problems or hurt them. So on that night people wore costumes that looked like ghosts or other evil creatures. They thought if they dressed like that, the spirits would think they were also dead and not harm them.

The tradition of Halloween was carried to America by the immigrating Europeans. Some of the traditions changed a little, though. For example, on Halloween in Europe some people would carry lanterns made from turnips. In America, pumpkins were more common. So people began putting candles inside them and using them as lanterns. That is why you see Jack 'o lanterns today.

These days Halloween is not usually considered a religious holiday. It is primarily a fun day for children. Children dress up in costumes like people did a thousand years ago. But instead of worrying about evil spirits, they go from house to house. They knock on doors and say "trick or treat." The owner of each house gives candy or something special to each trick or treater.

1. The Celts thought the spirits of dead people returned to the earth on October 31st. _____
2. The Celts created All Hallows. _____
3. All Hallows is on October 31st. _____
4. The word Halloween comes from the word Hallows eve. _____
5. A thousand years ago Europeans wore costumes to get candy. _____
6. Americans still carve turnips to use as lanterns. _____
7. Today Halloween is especially for children. _____
8. Children get candy by saying trick or treat. _____

VI. Read the text below and decide whether following statements are TRUE or FALSE. C1,2,3

CARNIVAL

What's carnival all about?

Carnival is a festival that happens over a few days, usually just before Lent, in February or March. Because traditionally many people go on a fast during Lent, giving up meat, sugar or other foods and drink, carnival is an opportunity to enjoy these treats for the last time. It is a time to celebrate and party, with music and dancing in the streets. Some people believe that carnival is actually older than the Christian period of Lent, and that it started as the Roman festival of Saturnalia.

New Orleans

One of the most famous carnivals in the world is in New Orleans, USA. It is called Mardi Gras, which is French for 'Fat Tuesday', the day when people would traditionally eat up all the fat before starting the Lent fast. The celebration in New Orleans lasts around two weeks, with a parade every day. Groups of people, called 'krewes', dress up in special costumes and ride on decorated floats. They throw small gifts to the people watching, especially strings of beads.

There are also many balls, especially masked balls. Mardi Gras is very popular with tourists, and it is estimated that well over a million people visit every year to join the celebrations.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Rio de Janeiro

The carnival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is considered the biggest in the world, with around two million people celebrating on the streets each day. Rio Carnival is famous for its samba music and for the amazing costumes and floats. In 1984, the government decided to give the carnival a special stadium, called the Sambadrome, where people could buy tickets to go and see the parades. However, there are still plenty of street parties and parades happening all over the city.

The parades are a kind of competition and the samba 'schools', or groups, are judged on their costumes, dancing, floats and music. Some samba schools spend millions of dollars on their preparations, but it is estimated that carnival makes over $40 million from ticket sales and advertising.

Venice

Carnival in Venice is a much quieter celebration, but it is still very famous, mainly for the beautiful masks that people wear. Traditionally, the masks are made and decorated by hand, with gold, jewels and feathers. There is a competition for the most beautiful mask, and there are many masked balls and other celebrations.

In St Mark's Square, there is an open-air theatre where you can watch traditional plays, and there are also classical music concerts. Because the streets are very narrow, there are candlelit parades on boats through the canals of the city. Watching all the people dressed in masks and costumes wandering through the city makes you feel as if you have stepped back in time to the 18th century.

Binche

The carnival in Binche, Belgium, is not as famous as some of the others, but it may have the longest history. It dates back to the 14th century. Up to 1,000 men and boys, called 'Gilles', dress up in masks, costumes and wooden shoes. They also wear very tall feather hats, up to 90cm tall. The Gilles dance through the streets and throw oranges at the crowd. This can sometimes cause accidents and break windows, but it is supposed to be good luck if you are hit by an orange.

All over the world, carnival is a time to celebrate and have a good time with friends and family. Have a great carnival, if you're celebrating this year!

1. Christians do not eat meat or sugar during carnival. ____
2. Carnival may have started before Christianity. ____
3. Around two million tourists visit New Orleans for carnival each year. ____
4. All the parades in Rio de Janeiro take place in the Sambadrome. ____
5. It is difficult to have big parades on the streets of Venice. ____
6. People are often happy if they get hit by an orange during carnival in Binche. ____
1. Rio de Janeiro carnival puts on plays in the main square. ____
2. Carnival in Venice has people wearing very expensive masks. ____

LIVEWORKSHEETS