

■■ Independence Day of Ukraine – Exam Preparation

Independence Day in Ukraine

Independence Day is a national public holiday. It is a day off for the general population, and most businesses are closed. The Ukrainian flag is displayed outdoors on this day.

Independence Day in Ukraine is a major celebration with parades and large crowds of people wearing traditional Ukrainian clothes. Other Independence Day events may include: Fireworks, Outdoor exhibitions, Concerts, Free public markets, Sporting events.

National Symbols of Ukraine

There are two main symbols of Ukraine – the trident (tryzub) and the flag. The national flag consists of two equally sized horizontal stripes of blue and yellow. The blue symbolizes the sky, and the yellow symbolizes wheat on Ukrainian lands. The Ukrainian tryzub is a golden trident that comes from Kyivan Rus. There are many different interpretations of what this symbol means. Some people believe it enciphers the word “■■■■” (freedom), while others think it is a symbol of the Christian Trinity.

Ukraine’s Independence

In 1991, about 90% of Ukrainians voted for their country’s independence, and on August 24th, 1991, it was officially declared. Today, most celebrations are limited because of the war. Russia wants to break the spirit of the Ukrainian people, but they are fighting for their freedom and independence. When Ukraine wins the war, there will be a spectacular celebration.

■ Open-Ended Tasks

Paragraph 1 – Independence Day

- 1. Why is Independence Day considered a public holiday?
- 2. What usually happens to businesses on this day?
- 3. How do people celebrate Independence Day in Ukraine?
- 4. Which events are mentioned as part of the celebration?
- 5. Why do you think traditional clothes are important for this holiday?

Paragraph 2 – National Symbols of Ukraine

- 1. What are the two main symbols of Ukraine?
- 2. What do the blue and yellow colors on the flag represent?
- 3. Where does the trident (tryzub) come from?
- 4. What are two different interpretations of the trident's meaning?
- 5. Which of these interpretations do you personally prefer, and why?

Paragraph 3 – Ukraine’s Independence

- 1. What happened in 1991 regarding Ukraine’s independence?

- 2. How many people supported independence in the referendum?
- 3. Why are most celebrations cancelled today?
- 4. How does Russia want to influence the Ukrainian people?
- 5. What kind of celebration does the text predict for the future?

■ Multiple-Choice Quiz

- 1. What is Independence Day in Ukraine? (A. A religious holiday B. A national public holiday C. A working day with celebrations D. An international holiday)
- 2. What does the yellow stripe on the Ukrainian flag symbolize? (A. Sunlight B. Gold C. Wheat on Ukrainian lands D. Freedom)
- 3. Where does the trident (tryzub) come from? (A. The Roman Empire B. Kyivan Rus C. The Christian Church D. The Soviet Union)
- 4. According to the text, some people believe the trident symbolizes: (A. The Christian Trinity B. Peace and unity C. The European Union D. Strength and power)
- 5. When was Ukraine's independence declared? (A. July 24th, 1990 B. August 24th, 1991 C. September 1st, 1991 D. December 25th, 1992)
- 6. What happened in the 1991 referendum? (A. About 90% voted for independence B. About 50% voted for independence C. Most people voted against independence D. Only half the population participated)
- 7. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an Independence Day event? (A. Fireworks B. Concerts C. Sporting events D. Religious ceremonies)
- 8. What does the word "■■■■" mean? (A. Strength B. Freedom C. Unity D. Peace)
- 9. Why are many celebrations cancelled today? (A. Because of bad weather B. Because of the war C. Because of economic problems D. Because of new traditions)
- 10. What does the text say about the future? (A. Ukraine will stop celebrating Independence Day B. Independence Day will be forgotten C. There will be a spectacular celebration when Ukraine wins the war D. Celebrations will always be cancelled)

■ Answer Key

- Open-ended: Example answers provided separately in teacher's guide.
- Multiple Choice: 1-B, 2-C, 3-B, 4-A, 5-B, 6-A, 7-D, 8-B, 9-B, 10-C.