UNIT 6: OUR TET HOLIDAY

F. READING

I. Read the passage and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

New Year's Eve, 31st December, is a time for the British to eat, drink and party when they celebrate the beginning of a New Year. Many people go to Trafalgar Square inLondon or a street party in their city. Others visit friends or go to pubs and restaurants, which are very crowded on that night.

There is a great atmosphere when everyone waits for Big Ben to strike midnight. Then people kiss and hold hands to sing the traditional Scottish song *Auld Lang Syne*. Many people also light fireworks at midnight.

The main tradition is 'First Footing'. This means the first person to come into your house after midnight should be a tall dark-haired man. He should bring a piece of coal, some bread, salt or a bottle of whisky to bring good luck to the family.

A lot of people also make New Year's Resolution; they promise to do things like stop smoking or 'do more exercise' in the New Year. January 1st (and 2nd in Scotland) is a public holiday so their people can recover from their celebrations.

1. On New Year's Eve everyone stays at home.
2. People sing a traditional song at midnight.
3. There are no fireworks on New Year's Eve.
4. It is good luck for a blonde woman to be your first visitor after midnight.
5. Lots of people promise to change in the New Year.
6. New Year's Day is a public holiday in Britain.

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II. Read and choose the correct answers.

Preparation for Tet, Vietnamese New Year, starts two or three months before the actual celebrations. People try to pay off their debts in advance so that they can be debt-free on Tet. Parents buy new clothes for their children so that the children can wear them when Tet arrives. Because a lot of commercial activities will cease during the celebrations people try to stock up on supplies as much as possible.

In the days leading up to Tet, the streets and market are full of people. Everyone is busy buying food, clothes, and decorating for their house. Each family prepares some special foods for the holiday. Those who live far away from home will try to come home to celebrate Tet with their family. Vietnamese families usually have a family altar to pay respect to their ancestors. During Tet the altar is thoroughly cleaned and new offerings are placed there.

On New Year's Eve, each home is thoroughly cleaned and decorated with flowers and offerings for ancestors by the night before Tet. Many people stay up until midnight to welcome the New Year or go to the pagoda to pray for luck, prosperity, and happiness.

In the morning, actual Tet celebrations begin. The first day of Tet is reserved for the nuclear family. In big cities, the streets are usually empty as most people stay at home or leave the city to visit their close relatives in the countryside. Usually, children dress their new clothes and give their elders the traditional Tet greetings before receiving the lucky money.

1. This passage is about _____.

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A. New Year's Eve C. the first day of the New Year

C. preparation for Tet and Tet holiday D. paying debt before Tet

2. Vietnamese children _____.

A. have to pay off debt before Tet

B. should not receive any money during Tet

C. are not allowed to wear new clothes at Tet

D. receive lucky money from adults during Tet

3. Which is NOT mentioned as a preparation for Tet?

A. visiting friends and relatives B. cooking special foods

C. decorating houses D. paying off debts

4. Which is NOT referred during Tet celebration?

A. going to the pagoda B. the increasing of commercial activities

C. visiting relatives D. wearing new clothes

5. Vietnamese families _____.

A. do not celebrate Tet if they are poor

B. only celebrate Tet when they are wealthy

C. have an altar to worship then ancestors

D. gather in the streets on the first day of Tet

III. Read the following text and answer the questions below

ACTIVITIES OF SEOLLAL

There will be special operations for the visitors who want to make special memories at Hangang River during the holiday. After watching a romantic acoustic

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guitar performance on board, they can fly kites and experience the "Winter Story Cruise" that deserves to be enjoyed.

When visiting Hangang Park during the Korean new Year's holiday, anyone can enjoy the traditional experiences and games for free. In the 11 areas Hangang Park, visitors can enjoy various traditional games including Yutnori, Neolttwigi, etc.

From January 27th to January 30th , "the 2017 Seollal Feast at Unhyeongung Palace" will be held in the Unhyeongung Palace, aiming to greet New Year's day, Seollal which, is one of the most special holidays for Korean people, and to pray for the well-being of all the citizens throughout the year.

1. What can people do after watching a guitar performance on board?

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2. What can people enjoy when visiting Hangang Park during the Korean New year's holiday?

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3. Where can visitors enjoy various traditional games?

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4. What traditional games are available in the 11 areas of Hangang Park?

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5. What is the purpose of celebrating 2017 Seollal Feast?

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