Reading Comprehension Activity
A2 Level

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year (or generally referred to as Lunar New Year globally) is the Chinese festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional Chinese calendar. The festival is usually referred to as the Spring Festival in mainland China, and is one of several Lunar New Years in Asia.

Celebrations traditionally take place from the evening preceding the first day of the year to the Lantern Festival, held on the 15th day of the year. The first day of Chinese New Year begins on the new moon that appears between 21 January and 20 February. In 2019, the first day of the Chinese New Year was on Tuesday, 5 February, initiating the Year of the Pig.

Chinese New Year is a major holiday in Greater China and has strongly influenced lunar new year celebrations of China's neighbouring cultures, including the Korean New Year (seol), the Tết of Vietnam, and the Losar of Tibet. It is also celebrated worldwide in regions and countries with significant Overseas Chinese populations, including Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Mauritius, as well as many in North America and Europe.

Chinese New Year is associated with several myths and customs. The festival was traditionally a time to honour divinities as well as ancestors. Within China, regional customs and traditions concerning the celebration of the New Year vary widely, and the evening preceding Chinese New Year's Day is frequently regarded as an occasion for Chinese families to gather for the annual reunion dinner. It is also traditional for every family to thoroughly clean their house, in order to sweep away any ill-fortune and to make way for incoming good luck. Another custom is the decoration of windows and doors with red paper-cuts and two-line poems. Popular themes among these paper-cuts and two-line poems include that of good fortune or happiness, wealth, and longevity. Other activities include lighting firecrackers and giving money in red paper envelopes. For the northern regions of China, dumplings are featured

prominently in meals celebrating the festival. It often serves as the first meal of the year.

1. The people in China call Chinese New Year...

A. 'Chinese New Year'.
B. 'Spring Festival'.
C. 'Lantern Festival'.

2. The New Year in China begins...

A. in January.
B. in February.
C.in January or February.

3. The Korean New Year, the Tết of Vietnam, and the Losar of Tibet are...

A. similar to Chinese New year.
B. very different from Chinese New year.
C. the celebration of Chinese New Year in different countries.

4. Chinese New Year…

A. is celebrated in different ways depending on the region.
B. is a very religious celebration nowadays.
C. was celebrated with music in the past.

5. The Chinese clean their house…

A. to decorate it.
B. to be happy.
C. to have good luck.

6. The text talks about traditions in the northern regions of China related to…

A. parties.
B. food.
C. music.