

Progress Test Files 1–6
Reading and Writing A

READING

1 Read the article and tick (✓) A, B, or C.

New year, old customs

by travel editor, Lauren Briard

Have you ever made a New Year's **resolution**? Perhaps you have decided to learn a new language, or take up more exercise? You are not alone. In many cultures, people choose to change something about their life at the beginning of the year. And all over the world, people celebrate the new year with interesting **customs**.

My favourite traditions come from Mexico and other Latin American countries. For example, at midnight on New Year's Eve in many Spanish-speaking cultures, everyone eats twelve grapes – one grape for each month of the year. People say that eating the grapes brings good **fortune** for the new year. And don't be surprised if your friend from Peru wants to walk around the outside of his or her house with heavy luggage. Traditionally, if you complete this **challenge** you will be a successful traveller in the new year. Would you like to go on a **dream** holiday next year? Then try it!

Cleaning the house is perhaps the most common New Year tradition. From Mexico to Japan, people **sweep** their homes from top to bottom. Some people believe this **removes** bad luck and allows good luck to enter the house. In other countries, such as Britain and Iran, the cleaning happens later in the year, so it's called 'spring cleaning'. In Iran, just before the March spring **festival**, people empty their houses of all their furniture. They clean the house from top to bottom, **mend** broken furniture or replace old items. People bring flowers and **herbs** indoors too, so their homes smell fresh and clean.

New Year is often celebrated with friends, so my final story is from Denmark. If you are in Denmark at New Year, you will probably see piles of broken plates outside front doors. What's going on? Well, traditionally, people take their old or broken plates and **smash** them on their friend's front door. It brings good luck to your friend. It's great fun, too! So, a big pile of broken plates means you are a popular person.

Enjoy the New Year festival, wherever you are in the world. I hope you are ready with your grapes, luggage, and plates!

Example: New Year is a special day all over the world.

A True B False C Doesn't say

- One of the writer's favourite New Year traditions comes from Latin America.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- At midnight, there is a tradition of eating one grape.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- The person who eats the fastest wins a prize.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- In Peru, there is a New Year tradition that includes suitcases.
A True B False C Doesn't say

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- 5 The tradition from Peru will give you good dreams in the new year.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 6 House cleaning is a very popular New Year tradition.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 7 In Britain, people clean their homes at New Year.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 8 In Iran, the first month of the calendar is March.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 9 In Denmark, there is a special tradition between friends.
A True B False C Doesn't say
- 10 The most popular people have the most broken plates.
A True B False C Doesn't say

	10
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2 Match five of the highlighted words with the definitions.

Example: plants often used to add flavour to food
herbs

- 1 activities that have been common for a long time _____
- 2 something that is difficult to do _____
- 3 takes something away _____
- 4 a special day of celebration _____
- 5 to break into lots of pieces _____

	5
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Reading total		15
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WRITING

Answer these three questions. Write 25–35 words for each question.

- 1 Describe what you are wearing today.
- 2 Which housework job do you like best? Is there a housework job that you hate? Why?
- 3 What do you usually do when you are waiting at an airport or train station?

Writing total		10
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Reading and Writing total		25
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