SOCRATES

Module C — Full Practice Exam · 90 minutes · 100 points

WRITTEN RECEPTION (70 points)

(ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS)

Read the text and then answer questions 1–8. In the multiple-choice questions, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions.

BIRTHDAY TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

I Tomorrow is your birthday, and in Israel you will probably receive a cake with candles, some presents and a big hug from your family. But how exactly do children celebrate their birthdays in other countries around the world? There are many different and unusual birthday customs*, and some of them may genuinely surprise you. Here are a few interesting examples from four different countries.* customs — מנהגים

II In Mexico, the star of the party is the piñata, which is a colourful paper animal completely full of sweets. The birthday child covers their eyes and hits the piñata with a stick until all the sweets finally fall out. In China, many families serve a bowl of very long noodles, because people believe that long noodles bring a long life, so you should never cut them. In Denmark, families put a flag outside the window, so that everyone can immediately see that someone in the house has a birthday.

III Some other customs are even funnier, and in certain parts of Canada, friends playfully put butter on the birthday child's nose for good luck. In Australia, children at birthday parties enjoy eating "fairy bread", which is simple white bread covered with butter and hundreds of tiny colourful pieces of sugar. In Vietnam, most people actually celebrate their birthdays together on New Year's Day, and the children receive lucky money in red envelopes.

IV Although the customs are clearly different, the idea behind them is exactly the same everywhere. A birthday is a special day to show love and to make one person feel truly special. Families and friends come together, share good food and give small presents. So next year, why not try a completely new tradition? Put a flag in your window, cook some long noodles, and have a very happy birthday!

QUESTIONS — PART I (70 points)

1. According to paragraph I, what will a birthday child in Israel probably get?

i. A flag outside the window.

ii. A bowl of long noodles.

iii. A cake with candles, presents and a hug.

iv. Butter on the nose.

(7 points)

2. In China, people believe something about long noodles. COMPLETE: People believe that long noodles bring

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(9 points)

3. Why do families in Denmark put a flag outside the window? (paragraph II)

ANSWER:

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(8 points)

4. What do friends in parts of Canada do, and why? (paragraph III)

ANSWER:

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(8 points)

5. When do most people in Vietnam celebrate their birthdays?

i. On New Year's Day.

ii. On the first day of school.

iii. On their parents' birthday.

iv. On the last day of summer.

(8 points)

6. Mark the TWO statements that are true according to the text.

- ☐ In Mexico, the piñata is full of sweets.
- ☐ In China, you should cut the long noodles into small pieces.
- ☐ Fairy bread is made of chocolate cake and cream.
- ☐ In Vietnam, children get lucky money in red envelopes.
- ☐ In Denmark, families hide birthdays from the neighbours.
- ☐ Birthday customs are exactly the same in every country.

(2×7=14 points)

7. According to paragraph IV, what is the same idea behind all birthday customs?

ANSWER:

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(8 points)

8. What does the writer suggest you try next year? Give ONE example. (paragraph IV)

ANSWER:

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(8 points)

PART II — WRITTEN PRODUCTION (30 points)

9. *(30 points)*

Some people think that school holidays are too long. Do you agree? Write your opinion and explain why. Write 70–90 words in English.

DRAFT / טיוטה

FINAL VERSION / גרסה סופית (70–90 words)

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