

Thanksgiving (B1)

Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrated predominantly in North America, and it possesses a different meaning in each of the countries where it's acknowledged.

In the United States, Thanksgiving is a federal holiday (meaning all government employees and most private employees are given a day off of work), and always takes places on the Fourth Thursday in November, regardless of the date.

The holiday signifies the immense progress made by pilgrims, or some of the first travelers to North America, at Plymouth Plantation circa 1621. It was at this time that the hungry and weary Pilgrims were taught (by Native Americans) how to grow and produce food on North America's unique terrain. Once they'd grown (and caught) an abundance of food, the Pilgrims were expectedly thankful, and they celebrated alongside the Native Americans who provided them with such valuable assistance. President Abraham Lincoln initiated the contemporary practice of Thanksgiving by calling for a "day of Thanksgiving" during one of his Civil War addresses.

In America today, Thanksgiving remains firmly engrained in its historical roots, and is widely considered to be a day for giving thanks for good food, good times, and family. Thanksgiving dinner generally consists of turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, gravy, and ample desserts. To be sure, indulging in abundance is a cornerstone of the holiday, as doing so could only be possible if one possesses abundance.

Did you understand the text?

1) When is Thanksgiving celebrated in the US?

- ☐ a) November 25
- ☐ b) Four weeks before Christmas
- ☐ c) Throughout November
- ☐ d) The Fourth Thursday in November

2) Which event(s) began the tradition of Thanksgiving?

- ☐ a) The pilgrims' food-creation success and largescale celebratory dinner
- ☐ b) Nobody is certain
- ☐ c) An address delivered by President Lincoln
- ☐ d) A and C

3) Which food(s) are often prepared for Thanksgiving dinner?

- ☐ a) Turkey
- ☐ b) Potatoes
- ☐ c) Stuffing
- ☐ d) All of the above

Questions 21–25

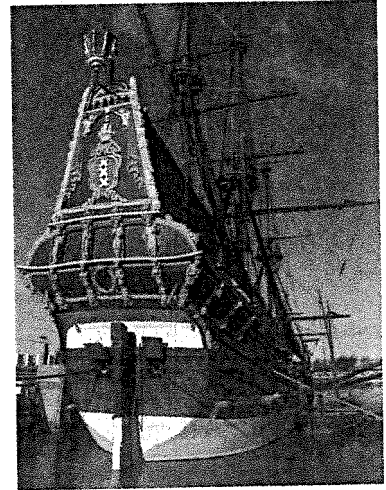
Read the text and questions below.

For each question, mark the correct letter **A**, **B**, **C** or **D** on your answer sheet.

By Design

Years ago, when I first thought of becoming a designer, people just didn't seem to be as interested in design. These days, there's always some series on TV about design. There are all sorts of qualifications you can get. Actually, we've had designers all the way through our history. They have made pyramids, scientific instruments, things to sit on, clothes to wear ... Nowadays, a lot of IT designers seem to think they are kings or emperors, that their work is the most interesting work there is.

Boats can be quite a good way of understanding this point. Sea transport was one of the crucial things we learnt to do – we spread our population, we got new kinds of food and raw materials. It's amazing to think how far people explored in ancient boats. Modern boats are packed with sophisticated computer equipment to help sailors find their way, avoid storms and so on, yet we found our world without all that. Pay attention to those old boats: they float, they move in the right direction, *and* they have pretty patterns, nice colours. We want things to look good and work well.



Food raises the same issues. Many of us have moved from hands to tools for cooking and eating with, finding new ways to make the process easier. In the West, people have knives and forks; in the East, they have chopsticks – unlike each other in appearance, but they do a similar job. Throughout history, great value has always been placed on the appearance of these tools. This is why we need and depend on design, linking our past and present, country with country, and why we will continue to do so.

- 21 What is the writer's main purpose in writing the text?
- A To encourage people to try to become designers.
 - B To list the different stages in the history of design.
 - C To explain why most people do not like design.
 - D To show the general importance of design in the world.

Miami (B1)

Christina visited Miami during her winter vacation. She is from Boston, where it is cold during the winter months. Miami, however, has a very warm climate. There are many sunny days in Miami, and people can go to the beach all year long. Christina spent a good portion of her trip on the beach to relax and sunbathe. However, she also explored Miami and its surroundings.

Inspired by Miami's proximity to the ocean, Christina visited the Miami Seaquarium to learn about marine life. There, she watched a show using trained dolphins, killer whales, and other aquatic mammals. She took a lot of pictures of the sea creatures jumping out of the water and performing tricks.

Christina also took an excursion to the Everglades National Park. This park is a protected area spanning 1.5 million acres. Because the park is mostly swampland, it is home to many reptiles. Native animals include snakes, alligators, and crocodiles. The park is also great for birdwatching. Christina enjoyed hiking the trails in the Everglades and observing the wildlife in its natural environment.

When Christina returned to the city, she visited Little Havana. This is Miami's Cuban neighborhood. Christina could see that Little Havana's people demonstrated a lot of pride for their Cuban heritage. There were many outdoor shops and vendors, live musicians, and the Cuban cuisine was delicious. Little Havana was Christina's favorite part about her trip to Miami. This neighborhood made Christina feel like she had traveled to Cuba without ever having to leave the United States.

Did you understand the text?

1) In comparison to Christina's hometown, Miami's winter weather is:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) Cooler | <input type="checkbox"/> b) Warmer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c) More humid | <input type="checkbox"/> d) The Same |

2) Why was Christina motivated to visit the Miami Seaquarium?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) She wanted to protest animal rights. | <input type="checkbox"/> b) She hoped to photograph the sea creatures. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c) Miami's coastal location inspired her. | <input type="checkbox"/> d) The Seaquarium was recently constructed. |

3) Which of the following animals would not be found in the Everglades?

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) Crocodiles | <input type="checkbox"/> b) Birds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c) Dolphins | <input type="checkbox"/> d) Snakes |

4) Little Havana's identity is based on what particular culture?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) American culture | <input type="checkbox"/> b) Dominican culture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c) Mexican culture | <input type="checkbox"/> d) Cuban culture |

5) What was Christina's favorite part about her trip to Miami?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) Sunbathing on the beach | <input type="checkbox"/> b) Visiting the Miami Seaquarium |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c) Hiking the trails of the Everglades | <input type="checkbox"/> d) Touring Little Havana |

Christmas (B1)

A Christian holiday signifying the birth of Jesus, Christmas is widely celebrated and enjoyed across the United States and the world. The holiday always falls on 25 December (regardless of the day of the week), and is typically accompanied by decorations, presents, and special meals.

Specifically, the legend behind Christmas (and the one that most children are told) is that Santa Claus, a bearded, hefty, jolly, and red-jacket-wearing old man who lives in the North Pole, spends the year crafting presents with his elves, or small, festive, excited Santa-assistants. All the children who behave throughout the year are admitted to the Good List, and will presumably receive their desired gifts on Christmas, while those who don't behave are placed on the Naughty List, and will presumably (although the matter is determined by parents) receive a lump of coal.

Santa Claus is said to fly around the Christmas sky in a sled powered by his magical reindeer, or cold-resistant, mythically powered, individually named animals, delivering presents to each child's house in the process. Santa is also expected to slide through chimneys to deliver these presents (homes not equipped with chimneys might "leave the front door cracked open"), and children sometimes arrange cookies or other treats on a plate for him to enjoy.

Gifts are placed underneath a Christmas tree, or a pine tree that's decorated with ornaments and/or lights and is symbolic of the holiday. Additionally, smaller gifts may be placed inside a stocking, or a sock-shaped, holiday-specific piece of fabric that's generally hung on the mantle of a fireplace (homes without fireplaces might use the wall). A Christmas tree's ornaments, or hanging, typically spherical decorations, in addition to the mentioned lights, may be accompanied by a star, or a representation of the Star of Jerusalem that the Three Apostles followed while bringing Baby Jesus gifts and honoring him, in the Bible.

Did you understand the text?

1) On what date does Christmas take place?

- ☐ a) The date varies from year to year
- ☐ b) 20th December
- ☐ c) 31st December
- ☐ d) 25th December

2) Which mythical figure is said to deliver presents on Christmas?

- ☐ a) The Easter Bunny
- ☐ b) Saint Patrick
- ☐ c) Santa Claus
- ☐ d) Christmas Angel

3) How are children's present requests said to be granted or denied on Christmas?

- ☐ a) Randomly
- ☐ b) Through a specially designed mathematical formula
- ☐ c) Nobody is quite sure
- ☐ d) By reviewing their presence on either the "Good" or "Naughty" List

Part 4

Questions 21–25

Read the text and questions below.

For each question, mark the correct letter **A**, **B**, **C** or **D** on your answer sheet.

Learning about Learning Languages

In many ways, my interest in the whole business of language learning began with my grandmother. She was an immigrant and, as a young child going to school and having friends on the street, I was always confused that my grandmother spoke one language to me, another to my parents and a third one to my grandfather and on the phone to relatives back home. I guess she could have been a translator of books, or even a writer, as she seemed to pick languages up so quickly, but the amazing thing was that she'd left school at the age of 11 and had taught herself everything she knew.



The main reason to speak different languages for her was so she could communicate in these different cultures. She usually found out more about the people she was talking to than they did about her! Although it's often said that learning languages can help you to find higher-paid employment, these days, travel and the internet are generally happening in a kind of limited global English or can be translated electronically, so my grandmother has still got it right.

If she did, so can we. In fact, there's a lot of extra help these days from IT. Recording your voice with feedback facilities on web learning sites helps you to control how you speak, and so improve. I still think going to class means you can interact with other, real people in the same space, but it can also mean that you keep repeating the same mistakes. It's good to combine these methods. If you do a course, go for a full-time, intensive course.

Or you can just spend a little time chatting with my grandmother.

- 21 What is the writer's main purpose in writing the text?
- A To explain which is the best way to learn a language.
 - B To describe different ways of learning languages.
 - C To encourage people to study harder when learning a language.
 - D To request information about learning different languages.

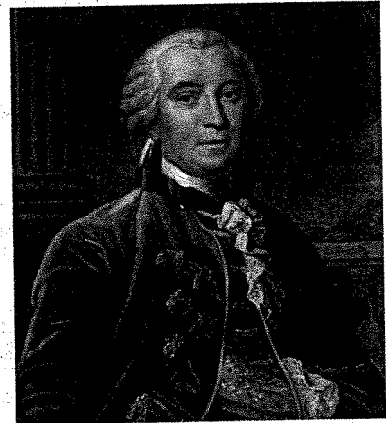
Part 4**Questions 21–25**

Read the text and questions below.

For each question, mark the correct letter **A**, **B**, **C** or **D** on your answer sheet.

An Early Expert on Plants and Animals

Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, a French expert on plants and animals, lived from 1744 to 1829. He was the eleventh child in a family that had a high position in French society, but was very poor. It was a tradition in the family that the sons joined the army, and several of Lamarck's older brothers did so. Following the death of his father, Lamarck also decided to follow his brothers. Aged only 16, he bought a horse and rode across the country to join the army.



While he was in the army, he read a book on botany – the study of plants – and became interested in the natural world. He studied botany, and soon became an expert on the subject. He later published a major study of the plants that grew in France, and this made him well known among French scientists. In 1781, he was made a royal botanist. As part of his work he travelled to botanical gardens in other countries, where he collected and took home plants that were not available in France.

In 1793, Lamarck became a professor of zoology – the study of animals. He developed the idea that different types of animals change over time, an idea that hardly anyone at that time believed. Half a century later, the scientist Charles Darwin also believed that living things change to fit their environment better. However, Darwin thought Lamarck was wrong about how these changes were caused, and he developed his own explanations.

Lamarck married three times, and all his wives died before him. When he died in 1829, his family was so poor that they had to ask for financial help.

21 In this text, the writer is describing

- A** how Lamarck balanced his career with his private life.
- B** the way that Lamarck achieved his objectives.
- C** why Lamarck kept losing his job.
- D** the range of Lamarck's interests.

The Golden Gate Bridge (B1)

Some of the most important landmarks in the United States include feats of architecture and modern engineering. San Francisco, California, is a beautiful city on its own, but it is also home to The Golden Gate Bridge, a 1.7 mile suspension bridge connecting the San Francisco Peninsula to the Marin Headlands. The bridge holds the title of one of the Wonders of the Modern World according to the American Society of Civil Engineers.

One of the most popular ways to appreciate the bridge is to take an excursion to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area just outside of San Francisco. The park contains hiking trails, great spots for picnicking, and offers some of the best vantage points for panoramic photographs of the bridge leading into the city.

David recently had some friends visit him in San Francisco, and he made sure to include a visit to the recreation area as part of their tour. They enjoyed walking through the trails, observing some of the native wildlife, and even having a casual picnic in the park. David's friends were thankful that he guided them through this impressive area of California. They made sure to take a group photograph with the Golden Gate Bridge in the background. David's friends had the picture framed, and they later presented it to David in order to thank him for his hospitality during their stay.

Did you understand the text?

1) What two places does the Golden Gate Bridge connect?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) San Francisco and Alcatraz Island | <input type="checkbox"/> b) San Francisco and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c) San Francisco and the Marin Headlands | <input type="checkbox"/> d) San Francisco and Sacramento |

2) San Francisco is situated upon what kind of land mass?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) A valley | <input type="checkbox"/> b) An isthmus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c) An island | <input type="checkbox"/> d) A peninsula |

3) What group of professionals named the bridge a Wonder of the Modern World?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) architects | <input type="checkbox"/> b) engineers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c) ecologists | <input type="checkbox"/> d) politicians |

4) Where is the best place for visitors to enjoy views of the bridge?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) Downtown San Francisco | <input type="checkbox"/> b) Golden Gate National Recreation Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c) A boat tour through San Francisco Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> d) Alcatraz Island |

5) How did David's friends thank him for his hospitality?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a) They treated him to a picnic in the park. | <input type="checkbox"/> b) They gave him a framed photo from their trip. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c) They invited him to visit them in New York. | <input type="checkbox"/> d) They bought him dinner at the end of the day. |