

NAME: _____

OPTION A

Read the text and the instructions to the questions very carefully. Answer all the questions in English.

A superstition is a belief in magic, ghosts, fairies, witches etc., or a belief that certain things are a sign of good or bad luck.

The vast majority of superstitions date back centuries to a time when people did not know about or understand many things about the world around them. They often attributed events to supernatural beings or tried to ward off misfortune by following certain rituals.

However, a recent study has shown that superstition is alive and well in modern Britain. A total of 4,000 people were asked if they considered themselves lucky or unlucky, and whether they engaged in any superstitious behaviour. The most widely held belief was that of touching wood, which 86% said they did. That was followed by crossing fingers (64%), not walking under ladders (49%), fear of breaking a mirror (34%), being worried about the number 13 (25%) and carrying a lucky charm (24%). 86% of the people interviewed said they carried out at least one of these rituals.

The survey also found that 'lucky' people tend to believe in superstitions designed to bring good luck such as touching wood, crossing fingers and carrying a lucky charm, while 'unlucky' people were drawn to bad luck superstitions, such as breaking a mirror, walking under a ladder or things related to the number 13. For example, 49% of lucky people regularly cross their fingers, compared to 30% of unlucky people. In contrast, over half of the people who considered themselves unlucky dreaded the number 13, as opposed to just 22% of lucky people.

The study suggests that those who consider themselves unlucky may actually create bad luck for themselves. Psychologist Dr Richard Wiseman, who carried out the research, explained: 'Unlucky people tend to believe in negative superstitions. If you're one of those people, the fact that it is Friday the 13th could make you anxious and therefore more accident-prone. You might not drive as well or find it harder to relate to people.'

Questions

1. Write a summary of the text in English, including the most important points using your own words (approximately 50 words; 1 point).
2. Mark the following sentences true or false (T/F) according to the text. Then write the part (and ONLY that part) of the text which justifies your answer. (1 point; 0.25 each)
 - a. Crossing your fingers is the most popular superstition.
 - b. Unlucky people may bring bad luck upon themselves.
 - c. More lucky people don't like the number 13 than unlucky people.
 - d. Dr Wiseman believes people can create their own bad luck.
3. Find words or phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here. (1 point; 0.25 each)
 - a) strong opinion
 - b) bad luck
 - c) to be afraid
 - d) attracted to
4. Pronunciation. (1 point; 0.25 each)
 - a. Write two words from the text that have the same diphthong sound as 'five' /aɪ/. (Underline the part of the word which contains the diphthong.)
 - b. Find 3 words containing vowels or groups of vowels which are pronounced in the same way as i in high, ee in three and u in just. (Underline the part of the word which contains the sound.)
 - c. Is the '-s-' pronounced voiced /z/ or voiceless /s/ in 'fingers'?
 - d. Which of the following words has the same vowel sound as 'sheep' /i:/? mirror – things – peeple – sign
5. Rewrite the following sentences without changing the original meaning. Use the word in brackets and/or the expression given, making the necessary changes. (1.5 points; 0.5 points each)
 - a. 'Please don't touch my lucky charms,' Kate said to me.
Kate ...
 - b. I met Dr Wiseman a year ago. (since)
It ...
 - c. Rob broke a mirror and he had a terrible week afterwards.
If ...
6. Write a composition on the topic 'Superstitions are stupid.' Discuss and support your arguments. (Approximately 120 words: 3 points)

OPTION B

Read the text and the instructions to the questions very carefully. Answer all the questions in English.

In the film *The Day After Tomorrow*, global warming melts the polar ice caps overnight and huge amounts of fresh water pour into the oceans. This disrupts the Gulf Stream (the ocean current that stabilises the Northern Hemisphere's climate) and causes a 'superstorm' that brings a new Ice Age. It may be just a film, but environmentalists believe that it is not pure science fiction.

There is little doubt that global warming is real. In the last century, the average temperature has gone up by about 0.6° Celsius around the world. Most scientists say these higher temperatures are a result of an increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, caused by burning fuels such as coal and petroleum. Sea levels have risen 10 to 20 centimetres because of the expansion of warmer waters. Many scientists also warn of a link between global warming and extreme weather events, like El Niño. However, experts agree that the sudden climate change depicted in the film could not happen.

Environmentalists see the film as an opportunity to educate and hope it will lead to debate about environmental damage. 'Climate change is already happening now, not the day after tomorrow,' said Janet Sawin, director of the Energy and Climate Programme at the Worldwatch Institution in Washington. 'I'm hoping people will become more aware of this problem as a result of the film and start taking action.'

Director Roland Emmerich believes that entertainment and education can mix. 'Like many other people, I have this feeling that we're slowly but surely destroying our planet,' he said. 'This is a film that should not just entertain but also make people think. It's not just science fiction, but something that is very real.'

Questions

1. Write a summary of the text in English, including the most important points using your own words (approximately 50 words; 1 point).
2. Mark the following sentences true or false (T/F) according to the text. Then write the part (and ONLY that part) of the text which justifies your answer. (1 point; 0.25 each)
 - a. Burning fossil fuels leads to an increase in global temperatures.
 - b. Environmentalists believe that the events in the film cannot happen.
 - c. It's impossible that climate change could happen as quickly as shown in the film.
 - d. The level of the sea has gone up because of El Niño.
3. Find words or phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here. (1 point; 0.25 each)
 - a) be conscious of, know
 - b) connection
 - c) rise
 - d) defreezes
4. Pronunciation. (1 point; 0.25 each)
 - a. Find 3 words containing vowels or groups of vowels which are pronounced in the same way as i in high, ee in three and u in just. (Underline the part of the word which contains the sound.)
 - b. Is the '-s-' pronounced voiced /z/ or voiceless /s/ in 'melts'?
 - c. Which of the following words has the same vowel sound as 'sheep' /i:/? mix – believe – real
 - d. Write two words from the text that have the same diphthong sound as 'five' /aɪ/. (Underline the part of the word which contains the diphthong.)
5. Rewrite the following sentences without changing the original meaning. Use the word in brackets and/or the expression given, making the necessary changes. (1.5 points; 0.5 points each).
 - a. It is said that scientists are very worried about climate change.
Scientists ...
 - b. Will governments take measures to reduce global warming? (wondered)
She ...
 - c. This is the director. His film made a sensation.
This is ...
6. Write a composition on the question 'What evidence is there of global warming?'. (Approximately 120 words: 3 points)