

Practice Test 4

1. (A) (B) (C) (D)

2. (F) (G) (H) (J)

3. (A) (B) (C) (D)

4. (F) (G) (H) (J)

5. (A) (B) (C) (D)

6. (F) (G) (H) (J)

7. (A) (B) (C) (D)

8.

Read question 8 in your test book. Write your answer in the test book.

9. (A) (B) (C) (D)

10. (F) (G) (H) (J)

11. (A) (B) (C) (D)

12. (F) (G) (H) (J)

13. (A) (B) (C) (D)

14. (F) (G) (H) (J)

15. (A) (B) (C) (D)

16.

Read question 16 in your test book. Write your answer in the test book.

Directions

Read this article about the different ways China celebrates New Year's Day. Then answer questions 1 through 8.

Begin with a Bang

by Jasper Connors

Most cultures in the world celebrate the arrival of the New Year. People like to stop and pay attention to the passage of time. The New Year can be a time for starting over, setting goals, and growing anew. People all over the world celebrate this “fresh start” in different ways.

In the United States, huge parties are held in some of the biggest cities. People throw confetti. There are parades. In New York, a huge, glittering ball drops during the last ten seconds of the year. Hundreds of people come from all over the country to see it. They count down those last few seconds and then cheer and yell when it reaches the bottom and a new year has started.

The Chinese, on the other hand, celebrate the New Year differently. Their celebration takes place for two weeks. They clean their houses thoroughly in order to make a clean break with the old year. Then, on New Year's Eve, they set off the most beautiful fireworks in the world. The Chinese were the ones who invented gunpowder and fireworks. The American tradition of setting off fireworks on New Year's Eve was actually borrowed from the Chinese.

Superstitions make up a big part of the Chinese New Year, too. Although most people do not believe in them, they continue to follow them because they are an important link to the past. For example, the fireworks sent up on New Year's Eve are meant to shoot evil spirits out and away, far into the sky where they explode. Everyone opens their windows to let the old year out. On New Year's Day, everyone acts as though whatever they do will be repeated every day for the rest of the year. No one will lend anyone else money for fear they will spend all year lending money to others. No one uses foul language for fear it will stain the coming year. No one mentions death, and ghost stories are forbidden. Everyone tries to look fresh and happy. Parents even try not to punish their children. They pretend that if their children cry on New Year's, they will cry all year.



Go On

Each of the fifteen days of the Chinese New Year has a meaning. On the second day, for example, many people pay extra attention and honor to all dogs. The third and fourth day require husbands to pay special respect to their in-laws. On the seventh day, farmers present their vegetables at market. The tenth through twelfth days are reserved for having friends over for dinner.

The Chinese New Year may be one of the most spectacular and famous celebrations on Earth. It is a fascinating way to start off a brand new year.

- 1** Which statement **best** describes the way the author attracts the reader's attention in the first paragraph?
- A** He uses boldface and underlining to draw attention.
 - B** He shows the importance of the New Year celebration.
 - C** He paints a real you-are-there New Year picture for readers.
 - D** He quotes an expert to show up-to-date information and credibility.

- 2** According to the article, the Chinese are careful about how they behave on New Year's Day because they
- F** want to shoot off fireworks that evening
 - G** do not want evil spirits coming to visit them
 - H** believe their actions will be repeated all year
 - J** have to clean their houses from top to bottom

- 3** According to the article, each day of the Chinese New Year has

- A** a kind of parade
- B** a specific custom
- C** a unique meaning
- D** a different superstition

- 4** Which sentence reflects an **opinion** expressed by the author of the article?

- F** "Most cultures in the world celebrate the arrival of the New Year."
- G** "The Chinese were the ones who invented gunpowder and fireworks."
- H** "In New York, a huge, glittering ball drops during the last ten seconds of the year."
- J** "Then, on New Year's Eve, they set off the most beautiful fireworks in the world."

5 Read this sentence from the article.

On the seventh day, farmers present their vegetables at market.

Which meaning of “present” is used in this sentence?

- A** display
- B** gift
- C** in attendance
- D** portray

6 Which statement is supported by information in the article?

- F** The United States borrowed most of its New Year traditions from Chinese culture.
- G** The Chinese New Year celebration is a combination of modern fireworks and old superstitions.
- H** The Chinese people make it a general rule to never use foul language or punish their children.
- J** Each night of the Chinese New Year, families invite other families over for a traditional dinner.

7 According to the article, which word **best** describes how the Chinese regard their culture’s beliefs?

- A** quaint
- B** artificial
- C** magnificent
- D** honorable

8 Using details from the article, describe **two** ways that the Chinese alter their usual lifestyles in order to celebrate the New Year.

Directions

Read this folktale about a young boy who does not listen to his grandmother's advice. Then answer questions 9 through 16.

The Conch Shell-Covered Beach

by Jan Morgan

Once upon a time, the ocean held back from the beaches, and tides were always low. A boy named Paulo and his grandmother lived on a beach covered with conch shells. One day, Paulo picked up a beautiful shell and ran to show it to his friend, Tomas.

"That shell looks like a soft, shiny piece of silk," said Tomas. "The merchant will give you a good price for it."

Impressed with the shell, the merchant did indeed pay a fair price. Paulo knew he could sell more, so the next day he walked along the beach, filling up a burlap sack with shells. When he was done, he took the sack home. His grandmother asked him what it contained. When the boy showed her, her eyes grew wide with fear. "You must put them back or the ocean will miss them," she warned.

The boy explained that the merchant would pay an ample sum for the shells. Again, his grandmother pleaded with him to return them, but Paulo refused to listen.

That night, the walls of the shack quivered and shivered. The grandmother shook Paulo awake and dragged him to the door to show him the water flooding into the house. "You did not listen to me and now the sea has come to claim its shells."

The boy bolted to his room, grabbed the sack, and emptied the shells into the raging water. When the bag was finally empty, the water retreated.

The next morning, Paulo headed to town to buy back the shell he had sold, but unfortunately, someone had already bought it.

That night, the ocean rose again, searching for its missing shell. Ever since then, high tides have flooded beaches every evening.



Go On

- 9** The story “The Conch Shell-Covered Beach” is described as a folktale because it
- A** presents clues with a solution at the conclusion
 - B** takes place on a land that is far away and exotic
 - C** centers on the lives of a limited number of characters
 - D** is a fictional story with no specific setting of time or place

- 10** The **main** reason that the grandmother wants Paulo to return the shells is because she knows he
- F** may get hurt handling the sharp edges
 - G** may anger the ocean for taking the shells
 - H** could earn so much money he will run away
 - J** will not make much money by selling shells

- 11** What does Tomas compare the conch shell to when he is talking to Paulo?
- A** a gemstone
 - B** a piece of gold
 - C** a piece of fabric
 - D** a treasure from the sea

- 12** Read this sentence from the story.

The boy explained that the merchant would pay an ample sum for the shells.

What is another word for “ample” as used in this sentence?

- F** abundant
- G** average
- H** fair
- J** insufficient

- 13** Read this sentence from the story.

“You must put them back or the ocean will miss them,” she warned.

On which literary device does the author rely **most** in this sentence?

- A** alliteration
- B** hyperbole
- C** personification
- D** simile

14 Why do the ocean tides change from the beginning of the story until the end?

- F** The ocean is angry with Paulo and is hoping to frighten him away.
- G** The water comes up higher in search of the shell it did not get back.
- H** The shells are no longer on the beach to hold the tides back at night.
- J** The grandmother invites the water to come higher to visit her and Paulo.

15 What happens to change Paulo's attitude about selling shells?

- A** He realizes that these shells belonged to the ocean and not to him.
- B** He figures out that they are worth far more money than he thought.
- C** He discovers that his grandmother is superstitious about the conch shells.
- D** He understands that the tides depend on the number of shells on the beach.

16 In the chart below, write how Paulo felt when each one of these events happened.

Event	How Paulo felt
showing his shell to Tomas	
selling the shell to the merchant	
looking for more shells to sell	
hearing his grandmother's warnings	
seeing the water coming in under the door	
giving the shells back to the ocean	
finding out the first shell was already gone	

STOP

