

Birzeit University
Department of Languages & Translation
BBB ENGC 1201, Final Exam, First Semester 2022/2023

I. Read the following passage, and then answer the questions that follow. (20 pts)

Birthday Celebrations around the World

A. How Birthdays Came About

Thousands of years ago, birthdays were considered a time when the bad spirits could harm you. People believed that the only way to keep the bad spirits at bay was to have your friends and family around you so that their good wishes and presents would keep them away. People use noisemakers at parties as a way of scaring away the evil spirits. The custom of lighting candles originated with people believing that the gods lived in the sky, and by lighting candles and torches, they were sending a signal or prayer to the gods. When you blow out the candles and make a wish, this is another way of sending a signal and a message. This is how the way we celebrate our birthday came about, but different cultures celebrate in different ways.

B. Birthday Celebrations in Europe

In some parts of Europe, they have a birthday tree planted when the new child is born. They believed that if the tree grew to be healthy and strong, the child would also. The tradition of birthday parties began in Europe centuries ago. People feared that evil spirits searched out people on their birthdays. To protect the birthday person from harm, friends and family would gather around them and bring good thoughts and wishes. Giving gifts brought even more good cheer to ward off the evil spirits. At first, only kings and royalty were recognized as important enough to have a birthday celebration.

C. Birthday Celebrations in England

In England, there are cakes known as Fortune Telling Cakes, which are made for birthdays. Certain objects are mixed into the birthday cake as it is being prepared. If your piece of cake has a coin in it, then you will be rich. Sending birthday cards is a custom that began in England about 100 years ago. Today, millions of cards are sent around the world each year to wish family and friends a happy birthday. Being given the key to the house is still considered an important sign of coming of age in England. This takes place when someone turns the age of twenty-one. The young man who received the key to the house is said to be allowed to come and go as he pleases and to stay out as late he likes.

D. Birthday Celebrations in Africa

In Africa, people celebrate with joy the birth of a new baby. In West Africa, after the baby is eight days old, the mother takes the baby for its first walk in the big, wide world, and friends and family are invited to meet the new baby. In various African nations, they hold initiation ceremonies for groups of children instead of birthdays. When children reach a certain designated age, they learn the laws, beliefs, customs, songs and dances of their tribes. Some African tribes consider that children from nine to twelve are ready to be initiated into the grown up world. They may have to carry out several tests.

E. Birthday Celebrations in Korea

In Korea, on the 100th day after a child's birth, the family usually holds a small feast to celebrate the child having survived this period. At this time, the *Samshin Halmoni*¹ is honored with offerings of rice and soup for helping the infant and mother live through a difficult period. The family, relatives, and friends then celebrate with rice cakes, wine, and other delicacies such as red and black bean cakes sweetened with sugar or honey. To prevent disaster and to bring the child luck and happiness, the family places red bean cakes at the four compass points within the house. They also believed if the steamed rice cakes are shared with 100 people, the child would have a long life. Therefore, the family sends rice cakes to as many people as possible to help share the happiness of the occasion. One of the most important birthdays in Korea is a child's first birthday. There is a big feast and the guests leave money for the one-year old child.

**Samshin Halmoni:* the Grandmother Samsin, is the goddess of childbirth and fate in Korean culture.

Match the birthday celebration (1-5) with its suitable paragraph number (A-E). (5 pts)

1. Sharing rice cakes with many relatives _____
2. Children doing tests during initiation ceremonies _____
3. Planting a tree for newborns _____
4. Giving the house key to young men _____
5. Lighting and blowing candles _____

Meaning in Context (1pt)

6. From the text, find a word that means "groups of people of the same race, language, and customs" _____

Pronoun reference (2 pts)

7. The pronoun "them" in paragraph A, line 3, refers to _____
8. The pronoun "he" in paragraph C, line 8, refers to _____

Find the words below in the text. Read the text around them and circle the correct definitions.(2 pts)

9. Keep at bay (paragraph A)
- keep something away
 - bring something closer
10. ward off (paragraph B)
- prevent something from causing harm
 - allow something to attack

Circle the best option to complete the following sentences. (5 pts)

11..... was thought to be the best ways to send messages to the sky.

- lighting and blowing out candles
- surrounding yourself with the family and friends
- planting a birthday tree

12. In England, giving the birthday person the house key is a sign of.....

- growing up
- protecting the person from harm
- getting rich

13. Children receive money gifts in their first birthday in

- Africa
- England
- Korea

14. In some African tribes, children to join the world of the elderly.

- light candles and torches
- pass through different tests
- receive the key of the house

15. Sending birthday cards is a habit that started about.... years ago.

- million
- thousand
- hundred

Decide whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F). (5 pts)

16. In some African tribes, when children reach a designated age, they receive the key to the house. _____

17. Having family and friends around you in your birthday is believed to protect you from harm. _____

18. At certain age, Korean children are taught laws, beliefs, customs and songs of their people. _____

19. In Korea, they celebrate birthdays through serving rice and soup. _____

20. 'Fortune telling cake' is supposed to tell you if you're going to get rich or not. _____

II. Grammar (20 pts)

Circle the letter of the correct answer. (10 pts)

21. We _____ to Antalya in Turkey last month.
a- went b- have gone c- go
22. _____ you see the pyramids when you were in Egypt last time?
a- Do b- Did c- Have
23. When I _____ younger, I studied in Syria.
a- was b- had c- have been
24. Why _____ you late for school?
a- was b- were c- did
25. They _____ in Dubai for a long time.
a- don't lived b- were not live c- didn't live
26. I _____ TV right now.
a- am watching b- watching c- was watching
27. _____ a nice time on your holiday!
a- Go b- Take c- Have
28. What _____ your brother _____? He looks very silly.
a- did/doing b- are/doing c- is/doing
29. _____ everything OK?
a- Does b- Are c- Is
30. What _____ Ali usually _____ in his free time?
a- has/do b- is/do c- does/do

Read the text. Write in, on or at in the blanks. (5 pts)

I live (31) _____ Narita. Narita is a small town near Tokyo. It is usually a quiet place, but every year, (32) _____ January, it becomes very busy, when three million people come here to celebrate the New Year. For many festivals, people often stay (33) _____ home or visit their families. But the New Year is different. The people go out. (34) _____ midnight, bells ring across the country. A lot of people also stay and watch the sun rise (35) _____ the morning.

Put the words in order to make complete sentences (5 pts)

36. studies / Hani / always / for the exam / hard.

37. helps / Mona / sometimes / her mother / in the kitchen.

38. usually / in the morning / reads the newspaper / Adel.

39. goes / a walk / in / My grandmother / for / always / the evening.

40. sugar / his coffee / My father / takes / in / sometimes.

III. Learned Vocabulary (20 pts)

Use context clues that you have learned in class to fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words from the following list. (10 pts)

take part, educational, advert, improve, quiet, city center, area, celebrate, gift, downloads

41. Muna wanted to get another iPad after she saw an online _____ for a new one.

42. The Heritage Day is an important festival at the Palestinian schools, but some students do not _____ in that celebration.

43. Jamil bought his daughter an apple watch for her college graduation. The _____ made his daughter very happy.

44. Video games are _____. They can teach children about technology and how computers and other devices work.

45. My cousin lives in the _____ of Chicago. That is where the main tourist attractions are located.

46. Hyde Park is a nice _____ to visit in London. Many tourists go there during the summer holidays.

47. I live in a _____ part of the city. It does not have heavy traffic and night clubs.

48. Diane took a course to _____ her writing skills. Now she can write a lot better than her classmates.

49. Salma has an interest in languages, so she always _____ apps on her mobile to help her learn a new language.

50. Palestinians around the world _____ Independence Day. They enjoy listening to national songs, eating traditional food and taking part in several processions.

Match the sentence halves to form complete sentences. (5 pts)

51. Many people these days are leaving----- a. the countryside to look for jobs in the city.
52. In Abu Dhabi, there are several----- b. ; each one has special food and events.
53. My mother baked a cake----- c. usually wear traditional clothes.
54. Older Palestinian women----- d. modern glass skyscrapers.
55. There are a lot of festivals in Japan..... e. to celebrate my brother's birth.
- f. so, you have to be careful when you go inside.

Read the sentences. Choose the correct definition for the words in bold. (5 pts)

56. The **highlight** of the film festival was the showing of Saleh Bakri's new film.
a. happiness b. most enjoyable part c. location
57. Big cities usually have a lot of **traffic** especially on peak hour.
a. busy roads b. people on the street c. trucks, cars, and other vehicles
58. Parents should give their children more **opportunities** to express themselves.
a. experiences b. Activities c. Chances
59. One of the **benefits** of olive oil is keeping our bodies healthy.
a. advantages b. disadvantages c. negatives
60. Video games can lead to **overweight** since they make people lazy.
a. being too lazy b. being too skinny c. being too heavy

IV. Writing Task (10 pts)

Describe the Italian festival "Seka Soka". The ideas map below will help you to write about the festival.

Food and drinks:

Pizza, spaghetti, grapes and orange juice

Where:

Venice, Italy,
Europe

Activities:

dancing, singing, watch a parade
walk to beach, fireworks, party

Name:

Seka Soka

When:

April 20-25, spring
every year.

Clothes:

men- blue shirt, white scarf
Women- Traditional clothes

