Open comprehension

1 Read part of a text. Then read the question and three answers written by students. Which is the best one? Why?

Britain is a monarchy. Over the past 1200 years, England and Britain have had 61 kings and queens. The first king of England was Egbert, who ruled from 827–839.

When did the first king of England rule?

a The first king of England was Egbert and he ruled from 827–839 and he was the first of 61 monarchs.

b The first king of England was Egbert, who ruled from 827–839.

c The first English king was the ruler from 827–839.

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words given.

1 Henry VIII is one of the most ..... (fame) kings of England.

2 The police are investigating the ..... (mystery) disappearance of two people.

3 When I broke my leg, it was really ..... (pain).

4 York is a ..... (history) town in the north of England.

5 I like bright, ... (colour) clothes.

Exam tip

Use your own words to write short, clear answers that are easy to understand. Write complete sentences.

3 Read the text and answer the questions.

1 Who was the ruler of Scotland when the thistle became its emblem?

.....

2 Why did the Scottish soldiers wake up?

.....

3 In which sport do players have national flowers on their shirts?

.....

4 What was the reason for the Wars of the Roses?

.....

5 How did the Wars of the Roses get their name?

.....

6 What was the national emblem of Wales before the daffodil?

.....

7 How do people think the translation of daffodil led to it becoming the Welsh emblem?

.....

8 When is St David's Day?

.....

NATIONAL FLOWER EMBLEMS

Having a flower representing each of its countries is a historic British tradition.

The thistle is a purple flower with sharp leaves that can be painful if you touch it. It has been the emblem of Scotland since the time Alexander III was king, between 1249 and 1286. According to legend, this plant saved some Scottish soldiers who were sleeping. An army from Norway were about to attack, but one of their soldiers stood on a thistle and screamed. This woke the Scots, who then beat them in battle, so the thistle became the country's emblem. Images of the plant are widely used and you'll see them everywhere. For example, on police uniforms, the international rugby shirt and business logos.

The famous Tudor rose is the national emblem of England. King Henry VII chose it as a symbol of peace after the Wars of the Roses, a series of wars which were fought between royal houses of York and Lancaster from 1455 to 1485 to decide who would rule England. The supporters of York wore a badge with a white rose, while supporters of Lancaster wore a red rose. When the wars were over, Henry VII combined the red and white roses to make the Tudor rose and, years later, this gave the wars their name. Today, the red rose appears on the uniform of the guards of the Tower of London and in the royal coat of arms. It also appears on the shirts of sports teams, such as the international rugby team.

The colourful daffodil is now the national flower of Wales, though there is disagreement about how this happened. Until the 19th century, the emblem was the leek, a vegetable in the same family as the onion. The daffodil might have become the emblem because the Welsh translation for daffodil is 'Saint Peter's Leek', which may have led to confusion between the leek and the daffodil. Also, the time of year when daffodils appear is early in spring. This is around the same time as the day of St David, the Welsh national saint, which is on 1st March.

4 Find words in the text that have these definitions.

1 an old story about the past, often not true (paragraph 2) .....

2 a set of similar things that follow one another (paragraph 3) .....

3 officially control or govern a country or area (paragraph 3) .....

4 something you wear to show that you belong to a particular group (paragraph 3) .....

5 caused something to happen (paragraph 4) .....

6 when people don't understand something (paragraph 5) .....

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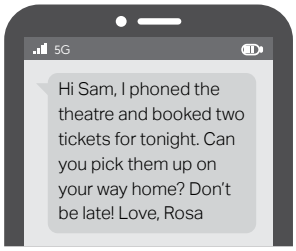
B1 Preliminary Part 1

1 Choose the correct answer.



The main message of the text is

a Rosa is inviting Sam to go to the theatre tonight.
b Rosa is asking Sam to collect some theatre tickets.
c Rosa has got some tickets for the theatre.

2 Complete the sentences with the words in the box. There are two extra words that you do not need to use.

capital city • currency • flag • national anthem • official • population • royal family • symbol

1 The ..... is the king or queen of a country and their relatives.
2 England's ..... is London, which is in the south of the country.
3 The ..... of Mexico is over 130 million people.
4 In India, the ..... language of government is Hindi.
5 The ..... in the United States is the US Dollar.
6 Most countries have a ..... that people sing on special occasions.

Exam tip

Always read the text carefully and try to decide what the main message is. Then choose the option that corresponds to that.

3 For each question, choose the correct answer.

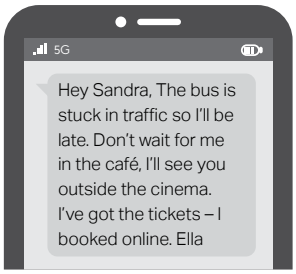
Joe,
Your brother doesn't understand his history homework and he wanted to ask you about it. He'll be back tonight from his guitar lesson around 6.30.
See you later!
Dad

1 What is the purpose of this note?
A To ask if Joe has any history homework tonight.
B To tell Joe to help his brother with his homework after 6.30.
C To tell Joe that his brother is coming home tonight to do his homework.

Important

Do not switch on the games console until you have inserted the cable into the socket on the back of the TV and then selected the correct video channel.

2 What is this notice telling people to do?
A You must switch on the games console before you select the video channel.
B You must select the video channel before you connect the games console.
C You must connect the games console to the TV before you switch it on.



3 Ella has written this message to
A confirm she will meet Sandra in the café later.
B say she can't go to the cinema because she's late.
C ask Sandra to meet her at the cinema.

Languages club – Japanese evening

Do you want to know more about Japan? Find out about the population, capital city, royal family and much more. Non-members welcome. Thursday 6pm in the Hall. For FREE tickets phone 0782688678.

4 What is the main idea of this notice?
A The club is inviting people to an event they have organised.
B The club wants more members to join it.
C The club wants people to help organise an event they are planning.

Athletics event

Saturday's event starts at 10.30 am. Please arrive at the stadium at 9.30 am to practise on the track before the event. Don't forget to wear school sports uniform.

5 This notice is to tell students who are participating in the event that they
A don't have to wear school sports uniform.
B must arrive in time to train before the event.
C should be at the stadium by 10.30 for the event.

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