Year 5 and 6 Festive Winter Team Challenge

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Many British winter customs involve bringing evergreen plants indoors during the shortest days of the year.

Which evergreen plant with white berries is traditionally hung in doorways across the UK at Christmas for people to stand beneath?

(1 mark)

A) Yew
B) Mistletoe
C) Ivy
D) Holly

2. During the nineteenth century, several royal customs transformed how people in Britain celebrated the festive season.

Which royal consort helped make decorated indoor evergreen fir trees widely popular across Victorian Britain?

(1 mark)

A) Prince Philip
B) Prince Leopold
C) Prince Albert
D) Prince George

3. Public holidays in the UK follow a set calendar each winter.

On which calendar date is the UK public holiday known as Boxing Day officially celebrated every year?

(1 mark)

A) 24 December
B) 26 December
C) 1 January
D) 25 December

4. A customer buys three packs of festive cards costing £3.40 each and pays with a £20 note. How much change should the customer receive?

(1 mark)

A) £10.20
B) £16.60
C) £10.80
D) £9.80

5. Volunteers have baked a batch of 48 gingerbread biscuits to decorate for a winter sale.

If 3/8 of the 48 gingerbread biscuits are iced with snowflakes, how many biscuits have snowflake icing?

(1 mark)

A) 6
B) 16
C) 18
D) 30

6. A school council prepares gift hampers for a neighbourhood centre.

Each hamper contains 3 boxes of festive biscuits, and each box holds 8 biscuits. If the council packs 12 identical hampers, how many biscuits are packed in total?

(1 mark)

A) 96
B) 216
C) 288
D) 324

7. During the eight-day Jewish festival of Hanukkah, families gather each evening to light candles.

Which special multi-branched candelabrum is lit during the celebration of Hanukkah?

(1 mark)

A) Diya
B) Kinara
C) Menorah
D) Torah

8. In Scotland, New Year celebrations are known as Hogmanay and include several customs believed to bring good fortune for the coming year.

Which Hogmanay tradition involves being the first visitor to cross someone's doorstep after midnight, carrying symbolic gifts such as coal or shortbread to bring good luck?

(1 mark)

A) Ceilidh
B) First-footing
C) Wassailing
D) Guising

9. The changing length of daytime across the seasons in the UK is caused by the tilt of the Earth as it orbits the Sun.

Which event happens in December in the UK, marking the day with the fewest hours of daylight in the entire year?

(1 mark)

A) Autumn equinox
B) Winter solstice
C) Summer solstice
D) Spring equinox

10. Animals in the UK use different survival strategies during cold winter months.

Which British mammal survives freezing winter temperatures by entering true hibernation rather than staying active or caching food?

(1 mark)

A) Grey squirrel
B) Hazel dormouse
C) Mountain hare
D) Red fox

11. During a cold, clear winter night, heat escapes from the ground into the atmosphere. The temperature of outdoor surfaces drops below freezing point (0 °C), while the surrounding air contains invisible water vapour.

Which weather feature forms directly on grass and car windscreens under these conditions as water vapour turns straight into ice crystals?

(1 mark)

A) Dew
B) Hail
C) Frost
D) Sleet

12. Woodland trees respond in different ways to winter weather and colder temperatures.

Why do deciduous trees lose their leaves before winter, while evergreen trees keep theirs?

(1 mark)

A) Deciduous trees lose leaves to reduce water loss when the soil is frozen
B) Deciduous trees lose leaves to allow their roots to stop taking in nutrients
C) Deciduous trees lose leaves to make frost fall more quickly onto the ground
D) Deciduous trees lose leaves to collect extra light through their bare branches

13. Animals use different survival strategies to cope with freezing weather and scarce food during winter.

Which of these animals is the odd one out because it migrates to warmer climates for winter rather than staying in the UK?

(1 mark)

A) Robin
B) Dormouse
C) Hedgehog
D) Swallow

14. Plants display different leaf adaptations during winter.

Which tree is the odd one out because it sheds all of its leaves in autumn rather than keeping them green through the winter?

(1 mark)

A) Oak
B) Holly
C) Scots pine
D) Yew

15. During Victorian times, a London sweet maker created a festive paper tube that made a snapping sound when pulled apart by two people. Today, this colourful item is placed on dinner tables across the UK for Christmas dinner, containing a paper hat, a small novelty, and a written joke.

Which seasonal UK dining-table item is described in the text?

(1 mark)

A) A Christmas card
B) A Christmas cracker
C) A Christmas wreath
D) A Christmas stocking

True/False Questions

16. True or False: Traditional British sweet mince pies eaten at Christmas contain a filling made primarily of dried fruits and spices rather than savoury meat.

(1 mark)

☐ True ☐ False

17. The winter festival of St Lucia's Day, celebrated with candle crowns and light processions on 13 December, is traditionally observed in Sweden.

(1 mark)

☐ True ☐ False

18. True or false: In the wild, polar bears and penguins live together in the Arctic.

(1 mark)

☐ True ☐ False

Fill in the Blank Questions

19. A Christmas cake goes into the oven at 10:45 am and bakes for 2 hours and 35 minutes. It will finish baking at _____ pm.

(1 mark)

20. A team has 85 festive mince pies to pack into boxes that hold 6 pies each. When as many full boxes as possible are packed, the number of leftover pies is _____.

(1 mark)

21. During Diwali, families clean their homes, decorate doorways with rangoli patterns, and place small clay oil lamps called diyas outside. Because of these glowing lamps symbolising the triumph of good over evil, Diwali is famously celebrated as the festival of _____.

(1 mark)

22. During December, days in the United Kingdom are short because the Northern Hemisphere is tilted _____ the Sun.

(1 mark)

23. On a cold winter morning, a birdbath cools down. Pure liquid water changes state and freezes into solid ice when its temperature drops to _____ degrees Celsius.

(1 mark)

24. A festive dinner plate includes **carrots**, **Brussels sprouts**, **parsnips**, and **Christmas pudding**. The odd one out is Christmas pudding because the other three items belong to the food group _____.

(1 mark)

25. Snow and hail fall from the clouds as frozen solids, but rain reaches the ground as a _____.

(1 mark)

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★ Answer Key ★

Multiple Choice Questions

1 **B**
Mistletoe

2 **C**
Prince Albert

3 **B**
26 December

4 **D**
£9.80

5 **C**
18

6 **C**
288

7 **C**
Menorah

8 **B**
First-footing

9 **B**
Winter solstice

10 **B**
Hazel dormouse

11 **C**
Frost

12 **A**
Reduce water loss when soil is frozen

13 **D**
Swallow

14 **A**
Oak

15 **B**
A Christmas cracker

True/False Questions

16 **True**

17 **True**

18 **False**

Fill in the Blank Questions

19 **1:20 pm**

20 **1**

21 **lights**

22 **away from**

23 **0**

24 **vegetable**

25 **liquid**