

## Hogmanay (C1)

A – Before you start

**Answer the questions with a partner.**

**1. Do you celebrate New Year?**

**2. If so, do you usually spend it with friends, or family, or both?**

**3. Are there any special customs in your country for New Year celebrations?**

B – Listen and answer

*Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).*

1. Hogmanay, the Scottish New Year celebration, lasts longer than in most countries.

2. Juliane Frank thinks the word *Hogmanay* comes from a French word meaning 'midwinter day'.

3. She says it was probably brought to Scotland by Mary Queen of Scots.

4. During the Reformation, New Year celebrations were banned in Scotland.

5. All over Scotland, people practise Loony Dook and dive into the sea and rivers.

6. The most common New Year tradition in Scotland is visiting family and friends with little gifts.

7. Edinburgh Hogmanay begins with a free torchlight procession on 29<sup>th</sup> December.

8. The largest free Hogmanay celebration in Scotland takes place in Inverness.

C – Read and answer

*Read the article and answer the questions.*

1. *Why did pagans celebrate around the time of the winter solstice?*

2. *Why doesn't Juliane Frank want to say the French word she believes Hogmanay originated from?*

3. *How did Mary Queen of Scots come to know French?*

4. *Why are the celebrations of Hogmanay bigger than those of Christmas in Scotland?*

5. *What kind of person is the ideal 'first footer'? Why?*

6. *What are the usual gifts that first footers bring?*

7. *Where does the Inverness Hogmanay celebration take place and what does it consist of?*

8. *How is the Stonehaven procession different from the Edinburgh procession?*

D – Learn it! Use it!

*Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)*

**1. It's dangerous to \_\_\_\_\_ into the sea from this pier. There are too many rocks.**

**2. Our manager has \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ to improve working conditions for the staff.**

**3. We've had little rain this summer, \_\_\_\_\_ last year when it rained for most of July.**

**4. Have you ever eaten Scottish \_\_\_\_\_? It's delicious!**

**5. My old phone was \_\_\_\_\_ good, but this new one is excellent.**

**6. We have a radiator in the lounge, but on very cold days we light the fire for extra \_\_\_\_\_.**

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test? (Reading and Use of English, Part 2)

*Complete the text. Use only one word in each space.*

*Auld Lang Syne* is a song <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ by many people on New Year's Eve, not <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in Scotland but in many countries around the world, to <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ farewell to the old year. It is also often used at funerals, graduations or closing ceremonies. The Guinness Book of World Records lists it <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ one of the most frequently sung songs in English. <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the text was written by Scottish poet Robert Burns in 1788, it was <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ on an earlier folk song.

At the stroke of midnight, people cross arms and <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ hands with the people next to them in order to sing *Auld Lang Syne*. Recent research <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ out by the University of Edinburgh has revealed that this was a parting ritual at many Masonic Lodges. Robert Burns was, in fact, a Freemason.

F – Write about it

*Write about your most memorable New Year's Eve. Mention:*

- *when it was;*
- *where you were;*
- *who you were with;*
- *what you did;*
- *why it was memorable.*

## Answers

B – Listen and answer

1. T 2. F – She thinks it comes from a French word meaning 'gala day'. 3. T 4. F – Christmas was banned. 5. F – Loony Dook is a regional custom, practised in South Queensferry. 6. T 7. F – It isn't free. You have to buy a ticket. 8. T

C – Read and answer

1. *They celebrated the fact that the shortest day of the year was over and that there was a new beginning with the days getting longer.* 2. *Because she thinks she won't be able to pronounce it correctly.* 3. *She grew up in France.* 4. *Because at one time celebrating Christmas was banned in Scotland, so people postponed the celebration till the end of the month.* 5. *The ideal first footer is a dark-haired man, because Vikings, who often brought trouble, were usually blond.* 6. *They usually bring symbolic gifts like bread or shortbread, whisky and coal.* 7. *It takes place along the River Ness and it consists of music, fireworks and entertainment.* 8. *In the Stonehaven procession, they juggle with fireballs. In the Edinburgh procession people carry torches.*

D – Learn it! Use it!

**1. dive 2. gone all out 3. unlike 4. shortbread 5. fairly 6. warmth**

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test?

**1. sung 2. only/just 3. say/bid 4. as 5. Although/Though 6. based 7. join/link/hold 8. carried**