

**Scuola Superiore Universitaria
di Toppo Wassermann
a.a. 2025/26
Classe umanistica**

Seconda prova: tema per la prova opzionale di Inglese. Il candidato/la candidata risponda alle domande seguenti.

TEST

PART 1. READING COMPREHENSION

The World's Most Unique Festivals

A. Bunya Nut Festival, Australia

Deep in the Glass House Mountains of Queensland, Australia, the Bunya Nut Festival celebrates the harvest of the bunya nuts, a sacred food for the Aboriginal people. Held every three years, this ancient gathering brings together various clans for feasting, ceremonies, and trade. Visitors can witness traditional dances, learn about Indigenous culture, and taste dishes prepared with the nutty, starchy bunya nuts. It's a profound cultural immersion that blends history, spirituality, and community.

B. Up Helly Aa, Scotland

In the Shetland Islands of Scotland, winter darkness is broken by the fiery spectacle of Up Helly Aa, a Viking fire festival. Held annually in January, thousands of participants, known as "Guizers," dress in Viking costumes and march through the streets, pulling a replica longship. The climax is the burning of the longship, symbolizing the end of winter and the rebirth of the sun. The air is thick with the scent of smoke and the cheers of the crowd, making it a thrilling historical reenactment and a testament to Norse heritage.

C. Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival, China

In the frigid city of Harbin, China, an entire city of ice and snow rises each winter. The Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival features colossal ice palaces, intricate snow sculptures, and illuminated ice lanterns. Artists from around the world converge to create breathtaking masterpieces, often reaching several stories high. Visitors can explore this fantastical frozen world, slide down ice slides, and enjoy various winter activities. It's an ephemeral wonderland that transforms the landscape into a glittering art exhibition.

D. La Tomatina, Spain

The small town of Buñol, Spain, becomes a riot of red once a year for La Tomatina, the world's largest food fight. Thousands of participants descend on the town to hurl ripe tomatoes at each other purely for fun. Originating from a spontaneous street brawl in the 1940s, it has evolved into a global spectacle of messy enjoyment. Trucks loaded with over a hundred metric tons of tomatoes roll through the streets, turning the town square into a squishy, red battlefield. It's a chaotic yet exhilarating experience, ending with a thorough wash-down.

B

E. Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, USA

Every October, the skies above Albuquerque, New Mexico, are filled with a kaleidoscope of colour during the International Balloon Fiesta. Hundreds of hot air balloons of all shapes and sizes ascend into the crisp morning air, creating a breathtaking panorama. Special events like the "Mass Ascension," where all balloons launch simultaneously, and the "Glowdeo," where tethered balloons light up at night, draw spectators from across the globe. It's a truly uplifting and visually stunning celebration of flight and community.

F. Diwali, India (and worldwide)

Diwali, the "Festival of Lights," is one of the most important and widely celebrated festivals in India, observed by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists. Spanning five days, it symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Homes are brightly lit with lamps and candles, fireworks illuminate the night sky, and families share sweets and gifts. It's a time for cleaning, decorating, and gathering, creating an atmosphere of joy, prosperity, and spiritual renewal.

Exercise no. 1 – choose the correct answer

Which festival celebrates an ancient harvest and indigenous culture?

- A. Bunya Nut Festival
- B. Up Helly Aa
- C. Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival
- D. La Tomatina
- E. Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
- F. Diwali

Which festival involves a dramatic and fiery display as its main event?

- A. Bunya Nut Festival
- B. Up Helly Aa
- C. Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival
- D. La Tomatina
- E. Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
- F. Diwali

Where might you experience a unique form of "urban art" that is temporary and re-created annually?

- A. Bunya Nut Festival
- B. Up Helly Aa
- C. Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival
- D. La Tomatina
- E. Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
- F. Diwali

Which festival is known for its joyful chaos and involves participants throwing something at each other?

- A. Bunya Nut Festival
- B. Up Helly Aa
- C. Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival
- D. La Tomatina
- E. Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
- F. Diwali

Which festival primarily signifies a victory of good over evil through symbolic lighting and celebration?

- A. Bunya Nut Festival
- B. Up Helly Aa
- C. Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival
- D. La Tomatina
- E. Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
- F. Diwali

Exercise No. 2. Look at the previous texts again and find a word having the meaning of:

- very cold:
- enormous:
- short-lived:
- originating:
- spiritual:

PART 2. Lexis

Exercise No. 1. Read the text on a journey to the mountains. Use the words in brackets to form a new word that fits into each blank.

Our recent trip to the Rocky Mountains was absolutely _____ (MEMORABLE). The scenery was truly _____ (BREATH), with towering peaks and lush valleys. We started our _____ (ASCEND) early in the morning, hoping to reach the summit by noon. The path was quite _____ (CHALLENGE), but the views made every step worthwhile. We were _____ (FORTUNE) enough to spot some wildlife, including a family of deer. Our guide, a very _____ (KNOWLEDGE) local, pointed out various plants and told us about the _____ (HISTORY) of the area. It was an _____ (FORGET) experience, and we're already planning our next adventure.

Exercise No. 2. Read the text on Renewable Energy and complete the missing words

The world is increasingly turning to renewable energy sources to combat climate (1) _____ and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Solar power, for (2) _____, harnesses the sun's (3) _____ to generate electricity through photovoltaic (4) _____. Wind power utilizes giant turbines to convert kinetic (5) _____ into electrical energy. Hydropower, (6) _____, uses the force of flowing water to drive generators. Geothermal energy taps into the Earth's internal (7) _____ to produce heat and electricity. While these sources offer a cleaner (8) _____ to conventional power generation, they also present challenges, such as intermittency and the need for efficient energy (9) _____ solutions. However, continuous research and (10) _____ are making them more viable and (11) _____. The global shift towards a sustainable energy (12) _____ is a complex but crucial endeavor for the future of our (13) _____. Many countries are setting ambitious targets for renewable energy (14) _____, aiming to create a greener and more resilient energy system. The (15) _____ of these technologies will determine our ability to achieve a carbon-neutral (16) _____.
