

**Контрольная работа по дискурсивной практике
для студентов специальности «Английский язык. Немецкий язык»
факультета заочного обучения (5 курс 9 семестр)
Вариант 2**

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Ex. 1 When speaking about traditional celebrations we use the words *festivity, festival feast, custom, tradition, rite, ritual*. Give the definitions of these words.

Traditions can be *rich, annual, movable, age-old, long-standing...*

Customs can be *age-old, established, quaint, local ...*

Holidays can be *national, public, religious ...*

Celebrations can be *great, noisy, little, quiet, joyous, special, national, pub, street ...*

Superstition can be *popular, age-old, ancient, pagan, primitive ...*

Continue the lists with at least 5 words for each line.

The following verbs may be helpful to describe holidays and celebrations: *to fall on, to celebrate, to acclaim, to commemorate, to pay homage (to), to uphold, to hold, to date back to, to break with, to observe, to join in, to mark.*

Verbs used to describe customs: *to follow, to observe, to respect, to maintain, to preserve, to revive, to die out, to prevail, to survive.*

Ex. 2 Fill in the gaps with one word (avoid using one and the same word several times).

Golden Apple Week ... from the 3^d to the 9th of September.

Every year, the villagers of Hartsby ... a (an) ... festival – the Week of the Golden Apple. Hartsby, at the centre of the apple-growing region, ... this ... tradition, which ... back ... the Middle Ages, at the ... of every September. The festival is held to ... the apple harvest. Come and ... in the ... and eat as many apples as you want!

Ex. 3 Fill the gaps in these sentences with suitable words from the list above.

amulet, foretell; fetish (make a fetish); ghost; magic; necromancy; occultism; vampire; voodoo; oracles; palmistry:

- 1) Make sure you clean your room before he comes; he ... of tidiness.
- 2) ... involves communicating with the spirits of the dead.
- 3) In ancient Greece and Rome, prophets known as ... events by interpreting messages from the deities.
- 4) Another type of divination, called ..., involves the prediction of events by reading the lines and marks of the hand.
- 5) A tooth or a piece of horn or wood can serve as an
- 6) The word ... comes from an African word that means god, spirit, or sacred object.
- 7) The ... of a murdered dairymaid is said to walk the farmyard at night.
- 8) ... is the supposed use of unnatural or supernatural power by a person to try to control human actions or natural events.
- 9) According to many folk stories, a ... must have a constant supply of fresh blood obtained by biting the neck of sleeping victims.
- 10) ... includes astrology, fortunetelling, magic and spiritualism – the belief that spirits of the dead communicate with the living.

Ex. 4 In most lines in this text there is one extra word. Write the extra word **out** or put a tick if the line is correct.

There can be wraiths of various kinds. Sometimes a man will often see his own double,	1
and this is often thought to be a sign of imminent death, particularly when the real man and his	2
shadow meet face to the face. The danger of this can sometimes be averted by vigorous speech,	3
when the ominous double can be fairly scolded away. Most often the wraith appears at the	4
moment of death to friends at a distance. Sometimes the man is seen double. Sometimes the	5
wraith is not ominous of his death, but merely goes where the person wishes	6
himself to go, and effects what he is unable in his own body to do. The appearance of	7
the wraith at death is possibly a some form of the same state, as in the story of the	8
dying mother who wished vehemently to never see her children once more, fell into a trance,	9
and woke calm and comforted, having been visited them and been seen by them.	10
Another group of stories very similar to these is about people who go back into the past	11
or who visit the distant places. Often these are seen as wraiths. Some of these experiences seem	12
well established. The separable soul or the Escaping Soul is not unlike the wraith, but has a slightly	13
different, very primitive philosophy right behind it. In these stories, which range over a wide	14
period of time, the soul is conceived of as if a tiny creature, often of a different shape from the	15
body—a bee, a lizard, or the like—which issues itself out of the sleeper’s mouth or ear and has	16
adventures suitable to its size, which are remembered by the waking man as its dreams. The belief	17
persisted until the end of the last century, and may yet still be found alive somewhere.	18

Ex. 5 Look at the speech by the best man at a wedding. He mixes informal and formal collocations, which produces a humorous effect.

Rewrite the speech making it sound informal (Some collocations are neutral).

Ladies and gentlemen, according to *long-standing* tradition, I now have to make a speech, but it’ll be very short, so here goes. I never thought Peter would ever *get hitched*, but he’s finally decided *to tie the knot*. Yesterday he was suffering from *pre-wedding jitters*, but today he looked calm and happy as he and Sally were *joined in matrimony*. So now, I’d like to *propose a toast* to the bride and groom. Please, *raise your glasses*. To Sally and Peter! May they have many years of wedded bliss!

Ex. 6 Read the text below and choose which answers, A, B, C, or D best fits each space. In some cases more than one word fit?

...(1) that evil is in some way connected with the number thirteen is ... (2) in many places. In Scotland thirteen is called the “Devil’s Dozen”; in Florence and Rome it is omitted in numbering the houses; in Italy it is not used on theatre boxes nor in making up lottery lists; in India the thirteenth year is ominous; in Persia the people ... (3) from pronouncing the number, and in Turkey it is seldom referred to in conversation.

Where this foolish ... (4) of the number thirteen ... (5) is unknown. Many people think that it came from the fact that thirteen men sat at the table when the Lord’s Supper was first celebrated in Jerusalem and that Judas was the last to take his seat among the disciples, but there is no evidence that he was the last; furthermore the ... (6) existed long before the Christian era. Loki, the Principal of Evil in Norse mythology, was reckoned the thirteenth of the Æsir or Demigods. The thirteen Valkyrs or Vergins waited at a banquet in Valhalla when Balder was slain by a contrivance of Loki.

The place where thirteen is most dreaded is at the table, as is indicated by the Dutch proverb: the thirteenth man brings death. As there is constant danger that a dinner party may include thirteen people, superstition shows its foolishness by a provision by which ... (7) consequences may be ... (8), for it is held that when the time comes to leave the table all may agree to rise together and thus prevent any ... (9).

In the chapel of the Tridinium Pauperum, adjoining the Church of St. Gregory at Rome, is a marble table on which is an inscription giving the following story: Pope Gregory the Great, it declares, was in the habit of entertaining twelve poor men every morning at breakfast. One day Jesus appeared as one in need and sat with the other men at Gregory's feast. As he made the thirteenth beggar at the meal the number could no longer be followed by evil consequence and from that time it became ... (10) of good luck.

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|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. A assurance | B conviction | C belief | D view |
| 2. A joint | B common | C shared | D trite |
| 3. A refrain | B stop | C cease | D abstain |
| 4. A awe | B dread | C fear | D terror |
| 5. A was born | B originated | C was put an end to | D emerged |
| 6. A notion | B theory | C superstition | D concept |
| 7. A wicked | B harmful | C injurious | D evil |
| 8. A attracted | B predicted | C averted | D turned away |
| 9. A misfortune | B misery | C calamity | D disaster |
| 10. A indicator | B token | C sign | D symbol |

Ex. 7 Study the idioms, sayings and proverbs, define their meaning. Choose three idioms and three proverbs to make up your own sentences (not those used in dictionaries for illustrating their meaning).

A fair treat, a feast to the eye, the feast of reason and a flow of soul, to be ridden with superstitions, old wives' tale, to have no leg to stand on, to frighten out of one's wits, to scare to death, a white which.

1. Enough is as good as a feast.
2. Good courage breaks ill luck.
3. Good luck comes by cuffing.
4. An ounce of luck is better than a pound of wisdom.
5. A lucky man needs little counsel.
6. Better to be born lucky than rich.
7. So many countries, so many customs.
8. Traditions wear a snowy beard.
9. Break the leg of an evil custom
10. Custom rules the law.

Ex 8 Find the appropriate titles to the texts describing American and English holidays given below.

American Holidays

1. A holiday in a few states, this day was first formally observed in Washington, DC, in 1866, when both houses of Congress gathered for a memorial address in tribute to the assassinated president. In some places, it is combined with Washington's Birthday and celebrated as President's Day.

2. Observed the second Sunday in May, as proposed by Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia in 1907. West Virginia was the first state to recognize the holiday in 1910, and President Woodrow Wilson officially proclaimed Mother's Day a national holiday in 1914.

3. The day of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, celebrated in all states and territories. The observance began the next year in Philadelphia.

4. It is the season in which the faithful must prepare themselves for the coming, or advent, of the Savior on Christmas. The four Sundays before Christmas are marked by special church services.

British Holidays

1. It is one of the few ritual rural customs to survive the passage of time. It takes place annually on Wakes Monday, offers a fascinating day out attracting visitors from all over the world. After collecting the horns from the church at eight o'clock in the morning, the Horn Dancers comprising six Deer-men, a Fool, Hobby Horse, Bowman and Maid Marian, perform their dance to music provided by a melodian player at locations throughout the village and its surrounding farms and pubs. At the end of a long and exhausting day, the horns are returned to the church in the evening. Attractions during the day include exhibitions, craft stalls and, of course, the local pubs.

2. Dating from the 19th century, it is a much-loved Cockney tradition. It started when a young boy covered a suit with pearly buttons to attract attention and to raise money for the poor at charity events and fairs. Other boroughs were so impressed that they got their own Pearly King or Queen. The tradition continues to thrive today and Pearly Kings and Queens can be seen in their full spectacle at the annual Pearly Kings and Queens Harvest Festival.

3. They are held all over England on or near Shrove Tuesday. The object of the race is to get to the finishing line first whilst flipping a pancake in a frying pan a pre-decided number of times. Competitors have to be local housewives and they must wear an apron and a hat or scarf. At the famous Westminster School in London, the annual Pancake Grease is held. A verger from Westminster Abbey leads a procession of eager boys into the playground where the school cook tosses a huge pancake over a five-metre high bar. The boys then race to grab a portion of the pancake and the one who ends up with the largest piece receives a cash bonus from the Dean.

4. Shrove Tuesday sees the start in Ashbourne, Derbyshire of the world's oldest, largest, longest and maddest football game. The game is played over two days and involves thousands of players. The goals are three miles apart and there are only a few rules. The ball is a hand-painted and cork-filled.

5. This ancient custom is popular all over Derbyshire and is thought to date back to the Celts or even earlier. The wells are dressed with large framed panels decorated with elaborate mosaic-like pictures made of flower petals, seeds, grasses, leaves, tree bark, berries and moss. Wooden trays are covered with clay, mixed with water and salt. A design is drawn and its outline pricked out onto the surface of the clay. The design is then filled in with natural materials, predominantly flower petals and mosses, but also beans, seeds and small cones. After the well dressing is erected next to the well it is blessed in a short outdoor service.

6. Protestant Irish march with drums and pipes to commemorate the Battle of Boyne, which occurred on Ireland's east coast in 1690. In Northern Ireland, it is a bank holiday. Schools and many businesses and organizations are closed.

In 1690, William III of England defeated the exiled Catholic king James II at the Battle of the Boyne. James, who had been in France, had invaded Ireland with French troops. Men wear orange sashes and black suits and bowler hats.

7. It takes place on the second Saturday in June at Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall in London. The official birthday of Queen Elizabeth II is marked each year by a military parade and march-past, known as Trooping the Colour (Carrying of the Flag). The official name is "the Queen's Birthday Parade". Each June, the Queen and other members of the Royal Family attend the ceremony to take the salute from thousands of guardsmen who parade the Colour (their regiment's flag).

The tradition goes back to the days when the Colours was trooped in front of soldiers to make sure everyone could recognise their flag in battle.

The parade route goes from Buckingham Palace along The Mall to Horseguards Parade, Whitehall and back again

Ex. 9 Scientists believe that the origins of some superstitions can be logically explained. Choose six of the superstitions given below and give your idea why they could emerge. Which of these British superstitions are similar to those in your country?

1. 1 Bride and groom must not meet on the day of the wedding except at the altar.
2. The bride should never wear her complete wedding clothes before the day.
3. Catch falling leaves in Autumn and you will have good luck. Every leaf means a lucky month next year.
4. Seeing bats flying and hearing their cries is the sign of bad luck.
5. Cross cutlery on your plate and expect a quarrel.
6. Don't sweep dirt out of the door after night; you will sweep yourself out of a home.
7. Don't step over anybody's leg; it will turn to a stick of wood.
8. Don't comb your hair at night, it will make you forgetful.
9. Don't measure yourself; it will make you die.
10. Don't lend or borrow salt or pepper; it will break friendship. If you must borrow it, don't pay it back.
11. Don't kill cats, dogs, or frogs; you will die in rags.
12. Friday is a cross day for marriage.
13. Marry in Lent and you'll live to repent.
14. He that laughs on Friday will weep on Sunday.

Ex. 10 Do you believe in clairvoyance? If not, then how do you think clairvoyants make correct predictions? If you do, then why do you think it is considered supernatural; can it be explained scientifically?

Ex. 11 Describe a festival or festivity that is special in your area. Use the words suggested in exercise 1 (200-250 words).

Ex. 12 Write about your family traditions (200 words).