

**Контрольная работа по дискурсивной практике  
для студентов специальности «Английский язык. Немецкий язык»  
факультета заочного обучения (5 курс 9 семестр)  
Вариант 1**

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2013г.*

**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.**

Ballynoe Fiddle Festival ... on the third Saturday of July, and the village becomes the ... of wild music for the whole day. The festival ... the ... of Pat Davy, a famous local ... . This year's special guests include Anne O'Keefe (fiddle) and Ger Downes (guitar), will ... the ... tradition of playing at the house where Darvey was born.

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

amulet; Blarney stone, divination; exorcism; tell the fortune; mental illness; moon light, omen (2); vampire; witchcraft:

1) He offered ... .

2) According to many folk stories, a ... must have a constant supply of fresh blood obtained by biting the neck of sleeping victims.

3) In the Roman Catholic church, an ... is a ceremony that consists of a series of prayers, recited over the possessed person.

4) ... is the practice of trying to learn about the unknown by magical or supernatural means.

5) According to legend anyone who kisses ... receives the gift of expressive, convincing speech.

6) A tooth or a piece of horn or wood can serve as an ... .

7) A good ... foretells a desirable event, and a bad ... forecasts disaster.

8) Psychiatrists sometimes refer to ... as mental disorders, emotional illnesses, or psychiatric illnesses.

9) European ... is anti-Christian and involves an association with, the devil.

10) According to one superstition, sleeping in ... could cause insanity.

**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.**

Our reporter, Chelsea Grey, goes to Otley Hall to experience a spooky weekend.

There have been signs of paranormal activity at Atley Hall at various times	1
over the last 200 years' of time. If headless huntsmen and wailing nuns	2
don't spook you out, do get this for a ghostly tale: a young Victorian man in	3
a silver gown emerges himself from the garden, walks through the front door,	4
whether or not will it happens to be open, and walk upstairs with a lantern,	5
before vanishing in the library. If local folklore it is to be believed, he does	6
this without fail at midnight on 6 September every year, this is being the date	7
of the untimely death of one George Carpenter, the gardener of the hall,	8
who met his doom in the library, had burned by his own lantern. Otley Hall	9
stands 3 miles north of the town of Rugby, England, and that is reputedly the	10
most haunted house in England, a claim which few who have never visited it	11
would dispute. Even the approach to the Hall is not much a journey to be	12
undertaken by the faint-hearted; at one point an executioner emerges	13
from the tree, was brandishing an axe, although it must be said this	14
practice ceases after September, when the Hall is closed to visitors.	15
My own visit revealed nothing more mysterious than such gimmicks,	16
laid on for an ever-gullible flow of tourists, cameras been at their sides,	17
eager to snap their buttons at the first sign of even remotely	18
unexplainable. But it was all having great fun, and the ghostly maze on	19
the final day was terrific, even if I did never get to see George Carpenter.	20

**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 formal** (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.**

Clairvoyance is an ability to (1)... things that will happen in the future. People (2)... have this extraordinary are called clairvoyants, and they use different techniques to tell you what your future will be. Sometimes they can predict your future just by (3)... the lines on your hand. Others use cards or crystal balls. Although scientists have no found proof that this skill exists, many people go to a clairvoyant to help them make difficult decisions. No-one (4)... how clairvoyants manage to see things. Some (5)... that they are very sensitive people who can (6)..., feel and see things that most of us can't. Others (7)... that they are in contact with the spirit world, and that they receive messages from beyond the grave. Many experiments have been done in laboratories to try to study the phenomenon, but in most cases, the clairvoyants (8)... to lose their powers when they were being (9)... and measured. Those who believe in clairvoyance (10)... scientific methods too strict a way to investigate it – this strange skill is outside the boundaries of science.

- |                  |              |                    |                 |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 A look         | B see        | C watch            | D observe       |
| 2 A they         | B which      | C can              | D who           |
| 3 A watching for | B seeing to  | C looking at       | D noticing      |
| 4 A knows        | B is knowing | C has been knowing | D will know     |
| 5 A believed     | B believe    | C were believing   | D are believing |
| 6 A receive      | B catch      | C listen           | D hear          |

- |                   |                   |           |              |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------|
| 7 A are thinking  | B thought         | C think   | D thing      |
| 8 A went          | B were seeming    | C seemed  | D were going |
| 9 A looked        | B watched         | C tried   | D seen       |
| 10 A are thinking | B are considering | C thought | D consider   |

**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 federal holiday observed on the third Monday in January that honors the late civil rights leader. It became a federal holiday in 1986.

2. The seventh Wednesday before Easter and the first day of Lent, which lasts 40 days. Having its origin sometime before A.D. 1000, it is a day of public penance and is marked in the Roman Catholic Church by the burning of the palms blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday. With the ashes from the palms the priest then marks a cross with his thumb upon the forehead of each worshipper. The Anglican Church and a few Protestant groups in the United States also observe the day, but generally without the use of ashes.

3. A federal holiday observed the first Monday in September. It was first celebrated in New York in 1882 under the sponsorship of the Central Labor Union, following the suggestion of Peter J. McGuire, of the Knights of Labor, that the day be set aside in honor of labor.

4. It is a federal holiday, established in 1926 to commemorate the signing in 1918 of the armistice ending World War I. On June 1, 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor all men and women who have served America in its armed forces.

5 This day commemorates the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the apostles 50 days after the Resurrection. "Whitsunday" is believed to have come from "white Sunday," when, among the English, white robes were worn by those baptized on the day.

## British Holidays

1. In Britain, they have given thanks for successful harvests since pagan times. They celebrate this day by singing, praying and decorating churches with baskets of fruit and food in a festival, usually during the month of September. It reminds Christians of all the good things God gives them. This makes them want to share with others who are not so fortunate. In schools and in Churches, people bring food from home to a special service. After the service, the food that has been put on display is usually made into parcels and given to people in need.

2. This day used to be held as a festival in England and observed until the 16th century. According to custom, on second Monday after Easter the women of the village seized and bound men, demanding a small payment for their release. On the Tuesday of Hocktide the men similarly waylaid the women. The takings were paid to the churchwarden for parish work.

3. In Scarborough, on Shrove Tuesday, everyone assembles on the promenade to skip. Long ropes are stretched across the road and there maybe be ten or more people skipping on one rope. The origins of this customs are not known but skipping was once a magical games, associated with the sowing and spouting of seeds, which may have been played on barrows (burial mounds) during the Middle Ages.

4. It is a traditional English form of folk dancing, performed by groups of men or women in rural England. . The name may refer to the possibility of the form of dancing coming to England from the Moors of North Africa; or it may have been called 'Moor-ish' simply because the dancers sometimes painted their faces black, and people compared this to the dark-skinned Moors. The dancing is very lively and accompanied by an accordion player, a melodeon or fiddle player or a noisy band with a drum. The dancers wear different clothes depending on the part of the country in which they dance. They are often dressed in white with coloured baldrics (coloured belts) across their chests. There are usually six or eight dancers arranged in two lines or in a circle facing each other. The dancers may carry white handkerchiefs that they shake, or short sticks that they bang against each other as they dance. Some dancers have bell-pads tied at their knees, which make a loud and cheerful rhythm as they dance.

5. 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 recognize their flag in battle.

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

6. It is the first Monday after Twelfth Night, a day when ploughmen traditionally blackened their faces and marked the end of the Christmas period for the agricultural communities.

As agricultural work was scarce in the winter, farm labourers disguised themselves, by blacking their faces with soot, to get money by dragging a decorated plough around the larger houses in the villages. As they dragged the plough they would shout out "Penny for the ploughboys!".

Ploughs were often decorated with colourful rags/ribbons.

They were often accompanied by someone acting the Fool. This character would often be dressed in animal skins and a tail, and carried a pig's bladder on the end of a stick.

**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).**