

## A. Reading comprehension

Read the following text and then answer the questions:

### Training to be a Geisha

The white face, the dark eyes and hair, the blood red lips – both Japanese and foreigners are fascinated by these beautiful and **mysterious** women. Makika is training to be a geisha. Not many girls want to become a geisha in Japan today. Makiko's parents wanted her to go to university, study medicine and become a doctor. But Makiko's grandfather paid for her training and bought the kimonos she needed. It's very **expensive** to become a geisha. You have to have a **different** kimono for each month of the year, and today a kimono can cost three million yens, that is about 25.000 dollars.

It's a hard life for a trainee geisha. She has to leave her family and move into a special **boarding house**. Here, she has to learn traditional Japanese arts such as playing instruments, the tea ceremony, flower arranging, singing and dancing. She has to take a lot of **difficult** exams. Only the **best** will become geishas many years later.

We asked Makiko to describe exactly what a geisha does. "A geisha has to serve customers and also **entertain** them. She has to sing, dance, and make conversation." A geisha can have relationships like everybody else and she can also get married.

In Japan today there are **fewer** than a thousand geishas, but they play an important **role** in **preserving** Japanese culture and history.

**1. Answer the following questions in complete sentences (do not copy from the text):** (10 points)

1.1 Describe a geisha.

1.2 Why did Makiko's parents not want their daughter to become a geisha?

1.3 Why is the life for geisha trainees hard?

1.4 What do geishas have to do?

1.5 Why are geishas important for Japan?

**2. Are the following sentences true or false?** (5 points)

2.1 A lot of women in Japan today want to become geishas.

2.2 A geisha needs a different kimono for every week of the year.

2.3 A geisha can't speak to her customers.

2.4 A geisha has to sing and dance for her customers.

2.5 A geisha has to stay single.

## **B. Vocabulary**

1. **Explain the following words in English using a synonym or giving an example: (5 points)**

**mysterious**

**boarding house**

**entertain**

**role**

**preserve**

2. **What are the opposites of these words?** (5 points)

**expensive**

**different**

**difficult**

**best**

**fewer**

3. **What are the nouns of these verbs** (3 points)

**fascinate**

**describe**

**traditional**

## C. Grammar

### 1. Complete the following sentences. Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple. (5 points)

1.1 Last winter I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to stay with my grandmother in Australia.

1.2 The flight \_\_\_\_\_ (be) at nine in the morning but I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) to be at the airport at seven.

1.3 My mother \_\_\_\_\_ (wake) me up at five and \_\_\_\_\_ (give) me a cup of tea.

### 2. Make these sentences negative. Be careful of tense. (5 points)

2.1 Peter took the last packet of crisps.

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2.2 Mary is going to the cinema with her friends tonight.

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2.3 I like reading English thrillers.

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2.4 They can play tennis very well.

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2.5 She lost her camera in Italy.

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### 3. Put the words in the correct order to make questions. (3 points)

3.1 are / this / you / do / what / to / evening / going

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?

3.2 you / the / week / conference / last / at / were

---

?

3.3 games / he / does / computer / playing / like / the / on

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?

**4. Complete these sentences with the following verbs in the present simple:  
fly, go, play, have, watch (5 points)**

- 4.1 Jack \_\_\_\_\_ to work at eight every morning.  
4.2 Frank \_\_\_\_\_ football every Friday night.  
4.3 Mary often \_\_\_\_\_ a DVD in the evening.  
4.4. My best friend is a pilot; he \_\_\_\_\_ planes.  
4.5 He \_\_\_\_\_ a new dog.

**5. Make questions for these sentences. Ask for the information which is underlined. (5 points)**

- 5.1 William Shakespeare died in 1623.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
?  
5.2 Mary bought three new dresses.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
?  
5.3 Anne went to London by train.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
?  
5.4 He is a famous football player. He earns 1 million pounds.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
?  
5.5 They travelled to America last year.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
?

**6. Complete the following sentences using present simple or present continuous. (5 points)**

- 6.1 He \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a newspaper on the train every morning.  
6.2 She \_\_\_\_\_ (do) her homework at the moment.  
6.3 I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a cup of coffee. Would you like one?  
6.4 I often \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to music when I study.  
6.5 Please be quiet. The baby \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep).

## **D. Text production**

This is part of a letter you have received from an English friend:

*I would like to go to the cinema. Have you seen any interesting films recently?*

Write a letter to your English friend and tell him / her about a film you have seen.

(80-100 words). (10 points)