

## 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.

A geisha has a white face, blood red lips and dark eyes and hair.

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

They wanted her to go to university and become a doctor.

1.3 Why is the life for geisha trainees hard?

They have to leave their families and live in a boarding house. They have to learn traditional Japanese arts and they have to take difficult exams.

1.4 What do geishas have to do?

They have to entertain their customers by singing and dancing and they have to make conversation.

1.5 Why are geishas important for Japan?

They are part of the Japanese culture.

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

- 2.1 A lot of women in Japan today want to become geishas. **F**
- 2.2 A geisha needs a different kimono for every week of the year. **F**
- 2.3 A geisha can't speak to her customers. **F**
- 2.4 A geisha has to sing and dance for her customers. **T**
- 2.5 A geisha has to stay single. **F**

**B. Vocabulary**

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

mysterious	<b>strange, something you cannot understand</b>
boarding house	<b>a house where you pay for your accommodation</b>
entertain	<b>amuse; here also: speak, sing, dance</b>
role	<b>part</b>
preserve	<b>conserve, maintain</b>

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

expensive	<b>cheap</b>
different	<b>similar, identical, same</b>
difficult	<b>easy</b>
best	<b>worst</b>
fewer	<b>more</b>

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

fascinate	<b>fascination</b>
describe	<b>description</b>
traditional	<b>tradition</b>

## C. Grammar

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

1.1 Last winter I **went** to stay with my grandmother in Australia.

1.2 The flight **was** at nine in the morning but I **had** to be at the airport at seven.

1.3 My mother **woke** me up at five and **gave** 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.

**Peter didn't take the last packet of crisps**

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

**Mary isn't going to the cinema with her friends tonight.**

2.3 I like reading English thrillers.

**I don't like reading English thrillers.**

2.4 They can play tennis very well.

**They can't play tennis very well.**

2.5 She lost her camera in Italy.

**She didn't lose her camera.**

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

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

**What are you going to do this evening?**

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

**Were you at the conference last week?**

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

**Does he like playing games on the computer?**

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

4.1 Jack **goes** to work at eight every morning.

4.2 Frank **plays** football every Friday night.

4.3 Mary often **watches** a DVD in the evening.

4.4. My best friend is a pilot; he **flies** planes.

4.5 He **has** 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.

**When did William Shakespeare die?**

5.2 Mary bought three new dresses.

**How many new dresses did Mary buy?**

5.3 Anne went to London by train.

**How did Anne go to London?**

5.4 He is a famous football player. He earns 1 million pounds.

**How much (money) does he earn?**

5.5 They travelled to America last year.

**Where did they travel last year?**

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

6.1 He **reads** a newspaper on the train every morning.

6.2 She **is doing** her homework at the moment.

6.3 I **am having** 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 **is sleeping**.

## **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)