

A. Reading comprehension

Read the following text and then answer the questions:

Cultural Influences

Britain has a long history of influence from foreign cultures. The Romans started the **trend** 2000 years ago, when they invaded the country. More recently, **immigrants** have come from war-torn countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Bosnia. Some people in Britain are worried that immigration levels are too high, but for each of the last forty years more people have left the country than have immigrated there. Most immigrants these days come from Europe, North America and Australia, not the poorer countries of Africa and Asia. The black and Asian population of Britain is only 6% of the total population, and over half of these were born in Britain – they are not immigrants.

Many immigrants in the UK live in London, where over 300 different languages are spoken in schools. You might be **surprised** to learn that there are more people living in London who were born in Germany, Italy, France or Spain than people who were born in Bangladesh or Pakistan.

Bend It Like Beckham is a story of an Asian girl living in suburban Britain who wants to play football, not cook traditional Indian food. She joins in with the boys, until she **bonds** with a girl who plays football for a girl's team. But for young British people, this film is not only about fitting in to a different culture, but also about what it's like to be young, to have parents who don't **understand** your dreams. *East Is East* is another British film comedy about a British Pakistani family in the North of England. People loved it for its **accurate** representation of life in Britain in the 1970s.

Benjamin Zephaniah is one of Britain's most popular contemporary poets. His parents were from Jamaica but he was born in Birmingham, England in 1958. At his first school, he felt left out because he was the only black boy. He settled in better at his next school, where he started performing his rhyme, rap and poetry in public. Nowadays, he is not afraid to talk about serious **issues** such as race and animal rights – he calls his poetry 'street politics' – but his poems are often very **funny**. They are very rhythmical, influenced by Jamaican music and dialect:

*'Be nice to yu turkeys dis Christmas,
Don't eat it, like it alive,
It could be yu mate, an not on your plate
Say, Yo! Turkey I'm not on your side.'*

The immigration population has had a big influence on the British music scene. West Indian culture and music inspired a number of British reggae bands such as UB40 in the 1980s, and in the 1990s Asian artists began to stand out. Cornershop's *Brimful of Asha* was a **huge** hit, and Talvin Singh became the first Asian to win the Mercury Music Prize. More recently artists such as Rishi Rich and Panjabi MC have successfully mixed traditional Asian Bhangra music with modern dance beats.

1. Answer the following questions in complete sentences (do not copy from the text) (9 points)

1.1 What are the different foreign influences on Britain? (3)

1.2 What is *Bend It Like Beckham* all about? (2)

1.3 What is the message of *Bend It Like Beckham*? (2)

1.4 How did Benjamin Zephaniah feel about his schools? (2)

2. True, false or doesn't say (DS)? (3 points)

- a. More than 300 languages are spoken in Britain's schools. **True/False/DS**
- b. The Girl in *Bend It Like Beckham* is from India. **True/False/DS**
- c. Bend It Like Beckham is a film about life in Britain in the 1979s. **True/False/DS**

B. Vocabulary

1. What are the opposites of these words (2 points)

funny

huge

2. Explain the following words in English using a synonym or giving an example: (6 points)

trend

surprised

to understand

to bond

accurate

issues

C. Grammar

1. Make these sentences negative. Use the same tense. (3 points)

1.1 Today's immigrants come from poor countries.

1.2 Benjamin Zephaniah's parents were from India.

1.3 He got inspired by some British musicians.

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

2.1 _____ ?
Benjamin Zephaniah didn't like his first school.

2.2 _____ ?
His parents left Jamaica because they hoped for a better future.

2.3 _____ ?
He began to make music at his new school.

2.4 _____ ?
He went to this school for four years.

2.5 _____ ?
He meets some Indian fans at his performances.

3. Complete the following sentences using present simple (e.g. I do) or present continuous (e.g. I am doing). (8 points)

3.1 I _____ (like) the dress you _____ (wear) today.

3.2 Usually, I _____ (work) as a secretary at ABT, but this summer I _____ (study) French at a language school in Paris. That is why I am in Paris.

3.3 - _____ you _____ (want) to come over for dinner tonight? -Oh, I'm sorry, I can't. I _____ (go) to a movie tonight with some friends.

3.4 Marie-Claire isn't Canadian. I _____ (believe) she _____ (come) from France.

4. Complete the following sentences using past simple (e.g. I did) or past continuous (e.g. I was doing). (10 points)

Last week I decided to invite some friends to dinner. I _____ (buy) lots of delicious food, including some Parma ham and at about 6.00 I _____ (cook) in the kitchen. The sun _____ (shine) and it was a beautiful evening, so the back door was open. Then the telephone _____ (ring). I answered it and when I _____ (come) back, the ham wasn't on the table. Outside a cat _____ (sit) on my garden wall and it _____ (eat) my ham. What could I do? I filled a pan with water and I went quietly outside. The cat _____ (not look) in my direction, it _____ (enjoy) the ham so much that it _____ (not hear) me. So I _____ (throw) the water at it so that it would let go of the ham.

5. Complete the following sentences. Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple (e.g. I did) (7 points)

Last year I _____ (spend) my holiday in Ireland. It was great. I _____ (drive) around by car with two friends and we _____ (see) lots of interesting places. I also _____ (write) some postcards to my friends. We also _____ (pay) a visit to my friend's relatives. Unfortunately I _____ (fall) on the last day and _____ (hurt) my ankle badly.

D. Text production

Choose one of the following topics and write a short text (about 80-100 words). (10 points)

1. My favourite music style
2. What culture(s) influence(d) music, literature, film or sport in Switzerland?
3. Which country would you like to emigrate to?