

# FOLLOWING THE RAINBOW: ST PATRICK'S DAY EXAM PRACTICE

## PRELIMINARY: WHEN TRADITIONS CHANGE



### Warm-up: Learn About Saint Patrick's Day!

#### Part 1 – Saint Patrick's Day Riddles



Can you guess what St. Patrick's words are being described here?

You wear this colour and it rhymes with **seen**.

This plant has three leaves and it rhymes with **rock**.

You walk in this and it rhymes with **trade**.

You might find treasure at the end of this and it rhymes with **low**.

Leprechauns leave this and it rhymes with **cold**

#### Part 2 – Word Race

How many words can you make from the letters "S A I N T P A T R I C K S D A Y"?

(Examples: ink, paint, sat)

Try to find at least 10 words! The winner is the pair with the most words

#### Part 3 – Would You Rather?

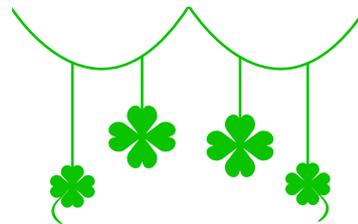
Choose and explain your answer.

1. Small traditional village celebration OR huge city parade?
2. Religious ceremony OR music concert?
3. Celebrate with family OR thousands of strangers?



# Reading: Changing Traditions

## Reading Part 3



Read the text and choose **A**, **B** or **C**.

St Patrick's Day began as a religious feast day in Ireland to honour St Patrick, the patron saint who helped spread Christianity across the country. For centuries, the celebration was mainly a quiet and respectful occasion. Families attended church services, shared traditional meals and spent time together. There were no large public events, and the day focused on faith rather than entertainment.

However, during the nineteenth century, many Irish people emigrated to countries such as the United States, Canada and Australia. In these new communities, St Patrick's Day gradually changed. Irish immigrants organised parades to celebrate their identity and to show pride in their heritage. One of the most famous parades began in New York City, where it is still held every year and attracts enormous crowds.

In the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, the festival became increasingly international. Today, cities around the world celebrate the day with concerts, street performances and even rivers dyed green. While this has helped promote Irish culture globally, some critics argue that the original religious meaning has been lost. They believe the festival now focuses too much on tourism, business and alcohol.

Nevertheless, supporters argue that traditions always evolve over time. In their view, the modern festival still connects people to Irish history and identity, even if it looks very different from the original celebration

1. In the past, St Patrick's Day was mainly

- A a political event
- B a religious celebration
- C a public parade

2. The festival began to change when

- A Ireland became independent
- B young people redesigned it
- C Irish people emigrated

3. The New York parade is mentioned as an example of

- A religious tradition
- B international influence
- C modern criticism

4. Some critics believe the festival today

- A is too expensive
- B has lost its original meaning
- C is not popular

5. Supporters think the modern festival

- A still has cultural importance
- B should return to being religious
- C will disappear soon



# Speaking:

Take turns to describe the pictures below.

Describe:

- What people are doing
- How they might feel
- What might happen next



## PET Speaking Practice – Picture Description



Picture 1: A traditional Irish dance performance on stage



Picture 2: A huge city parade with green fireworks

## PET Exit Ticket: “One Minute Later...”

Look at one of the pictures again.

Now imagine what happens **one minute later**.

Your task:

1. **Draw a small quick sketch** of what happens next.
2. **Write 3–5 sentences** explaining:
  - What is happening now
  - How the people feel
  - Why the situation has changed

# Answer Keys

## Part 1 – Saint Patrick’s Day Riddles

You wear this colour and it rhymes with **seen.** - GREEN

This plant has three leaves and it rhymes with **rock.** - SHAMROCK

You walk in this and it rhymes with **trade.** - PARADE

You might find treasure at the end of this and it rhymes with **low.** - RAINBOW

Leprechauns leave this and it rhymes with **cold.** - GOLD

## Reading: Changing Traditions

1. C
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. A

## PET Exit Ticket: “One Minute Later...”

### Example Prompts

For the dance picture:

- Does someone fall?
- Does the audience stand up?
- Does something go wrong with the music?

For the parade picture:

- Do the fireworks stop?
- Does it start raining?
- Does someone famous appear?