HALLOWEEN

"There is nothing funny about Halloween. This sarcastic festival reflects, rather, an infernal demand for revenge by children on the adult world."

Jean Baudrillard (1929 – 2007), French philosopher

1. Halloween Discussion

1. Do people in your country celebrate Halloween? Do you?
2. Did you celebrate Halloween when you were a child?
3. When did people start celebrating Halloween in your country? Is it becoming more or less popular?
4. What do people do in your country for Halloween?
5. What things are most associated with Halloween?
6. Which films would be good to watch on Halloween?
7. What food is associated with Halloween?
8. Do you know anything about the origins of Halloween?

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2. Halloween Vocabulary

- **ghost** (noun) – *the visible spirit of a dead person or animal.*
- **witch** (noun) – *a woman who practices witchcraft or black magic.*
- **costume** (noun) – *a set of clothes that resembles people or objects or from a certain period in history.*
- **pumpkin** (noun) – *a large orange vegetable; on Halloween it is traditional to carve a face into the pumpkin which is then known as a 'Jack O'Lantern'.*
- **(to) trick or treat** (verb, noun) – *the custom of children calling at people's houses on Halloween in costumes to receive treats (usually chocolate or sweets/candies) or to commit tricks (usually pranks or other annoying actions) if they do not receive a treat.*
- **Celts, Celtic** (noun, adjective) – *an ancient people from Europe and their modern-day cultural descendants.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. In the past, women accused of being a _____ were burnt alive.
2. Last year I went _____ and people gave me all kinds of candies.
3. Once I've carved a face in my _____, I put a candle inside and put it on my doorstep.
4. Boudica, a _____ queen of the ancient Britons, fought many battles against the Romans.
5. I've heard that hotel is haunted; apparently, there is a headless _____ that walks down the corridors.
6. My brother always wears his Spiderman _____ for Halloween.

Halloween vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Are you afraid of ghosts? What would you do if you saw one?
2. Do you think witches could be real? Did they exist in the past?
3. Have you ever worn a costume for Halloween? If so, what was it?
4. Do you put a pumpkin outside your house on Halloween?
5. Do people go trick or treating in your country? Have you ever done this?
6. Which countries or regions are considered Celtic today?

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3. Video: The Origins of Halloween

You are going to watch a video by HuffPost called "The Surprising History of Halloween".

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-halloween/

Multiple choice

1. How many people celebrate Halloween across America each year?
   a) thousands b) millions c) billions
2. Many Halloween traditions originated from which religion?
   a) Judaism b) Hinduism c) Christianity
3. Which people said "even" instead of "eve"?
   a) the Scottish b) the Irish c) the Welsh
4. Who believed that summer came to an end on October 31st?
   a) the Gauls b) the Romans c) the Celts

Sentence completion

5. People believed that during Samhain, spirits and fairies could easily _____ into our world.
6. Families would leave food and wine on their doorstep to keep _____ at bay.
7. Celts believed that wearing _____ helped to honour the good spirits and avoid the bad ones.
8. In the _____ century, Pope Gregory IV changed the date of All Saints Day to coincide with Samhain.

Short answer

9. What did children collect in the custom of souling?
10. What did masked dancers receive in exchange for dancing in the custom of guising?
11. As a result of the potato famine, who moved to the United States in great numbers?
12. When did Halloween take on its more familiar family form?

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4. Halloween Conversation Questions

1. What are the best treats you can get on Halloween? What kind of tricks could you play on someone who didn't give you a treat?
2. Have you ever tried pumpkin spice latte? Why do people go crazy for it?
3. What are the best Halloween costumes you have seen?
4. Is it acceptable to wear any costume on Halloween, or should it be something scary? Why?
5. Isn't Halloween just another scheme by shops to make you spend a lot of money?
6. Are there any similar traditions to Halloween from your culture?
7. What are some legends of monsters or scary creatures from your country? Do you know any ghost stories?
8. Is Halloween a bad influence on children? Should it be banned?

5. Halloween Writing Task

Write about the Halloween traditions of your country. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this class. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- What people do on Halloween.
- When and why this tradition became popular.
- Whether you think it is a good thing or a bad thing for children.

Alternative exam practice question:

For some people, Halloween is harmless fun for children to enjoy. For others, Halloween is a bad influence on them. Who do you agree with?

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