



Culture and Traditions

Note-taking: local festivals | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. What traditional food is popular where you live?
2. Why do communities organise food festivals?
3. How can festivals teach people about culture?
4. What could go wrong at a busy public event?

Exercise 3 at a glance

In this activity, you will read one factual text and complete notes using information from the text. In the exam, this task is usually worth 7 marks. This practice version includes extra notes to help you build confidence. Use short words or phrases from the text, not your own ideas.

2. Read for overall understanding

Read the text. What are two purposes of local food festivals?

Local Food Festivals

Local food festivals are often organised to celebrate local food and teach visitors about culture. A festival may focus on one famous dish, a seasonal ingredient or recipes brought by different communities. Visitors can taste food, watch cooking demonstrations and listen to short talks about where dishes come from.

For small businesses, a festival can be an opportunity to meet customers. Bakers, farmers and restaurant owners may sell samples, hand out menus and explain how ingredients are produced. Some festivals invite students from catering courses to help on stalls. This gives young people experience of customer service and food hygiene rules.

Cultural organisers often plan activities beyond eating. There may be music, traditional clothing displays and storytelling sessions for children. Volunteers sometimes collect family recipes and display them beside photographs of older residents. These displays show that food is connected to memory, migration and identity, not only taste.

Large events need careful organisation. Stalls require enough space, rubbish bins must be emptied regularly and visitors need clear signs to toilets and exits. If food is served outdoors, organisers must protect it from heat, rain and insects. A festival can feel relaxed to visitors, but it depends on detailed planning behind the scenes.

Weather can affect the success of a food festival. If the event is outdoors, organisers may need covered seating, drinking water and a plan for moving demonstrations inside. They also need to think about visitors who cannot eat certain foods for health or religious reasons. Clear labels help people make safe choices. When these details are handled well, visitors can enjoy the event without feeling confused or excluded.

After the festival, organisers may ask stall holders and visitors for feedback. This helps them decide whether prices were fair, queues were too long or signs were clear enough. The feedback can also show which traditions visitors understood and which needed better explanation.

A festival can also support language learning. Students may interview stall holders, read menus and compare formal signs with informal spoken explanations. This gives them practice with real public information, where the wording is not always as controlled as a classroom text.

3. Strategy focus

Use the heading to sort details

The same event can have cultural, practical and business details. Put each note under the heading it fits best.

4. Practice note-taking task

Complete the notes using information from the text. Use short words or phrases from the text. Do not add your own ideas.

Notes	Write short answers
What visitors can do	- - -
Business opportunities	- - -
Cultural activities	- - -
Practical organisation	- - -

5. Vocabulary notebook

Underline five useful words or phrases from the text. Check their meaning, then record them in your vocabulary notebook.

6. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: Which food would you include in a local festival?
2. Strategy: Choose three answers and underline where each answer begins and ends in the text.
3. Writing: Write a short description of a food festival for visitors.
4. Vocabulary: Circle words and phrases connected to culture, food and traditions.

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2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: to celebrate local food and teach visitors about culture.

4. Practice note-taking task

What visitors can do

- taste food
- watch cooking demonstrations
- listen to short talks

Business opportunities

- meet customers
- sell samples
- hand out menus

Cultural activities

- traditional clothing displays
- storytelling sessions
- collect family recipes

Practical organisation

- rubbish bins must be emptied regularly
- clear signs to toilets and exits
- protect it from heat, rain and insects / protect food from heat, rain and insects

Notes for checking

This is an extended practice version of the IGCSE ESL note-taking task. The live exam normally has fewer marks, but this version includes extra notes to build confidence and selection skills.

Accept short phrases that keep the same meaning.

Learners should avoid copying a whole sentence if a shorter note answers the heading.

Some answers need more than one or two words, especially when the key detail is a phrase.