



Culture and Traditions

Article: should schools celebrate more cultural festivals?

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. Which cultural celebrations are important where you live?
2. How can students learn from festivals or traditions?
3. What can make a cultural event difficult to organise fairly?

Exercise 6 at a glance

Write an article, often for a school magazine.

Use a catchy title and opening hook.

Develop ideas with reasons and examples.

Use a semi-formal, engaging style.

2. Exam-style task

Your class has recently discussed whether schools should celebrate more cultural festivals. Write an article for your school magazine about this topic.

Here are some comments from students to help you:

'Festival days help us understand each other better.'

'Food, music and stories make learning memorable.'

'Some traditions are hard to explain in one short event.'

'Schools must be careful not to leave anyone out.'

Now write an article for your school magazine.

The comments may give you some ideas, and you should also use some ideas of your own.

Write about 120 to 160 words.

3. Model article

More Than a Festival Day

Can one school event help students understand different cultures? This question came up after our class discussed festival days. In a busy school, cultural celebrations can be more than colourful decorations and food stalls.

On one hand, these events can make learning memorable. When students hear music, taste traditional food or listen to family stories, culture becomes real rather than just a topic in a textbook. Festival days can also help students feel proud of their background and give others a reason to ask respectful questions.

However, schools need to plan these events carefully. Some traditions are difficult to explain in a short assembly, and there is a risk of making them seem too simple. It is also important that quieter cultures or smaller communities are not ignored.

In my opinion, schools should celebrate cultural festivals, but they should involve students and families in the planning. If events are respectful and varied, they can help everyone learn more about the people around them, not just enjoy a break from normal lessons.

4. Explore the model: structure, content and register

Work with the model article. Underline, label or make short notes.

Focus	What to find	Done?
Article structure	Find the title, hook, main ideas, contrast and final opinion.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer explain benefits of cultural celebrations?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain why planning must be careful?	
Final view	Where does the writer suggest how schools should organise events?	
Audience and register	Find two places where the article sounds lively but suitable for a school magazine.	
Development	Find one detail, example or effect that improves the answer.	

5. Language from the task prompts

The task prompts can guide your grammar and content choices. Notice which language each prompt naturally needs.

Prompt	Useful language	Why it fits	Example from the model
why festivals help	sensory examples + result language	You are showing how the event makes learning meaningful.	hear music, taste traditional food / culture becomes real
possible problems	caution + risk language	You are explaining why schools must be thoughtful.	need to plan carefully / there is a risk of...
your view	conditional recommendation	You are giving a clear view and condition.	schools should celebrate... / If events are respectful...

6. Build an engaging article

Notice how article phrases help you interest the reader and organise ideas clearly.

Job	Useful article phrases
hook the reader	Can one school event help students understand each other? / What can we learn from festival days? / Is culture more than a display?
add context	This question came up after... / In a busy school... / Many students had different views on...
introduce benefits	On one hand... / these events can make... / They can give students a chance to...
show caution	However... / there is a risk of... / Schools need to be careful because...
add examples	When students hear... / food, music or stories / For example, students might...
finish with a view	In my opinion... / If events are respectful... / The best approach would be to...

7. Vocabulary and useful article phrases

Use chunks that sound natural for this task. You can also upgrade your writing with precise words and phrases.

Purpose	Useful chunks / language	Add your own
describe festivals	festival days / cultural celebrations / traditional food / family stories	
describe benefits	make learning memorable / feel proud of their background	
describe concerns	difficult to explain / too simple / not ignored	
sound article-like	more than colourful decorations / culture becomes real	
upgrade ideas	respectful and varied / involve students and families	

8. Plan your own article

Use the same task, or change the details to another cultural event at school.

Section	My idea	Useful language
catchy title		
opening hook / context		
benefits of festivals		
concerns / other side		
final view / suggestion		

