

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

(please read twice)

OXFORD CUSTOMS

May Morning

Oxford's May Day tradition is celebrated at Magdalen, where (chilly) college students sing carols and madrigals from atop the tower at 6am! Their selection always includes the *Hymn of Thanksgiving*, written about 1600 and sung in Latin. Large crowds gather to hear the bell ringing and watch morris dancing following the ceremony. Traffic is banned from the High Street. Having greeted Spring, the revellers repair to a warming breakfast in the town's cafés and pubs, which open early on that day.

Morris Dancing

This is another time-honoured part of the local scene. If the thought of six men waving handkerchiefs and prancing about with jingle bells on their ankles seems very attractive, this dance is for you. The origins of the name and this rural custom are long lost. In all likelihood the dances form part of an ancient fertility and good luck ritual, and today they are often performed in the spring and summer months, usually close to a pub.

Port Meadow

It takes place on Oxford's north-west corner. It is the site of another ancient custom preserved to this day – the right of freemen of the city to graze horses and cattle there. The meadow is common land today. Through the years disputes over grazing rituals have flared. It is now controlled by the Sheriff of Oxford, as Conservator of Port Meadow. Each year the horses and cattle on the meadow are checked (no sheep are allowed) so 'trespassers' may be identified and fined.

PICTURE STORY

Tell us about a perfect birthday party.

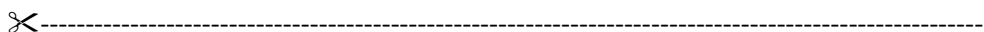


ROLE PLAY

STUDENT

You would like to do some water sports in the summer. Think about some and why would you like to do them. Choose one and talk to your parent about it. Mum or dad will have many questions. Try to find 'good' answers and persuade him or her that it will be the right summer activity for you.

Your teacher will start.



ROLE PLAY

TEACHER

Your son or daughter is dreaming about a summer holiday activity. Ask as many questions as you can about cost, safety, terms and conditions.

You start: So, time flies; summer is coming soon. Do you have any plans?

A N S W E R K E Y

GRAMMAR – 15 points

1. was brought	4. are shown	7. supplied	10. provided	13. Keeping
2. built	5. had	8. was provided	11. was	14. grew
3. were lived	6. centred OR centered	9. included	12. bore	15. bred

VOCABULARY – 10 points

1.d) suits	4.d) wasting	7.c) made	10.c) loosen	13.terrible
2.c) a pair of	5.d) tight	8.c) spots	11.terrible	14.confident
3.b) tried on	6.b) range	9.a) purse	12.terribly	15.confidence

READING – 10 points

1.E	3.B	5.wobbly	7.throw up	9.T
2.A	4.D	6.bonkers	8.blissful	10.NS

LISTENING – 5 points

1.Morris dancing, Port Meadow / grazing cattle, horses
2.May Day / 1 st May
3.sing hymns, carols, madrigals (songs), listen to songs, bells, have breakfast
4.six men, (wearing costumes)
5.fertility, good luck

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