OPTION A

"Afternoon tea: a very British tradition"

1. Tea, the most quintessential of English drinks, is a relative latecomer to Britain. Although the custom of
drinking tea dates back to the third millennium BC in China, it was not until the mid 17th century that tea first
appeared in England.
2. It is said that Queen Catherine started the British on drinking tea when she brought some as part of her wedding
gifts in 1662. Initially, tea drinking was only for the wealthy classes due to high shipping costs and import duties. The
lower classes still drank beer with their breakfast.
3. Afternoon tea was introduced in England by Anna, the seventh Duchess of Bedford, in the year 1840. The
Duchess would become hungry around four o’clock in the afternoon. The evening meal was generally served late, at
eight o’clock, thus leaving a long period of time between lunch and dinner. The Duchess asked for a tray of tea, cake
and bread and butter (some time earlier, the Earl of Sandwich had had the idea of putting a filling between two slices
of bread) to be brought to her room. This became a habit of hers and she began inviting her friends to join her.
4. This pause for tea became a fashionable social event. During the 1880s upper-class and society women would
change into long dress, hat and gloves for their afternoon tea, which was usually served in the drawing room
between four and five o’clock.
5. In the average suburban home today, afternoon tea is likely to be just a biscuit or small cake and a mug of tea,
usually produced using a teabag. Sacrilege!

I * COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)
ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.
1. Who could drink tea in the mid 17th century? Why?
2. For what reason did the Duchess of Bedford introduce the habit of afternoon tea?
3. Why did the pause for tea become a fashionable social event in the 1880s?

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR
PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.
4. The habit of drinking tea originated in China.
5. According to the writer, today’s afternoon tea has lost the charm of the past.

II * USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)
6. GIVE ONE OPPOSITE FOR “wealthy” (adjective) AS IT IS USED IN THE TEXT (line 5).
7. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: "an amount, standard, or level
considered as usual or ordinary."
8. FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT PREPOSITION. English people are very fond _______ drinking tea.
9. WHICH WORD IS NOT AN ADVERB?: Often / usually / friendly / rapidly
10. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE ACTIVE VOICE: Tea is grown in India.
12. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING A RELATIVE. MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY: Anna was the
seventh Duchess of Bedford. She introduced traditional afternoon tea.
13. REWRITE THE SENTENCE WITHOUT CHANGING ITS MEANING. BEGIN AS INDICATED: I can’t drink this
tea. It’s too cold. This tea isn’t _______

III * PRODUCTION (3 points)
14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED. YOU MUST
FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:
Some British and American traditions have become popular in Spain nowadays. Discuss.