OPTON B

THE NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL

1. The Notting Hill Carnival traces its origins back to the culture of the Caribbean. When African slaves were first
brought to Trinidad, they were not permitted to dance or play their own music. However, as the slavery regime settled
down, a strong local tradition of carnival emerged. Once a year, enslaved people symbolically escaped from the
oppression of their daily routine by playing music, dancing, and dressing up in costumes which mimicked the European
fashions of their masters. They even whitened their faces with flour or wore white masks.

2. The tradition came to London with the migration of workers and their families from the Caribbean to Britain after the
Second World War. By the late 1950s, many Caribbeans were living in Notting Hill, a poor area. There, they faced
racism, bad housing conditions and, in 1958, violent attacks from white youths. The idea of a Caribbean carnival
emerged as a way of reasserting community cohesion after the 1958 disturbance.

3. Claudia Jones, the editor of the West Indian Gazette, was the moving spirit behind the idea. The first carnival
celebration was held in the town hall building in St. Pancras in 1962. This was a great success and became an annual
event. In 1965, local social worker Rhaune Laslett suggested holding some outdoor festivities in Notting Hill. The two
celebrations were combined, and so the Notting Hill carnival began. The skills of costume-making, steel drumming and
calypso music gradually came together to establish a festival of music, arts and culture.

4. The Notting Hill Carnival is the largest European street party and the second major street festival in the world after
Rio’s Carnival. It is truly a spectacle not to be missed.

I * COMPREHENSION (3 points)

1. According to the text, the first Caribbean slaves…
(a) adopted European customs.  (b) were freed from slavery once a year.
(c) could perform African dances.  (d) weren’t allowed to keep their traditions alive.

2. The main aim of the first London festivals was…
(a) to make the Caribbean community feel united.  (b) to celebrate the end of slave trade.
(c) to play Caribbean music in London.  (d) to create a carnival similar to Rio’s.

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT,
OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS. (0.5 points each)

3. Caribbean immigrants introduced the carnival tradition in London.

4. Claudia Jones played a minor role in organising the first carnival in London.

5. The earliest editions of the London carnival took place in the open air.

6. The Notting Hill Carnival attracts more people than any other carnival around the world.

II * USE OF ENGLISH (4 points; questions 7-12, 0.25 points each; 13-17, 0.5 points each)

7. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE OPPOSITE FOR “failure” (noun).

8. GIVE A NOUN WITH THE SAME ROOT AS “truly” (adverb).

9. GIVE ONE SYNONYM FOR “major” (adjective) (line 15) AS IT IS USED IN THE TEXT.

10. FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT OPTION: “Peter congratulated me... my new job.”  with / in / up / on

11. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: “To have to deal with something.”

12. FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS: “I’m looking forward to... (take) part in a carnival.”

13. REWRITE THE SENTENCE WITHOUT CHANGING ITS MEANING. BEGIN AS INDICATED. “Perhaps I will have time to cook
something special tomorrow.” I...

14. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE ACTIVE VOICE: “Hamburgers must be kept in the fridge.”

15. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO REPORTED SPEECH: “Where did you hide my glasses?” Lucy asked her little sister.

16. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING AN APPROPRIATE LINKER (DO NOT USE AND, BUT, OR BECAUSE). MAKE CHANGES
IF NECESSARY. “I’ve joined a drama club. I want to become an actress.”

17. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: “Enslaved people escaped from the oppression of their daily routine.”

III * PRODUCTION (3 points)

18. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED AND FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:
Describe a festival or street party you have taken part in.