

Articles

Nowruz

Exercise 16

Choose the correct answer of the available possible options.

1. Nowruz means 'new day' in Persian and is ____ most important festival of the year in Iran. It is also celebrated in a number of other countries across the Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia, the Balkans and East Africa, and dates back at least 3,000 years. The holiday has changed over the thousands of years that it has been celebrated, and different regions have preserved or developed different traditions, as well as adding new ones. But wherever it is observed, it celebrates the original message of rebirth and renewal.

A. a/an

B. the

2. Nowruz marks ____ spring equinox, when night and day are of equal length. This is usually on 20 or 21 March.

A. a/an

B. the

3. It's the day when winter changes into spring in the northern hemisphere, and it feels like ____ new beginning. In Iran it is followed by four days of public holidays, and schools and universities close for two weeks.

A. a/an

B. the

4. People start their preparation for the festivities weeks beforehand. They clean their homes from top to bottom, including carpets, windows and curtains. Everyone in ____ family helps out.

A. a/an

B. the

5. Anything broken is repaired or replaced and the house is decorated with flowers. By doing this spring cleaning, people wash away the bad things from ____ previous year and prepare for better things to come in the new year.

A. a/an

B. the

A. a/an

B. the

15. People also celebrate on _____ street. Traditional poetry, song and dance play a key role in the celebrations, and people fill the streets to watch and take part in the performances. Traditional sports are also popular. They often involve horse-riding or wrestling.

A. a/an

B. the

16. The festivities end on _____ thirteenth day after Nowruz, when people traditionally spend the day picnicking outside. The countryside is full of families eating, dancing, singing and enjoying the last day of the holidays.

A. a/an

B. the