

## 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**

**Explanation: most important = unique = HK+**

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**

**Explanation: uniquely identifiable = HK+**

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

**Explanation: New information, HK- (member of a category)**

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**

**Explanation: people usually implies family = HK+**

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**

**Explanation: previous makes year uniquely identifiable = HK+**

6. People prepare \_\_\_\_ special table in their homes, where they place small dishes holding seven symbolic foods and spices.

**A. a/an**

B. the

**Explanation: New information, HK-**

7. The names of these foods all start with \_\_\_\_ letter 's' in Persian

A. a/an

**B. the**

**Explanation: uniquely identifiable = HK+**

8. and so \_\_\_\_ table is called the 'seven s's' (haft-seen).

A. a/an

**B. the**

**Explanation: Previously mentioned, HK+**

9. The dishes generally contain wheat or bean sprouts (sabze), vinegar (serke), apples (sib), garlic (sir), \_\_\_\_ wheat-based pudding called samanu,

A. a/an

B. the

**Explanation: New information, HK-**

10. a red spice called sumac, and senjed, a kind of wild olive which is common in \_\_\_\_ region.

A. a/an

B. the

**Explanation: region = Iran = HK+**

11. Other symbolic objects can include goldfish, painted eggs, candles and \_\_\_\_ mirror. The seven s's symbolise life, love, health and prosperity.

A. a/an

B. the

**Explanation: New information, HK-**

12. Fire forms \_\_\_\_ important part of the celebrations, and bonfires are built and lit on the streets for four Tuesdays in the weeks before Nowruz.

A. a/an

B. the

**Explanation: New information, HK-**

13. On \_\_\_\_ last Tuesday, people observe the Festival of Fire (Chaharshanbe Suri), which involves jumping over these fires, which is believed to bring health and good luck in the new year.

A. a/an

B. the

**Explanation: last = HK+**

14. Iranians spend the night of Nowruz with their family. The traditional new year dinner is white fish with rice and herbs. Many families give \_\_\_\_ money gift (called eidi) to the children to mark the new year. People often visit each other's homes and always bring traditional gifts.

**A. a/an**

B. the

**Explanation: New information/referent, HK-**

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**

**Explanation: street as a concept (could be the streets, in general) = HK+**

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**

**Explanation: thirteenth = HK+**