ST VALENTINE'S DAY

It is that time of the year when couples show their love for each other by sending cards, flowers and chocolates. But Valentine’s Day is not only about public displays of affection: in recent years it has also become big business. In the UK alone, more than £20 million is spent on flowers, while in the United States over $1 billion is forced to spend on chocolates.

It is said that the first recorded Valentine’s card was sent by the imprisoned Duke of Orleans in 1415. It is believed that he tried to find comfort from his imprisonment by writing love poems to his wife.

Valentine’s Day is now celebrated in many countries around the world. However, the traditions often differ from place to place. In Japan, for example, it is customary for women to send chocolates to men, while in Korea April 14th is when the unfortunate men who received nothing on Valentine’s Day gather to eat noodles and show sympathy for each other. Valentine’s cards can also be used for less than romantic purposes. Police in the UK city of Liverpool send Valentine’s cards to criminals who failed to appear in court or have not paid fines.

Adapted from http://www.bbc.co.uk

QUESTIONs

I. READING COMPREHENSION. (2 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)
Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer.
NO marks are given for only true or false.

1. On Valentine’s Day it is popular to give flowers as a present in the United States.
2. The very first Valentine’s card was sent over 500 years ago.
3. Disappointed Korean men who have received no Valentine’s cards eat a special dish on April 14th.
4. Lonely policemen in Liverpool look for love by sending Valentine’s cards.

II. CHOOSE TWO OUT OF THE THREE QUESTIONS:

A. EXPRESSING THE MAIN IDEAS. (1 POINT) (0.5 points for each correct answer)
Answer the following questions according to the information given in the text. Where possible, use your own words.

1. What do people do on St Valentine’s Day?
2. Is St Valentine’s Day celebrated in the same way all over the world?

B. LEXICON. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)
Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.

1. Feeling of love for someone.
2. Put in jail.
3. Traditional for somebody to do.
4. People who commit crimes.

C. PHONETICS. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)

1. Write one word from the text that includes the same diphthong sound as “May” /eɪ/. (0.25)
2. Write one word from the text that includes the same vowel sound as “Tea” /iː/. (0.25)
3. Is the “-n-” pronounced /n/ or /ŋ/ in “sending”? (0.25)
4. Is the “-ed” pronounced /t/, /d/ or /ɪd/ in “believed”? (0.25)

III. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 POINTS) (0.5 for each correct answer)
Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given.

1. Adam was the man Laura had spoken to on the phone. He sat back in his seat. Adam, …
2. I am sorry that I can’t help you. I wish …
3. As he didn’t pass the exam, his mother got angry. His mother …
4. Your holidays are longer than mine! My holidays…
5. “Don’t shout at me!”, John told Stephens. John told …..
6. Write the correct question for the underlined words: Mary visited her uncle yesterday. … ?

IV. COMPOSITION. (3 POINTS)
Write a composition of between 100 and 125 words on ONE of the following topics. Specify your option.

- What are the characteristics of your ideal friend?
- In your opinion, why is divorce increasing in our society?