



Tradition or Theme Park?

Read the passage and answer the questions. (CEFR B1–B2)

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1 Every autumn, Munich faces a strange question: how can a festival that welcomes more than seven million people still feel local? In 2026, the Wiesn broke its attendance record with about 7.4 million visitors, many of them tourists who see the event as a giant party rather than a piece of Bavarian history.



2 The city has responded by looking backward. For the 200th anniversary in 2010, it created the Oide Wiesn, a quieter area with historic rides, brass music, and traditional dancing. It was meant to be a one-time event, but it proved so popular that it became permanent, drawing 447,000 visitors in 2026.

3 Traditional clothing tells a similar story. After World War II, the dirndl fell out of fashion, but since the late 1990s it has made a strong comeback among young Bavarians. Since the 2000s, fashion designers have also created expensive dirndls, turning work clothes into high fashion. Even the popular idea that the position of the apron bow shows whether a woman is single appears to be a recent invention. Perhaps tradition is not something frozen in the past, but something each generation keeps reinventing.

Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Munich is trying to keep the festival local, and its story shows that traditions keep changing. (B) Dirndls are the oldest clothes in Bavaria.
(C) Oktoberfest is now too expensive for local people. (D) Tourists should not visit Oktoberfest.

2. What was the Oide Wiesn first meant to be?

- (A) A larger area for tourists (B) A new fashion show
(C) A one-time event (D) A place to sell dirndls

3. When did the dirndl make a strong comeback among young Bavarians?

- (A) Right after World War II (B) In 1810
(C) In 2010 (D) Since the late 1990s

4. Why did the city most likely create the Oide Wiesn?

- (A) To make more money from rides (B) To give the festival a more local and historic feeling
(C) To stop tourists from coming (D) To sell expensive dirndls

5. In paragraph 2, what does permanent mean in it became permanent?

- (A) Very crowded (B) Free of charge
(C) Only for local people (D) Continuing every year without an end date

6. Why does the writer mention the idea about the apron bow?

- (A) To teach readers how to tie a dirndl (B) To show that some traditions are newer than people think
(C) To explain why single women wear dirndls (D) To say that dirndls are no longer popular



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

Match the words with the definitions. Then rewrite and summarize.

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

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| 1. attendance | a. a return to being popular or successful |
| 2. respond | b. something new that someone has made or thought of |
| 3. anniversary | c. all the people born and living at about the same time |
| 4. historic | d. the number of people who come to an event |
| 5. permanent | e. to do something because of something that has happened |
| 6. comeback | f. a day exactly one year or more after an important event |
| 7. invention | g. important or old and connected with the past |
| 8. generation | h. lasting for a long time or for all time |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “It was meant to be a one-time event, but it proved so popular that it became permanent, drawing 447,000 visitors in 2026.”

Hint: Use planned to happen only once and so many people liked it.

2. “After World War II, the dirndl fell out of fashion, but since the late 1990s it has made a strong comeback among young Bavarians.”

Hint: Use stopped being popular and popular again.

3. “Perhaps tradition is not something frozen in the past, but something each generation keeps reinventing.”

Hint: Use Maybe, does not stay the same, and changes it again.

Summary

Summarize the passage in about 50 words.



Debate & Opinion Essay

Prepare for a debate. Then write your opinion (100–150 words).

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Motion: A new tradition is just as real as an old one.

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- The Oide Wiesn only started in 2010, but 447,000 people visited it in 2026.
- Even old traditions were new once. Oktoberfest itself began as a single wedding party in 1810.
- Each generation keeps reinventing tradition, so change is a normal part of it.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- A tradition gets its meaning from many years of history, and a new custom does not have that yet.
- Some new traditions, like expensive designer dirndls, are made mainly to sell things.
- If people believe a new rule like the apron bow is old, they may misunderstand their own history.

Add your own reason:

Opinion	<i>I believe / I think that ...</i>
Reason 1	<i>First, ... For example, ...</i>
Reason 2	<i>Second, ... In fact, ...</i>
Counter	<i>Some people say ... However, ...</i>
Conclusion	<i>In conclusion, ...</i>