



Tradition, Tourism and the Seven Dangerous Days

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

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

1 Songkran has become one of Thailand's most powerful tourist attractions. Every April, visitors from around the world crowd famous streets such as Khao San Road and Silom Road. In 2023, UNESCO added the festival to its list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, describing water pouring as a symbol of cleansing, respect and good fortune. The following year, the celebrations were stretched across most of April.



2 Yet the festival's popularity raises difficult questions. As the street parties grow louder, quieter customs, such as pouring water on elders' hands, receive less attention from visitors. Safety is another concern. Because so many people drive home and some drink alcohol, the holiday is known locally as the seven dangerous days. From 2009 to 2013, about 52 people died on the roads each day during Songkran, compared with about 27 on an average day.

3 The challenge for Thailand is to keep the festival joyful and welcoming without losing its meaning. Bangkok has introduced stricter rules for some water play zones, while families and temples continue to pass on the older rituals. In the end, Songkran's future may depend on whether visitors understand that behind every splash lies a wish for a better year.

Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Songkran should be moved to a cooler month. (B) Tourists are no longer interested in Songkran.
(C) Songkran's popularity with tourists brings problems, and Thailand must keep it joyful without losing its meaning. (D) UNESCO controls how Thai people celebrate Songkran.

2. How did UNESCO describe water pouring in 2023?

- (A) As a symbol of cleansing, respect, and good fortune (B) As a dangerous activity for visitors
(C) As a new custom created for tourists (D) As a way to cool down in hot weather

3. Why is the holiday known locally as the seven dangerous days?

- (A) Because the water play zones are too crowded. (B) Because the weather is extremely hot.
(C) Because many tourists get lost in Bangkok. (D) Because many people drive home and some drink alcohol.

4. From 2009 to 2013, how did the number of road deaths during Songkran compare with an average day?

- (A) It was about the same. (B) It was almost twice as high.
(C) It was about ten times as high. (D) It was a little lower.

5. In paragraph 1, the word 'stretched' is closest in meaning to

- (A) made shorter (B) canceled
(C) made to last longer (D) moved to another country

6. Why does the writer end with the words 'behind every splash lies a wish for a better year'?

- (A) To tell visitors to bring more water guns. (B) To remind readers that the water play has a deeper meaning.
(C) To show that splashing is more important than old rituals. (D) To explain how to stay dry during the festival.



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

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

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| 1. attraction | a. luck, especially good luck |
| 2. cleansing | b. to make something continue for a longer time or over a larger area |
| 3. fortune | c. a worry about something important |
| 4. stretch | d. usual or normal; also the number you get by dividing a total by the number of items |
| 5. concern | e. to start using a new rule, system, or product |
| 6. average | f. a set of actions done in the same way, often for religious or traditional reasons |
| 7. introduce | g. a place or event that many people want to visit or see |
| 8. ritual | h. the act of making something or someone clean or pure |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “As the street parties grow louder, quieter customs, such as pouring water on elders' hands, receive less attention from visitors.”

Hint: Make two sentences. Use 'pay less attention to'.

2. “Because so many people drive home and some drink alcohol, the holiday is known locally as the seven dangerous days.”

Hint: Start with 'People in Thailand call ...' and use 'because'.

3. “The challenge for Thailand is to keep the festival joyful and welcoming without losing its meaning.”

Hint: Use 'difficult' and 'at the same time'.

Summary

Summarize the passage in about 50 words.



Debate & Opinion Essay

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

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Motion: Traditional festivals should be allowed to change for tourists.

FOR 賛成

- Tourism brings money and jobs to local people, and big events like the April celebrations help the economy.
- Festivals have always changed over time, and water guns and street parties are part of how Songkran is celebrated today.
- When visitors join the fun, they may become interested in the culture and later learn the older rituals.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- Quiet customs, such as pouring water on elders' hands, are already receiving less attention from visitors.
- Bigger parties can make the festival more dangerous, as the seven dangerous days show.
- If a festival changes only for tourists, it may lose the meaning that UNESCO recognized: cleansing, respect, and good fortune.

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>