

COMPREHENSION [6]

IN SEARCH OF GOOD ENGLISH FOOD

How come it is so difficult to find English food in England? In Greece you eat Greek food, in France French food, in Italy Italian food, but in England, in any High Street in the land, it is easier to find Indian and Chinese restaurants than English ones. In London you can eat Thai, Portuguese, Turkish, Lebanese, Russian, Polish, Swiss, Swedish, Spanish, and Italian—but where are the English restaurants?

It is not only in restaurants that foreign dishes are replacing traditional British food. In every supermarket, sales of pasta, pizza and poppadoms are booming. Why has this happened? What is wrong with the cooks of Britain that they prefer cooking pasta to potatoes? Why do the British choose to eat lasagne instead of shepherd's pie? Why do they now like cooking in wine and olive oil? But perhaps it is a good thing. After all, this is the end of the 20th century and we can get ingredients from all over the world in just a few hours.

Anyway, wasn't English food always disgusting and tasteless? Wasn't it always boiled to death and swimming in fat? The answer to these questions is a resounding 'No', but to understand this, we have to go back to before World War II.

The British have in fact always imported food from overseas. From the time of the Roman invasion foreign trade was a major influence on British cooking. English kitchens, like the English language, absorbed ingredients from all over the world—chickens, rabbits, apples, and tea. All of these and more were successfully incorporated into British dishes. Another important influence on British cooking was of course the weather. The good old British rain gives us rich soil and green grass, and means that we are able to produce some of the finest varieties of meat, fruit and vegetables, which don't need fancy sauces or complicated recipes to disguise their taste.

Source: NHW pre-inter test booklet

A. Answer these questions from the passage: 2PNTS

1. Which kind of international food can we find now in London exactly? _____

2. How does the weather influence the English food? _____

B. Justify why these statements are false: 2PNTS

1. Pasta and lasagne were the best traditional English dishes.-----

2. In England, there are no longer restaurants offering traditional English food.-

C. What do the underlined words in the passage refer to? 1PNT

1. it (paragraph 3): -----
2. these (paragraph 4): -----

D. Find in the passage words meaning the same as: 1PNT

1. the country (paragraph 1): -----
2. abroad (paragraph 4): -----

GRAMMAR [5.5]

E. Underline the correct verb forms: 1.5PNTS

1. (you / meet) ----- my brother? 'no, I didn't'
2. The Chinese (invent) ----- banknotes in 7th century.
3. (you / ever / see) ----- a ghost?

F. Complete the statements with 'for' 'since' 'ever' 'never' : 2PNTS

1. Has your mother ----- made sushi at home?
2. We haven' t seen Barbara ----- 4 days. Maybe she is sick.
3. She has worked for SPW ----- she came to Boston.
4. Marcos is a 100-metre athlete, but he has ----- won a gold medal.

G. Complete the questions. Use 'what...like?' / 'like' : 2PNTS

1. A: ----- Amsterdam -----?
B: It' s smaller than London. It' s a very good city to visit.
2. A: ----- the food?
B: Yes, I did, but I like Spanish and Italian food more.

VOCABULARY [4.5]

H. Match the words in A with words in B: 3PNTS

SYNONYMS		ANTONYMS	
A	B	A	B
1. wealthy	• messy	1. old	• worse
2. untidy	• bored	2. horrible	• modern
3. fed up	• rich	3. better	• wonderful

I. Complete with the correct forms of the words in capital: 1.5PNTS

1. Eating steamed food is very ----- . [HEALTH]
2. I can never repay your many ----- . [KIND]
3. Julie went to Hollywood in search of ----- and fortune. [FAMOUS]

