

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*You are reading one of your favourite travel blogs, and have come across an entry about a carnival in Brazil. Read the blog entry.*

**Text 2 Blog entry about personal experience**

## The world's biggest party

① Picture this: two million noisy, excited people cheering and dancing to music. Group after group of street performers dance and sing as they pass by, dressed in every costume you could ever imagine. The noise is deafening, the colours are blinding, and the movement is dizzying. This is the definition of fun; it's the world's biggest party.



② I arrived in Rio de Janeiro for the yearly Rio Carnival last Friday. My friend Peter, a university student there, said that almost a million tourists visit Rio for Carnival every year. I wonder how many Brazilians attend the festival. From what I saw, there were millions of them!



③ On the way to my hotel—I booked my room as early as a year ago—I saw a group of dancers ornamented with feathers and make-up. I couldn't wait to join the fun! But first—dinner. Peter and I shared a bowl of *feijoada* at the hotel restaurant. This is a rich, flavourful black bean stew popular throughout Brazil. We also had a basket of cassava chips; cassavas are like slightly sweet, starchy potatoes.

# Oxford English (Second Edition) 1B

## Simplified reading and comprehension

2 of 4

### Unit 6

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④ After eating, we came across a samba band playing drums, shakers and cowbells. The crowd joined in the music-making by blowing  
30 whistles. Samba music, like many other elements of Carnival, is a fusion of African and Brazilian culture. I was moving to the beat in minutes!



35 ⑤ Sunday was the special Samba Parade. Tickets to this are rare, but we got ours, thanks to excellent planning six months ahead. In this event, each of the twelve best samba  
40 schools in Rio organizes a special float with a particular theme, usually telling some sort of story. Following the sound of drums approaching, I saw the first float of the parade:

45 a gigantic sparkling green crocodile with dancers moving around on its back. Then came a football-themed float, and one dedicated to native people featuring golden headpieces

50 and traditional feather costumes. There is a prize for the best float. Some samba schools spend over 30 million Hong Kong dollars and many months to prepare their floats!



⑥ When the festivities ended on Wednesday, I was exhausted. People say the entire country shuts down during Carnival. I can see why!

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**Comprehension 2** You are telling your friends about the Rio Carnival. Answer their questions using information from the blog entry. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.

- 1 What does 'the definition of fun' (lines 9 & 10) refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Complete the following descriptions of the dishes mentioned in paragraph 3.

<b>Feijoada</b>	A (i) _____ stew with a dark colour and a tasty, (ii) _____ flavour.
<b>Cassava chips</b>	Similar to (iii) _____, this slightly (iv) _____ snack is the perfect companion to any savoury main course.

- 3 List FOUR instruments that people commonly use for samba music.

i) \_\_\_\_\_ iii) \_\_\_\_\_  
 ii) \_\_\_\_\_ iv) \_\_\_\_\_

- 4 According to paragraphs 2–4, are the following statements **True (T)**, **False (F)** or **Not Given (NG)**?

Statements	T	F	NG
i) There were at least two million people attending Carnival.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ii) The dancers near the writer's hotel were preparing for a parade later.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iii) The writer tried some dishes for the first time.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iv) The writer did not dance at any point.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 5 What does 'one' (line 48) refer to?

A a crocodile C a football A B C D  
 B a dancer D a float ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

- 6 i) According to paragraph 5, what do samba schools need to prepare their floats?

\_\_\_\_\_

ii) Why do samba schools spend so much effort preparing their floats?

\_\_\_\_\_

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- 7 Which of the following are NOT part of Carnival? Tick (✓) all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> costumes	<input type="checkbox"/> Samba Parade	<input type="checkbox"/> floats
<input type="checkbox"/> street dancers	<input type="checkbox"/> music performances	<input type="checkbox"/> traditional food

- 8 How many days does Carnival last?

A four days	C six days	A B C D
B five days	D seven days	○ ○ ○ ○

- 9 Does the writer think it is easy to go to Carnival? Why or why not?

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- 10 Which of the following is the best alternative title for the blog entry?

A Samba life	C The signature Brazilian experience	A B C D
B Carnival tales	D Once upon a time in Rio	○ ○ ○ ○

- 11 Match each paragraph on the left to the best subheading. Write the correct letter (A–D) next to each paragraph number.

Paragraph no.	Subheadings
i) Paragraph 2 _____	A A personal favourite
ii) Paragraph 3 _____	B Arriving at the party
iii) Paragraph 4 _____	C A taste of Brazil
iv) Paragraph 5 _____	D Warming up

- 12 Complete the following passage with words from Text 2 that are similar in meaning to the words in brackets. Use ONE word to complete each blank.

To many people, 'culture' is the (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (*related to old practices*) behaviours or objects passed down by (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ (*connected to people who have lived in the same place for a long time*) people.

In this globalized world, culture is a (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ (*mixture*) of different (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ (parts of something) from different places. For example, just look at weddings. In days gone by, the bride's head was (v) \_\_\_\_\_ (*decorated*) with a crown and a cloth to cover her face. Now, practices like that have lost their place to 'Western' wedding rings and cakes, but the weddings are still 'Chinese'.

It just goes to show that every culture is a mixture of colours and shapes that never looks the same from one moment to the next.