

It's a leap...

Name _____ Date _____

Man wants to move leap day from February 29 to June 31

By Sarah Hooper Metro January 30, 2024

A man wants to move the leap day on February 29 to June 31.

Chris Snowdon of Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, had the idea last year. He thinks the leap day of February 29 should move to the summer. July and August already have 31 days each so June is the best idea.

He says: 'People don't want an extra day in February when it's dark and cold. I know changing the days won't change the weather but it's a mental health thing.'



Chris Snowdon, 47, wants to cheer people up.



Chris doesn't think it will happen this year.

Chris thinks it would improve public well-being in the northern hemisphere. He wants the British Government to get the ball rolling. After that, he thinks every government in the world will agree too!

Chris doesn't think there will be reform by February 28th 2024 but hopes public opinion might change by 2028.

Chris has a petition on [Change.org](https://www.change.org). Hundreds of people have already signed it. On the petition website it says: 'Why have an extra day in cold, dark February when you could have an extra day in lovely, sunny June?'

What's your opinion?

IS CHANGING THE LEAP DAY A GOOD IDEA?

Text the word VIEWS followed by your comment, name and where you live to 65700.

Standard network charges apply. Or email: mail@ukmetro.co.uk

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Reading questions E1-E2

1. The text is mostly about:

- Chris Snowden The weather A dog

(Tick ✓ one answer. E2.8. 1 mark)

2. Where is the text from? Who wrote it?

_____ (E1.8, E2.7. 2 marks)

3. Where does Chris live?

_____ (E2.8. 1 mark)

4. How old is Chris? _____

(E2.12. 1 mark)

5. Use the words below to make two proper sentences.

in	days	There	are	31	August
----	------	-------	-----	----	--------

a. _____.

petition	have	Some	the	signed	people
----------	------	------	-----	--------	--------

b. _____.

(Write sentences on the lines. E1.8, E1.9. 2 marks)

6. Which two features are NOT used in the text?

- paragraphs bullet points headline
 captions diagrams photographs

(Tick ✓ two answers. E2.9, E2.12. 2 marks)

7. Which sentence is true?

		✓
A	There are 30 days in August.	
B	Chris Snowden wants to move leap day.	
C	A leap day in July is the best idea.	

(Tick ✓ one answer. E1.8, E1.10, E2.8. 1 mark)

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Reading questions E2-E3 (You can use a dictionary)

1. What is the main purpose of the text?

A	to advise you what to do on Feb 29	
B	to warn you that 2024 is a leap year	
C	to tell you about Chris Snowden's idea of moving leap day	
D	to describe the weather in February	

(Tick ✓ one answer. E3.10. 1 mark)

2. a. What does Chris want to do?

_____ (E2.8, E3.9. 1 mark)

b. Give **two** reasons why he wants to do this.

_____ (E3.9. 2 marks)

3. Does anyone agree with Chris? How do you know?

_____ (E3.9. 2 marks)

4. 'Changing the days won't change the weather.'

Which word could replace **change** in the sentence above?

A	cash	
B	alter	
C	predict	

(Tick ✓ one answer. E2.10, E3.11. 1 mark)

5. What is the meaning of the word **reform**?

_____ (Tick ✓ one answer. E2.10, E3.11. 1 mark)

6. 'He wants the British Government to get the ball rolling.'

In the sentence above, **get the ball rolling** means:

A	to get started	
B	to find a football ground	
C	to promote sport	

(Tick ✓ one answer. E3.11. 1 mark)

7. Draw arrows to match each item to the correct organisational feature.

Chris doesn't think it will happen this year.
Man wants to move leap day from February 29 to June 31
<u>Change.org</u>

Hyperlink
Headline
Caption

(E2.12, E3.12. 2 marks)

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E1 Writing tasks

1. Put the words in alphabetical order.

winter	ball	man	summer

(E1.14. 1 mark)

2. Rewrite the sentences. Use capital letters and full stops.

a. chris snowden likes warm weather

b. changing the day won't change the weather

c. i agree with chris and would like a leap day in the summer

(E1.11, E1.12. 8 marks)

3. Each sentence has one spelling mistake.

Underline the mistake and write the correct spelling on the line.

a. Chris does'nt like the weather in winter.

b. The report was written on Tuseday 30 January.

c. I told my bruther about Chris Snowden

(E1.15. 3 marks)

4. You see this sentence in the Metro. It is written in uppercase.

IS CHANGING THE LEAP DAY A GOOD IDEA?

Write the sentence again. Use upper and lowercase letters correctly.

(E1.11, 1.13. 2 marks)

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E2 Writing tasks

1. Write in the missing words.

Singular	Plural
	hundreds
month	
government	
	days

(E2.14. 4 marks)

2. Put the words in alphabetical order.

winter	world	website	Why

(E2.15. 1 mark)

3. Rewrite the sentences. Use capital letters and end of sentence markers.

a. chris snowden likes warm weather

b. he doesn't like the weather in january

c. will you sign the petition

(E1.11, E1.12, E2.13. 8 marks)

4. Each sentence has one spelling mistake.

Underline the mistake and write the correct spelling on the line.

a. Changeing the day will make Chris happy.

b. No one wants an extra day in Febuary.

c. Their is a leap day every four years.

(E2.16. 3 marks)

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E3 Writing tasks

1. Write in the missing words.

Singular	Plural
loaf	
	heroes
sheep	
	women

(E3.14. 4 marks)

2. Put the words in alphabetical order.

sunny	sunshine	sunbed	suntan

(E3.16. 1 mark)

3. Rewrite the sentences. Use capital letters, commas and end of sentence markers where you need to.

a. the summer months are june July and august

b. do you agree with the idea

c. if enough people sign the petition the date might move

(E3.13. 10 marks)

4. There are four spelling mistakes in the paragraph below. Underline the mistakes and write the correct spelling on the lines.

February 29th is a special day and I don't beleive we should move it. It's plane to see that it's a completly daft idea. Just imagine the chaos created if we attempted to move it to June!

(E3.17. 4 marks)

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E3 - Write a contribution to an online discussion

You read part of an online discussion about Chris Snowden's idea.



METRO TALK - HAVE YOUR SAY

Surely Chris is misguided? Changing the leap year day to the end of June makes no difference at all to our appreciation of the months and seasons of the year.

Having hundreds of signatures in his petition is all very well, but what about the other billions of people in the world who would have to agree? Also, June is midwinter in many parts of the world! **Ali from Chatham**

Chris's proposal would, of course, do nothing to alter the natural weather cycles and so would not make real summer any longer. A better idea would be to add the extra day to December. Then we could have a longer festive period and celebrate New Year's Eve on the 32nd of December!

However, with all that is going on in the world at the moment, it's difficult to think of anything that's less in need of change. **Terry from Barnes**

Adapted from comments at: <https://metro.co.uk/2024/02/01/a-leap-day-july-regal-rides-20210721/>

Write a contribution to the discussion. In your contribution you could:

- say if you like or dislike Chris Snowden's idea
- give reasons for agreeing / disagreeing with the idea
- comment on what Ali or Terry has said

You must:

- Write at least **two paragraphs** and a total of **5 to 6 sentences**.
- At least three sentences must be **compound or complex sentences** that use conjunctions. For example: and, but, or, because, if, as.
- Use at least **two adjectives**. For example: hot, cold, sunny, good, crazy.
- Use at least **one linking word**, for example: also, first, next, then.
- Use **capital letters, commas, exclamation marks, full stops and question marks** when you need to.
- **Put your name and where you live** at the end of the message.

