

Burns Night (E3 version)

Name _____ Date _____

What is Burns Night?

Burns Night is held on January 25 every year to remember the life of Robert Burns. It is a big occasion in Scotland and around the world.



Painting of Robert Burns by Alexander Nasmyth, 1787.

Who was Robert Burns?

Born on 25 January 1759, Robert was the son of a farmer.

During his life Robert wrote more than 550 poems and songs. He did this as a way to express his feelings. His writing was popular with Scots from many different backgrounds.

Burns died in 1796 at the young age of 37.

How is Burns Night celebrated?

The main event of Burns Night is the Burns Supper. The party goers often wear tartan clothes, listen to bagpipes, and read Robert's poems aloud. The most important poem on Burns Night is called 'Address to a Haggis'.

What's in the supper?

The highlight of any Burns Supper is always haggis, a spiced meat pudding that looks rather like a large sausage. Common haggis ingredients include:

- Heart, lung and liver of lamb
- Beef or lamb mince or trimmings
- Onion
- Oatmeal
- Suet
- Salt and pepper
- Spices such as nutmeg, coriander, cinnamon

The haggis is served with mashed potatoes, swede and glasses of whisky.

At the end of the evening everyone joins hands and sings 'Auld Lang Syne'. This song was not written by Burns but he modified it and wrote down the music for it in 1788.

Adapted from: <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/burns-night-2024-what-when-date-b2474921.html> and <https://www.wildernessscotland.com/blog/guide-to-haggis/#what-is-haggis>

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Reading and writing skills Purpose

1) Is the text a report, a story or an email? _____
E3, 1 mark

2) The main purpose of the text is to:

a	give you information about Burns Night	
b	tell you how to make a haggis	
c	describe the poems and songs of Robert Burns	

(Tick one) E3, 1 mark

Organisation

3) Draw arrows to match each item to the correct organisational feature.

Painting of Robert Burns	Sub-heading
How is Burns Night celebrated?	Headline
What is Burn's Night?	Caption

E3, 3 marks

4) a. List three items that are used to make a haggis

_____ E3, 3 marks

b. What organisational feature helped you find this information?

_____ E3, 1 mark

Punctuation

5) Explain why each word in **Auld Lang Syne** is capitalised.

_____ E2-E3, 1 mark

6) a. What is the purpose of the comma in this sentence?

The haggis is served with mashed potatoes, swede and glasses of whisky.

_____ E3, 1 mark

b. Find and highlight another comma in the text which has a different purpose.

E3, 1 mark

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Main points and detail

7) In what year did Robert Burns die? _____ E3, 1 mark

8) What fabric might you see worn on Burns Night?
_____ E3, 1 mark

9) How does a Burns Night finish? _____
_____ E3, 1 mark

Words - You can use a dictionary for questions 10 and 11.

10) *He did this as a way to express his feelings.*
In the sentence **express** means:
_____ E3, 1 mark

11) *This song was not written by Burns but he **modified** it.*
Which word could best replace **modified** and keep the meaning the same?

A	modelled	
B	adapted	
C	converted	

(Tick one) E3, 1 mark

12) Complete the table.

Singular	Plural
life	
	potatoes
address	

E2-3, 3 marks

13) Put the words into alphabetical order.

supper songs suet swede son spice

E2-3, 2 marks (1 mark if one error)

Bonus question

14) Why do you think Burns Night is held on January 25?
_____ E3, 1 mark

Total marks available = 23