

St Dwynwen's Day (E3-L2)

Name _____ Date _____

St Dwynwen's Day: the history behind the Welsh Valentine's Day

On 25 January, couples across Wales celebrate St Dwynwen's Day. Cards are sent, romantic meals are eaten and gifts such as love spoons are exchanged. Who was Dwynwen and why is she considered to be the patron saint of lovers in Wales?

(a) _____

Dwynwen lived in the fifth century and was the daughter of a Welsh king called Brychan Brycheiniog. Brychan had 24 daughters and Dwynwen was considered to be the most spirited of them all.

(b) _____

Dwynwen fell in love with Maelon, the son of a neighbouring king. They wanted to get married but Brychan had other ideas! He had already arranged for her to marry another prince.

Dwynwen ran into the forest and prayed that God would make her forget Maelon. An angel came and Maelon was turned into a block of ice! Dwynwen was then allowed three wishes.

- First, Dwynwen wished that Maelon was thawed.
- Secondly, she wished that God would help all true lovers.
- Finally, she wished that she would never be married.

(c) _____

After the three wishes were granted, Dwynwen became a nun and set up a convent on Llanddwyn Island just off the coast of Anglesey in North Wales. She spent the rest of her life there. The ruins of the convent can still be seen on the island.

Since then, Dwynwen has been honoured as the Welsh patron saint of lovers.



Ruins of the convent on Llanddwyn Island

Adapted from three sources:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmt9cqt>

<https://oxwichbayhotel.co.uk/2019/12/what-is-st-dwynwens-day/>

<https://www.delish.com/uk/food-news/a38549257/st-dwynwens-day/>

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Read the entire text before answering the questions.

A: Organisational features

1. Write these three headings in the correct places (a, b, c) in the text.

Three wishes

Llanddwyn Island

Dwynwen, a Welsh princess

(L1.14, 2 marks)

2. In addition to **headings**, name two other organisational features used in the text.

(Do **not** include 'paragraphs' as an answer.)

_____ (L1.14, 2 marks)

B: Purpose and style

3. The **main purpose** of the text is to:

a	inform you when to celebrate St Dwynwen's Day.	<input type="checkbox"/>
b	to list the three wishes that Dwywen was granted.	<input type="checkbox"/>
c	persuade you to visit Llanddwyn Island.	<input type="checkbox"/>
d	tell you about the history of St Dwynwen's Day.	<input type="checkbox"/>

(E3.10, 1 mark)

4. Which word best describes the **style** of the text?

a	advisory	<input type="checkbox"/>
b	narrative	<input type="checkbox"/>
c	sarcastic	<input type="checkbox"/>
d	humorous	<input type="checkbox"/>

(L2.19, 1 mark)

C: Identify meanings (you can use a dictionary for these questions).

5. Did Dwywen's wishes all come true? Yes or no? _____ (L1.11, 1 mark)

6. Which word best describes Dwywen's character?

a	ghostly	<input type="checkbox"/>
b	determined	<input type="checkbox"/>
c	drunken	<input type="checkbox"/>

(L1.11, 1 mark)

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D: Understand main points and detail

7. Who was Brychan Brycheiniog and what plans did he have for his daughter?

_____ (L2.11, 2 marks)

8. Did Dwynwen ever marry? Yes or no? _____ (L1.9, 1 mark)

9. List two things that happened to Maelon. _____ (L2.11, 2 marks)

E: Vocabulary and dictionaries (you can use a dictionary for these questions).

10. What is the meaning of the word **granted** as it is used in the text? _____ (E3.11, L1.13, 1 mark)

11. Which word best replaces **thawed** without changing the meaning of the sentence?

a	melted	
b	liquidised	
c	softened	
d	removed	

(E3.11, L1.13, 1 mark)

F: Punctuation. These questions are about this section of the text:

Line 1 On 25 January, couples across Wales celebrate St Dwynwen's Day. Cards are

Line 2 sent, romantic meals are eaten and gifts such as love spoons are exchanged.

12. Tick the correct option to show the purpose of each **comma**.

		First comma (line 1)	Second comma (line 2)
a	To separate items in a list.		
b	To separate an introductory phrase.		

(L1.18, 2 marks)

13. The **apostrophe** in line 1 is used to show:

a	missing letters (a contraction).	
b	possession or ownership.	

(L1.18, 1 mark)