

Abba: Why the UK gave the Swedish band 'nul points' at Eurovision

Name _____ Date _____

Adapted from BBC dated 19th April 2021: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-56743279>

Cast your mind back to the spring of 1974, if indeed you were around to remember those days.

The UK is hosting the Eurovision Song Contest, and the word on the street around the event's venue the Brighton Dome is that their representative Olivia Newton John has a fair old chance of winning. Victory for her track Long Live Love would give the Brits their third victory in the kitschy-cool international song contest, which began in 1956.

However, a little-known Swedish pop group, formed in Stockholm only two years ago, are about to spoil the host's party, with a memorable performance of what would go on to become one of the most popular recordings of all time.

Abba's Waterloo is ultimately crowned as the winner, despite having received a bitter so-called "nul points" judgement from the UK panel.

Reflecting on the win 47 years later, Abba songwriter Björn Ulvaeus suggests the UK might have given his group the lowest possible score (by not allocating them any votes at all) as they viewed them as the biggest possible threat.

"It certainly could have been," he told BBC entertainment correspondent Colin Paterson on BBC Breakfast. "Because the Brits were the first ones to embrace us after winning, so the jury could have been as cunning as that - _____ very likely actually.

"Because it's kind of strange them would give us zero points. It sounds like they were trying to do something cunning."

Björn Ulvaeus says their Eurovision win was a night of "such chaos" he can hardly remember much about it.

So has he ever spoken to Olivia Newton John about what happened that night?

"Frida (bandmate Anni-Frid Lyngstad) is a good friend with Olivia. She says that Olivia knew that we would win," he says.

"We certainly talked that night, but I don't remember that, it was such chaos I hardly remember anything other than waking up the next day and finding myself and us being all over the globe suddenly.

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| | |
|--|---------|
| "We had gone overnight from this obscure Swedish band to world fame... so unreal." | Line 34 |
| | Line 35 |
| | Line 36 |
| | Line 37 |
| | Line 38 |
| | Line 39 |
| | Line 40 |
| | Line 41 |
| | Line 42 |
| | Line 43 |

Use the text to answer the questions below.

1. The word **kitschy** on Line 7 means:

- A. Tasteful
- B. Discreet
- C. Superior
- D. Without style

2. There is a **spelling mistake** on:

- A. Line 5
- B. Line 7
- C. Line 19
- D. Line 25

3. What **punctuation** is missing on Line 38?

- A. Full-stop
- B. Apostrophe
- C. Comma
- D. Speech marks

4. There is a **grammatical** error on:

- A. Line 4
- B. Line 14
- C. Line 16
- D. Line 23

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5. The **main purpose** of this text is to:

- A. Persuade the reader to listen to the Eurovision Song Contest
- B. Entertain the reader who is interested in Eurovision
- C. Describe the points given by the UK
- D. Criticise the UK jury

6. The tone of this text could **best** be described as:

- A. Light-hearted
- B. Critical
- C. Mocking
- D. Patronising

7. New paragraphs could be started on which two lines? (Select two answers.)

- A. Line 5
- B. Line 15
- C. Line 20
- D. Line 41

8. An **apostrophe** is used incorrectly on:

- A. Line 4
- B. Line 23
- C. Line 31
- D. Line 42

9. The **best word** to fill the gap on Line 22 is:

- A. whose
- B. what's
- C. it's
- D. who's

10. The word 'embrace' on line 21 could be replaced with:

- A. exclude
- B. accept
- C. cuddle
- D. reject

Page 4 of this document (answer sheet and Functional Skills mapping) is only available to skillsworshop resource contributors. If you would like to become a registered contributor, please contact Maggie using the www.skillsworshop.org site contact link.