

# It's a leap...

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Text A

# It's a leap... yeah! Switch extra 24hrs to June so we have a longer summer

by SARAH HOOPER

Forward-thinking Chris Snowden is trying to cheer us all up by shifting leap day from February 29 to June 31, so we get an extra day of summer instead.

He has launched a petition to switch it after discovering the date was an arbitrary choice as the day to add 24 hours to ensure calendars are kept in kilter.

'When we get to it, people think, "Oh great, another day in February", he said. 'But an extra day of summer, one less day of winter - what's not to like? I think it would improve public well-being in the northern hemisphere. I thought I'd start with the British Government to see if they can get the ball rolling. But ideally, we'd need every government to agree.'

Chris, 47, said it had to be in June for the good weather since July and August have 31 days already.

It takes the Earth 365.24 days to fully orbit the Sun. The extra quarter of a day is rolled into one day and added every four years so our 365-day calendar stays in synch. Without it, winter would gradually take place in our traditional summer months. The extra day was formally adopted by the UK's Parliament in 1750.

Chris, of Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, had 179 signatures in two days on Change.org. 'I know changing the days won't change the weather, but it's a mental health thing,' he added. 'People will look back on this one day and think, "Why didn't anyone think of this sooner?"'

## *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](mailto:mail@ukmetro.co.uk)

Source: Metro 31 Jan 2024, p15 (see image below). An online, very different, version is also available at <https://metro.co.uk/2024/01/30/man-launches-petition-move-leap-day-february-29-june-31-20192675/>

METRO.co.uk

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

15

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**FORWARD-THINKING** Chris Snowden is trying to cheer us all up by shifting leap day from February 29 to June 31 - so we get an extra day of summer instead.

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by **SARAH HOOPER**

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is rolled into one day and added every four years so our 365-day calendar stays in synch. Without it, winter would gradually take place in our traditional summer months. The extra day was formally adopted by the UK's Parliament in 1750.

People born on February 29 are known as leaplings or leapers. Traditionally, it is the day women are allowed to propose to their sweethearts.

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Dogged: Campaigner Chris swns

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## Text B

# A leap day in June

**Letters Editor** Published Feb 1, 2024

Wouldn't it be better to have leap day in the height of summer instead cold, dark, February? If the answer is yes, you might want to sign [Chris Snowdon's petition](#) to change the date to June 31st.

Though it might result in an extra sunny day here in the northern hemisphere, the benefit of changing the date is something he'll probably have to convince the other side of world of.

**Share your thoughts in the comments.**



Wouldn't it be lovely...

A



Yep, that's more realistic

B



## METRO TALK - HAVE YOUR SAY

Chris Snowdon in West Sussex wants to cheer us all up by shifting leap day from February 29 to June 31, so that we get an extra day of summer (Metro, Wed).

He has launched a petition to switch it after discovering that February 29 was an arbitrary choice made almost three centuries ago. This is brilliant! Imagine those endless June nights sitting in the pub garden, the wooden benches still glazed with gold and warm from the day's sun. Who would protest?

At the very least, it would be a leg-up for people with seasonal depression.

**Bella, London**

Does the date make any difference to the amount of sunshine we get over the whole year?

**Daniel, London**

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: Metro, 1st February 2024: <https://metro.co.uk/2024/02/01/a-leap-day-july-regal-rides-20210721/>

## Section 1 - Use Text A to answer these questions.

1. The **main** purpose of the text A is to:

<b>a</b>	describe the good summer weather in Shoreham-on-Sea	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>b</b>	explain why there is an extra day in a leap year	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>c</b>	tell you about a petition to move leap day	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>d</b>	persuade you to sign a petition	<input type="checkbox"/>

L1.11 (1 mark)

2. According to Chris, the benefit of moving leap day to summer is:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

L2.11 (1 mark)

3. (a) Why does Chris want the extra day in June rather than in other summer months?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

L1.9 (1 mark)

(b) What does Chris want the government to do? Explain in **your own** words.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

L1.9 (1 mark)

4. You may use a dictionary to answer this question about Text A.

(a) 'an arbitrary choice'

Give one word or phrase to replace **arbitrary** that keeps the meaning the same.

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) 'are kept in kilter'

Give one word or phrase to replace **kilter** that keeps the meaning the same.

\_\_\_\_\_

L2.15 (2 marks)

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5. Text A uses language features to engage the reader.

(a) Which **two** of these language features are used?

a	quotations	
b	alliteration	
c	simile	
d	colloquial / informal language	

L1.12 (2 marks)

(b) Give an example from the text to support **each of** your answers.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ L2.14 (2 marks)

(c) Find one more language feature in Text A and give an example from the text.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

L2.14 (2 marks)

6. (a) 'What's your opinion?'

What does the apostrophe show in this quotation?

a	It indicates possession or ownership.	
b	It shows that a letter has been missed out.	
c	It shows what someone is saying.	
d	It shows that a question is being asked.	

L1.18 (1 mark)

(b) 'takes the Earth'

Earth has a capital letter to show it is:

a	a noun.	
b	an abbreviation.	
c	the name of a planet.	
d	near the beginning of a sentence.	

L1.18 (1 mark)

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7. Provide two quotations from Text A that explain why leap days are needed.

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

L1.17 (2 marks)

8. Which **two** of these quotations from Text A are examples of informal language?

<b>a</b>	'It's a leap... yeah!	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>b</b>	'to fully orbit the sun'	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>c</b>	'what's not to like?'	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>d</b>	'without it, winter would gradually take place'	<input type="checkbox"/>

L1.16 (2 marks)

9. Text A contains facts and opinions. Which **one** of these statements is an opinion?

<b>a</b>	Moving leap day would improve public well-being.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>b</b>	July and August have 31 days already.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>c</b>	Chis had 179 signatures in two days on Change.org	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>d</b>	The extra day was formally adopted by the UK's Parliament in 1750.	<input type="checkbox"/>

L1.11 (1 mark)

10.(a) List two ways you can make contact with the Metro newspaper and give your own opinion about Chris Snowden's idea.

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_ L1.14 (2 marks)

(b) Which organisational feature helped you find this information?

\_\_\_\_\_ L1.14 (1 mark)

## Section 2 - Use Text B to answer these questions.

11. You may use a dictionary to answer these questions about Text B.

(a) 'Who would protest?'

Give one word or phrase to replace **protest** that keeps the meaning the same.

\_\_\_\_\_ L1.13 (1 mark)

(b) 'he'll probably have to convince'

Give one word or phrase to replace **convince** that keeps the meaning the same.

\_\_\_\_\_ L1.13 (1 mark)

12. (a) Does Ali from Chatham think that Chris is right or wrong? \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Which organisational feature helped you find this information.

\_\_\_\_\_ L2.16 (2 marks)

13. (a) What do the two photos in Text B suggest about British summers?

\_\_\_\_\_ L1.15 (1 mark)

(b) Whose views best match with photo A?

<b>a</b>	Ali's	
<b>b</b>	Bella's	
<b>c</b>	Daniel's	
<b>d</b>	Terry's	

L1.15 (1 mark)

14. Which two of these quotations from Text B are examples of formal language?

<b>a</b>	'it would be a leg-up for people'	
<b>b</b>	'his petition is all very well, but'	
<b>c</b>	'our appreciation of the months and seasons'	
<b>d</b>	'the benefit of changing the date'	

L2.17 (2 marks)

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15. Text B contains facts and opinions. Give two **factual** quotations from the text.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ L2.18 (2 marks)

16. (a) Give two quotations that suggest people do not agree with Chris's idea

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ L2.13 (2 marks)

(b) Who is most in agreement with Chris?

a	Ali	
b	Bella	
c	Daniel	
d	Terry	

L2.18 (1 mark)

17. The **main** purpose of the text B is to:

a	describe Chris Snowden's idea	
b	persuade you to sign Chris Snowden's petition	
c	share the views of Metro readers	
d	share photos of British weather	

L2.11 (1 mark)

18. Bella's comments use several language features to emphasise her points.  
**Name and quote examples of two** language features.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Quote 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Quote 2 \_\_\_\_\_ L2.14 (4 marks)

19. '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.'

What is the purpose of the commas in this quotation?

a	to separate sentences	
b	to separate items in a list	
c	to show additional information	
d	to show that a question is being asked	

L1.18 (1 mark)

## Section 3 - Use both texts to answer these questions.

20. Compare Text A and Text B to find positive ideas about moving leap day to the summer.

In your answer you should:

- give one good point about moving leap day that is the same in both texts
- give one quotation from Text A and one from Text B to support this.

Idea \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Quotation from Text A \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Quotation from Text B \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

L1.10 (3)

21. Generally, the style of language used in **both** texts is:

<b>a</b>	academic	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>b</b>	semi-formal	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>c</b>	technical	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>d</b>	very formal	<input type="checkbox"/>

L2.12 (also 2.19) 1 mark

22. Which word best describes the tone of both texts?

<b>a</b>	Light hearted	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>b</b>	Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>c</b>	Apologetic	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>d</b>	Serious	<input type="checkbox"/>

L2.19 (also 2.12) 1 mark

Level 1	Maximum possible marks	/21	/46	Comments
Level 2	Maximum possible marks	/25		