Festivals in their cultural context

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
ADVANCED | C1

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Match each advanced term with its definition.

1 heritagisation ____	**a** the process by which a practice becomes officially designated and preserved as heritage
2 liminality ____	**b** a transitional, in-between state experienced during a ritual, outside normal social structure
3 communitas ____	**c** a strong sense of communal unity experienced during collective ritual, dissolving normal hierarchy
4 folklorisation ____	**d** the process by which a practice is reframed and presented primarily as traditional folk culture
5 cultural capital ____	**e** social prestige and advantage derived from cultural knowledge, taste or practice
6 nation-building ritual ____	**f** a ceremony or festival deliberately used to construct or reinforce national identity
7 postcolonial revival ____	**g** the reclaiming and reviving of cultural practices suppressed during colonial rule
8 ritual efficacy ____	**h** the degree to which a ritual is perceived to genuinely achieve its intended purpose
9 performative identity ____	**i** identity expressed and reinforced through repeated symbolic action rather than fixed essence
10 diasporic tradition ____	**j** a cultural practice maintained and adapted by a community living outside its place of origin

2 Choose the most precise term for each context.

1 A practice becoming officially preserved as heritage is heritagisation / casual neglect.

2 A transitional, in-between ritual state is liminality / permanent status.

3 A strong sense of communal unity during ritual is communitas / isolation.

4 Presenting a practice as traditional folk culture is folklorisation / scientific classification.

5 Social prestige from cultural knowledge is cultural capital / financial capital.

6 A ceremony used to construct national identity is a nation-building ritual / a private gathering.

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7 Reviving practices suppressed under colonial rule is postcolonial revival / continued suppression.

8 A tradition maintained by a community outside its origin is a diasporic tradition / a purely local custom.

3 Match the verbs with the noun phrases to form academic collocations.

1 invoke ____	**a** a suppressed tradition
2 enact ____	**b** collective memory
3 commodify ____	**c** social hierarchy
4 reclaim ____	**d** a heritage practice
5 institutionalise ____	**e** a communal ritual
6 dissolve ____	**f** cultural identity
7 perform ____	**g** symbolic meaning for profit
8 negotiate ____	**h** competing claims to authenticity

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4 Complete the analysis with terms from the box.

communitas | cultural capital | diasporic tradition | folklorisation | heritagisation | liminality | nation-building ritual | performative identity | postcolonial revival | ritual efficacy

Anthropologists analysing festivals often draw on the concept of 1 _____, the transitional state participants enter during ritual, temporarily suspended outside ordinary social structure. This experience can produce genuine 2 _____, a powerful sense of equality and shared belonging that dissolves everyday hierarchy, if only briefly. Governments have historically recognised the value of festivals as a 3 _____, deliberately using shared celebration to construct cohesive national identity. Meanwhile, formal 4 _____ processes, such as UNESCO recognition, can preserve a practice while simultaneously altering its meaning, a related process some scholars call 5 _____, presenting living culture primarily as static folk heritage for outside observation. Communities suppressed under colonial rule have increasingly pursued 6 _____, reclaiming practices deliberately erased or discouraged. For migrant communities, a 7 _____ maintained across generations can become a powerful marker of 8 _____, expressed through repeated symbolic practice rather than fixed essence. Debates persist, however, about genuine 9 _____ - whether a ritual authentically achieves its intended spiritual or communal purpose - once significant 10 _____ accrues to those who can claim insider knowledge of increasingly commercialised traditions.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Heritage, ownership and contested meaning

The formal recognition of a cultural practice as heritage, whether through national designation or international listing, inevitably involves selection and interpretation, raising difficult questions about who has the authority to define a tradition's authentic meaning. Heritagisation processes often privilege certain versions of a practice, typically those most legible to outside observers or compatible with institutional preservation criteria, potentially marginalising equally legitimate variations maintained within diasporic or minority communities. This dynamic becomes particularly contested in postcolonial contexts, where practices suppressed under colonial rule are being actively reclaimed, sometimes generating disagreement between communities and external institutions over how, or whether, such practices should be formally recognised and preserved at all.

1 What does formal recognition of a cultural practice as heritage inevitably involve? _____

2 What difficult question does this raise? _____

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3 What do heritagisation processes often privilege? _____

4 What can this potentially marginalise? _____

5 Where does this dynamic become particularly contested? _____

6 What disagreement can this generate? _____

6 Replace the words in bold with a precise term or collocation.

1 Participants entered a transitional state outside ordinary social structure. _____

2 The community reclaimed a practice suppressed under colonial rule. _____

3 The government used the festival to construct a shared national identity. _____

4 The migrant community maintained the tradition across generations. _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 160-190 word critical commentary on how heritage recognition shapes and sometimes contests a festival's meaning, distinguishing observation from inference.

[ ] Use at least twelve target expressions. [ ] Include four academic collocations. [ ] Maintain a precise, balanced register.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Advanced terms

1 a 2 b 3 c 4 d 5 e 6 f 7 g 8 h 9 i 10 j

2 Precise terms

1 heritagisation 2 liminality 3 communitas 4 folklorisation 5 cultural capital 6 a nation-building ritual 7 postcolonial revival 8 a diasporic tradition

3 Academic collocations

1 b invoke collective memory 2 e enact a communal ritual 3 g commodify symbolic meaning for profit 4 a reclaim a suppressed tradition
5 d institutionalise a heritage practice 6 c dissolve social hierarchy 7 f perform cultural identity 8 h negotiate competing claims to authenticity

4 Analysis

1 liminality 2 communitas 3 nation-building ritual 4 heritagisation 5 folklorisation
6 postcolonial revival 7 diasporic tradition 8 performative identity 9 ritual efficacy 10 cultural capital

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Selection and interpretation.
2 Who has the authority to define a tradition's authentic meaning.
3 Certain versions of a practice, typically those most legible to outside observers or compatible with institutional preservation criteria.
4 Equally legitimate variations maintained within diasporic or minority communities.
5 In postcolonial contexts.
6 Disagreement between communities and external institutions over how, or whether, such practices should be formally recognised and preserved.

6 Precise terms and collocations

1 liminality 2 postcolonial revival 3 nation-building ritual 4 diasporic tradition

Over to you

Answers will vary. Look for conceptual precision, evidence-aware reasoning and balanced evaluation.