Key

Exercise 2

Fill in the gaps

Halloween, contraction of All Hallows' Eve, a holiday _____ **observed** on October 31, the evening before All Saints' (or All Hallows') Day. In much of Europe and most of North America, observance of Halloween is _____ **largely** nonreligious. Halloween had its _____ **origins** in the festival of Samhain among the Celts of ancient Britain and Ireland. On the day _____ **corresponding** to November 1 on contemporary calendars, the new year was believed to begin. That date was considered the beginning of the winter period, the date on which the _____ **herds** were returned from pasture and land tenures were renewed. During the Samhain festival the souls of those who had died were believed to return to visit their homes, and those who had died during the year were _____ **believed** to journey to the otherworld. People set bonfires on _____ **hilltops** for relighting their hearth fires for the winter and to _____ **frighten** away evil spirits, and they sometimes wore masks and other _____ **disguises** to avoid being recognized by the ghosts thought to be present. It was in those ways that beings such as witches, hobgoblins, fairies, and demons came to be _____ **associated** with the day. The period was also thought to be _____**favourable** for _____ **divination** on matters such as marriage, health, and death. When the Romans conquered the Celts in the 1st century, they added their own festivals of Feralia, _____ **commemorating** the passing of the dead, and of Pomona, the _____ **goddess** of the harvest.

Exercise 3

Choose the most appropriate answer

1. In the 7th century Pope Boniface IV established All Saints' Day, _____ on May 13.

accordingly
originally
specially

2. In the following century, perhaps in an effort to supplant the _____ holiday with a Christian observance, it was moved to November 1.
saint
divine
pagan

3. The evening before All Saints' Day became a holy, or hallowed, _____ and thus Halloween.
evermore
 eve
event

 4. By the end of the Middle Ages, the secular and the sacred days had _____.
confirmed
merged
submerged

5. The Reformation _____ put an end to the religious holiday among Protestants.
generally

essentially
especially

6. Along with other festivities, the celebration of Halloween was largely _____ among the early American colonists.
forbidden
spooked
gathered

7. When large numbers of immigrants went to the United States beginning in the mid 19th century, they took their Halloween _____ with them.
objects
customs
slanders

8. In the 20th century Halloween became one of the _____ U.S. holidays, particularly among children.
permanent
particular
principal

9. Halloween is the second highest grossing_____ holiday after Christmas.
commercial
consumer
consumption

10. The word "witch" comes from the Old English wicce, _____ "wise woman."
meaning
establishing
defining

11. According to popular_____, witches held one of their two main meetings, or sabbats, on Halloween night.
prejudice
belief
standing

12. The first known mention of trick-or-treating in print in North America _____ in 1927 in Blackie, Alberta, Canada.
originated
occurred
stated

13. Ireland is_____ believed to be the birthplace of Halloween.
graphically
typically
merely

Exercise 5

Find the most appropriate ending to the sentences

As a secular holiday, Halloween has come to be _____ **associated with a number of activities.** One is the practice of _____ **pulling usually harmless pranks**. Celebrants wear masks and costumes for parties and for trick-or-treating, _____ **thought to have derived from the British practice** of allowing the poor to beg for food, called "soul cakes." Trick-or-treaters go from house to house with the threat that they will pull a trick _____ **if they do not receive a treat**, usually candy. Halloween parties _____ **often include games such as** bobbing for apples, perhaps derived from the Roman celebration of Pomona. Along with skeletons and black cats, the _____ **holiday has incorporated scary beings such as** ghosts, witches, and vampires into the celebration. Another symbol is _____ **the jack-o'-lantern,** a hollowed-out pumpkin, originally a turnip, _____ **carved into a demonic face** and lit with a candle inside. Since the mid-20th century the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) _____ **has attempted to make the collection of money for its programs** a part of Halloween.