Тема: What is a tradition?

1. Задание: Выучите слова. Прочитайте и переведите текст «Russian Holidays and Traditions», письменно ответьте на вопросы. На проверку присылайте только ответы на вопросы.

**Vocabulary:**

unique уникальная  
wide широкая  
delicious вкусная  
gift подарок, дар  
mate товарищ (друг)  
to include включать (в себя), содержать (в себе)  
anniversary юбилей  
to congratulate поздравлять  
to arrange устраивать, организовывать  
to consist состоять (из)  
downtown центр города (деловой)  
either также  
foundational фундаментальный, основательный  
rainbow радужный  
fir-tree елка  
to put up устанавливать, выставлять  
to allow позволять, разрешать  
roof крыша  
altogether все вместе  
in front of впереди  
conventional традиционная (обычная)  
as soon as как только  
hand стрелка часов  
to show показывать  
beverage напиток  
sunrise восход  
significant значительный, важный  
to defend защищать  
occupier оккупант  
numerous многочисленный  
pagan языческий  
Shrovetide Масленица  
ought to следует, должен  
scarecrow чучело  
to symbolize символизировать  
evil злой  
force сила  
nowadays в наши дни, в настоящее время, теперь  
familiar знакомый, привычный, близкий  
to prepare подготавливать  
bar плитка, кусок  
postcard открытка

**Russian Holidays and Traditions**

Each single country has its unique customs and traditions. I am going to tell you about some celebrations and traditions in Russia.

Russians really love holidays due to the wide Russian soul. We usually spend them with a lot of delicious food, gifts and in a friendly atmosphere of relatives and mates.  
There are three different kinds of holidays in our country. They are family holidays, religious holidays and state holidays. I will tell you about family holidays first. They include birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and others. In each family there are their own traditions of celebrating. For instance, my family celebrates my birthday within two days. On the first day I celebrate it with my parents and grandparents. The second day I celebrate it only in a company of my close friends. They usually congratulate me and arrange a lot of surprises.

State or public holidays in Russia consist of Constitution Day, New Year's Day, the International Women's Day, May Day, Victory Day, Russia Day. During these holidays, people have vacation days. They spend time with their lovable families and friends or go downtown to celebrate there. Banks, companies and some stores do not work on these days either.

The New Year's Day is the foundational event among Russians. We put up a New Year fir-tree and decorate it with rainbow lights and balls.

The biggest fir-tree of the country is put up in the Red Square in Moscow. Tiny fir-trees are put up in shop windows, in streets and squares, even on roofs of buildings. Both children and adults enjoy this celebration very much. Children are allowed to stay awake until the morning and get their presents.  
When it is only five minutes to midnight on December, 31, all relatives usually sit altogether in front of the TV and watch the president's conventional speech. As soon as the minute hand of the main clock on the Kremlin tower shows midnight, people congratulate each other with the New Year and drink special beverage — champagne. After that there is the time for gifts. After the whole amount of gifts are presented, Russians have fun, eat, drink, and play games during the night till the sunrise.

Victory Day is the most significant and sacred holiday through all Russian history. This is the day for remembering those who defended our country from the German occupiers during World War II. A grand parade is going to be on this day in Red Square every year. Numerous patriotic war movies are shown on television. This is a special day for veterans and every child and adult congratulates them with a lot of flowers and presents.

Religious holidays include Christmas, Easter and others. There is also a pagan holiday — Shrovetide (Pancake Day). As a rule, these holidays are not official, so people usually ought to be at work or school. At Shrovetide, people see spring coming, eat pancakes and burn scarecrows, which symbolizes evil force of winter.

Nowadays foreign celebrations, like Halloween and St. Valentine's Day, are becoming familiar to Russians. On Halloween almost all clubs organize fancy dress parties. St. Valentine's Day is mostly popular among young people. They usually prepare some presents for their girlfriends and boyfriends such as bars of chocolate and boxes of sweets and make postcards in the shape of a heart.

**Questions:**

1. What kinds of holidays are there in Russia?  
2. What do family holidays consist of?  
3. Does each family have their own traditions of celebration? What are they?  
4. What does public holiday mean?  
5. What kinds of state holidays do you know?  
6. How do Russian people celebrate New Year?  
7. What is the most significant and sacred holiday for Russians?  
8. What kinds of holidays are not official?

2. Задание: Напишите сообщение «Мой любимый праздник», используя материал текста. (10-15 предложений)