

1 What do you think is true about the British and their food? Tick (✓) the statements you think are true, then read the text to check.

- 1 British people prefer traditional British food. ☐
- 2 Immigrants to the UK have influenced British attitudes to food. ☐
- 3 The future of the British restaurant industry is uncertain. ☐

About fifty years ago, the British were definitely not famous for their food – at least, not for good food! Cooking was unadventurous and the results were often boring. To make matters worse, the range of available ingredients was limited. For example, in those days if you wanted to buy some olive oil, you went to the chemist's – it was medicinal, not a basic ingredient. Pizza was not common and spaghetti only came out of a tin! Rice was only used in a milky pudding and bread was usually white and tasteless. Eating out in restaurants or buying take-aways were very rare for the average family and 'foreign food' was even rarer!

The situation these days is very different. A recent survey of the nation's favourite take-aways placed Chinese food at the top of the list, and Indian food was second. Pizza was in third place, beating the traditional favourite, fish and chips. A typical supermarket these days will have shelves full of items that were once considered 'exotic' but are now 'essential', with many items imported from abroad. You can buy Greek yoghurt, Japanese sushi, Indian samosas and Italian gnocchi as easily as British sausages. Avocados and mangoes are as available as apples and pears. Moreover, look at the TV schedule for any day of the week and you're sure to find at least one cooking show.

FIFTY YEARS OF BRITISH FOOD!

How – and when – did this revolution happen? It's partly because from the late 1950s onwards, air fares and therefore foreign travel became cheaper and cheaper. People began to like 'Mediterranean' food after they had tried it on holiday. However, the most important factor was probably immigration. In the post-war years, the UK attracted many thousands of migrant workers.

Many of them came from places with historic connections with the UK, for example India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the West Indies and Hong Kong. Others came from European countries, looking for work and a better life. They brought with them their own traditional cooking styles, and often found work in restaurants and kitchens around the country. Over the years their influence has transformed the British food scene.

The restaurant industry expanded enormously because of foreign workers, and still relies heavily on them. However, since the referendum in 2016 and the decision to leave the EU ('Brexit'), a lot of these workers have left or are planning to leave the country. Some restaurants are already closing as a result. Will the British continue to be love with international cuisine? Only time will tell.

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 Some food items were almost unknown fifty years ago. Give three examples from the text.
- 2 What was the UK's favourite 'take-away' fifty years ago? What is it now?
- 3 Give an example from the text of a typical British food product.
- 4 The text suggests two reasons for the changes in British food. What are they?
- 5 How has the 2016 'Brexit' referendum affected British restaurants?

3 WRITING Write an opinion essay on how food reflects and shapes cultural identity. Make sure to include a clear introduction, body, and conclusion, and provide examples to support your arguments. Write about 150 words.

1 Look at the title of the article and guess the answers to these questions.

- 1 When did British cinemas attract the biggest audiences?
- 2 When did they start to rise again, and why?
- 3 When did the numbers of cinema audiences fall, and why?

2 Now read the article and check your answers to Exercise 1.

BRITISH CINEMA: THEIR FALL AND RISE

How often do you go to the cinema? In the UK, research shows that 78% of the population go and see a film at the cinema at least once or twice a year. Despite predictions that new technology will kill the cinema, ticket sales have risen over the last thirty years. The cinema has survived the internet just as it survived TV. The 1940s were a golden age for British cinema. Records show that in 1946 an amazing 1.64 billion cinema tickets were sold. In those days, one ticket meant that you saw two films (an 'A' film and a 'B' film!) as well as a short summary of the news (a 'newsreel'). Viewers would simply buy a ticket and find a seat, at any point in the film, and sit there for as long as they liked. At the end of the first film, they would rush to the front in order to buy ice cream and popcorn. As well as being an enjoyable social occasion it was also somewhere warm and comfortable to sit – and in those austere post war years that was an important factor. Unfortunately, the air was always full of cigarette smoke; smoking in public places was not banned for another fifty years. Right up until the 1960s, people used to stand for the National Anthem at the beginning and end of each day's programme. By the end of the 1960s, most households had acquired

a TV set, and, as a result, cinema attendance over the next two decades dropped steadily. Children's weekend TV meant that cinemas stopped putting on special children's shows on Saturday mornings ('the Saturday morning pictures'). This meant that young children didn't share their parents' cinema habit. Video players became common in the 1980s, followed by DVDs and then of course the internet. How could cinemas survive that? Well, British cinemas managed to reinvent themselves. During the 1990s, the older, larger cinemas were replaced with several smaller, more intimate spaces so that a wider choice of films was available. The seats were comfortable, there were no longer long queues to buy tickets and there were high quality snacks available to buy. Going to the cinema became a 'premium experience' for every age group – a special but affordable **treat**. Ticket sales revived! Even now, with downloadable films and online streaming, British people continue to enjoy the cinema experience. Just as e-books and printed books live side by side, we can also appreciate both the small, private screen and the big, public one!

3 Say if the statements are true (T), false (F) or not given (NG). Correct the false ones.

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Most British people sometimes go to the cinema. | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 2 More people go to the cinema now than thirty years ago. | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 3 In the 1940s, poor people didn't use to go to the cinema. | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 4 Cinemas still play the National Anthem today. | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 5 Adults were not allowed to attend the 'Saturday morning pictures'. | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 6 Videos and DVDs affected cinema attendance. | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |

4 WRITING Write an opinion essay about the fairness and quality of cinema awards. Give clear and logical arguments and support your ideas with appropriate examples. Write about 150 words.

1 Think of the questions below. Then read the text.

- 1 Do you like detective stories/films?
- 2 Who's the most famous detective in British or Italian literature?
- 3 How did they solve crimes?
- 4 How do detectives today solve their crimes?
- 5 What is forensic science and how does it help the police?

If you like modern murder mysteries, then you will be very familiar with the forensic scientist. In white suits, they arrive at every crime scene and examine the dead body and the space around them, with dusters and brushes. Later, they dissect the victim's body to find out the cause of death and any more details related to the crime; at this point some viewers look away, while the really keen ones watch avidly. Although some of the scenes are very graphic and the storylines are often unrealistic, these shows are highly popular in the UK. They have inspired thousands of young people to study forensic science at university.

In the past detectives like Agatha Christie's Poirot identified the murderer by examining people's characters and exploring their motives. One exception to this was the most famous detective in British literature – Sherlock Holmes. He (or, rather, his creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle!) was also a pioneer of forensic science: for example, Holmes examines fingerprints, footprints and blood samples years before this became standard police practice.

Forensic science has progressed a lot since Sherlock Holmes and his magnifying glass. The discovery of DNA in the early 1960s led to the invention of 'genetic

fingerprinting' in 1985. This made it possible to match suspects to crime scenes with almost 100% accuracy, and revolutionised forensic science. More recently, since the 1990s, 'forensic animation' has become increasingly sophisticated: these days it is possible to recreate a crime, or an accident, on screen. All these developments are seen in popular crime stories, so that modern viewers of TV shows like CSI* or Silent Witness** know quite a lot about them – or they think they do!

So, what about the future? Technology is developing all the time and now it is possible to construct a 3-D image of a person's face with just a tiny piece of DNA. These techniques are already used by archaeologists and historians to produce the faces of people from the past – for example, King Richard III (who died in 1485). In the very near future detectives - real and fictional- will be able to use the same techniques. Even Conan Doyle didn't think of that!

Glossary

*CSI: A very popular American TV show ('Crime Scene Investigation')

** Silent Witness: A popular British TV show about a team of forensic scientists

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 When do 'some viewers look away' from murder mystery shows?
- 2 Why has forensic science become more popular with young people?
- 3 How was Sherlock Holmes similar to modern detectives in the way he solved crimes?
- 4 What does 'forensic animation' mean?
- 5 What did scientists need in order to create an image of King Richard III?

3 WRITING Write an opinion essay on how literature or cinema can help to increase people's interest in and appreciation of science. Provide arguments and examples to support your opinion. Write about 150 words.

1 Read the first paragraph of the text, and the title. Can you guess how they are connected?

Votes for Women

■ On 14th June 1913 a horse race was taking place in Epsom, near London. Spectators pressed against the barriers, cheering the horses and their riders as they raced past. Suddenly, a woman ran out on to the track – straight in front of the King’s horse. The horse knocked her to the ground. Crowds of people ran forward to help the unconscious woman, but she died in hospital four days later. A camera man filmed the whole incident for one of the very first ‘newsreels’. A few days later, 50,000 people stood in the streets to watch the woman’s funeral procession, and today she is a national hero. But who was she, and why did she act in that way?

■ Her name was Emily Davison, and she was a leading member of the suffragette movement. That organisation campaigned for women’s right to vote; they often broke the law in order to gain publicity, and their members, including Emily Davison, often went to prison. On the day she went to Epsom, Emily was wearing white and purple – the colours of the suffragettes. Her death certainly gained publicity for her cause – although historians are not sure she actually intended to die.

■ The following year, the first world war broke out. When it ended, in 1918, parliament finally gave some women the right to vote, but they had to be over 30 years old and own some property. It was partly a ‘reward’ for the work women had done during the war years – but also partly a result of years and years of campaigning by women like Emily Davison.

■ That was about a hundred years ago. How much has changed since then? It took another ten years before all women over 21 were allowed to vote. The first woman MP entered parliament in 1919, and since then, the numbers have risen steadily. In 1979 Margaret Thatcher became the first woman prime minister. By 2016, nearly a hundred years after the first women got the vote, there were 208 women MPs (out of a total of 650) – and the country had its second woman prime minister.

■ Although this is an improvement, many people believe this is not good enough and that this progress is too slow. They say that there should be equal numbers of men and women in parliament because parliament should reflect society. Perhaps that will happen in the future. Emily Davison and many other suffragettes sacrificed a lot to give women political equality. Who knows? If she hadn’t fallen under that horse, perhaps women would have waited much longer for the right to vote.

2 Now read the whole text and answer the questions.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 How do we know exactly what happened at the Epsom races? | 3 Why are her clothes significant? |
| 2 How do we know Emily Davison was famous when she died? | 4 How had women ‘earned’ the right to vote? |
| | 5 When were all women allowed to vote? |
| | 6 How many British MPs were there in 2016? |

3 **WRITING** Write an argumentative essay on women’s rights and equal opportunities, considering recent progress and societal impact. Share your perspective with supporting examples. Write about 150 words.

1 Read the text quickly and choose the best title.

- A ☐ JMW Turner – a great British painter.
 B ☐ It's modern – but is it really art?
 C ☐ Modern art: always controversial!

JMW Turner (1775-1851) is one of Britain's most famous and popular artists – in fact, one of his works has been voted 'Britain's greatest painting'. He was particularly fascinated by the power and beauty of nature; many of his paintings show the sea and dramatic skies. He travelled extensively in Europe and visited Italy several times. He particularly loved the light and colours of Venice, and produced many sketches and paintings while he was staying there. Although he was very successful in his lifetime, he was also a controversial figure. This was partly because of his unconventional techniques (for example, his way of applying paint with a knife, not a brush). Turner's later paintings were often criticised (at the time) because they didn't look realistic enough – instead, they give a dreamy impression of light and colour. However, these works (now very famous and very much loved) were the main catalyst for the Impressionist movement, and have influenced artists ever since.

Turner's name has been given to an important British art prize. The Turner Prize is awarded annually to contemporary artists in Britain. Since its beginning, in 1984, it has attracted a lot of publicity and controversy. In fact, the general public associate 'Turner Prize' with unusual works of art that they (and probably lots of artist too) don't understand.

Here are some examples:

- In 1991 the artist Damien Hirst exhibited a whole **shark** preserved in chemicals and suspended in a glass case. He didn't win the prize that year, but he did win it four years later. That time he exhibited two halves of a cow, and two halves of a **calf** – they too were preserved in glass cases, each half in its own case.
- In 1993, Rachel Whiteread filled a small London house with **concrete**. The house was then knocked down, leaving the concrete behind. She won the prize that year – but she also won another prize – the 'Anti-Turner Prize' for the 'worst artist in Britain' (she gave the £40,000 prize money to charity).
- In 1999 Tracey Emin exhibited the most famous – or notorious – 'art work' of all. What was it? Her own, real, extremely untidy, bed! She didn't win – but in 2014 it was sold for over £2.5 million!
- In 2001 Martin Creed won the Turner Prize (£25,000) for a work named *Work No. 227: the lights going on and off*. It was, quite simply, an empty room with an intermittent light.
- In more recent times the Turner Prize exhibitions have been a little less controversial, although in 2016 Anthea Hamilton's 5.5 metre high sculpture of man's bare bottom attracted some attention.

2 Read the text again and say if the statements are true (T), false (F) or not given (NG). Correct the false ones.

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Turner was not famous until after his death. | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 2 He experimented with new painting techniques. | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 3 A lot of people disliked his work. | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 4 The Turner Prize is well known in the UK. | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 5 Damien Hirst has won the Turner Prize twice. | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 6 Rachel Whiteread won two prizes for the same art work. | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 7 Tracey Emin painted a picture of her bed. | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 8 Martin Creed's work was actually a joke. | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 9 Anthea Hamilton won the Turner Prize in 2016. | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |

3 WRITING Write a for-and-against essay on how artists use art to express ideas, promote causes, and reflect society. Provide examples to support your points. Write about 150 words.

1 Read the questions and guess the answers. Then read the text and check your answers.

- 1 Roughly how many people do you think regularly use Facebook, across the world?
- 2 Which age group does it attract most, these days?
- 3 Who are losing interest in it?
- 4 Which platforms do you think are its main rivals?

In 2004 very few people had heard the term 'social media'. In that year, Mark Zuckerberg launched a website designed to help his fellow college students connect with each other. We all know what happened next – over the next few years Facebook expanded – exploded! – until billions of people across the world were using it regularly. The number of users continues to grow – in 2017 there were 2.13 billion regular users of Facebook – 307 million of them in Europe. However, a closer look at the statistics shows that Facebook is becoming less and less popular with younger people, while the number of users over the age of 55 is increasing year on year. Facebook, it seems, is no longer cool.

Why are these changes happening? There are a number of factors. The most obvious one is simply a matter of choice. Facebook was not the first social media site, but it was certainly **one** of the first – and it quickly overtook its rivals; it became the one 'everybody' was using. However, as time went on new rivals appeared. Among young people, Instagram (launched in 2010) and Snapchat (launched the following year) were particularly successful. Facebook solved the Instagram problem by taking over the company but Snapchat continues to present real competition. At the same time, older people are becoming more used to the internet and more interested in social media. In 2017 an estimated 500,000 people over 55 joined Facebook, while a similar number of teenagers and young adults left it.

At the moment Facebook is still the most widely-used social media platform; in the UK there are still about 32.5 million active users, compared with about 16.7 million for Instagram and 14 million for Snapchat. However, the two newer platforms are growing fast, while Facebook is losing its younger users. If current trends continue, soon there will be a generation of 'Facebook nevers' – people who have never used Facebook at all. It took Facebook less than ten years to reach extraordinary heights – how long will it take to disappear?

2 Read the text again. Then say if the statements are true (T), false (F) or not given (NG). Correct the false ones.

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Did the term 'social media' begin before Facebook, or with Facebook? | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 2 How many regular users did Facebook have in total in 2017? | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 3 What does 'the Instagram problem' mean in the text? | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 4 Which social media platform do most British people use these days? | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |
| 5 What does the text imply might happen soon? | ☐ T | ☐ F | ☐ NG |

3 WRITING Social media has transformed how we connect, making communication easier but also raising privacy concerns. Write a composition about the advantages and disadvantages of social media. Write about 150 words.

- 1 Look at the five question headings in the text and guess the answers to the questions. Then read the text and check your answers.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF BANK

What is a food bank, and what do food banks do?

>> A food bank is a charity that is set up to help local people who are hungry. They are run by volunteers. Food items are donated, mostly by the public, then sorted and stored. Then food parcels are distributed to people in need.

When did food banks start? How many are there in the UK?

>> The first food bank was opened in the USA in 1967. However, in the UK there was little need for them until recently. They started in the UK in the early 2000s. At first there were only a few, but their numbers rose fast and by 2017 there were about two thousand across the country, with new ones opening every week.

Who can use a food bank? Why do people need them?

>> For most British food banks, you need a voucher before you are given a food parcel. You can get vouchers from lots of different professionals – for example, doctors, social workers or health visitors. In other food banks you don't need a voucher – they will give food to anyone who asks for it. Of course, some people don't really need it – but most of the time the system is not abused.

There are lots of reasons why someone might need to use a food bank. One of the main factors is a recent huge change in the welfare system. It is much more difficult to get 'benefits' (payments from the government) with a recent change in the law, so people who rely on them, for example the unemployed, or the disabled, often have to wait a long time for their payments, and while they wait they have no money.

What do you get if you go to a food bank?

>> A typical food bank will give you enough food to feed you and your family for three days. Your food parcel will include tinned and dried foods as well as basic ingredients like flour, sugar or rice. Some food banks have fridges, so they can also offer fresh milk, cheese etc – but they are unable to store fresh fruit and vegetables. You might also be given some 'treats' like biscuits or cake. In addition to food, you can often find other essential items like toothpaste, soap, deodorant and babies' nappies – and even, sometimes, pet food.

Are food banks likely to continue for some time?

>> Let's hope there will be no need for them in the not-too-distant future. However, in the short term, it looks like there will be more and more food banks, and more and more people who need them.

- 2 Now read the text again and decide which option (A, B or C) best suits the statement.

- 1 Food banks depend mostly on
 A ordinary people. B health professionals. C the government.
- 2 Food banks in the UK
 A have existed since the 1960s. B did not exist 25 years ago. C are not used as much as they used to be.
- 3 Most food banks
 A give food to everybody. B ask to see paperwork. C request payment.
- 4 Which items would a food parcel definitely NOT include?
 A chocolate B yoghurt C bananas
- 5 Will there be food banks in twenty years' time, according to the text?
 A Yes, definitely. B Maybe. C Definitely not.

- 3 **WRITING** Write an essay on the benefits and challenges of increasing global interconnectedness. Consider aspects such as cultural exchange, economic growth, technology, and privacy. Justify your ideas with examples. Write about 150 words.

1 Answer the questions then read the text.

- 1 Do you like crime fiction? If so, who's your favourite writer?
- 2 Can you name any famous authors of crime fiction? Can you name their famous detectives?

Murder!

Walk into any bookshop in the UK, and there'll be several shelves of detective novels (often known as 'whodunnits'), ranging from Arthur Conan Doyle to JK Rowling, who takes a break from the Harry Potter stories to write murder mysteries as the writer Robert Galbraith. Look at the TV schedules, and what do you find? Adaptations of these same stories! The British public is in love with murder and especially with detectives.

There have been numerous films and TV series based on Conan Doyle's books, including a recent, very popular series called 'Sherlock', which gives the stories a modern twist. Sherlock Holmes is not the only fictional detective who is regularly reinvented on screen. Agatha Christie's novels often feature Hercule Poirot, the Belgian detective who interrogates the British upper classes when a murder occurs, and Miss Marple, the sweet little old lady who is better than the police at solving crimes. These stories, even though they are very dated now, are regularly adapted for TV or film.

Writer Colin Dexter's name is not so famous internationally, but his best-selling crime novels have inspired not one but three long-running TV series. Dexter's stories are set in Oxford (where he lived), and involve mysterious murders – often involving members of the university – and complicated plots which troubled detective Inspector Morse always manages to solve. First produced in 1987, the TV shows are still regularly shown, even today.

When the actor who played Morse died, a new series started with his assistant playing the lead detective. Then when that actor retired, the production company made a new series – a 'prequel' to the original series – and the British public continued to be enthralled.

Not content with 'home-grown' crime, the British public have become addicted to foreign crime series, in particular 'Nordic noir', for example *Wallander* – a Swedish series that is so popular there is also a British version. In most of these stories, the detective has some kind of sad secret or tragic history – or else is an unconventional figure whose brilliance surprises everyone. Morse, for example, is a solitary figure who never manages to find love. Poirot is eccentric and not taken seriously – until he solves the case. The detective in the 'Robert Galbraith' stories is a penniless war veteran who struggles to make a living. Kurt Wallander is – you've guessed it – a lonely, troubled detective who always cracks the case. Interestingly, even when women become the lead detectives, this pattern is repeated. Jane Tennison, who takes the lead in solving the grisly murders in the series *Prime Suspect*, has to change to survive in a man's world, becoming an alcoholic in the process, while Saga Noren, in *The Bridge*, has serious personality problems.

The British are said to love the 'underdog'. Perhaps that explains their obsession with these stories – a damaged detective faces enormous challenges, but defeats them all and finds justice in the end. Whatever the reason, it is comforting to know that in reality the historic city of Oxford does not really suffer a mysterious murder every week.

2 Read the text again and say if the statements are true (T), false (F). Correct the false statements.

- 1 JK Rowling writes crime fiction.
- 2 The TV series Sherlock is based on the original stories by Conan Doyle.
- 3 Miss Marple is a fictional police officer.
- 4 Colin Dexter wrote the TV series as well as the books.
- 5 The same actor played Morse in all three series.
- 6 According to the text, detective stories often follow a similar pattern.

☐ T	☐ F
☐ T	☐ F
☐ T	☐ F
☐ T	☐ F
☐ T	☐ F
☐ T	☐ F

3 WRITING Write an opinion essay on how books, television, and external influences shape our thoughts and decisions. Consider the impact of media and the extent of manipulation in society. Support your ideas with examples. Write about 150 words.

- 1 You are going to read about people who give up eating animal products. What do you think their reasons are? Make notes, then read the text. Compare your ideas with those in the text.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! *Happy Veganuary!*

For thousands of people in the UK, the first month of the year now has a new name – *Veganuary*. You’ve probably guessed what that means – the first month of the year, January, and becoming a vegan for that month. In other words, a month when you eat no animal products.

Since 2014, when the Veganuary movement was launched in the UK, it has increased in popularity every year; in its first year, 3,300 people took up the ‘Veganuary challenge’, then just four years later the figure was 120,000. Not only that, research shows that more than half of participants remain vegan for longer than just a month. Although veganism in the UK used to be considered extreme, it is now showing every sign of ‘going mainstream’ (gloss).

Perhaps these ‘vegan converts’ were influenced by the various celebrities who have declared their interest in veganism – they include the singers Beyonce, Ariana Grande and Miley Cyrus as well as the racing driver Lewis Hamilton and tennis stars Novak Djokovic and Venus Williams. However, it’s not just a passing trend. There are three main reasons why people become vegans.

Firstly, they are concerned about animal welfare. A number of recent scandals in the UK have drawn

people’s attention to the appalling conditions in ‘factory farms’, where the majority of animals raised for meat are kept. These reports have shocked the British public, who are famously sentimental about animals.

Vegans are also concerned for the environment. They point out, for example, that farmed animals actually produce more greenhouse gases than traffic. Moreover, these animals consume huge quantities of crops that could feed people instead. If nobody ate meat, they say, there would be plenty of food for everybody.

Finally, vegans believe that their diet is good for their health, and that they feel better than they used to when they ate meat and dairy products. Most experts agree, although they stress the need to eat a properly balanced diet that contains enough protein and minerals.

It looks as though the vegan movement will continue to grow in the UK; it has even been called a ‘cultural shift’. In recognition of this, most British supermarkets now stock a range of vegan-friendly products, including ready meals, which are popular throughout the year. It looks as though every month will soon be Veganuary!

- 2 Read the text again, then choose the correct words.

- 1 In 2014, 3,300 people became vegans for *a month* / *a year*.
- 2 The celebrities mentioned in the text *joined Veganuary* / *support veganism*.
- 3 The British public *are* / *are not* usually animal lovers.
- 4 Cars, lorries etc. produce *more* / *less* greenhouse gasses than cows, sheep etc.
- 5 According to the text, most experts agree that a balanced diet *should* / *doesn’t need to* include animal products.

- 3 **WRITING** Write a for-and-against essay on adopting a vegan or vegetarian diet, considering health benefits, environmental impact, social challenges, and ethical concerns. Provide a balanced discussion with supporting examples. Write about 150 words.

1 Read the text quickly, then answer the questions.

- 1 What happens to British schoolchildren who behave very badly?
- 2 Is there anything in the text that surprises or shocks you? (What is it?)

SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS – A GROWING PROBLEM

Every year, thousands of British school children receive the ultimate punishment for bad behaviour – they are excluded from school. What does this mean? They are not allowed to come into school. Sometimes the exclusion is temporary and they are allowed to return after a short time, but often it is permanent. Recent research shows that on average this happens to 35 children every school day. That's a truly shocking statistic. In 2015/16, a total of 6,700 children were permanently excluded. 1,185 of them were primary school pupils - including 50 who were only four years old. The figures are rising year on year, and everyone agrees that the situation is deeply worrying.

What do pupils do to receive this drastic punishment?

>>The usual reason for excluding a child is violence, although one isolated incident does not usually result in exclusion unless it's very serious. It's often a 'last resort' after a pupil has persistently disrupted normal school life for some time. Head teachers always try to find another way first, but they have to consider the welfare of the whole school.

Why is the number of exclusions rising?

>>Many teachers say that they are not able to give interesting lessons that engage every pupil, because they have to prepare their pupils for so many tests. They believe that deteriorating behaviour is a direct result of this. They also cite staff shortages as a reason why some pupils are difficult to control. In addition, schools are increasingly driven to show good results, and anyone who is disruptive will damage their figures (and their position in the league tables). Cuts to school budgets also mean less money for pastoral care. All this, at a time when intense exam pressure can lead to mental health problems which are then missed until too late.

What happens to the children who have been excluded?

>>They can apply to a different school, and in some cases this works well. Otherwise, they will have to attend a 'Pupil Referral Unit', where they will continue their studies with specialist teachers who are able to give them more individual attention. It's not ideal, though, especially for older students who are about to take GCSEs.

What can be done to improve the situation?

>>There is a movement towards a more conciliatory approach to behavioural problems. Teachers are being trained to notice 'warning signs' and to intervene before conflicts escalate; they are encouraged to find out more about the pupils' background and possible problems that might cause their bad behaviour. These methods definitely work, but they take time and in the meantime, the situation is getting worse. Much more needs to be done much faster.

2 Now read the text and complete the sentences.

- 1 In 2015/16 Among them
- 2 A child isn't usually excluded after
- 3 Teachers think there are too many and not enough
- 4 Excluded pupils either go to or
- 5 A possible solution is for teachers to before there's a problem.

3 WRITING Creating a positive school climate can significantly reduce discipline problems in schools. How would you implement social and emotional learning programs to help students develop empathy, self-awareness and interpersonal skills? Write a composition, supporting your ideas with examples. Write about 150 words.