

Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises to check your understanding.

### Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–e next to the numbers 1–5.

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1..... Farsi                  | a. an old name for the country of Iran                           |
| 2..... Persia                 | b. the official language of Iran                                 |
| 3..... to symbolise something | c. to do something fun for a special day                         |
| 4..... to celebrate           | d. the season when plants start to grow again after the winter   |
| 5..... spring                 | e. to represent something; to be a sign or a symbol of something |

### 1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best option to complete these sentences.

- Nowruz is *always / usually / rarely* on 21 March.
- It's a celebration of the *new year / summer / winter* .
- One of the most important activities to prepare for Nowruz is *studying / watching films / cleaning* .
- People jump over bonfires *just before / on the day of / just after* Nowruz.
- All the objects on the *haftseen* table *are foods to eat / are gifts from family and friends / have names which begin with the same sound* .
- Nowruz *is / isn't* celebrated by Iranian families in the UK.

### 2. Check your understanding: matching

Match the activities and objects in the box with what they symbolise.

a bright red spice	apples	a sweet pudding
wearing brand new clothes	jumping over flames	coins

- \_\_\_\_\_ = a fresh start to the year
- \_\_\_\_\_ = burning away sickness and bad luck
- \_\_\_\_\_ = sunrise and the spice of life
- \_\_\_\_\_ = prosperity
- \_\_\_\_\_ = health and beauty
- \_\_\_\_\_ = the sweetness of life

### 3. Check your understanding: multiple selection

Tick (✓) all the correct answers. There are four correct answers for each question.

1. In which countries is there a public holiday for Nowruz?

- |       |             |       |            |
|-------|-------------|-------|------------|
| ..... | Iran        | ..... | Kazakhstan |
| ..... | Afghanistan | ..... | the UK     |
| ..... | Azerbaijan  |       |            |

2. Which of these things do people do for Nowruz?

- |       |                         |       |                           |
|-------|-------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| ..... | repair broken things    | ..... | clean the house           |
| ..... | prepare a special table | ..... | celebrate with the family |
| ..... | wear old clothes        |       |                           |

3. Which of these objects can be found on a *haftseen* table?

- |       |                 |       |                |
|-------|-----------------|-------|----------------|
| ..... | coins           | ..... | a family photo |
| ..... | a sweet pudding | ..... | apples         |
| ..... | a mirror        |       |                |

#### Discussion

Do you celebrate Nowruz? How do you celebrate it?