



Write your name

ESB C2 Level 3 Reading (Part Two)

Read the following text about pies. For questions 28 – 35, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

The English Pie

The English pie has been around since the Middle Ages and has inspired idioms, nursery rhymes, and even been mentioned by Shakespeare himself. Up to the present day, there are pie competitions around the country, one of the most famous being the British Pie Awards held in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, England, every March. There are also records of taxes being offered to the Crown in the form of pies in the 11th century, something which continued for hundreds of years. Records of Henry VI's coronation speak of a suitably regal pie of partridge and peacock, while a 1465 feast for the Archbishop of York saw guests scoff 5,500 venison pies. One of the great artists of the 18th century, William Hogarth, put a pie seller centre stage in one of his paintings. Since their early days, pies served different functions for the poor and the rich. While for the former they were a portable food, as the crust both carried and preserved the filling, for the latter it was an opportunity to show off not only the delicious food they could afford, but sometimes simply to show off. The 16th and 17th centuries saw the rise of the 'surprise pies', which were enormous creations designed to house the unexpected. A favourite one was one containing musicians who began to play when emerging from the pie. Another popular trick was to conceal live birds which would fly out after the pie was cut: this led to the line 'four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie' from the nursery rhyme 'Sing a Song of Sixpence'. Pies have enriched the English language in many other ways. The Bedfordshire Clanger was a pie with both savoury and sweet contents: a main course and a dessert. As such, it was rather long, difficult to hold on to and, therefore, frequently dropped, hence the expression 'dropping a clanger' for making a big mistake. The word 'clanger' was from the Bedfordshire dialect word meaning 'heavy'. The phrase 'eating humble pie', meaning to be in a position where one is humiliated and must apologise, comes from the medieval period where the spoils of the deer hunt were divided according to social status: those of higher rank taking the finest cuts of meat, while those of lower status took the nombles (a Norman French word for deer offal), which they would bake into a pie. And, over time, 'nombles' pie became 'humble' pie. We get the expression 'a finger in every pie', indicating someone who has a lot of interests in a lot of things, from Shakespeare's 'Henry VIII'. Shakespeare mentions pies again, talking about something called a 'warden pie', in 'The Winter's Tale', which was a pie made from a hard type of pear that needed to be cooked. His obsession continues with yet another pie, by far the most gruesome object in all of

ESB C2 Level 3 Reading (Part Two)

Shakespeare's works. It is to be found in 'Titus Andronicus', which features two brothers who are killed, baked into a pie, and then served to their mother. However, this was not an original idea as the same situation can be found in the Latin verses of the classical poet, Ovid. Most regions of the country seem to have their own specialist pie, and the most eye-catching of these must be the Stargazy pie from Cornwall, in the extreme southwest of England. This pie is cooked with seven different types of fish looking up from the crust and has its roots in the 17th century. The story behind the pie is that a local Cornish fisherman, Tom Bawcock, braved December storms to land a huge haul of fish that saved his village from starvation and so it is celebrated there to this day. And why not celebrate? After blessing the pies, a tradition of the British Pie Awards in Melton Mowbray, Reverend Kevin Ashby suggests, "We must have pies. Stress can't exist in the presence of a pie!"

28. The text in paragraph one implies that pies
- A. were once used in place of currency.
 - B. used to be served to all new monarchs.
 - C. heavily feature in the works of Hogarth.
 - D. have their origins in Leicestershire.
29. Paragraph two states that pies
- A. were a preserve of the wealthy.
 - B. presented opportunities to boast.
 - C. inspired musical hits.
 - D. were frequently shocking.
30. The Bedfordshire Clanger gets its name from
- A. having two different fillings.
 - B. being a huge mistake.
 - C. being difficult to hold.
 - D. its excessive weight.
31. Today, humble pie is
- A. a profuse apology.
 - B. made from venison.
 - C. only used in an expression.
 - D. served to the poor.
32. In paragraph three, the word 'gruesome' is closest in meaning to
- A. horrific.
 - B. surprising.
 - C. degrading.
 - D. complex.
33. The author believes Shakespeare
- A. was a fan of the Roman poets.
 - B. mentioned pies far too often.
 - C. must have cooked pies himself.
 - D. always aimed to shock.



ESB C2 Level 3 Reading (Part Two)

34. The Stargazy Pie

- A. is said to relieve stress. B. is unique to the Cornish region.
C. was named after a famous mariner. D. is a favourite of religious people.

35. An alternative title for the whole article might be

- A. How Shakespeare Popularised the Pie.
B. An Award-Winning Staple of English Cuisine.
C. A Dish Fit for Kings, Clergy, and Commoners.
D. How the Pie Arrived in England.

