

Afternoon Tea

□ Anna, the 7th Duchess of Bedford is nearly always credited with the invention of the tradition of afternoon tea in the early 1840's. Traditionally, dinner was not served until 8:30 or 9:00 in the evening and the Duchess often became hungry, especially in the summer when dinner was served even later. She ordered a small meal of bread, butter and other niceties such as cakes, tarts, and biscuits, to be brought secretly to her private rooms. When everybody found out about it, she was not ridiculed, as she had feared, but her habit caught on and the concept of a small meal, of niceties, and perhaps tea, became popular and was eventually called "afternoon tea". By the middle of the nineteenth century, the complex set of rules and etiquette surrounding the social custom of women visiting each other for tea was well developed. When tea was served the hostess sat at one end of the table and supervised its pouring for her guests. Even when the British "lord" of the house was present it was the woman's responsibility to serve tea. Obviously, the origins of the well known British tradition of afternoon tea cannot be attributed to only one woman. It evolved over a period of time, as many cultural customs do.

1. READING COMPREHENSION (2 points, 0,5 each correct answer) Which of the following options is correct in the context of the passage?

□ **1. In the early 1840's dinner was served...**

- a) before 8:30.
- b) from 8:30 onwards.
- c) late in the afternoon.

□ **2. When people found out about the Duchess of Bedford's afternoon tea ...**

- a) she was made an object of laughter.
- b) people made fun of her habit.
- c) her habit became a widespread custom.

□ **3. By 1850, ...**

- a) there were simple principles for "afternoon tea".
- b) there was an elaborate and sophisticated protocol for "afternoon tea".
- c) there was an initial set of rules for "afternoon tea".

□ **4. Who was responsible for serving tea?**

- a) The British "lord" of the house.
- b) The hostess.
- c) A maidservant.

2. EXPRESSING THE MAIN IDEAS (2 points, 1 each correct answer) According to the text and using your own words, answer the following questions:

- a) Why did the 7th Duchess of Bedford start having afternoon tea?
- b) What was the difference between the afternoon tea the Duchess had in her private rooms and the social custom it became in the nineteenth century?

3. **COMPOSITION (About 90 words, 3 points)**(Además del contenido, se tendrá en cuenta la forma de expresión, estructuras correctas, vocabulario adecuado y buena ortografía)
Choose one of the following options. Specify your option:

A - What is your main meal of the day? When and where do you have it? Are your eating habits different at the weekend?

B - How do you feel about eating meat? What do you think is the point of view of a vegetarian?

4. **USE OF ENGLISH (3 points, 0,5 each correct answer) Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given:**

a. If your friend doesn't come before ten, he will miss the train.

Unless ...

b. The children stayed at home because it was raining.

As ...

c. 'What time do the banks close today?'

Tim asked me ...

d. Sharon hasn't eaten junk food since last May.

Sharon stopped

e. My kitchen is being redecorated at the moment.

I am ...

f. I am not sure that she is his girlfriend

She...

Answers

Question 1:

1:B 2:C 3:B 4:B

Question 2:

- a) Because she was hungry at that time, as dinner was served quite late, especially in the summer.
- b) Basically the Duchess's afternoon tea was a private act, whereas the British afternoon tea tradition was a social act with an elaborate set of rules.

Question 3:

What is your main meal of the day? When and where do you have it? Are your eating habits different at the weekend?

▫ The main meal for me is lunch, like for most Spaniards, I suppose. I usually have lunch at home with my parents and my two brothers around two o'clock.

▫ At the weekend it's a bit different. I usually have breakfast later than during the week because I don't have to get up early to go to school. Then, me and my family have a late lunch, maybe at three o'clock. Dinner is a bit chaotic because sometimes we go out for dinner or have it late at home.

In conclusion, the routines of working days bring us all together to the table, but weekends are completely different.

How do you feel about eating meat? What do you think is the point of view of a vegetarian?

▫ I think eating meat is necessary for human beings if we want to have a balanced and healthy diet. This is very important especially for children as they are growing up.

▫ Vegetarians consider that meat is not necessary, and some of them don't even eat eggs or dairy products. Some are reluctant to eat animals which have been previously alive and think that it is not ethically right, while others just believe they don't need meat to live on.

I'm sure that a person can't be very healthy if he never eats meat because vegetables don't have all the necessary proteins our body needs. However, I respect vegetarians and their opinions.

Question 4:

- a. Unless your friend comes before ten, he will miss the train.
- b. As it was raining, the children stayed at home.
- c. Tim asked me what time the banks closed that day.
- d. Sharon stopped eating junk food last May.
- e. I am having/getting my kitchen redecorated at the moment.
- f. She may/might/could be his girlfriend.

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