

CULTURAL FESTIVALS OF PAKISTAN: UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Text type: Blog

Themes: Tourism and Travel

Subthemes: GIS Application in Tourism, Hospitality

In this unit the students will be able to

- Read, view and analyse a variety of reading grade-appropriate and high-interest books and texts from print and non-print sources: Interpersonal texts (e.g. informal and formal letters, notices, emails)
- Make inferences to draw conclusions
- Read with accurate pronunciation, appropriate pitch and voice variation suitable for fictional and nonfictional texts.
- Ask and answer higher-order questions to guide/assess reading
- Use pre-reading and while-reading strategies to analyse and explore different layers of meaning within texts including biases and opinions.
- Read and use inference and deduction to recognise implicit meaning (e.g. look for supporting details within a text/paragraph) using prior knowledge and contextual cues effectively
- Apply skimming and scanning strategies for relevant information. Infer the theme/main idea of the text, distinguishing between fact and opinion where necessary.
- Demonstrate knowledge and application of parts of speech in oral and written communication in varying degrees of complexity.
- Use all types of tenses correctly in speech and writing.
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
- Follow the steps of the process approach to plan for writing a paragraph: brainstorming, structuring, mind mapping using a variety of graphic organizers, freewriting, and note-taking.
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
- Apply the techniques of writing the first draft with sufficient details; proofreading and editing details to suit the purpose and audience.
- Use hyphens (hyphenated nouns and adjectives) in words, letter string.

Pre-Reading

Which festival, mela, Urs is celebrated in your area? How do you celebrate it?

Cultural Festivals of Pakistan: Unity in Diversity

Countries all over the world have diverse festivals rooted in history, culture, and beliefs, reflecting their unique identities. These celebrations often mark significant events, honor traditions, and strengthen social bonds. Festivals serve as expressions of cultural richness, fostering unity and providing a platform for communities to celebrate shared values, heritage, and spirituality.

Pakistan is a land of diverse cultures and traditions. The country is home to various cultural festivals that reflect its rich heritage and history. From the colourful Jashn e Baharraan festival to the traditional Shandur Polo Festival, Pakistan offers a wide range of cultural festivities that attract visitors from all over the world. In this blog, we will discuss some of the most popular cultural festivals in Pakistan.

1) Jashn-e-Baharaan

Jashn-e-Baharaan is a spring festival celebrated in Pakistan, especially in the Punjab region. The festival is also known as the "Kite Festival" as people fly kites of various colours and shapes during the event. Jashn-e-Baharaan marks the beginning of the spring season and is celebrated with great enthusiasm and energy. The festival includes various cultural activities, including flower exhibitions, musical concerts, cultural dances and stalls of traditional food.



2) Shandur Polo Festival

Shandur Polo Festival is an annual cultural event held in the Chitral district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The festival is held at the Shandur Pass, which is located at an altitude of 3,734 meters above sea level. The event features a traditional polo match played between the teams of Chitral and Gilgit. The festival also includes traditional dance performances, music, and food. People from all over the world come to attend this special festival.



3) Kalash Festival

Kalash Festival is a three-day cultural event held in the Kalash Valley of the Chitral district. The festival is celebrated by the Kalash people, who are a unique ethnic group in Pakistan. It's a vibrant event, symbolizing the preservation of Kalash identity amidst changing times. Held annually, it involves colourful rituals, traditional dances, and music. The festival reflects the Kalash community's ancient customs and beliefs, often centered around



agricultural cycles and spiritual connections. The event is held to welcome the spring season. It's a time of joyous festivities, bringing people together to honor their heritage. The Kalash Festival is not only a celebration of cultural identity but also an opportunity for the community to pass down traditions from one generation to the next.

4) Sibi Mela

Sibi Mela is a prominent festival in Balochistan, Pakistan, celebrated annually in February. This lively event serves as a platform for showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region. The festival attracts people from diverse backgrounds who engage in traditional dances, folk music, and vibrant performances. Sibi Mela holds significant economic importance, functioning as a bustling marketplace for livestock and handicrafts. It's a time when Balochi traditions and crafts take center stage, fostering community bonds and preserving cultural identity. The festivities not only entertain but also contribute to the socio-economic fabric of Balochistan, making Sibi Mela a vital cultural and economic event.



While-reading

What is the economic importance of Sibi Mela?

5) Nowruz

This festival is like the Nowruz of Iran, Afghanistan, and Central Asia. In Chitral, Gilgit, and Baltistan, Nowruz is celebrated as a socio-religious festival from the 21st to the 23rd of March. The celebration lasts for weeks.

In Baltistan, the main features of Nowruz include distributing coloured eggs to friends and family

and polo matches. Children and women dress up in new clothes to greet each other.

Particular congregations are held in different towns where special prayers are offered for the country's prosperity. In the Hunza district, the Nawroz festival starts off with agricultural activities as people begin to plough their fields.



6) Sindhi Cultural Day

Sindhi Cultural Day is a popular Sindhi cultural festival. It is celebrated with traditional enthusiasm to highlight the centuries-old rich culture of Sindh. The day is celebrated each year on the first Sunday of the month of December. It's widely celebrated all over Sindh, and amongst the Sindhi diaspora population around the world. Sindhis celebrate this day to demonstrate the peaceful identity of Sindhi culture and celebrate their rich heritage.

People gather in all major cities of Sindh to arrange various activities. Literary (poetic) gatherings, musical concerts, seminars,



While-reading

What is an Ajrak? Mention some prominent colours of Ajrak?

lecture programs and rallies are organised. On this occasion people wear Ajrak (traditional block printed shawl) and Sindhi Topi, the musical programs and rallies are held in many cities to mark the day with zeal. Major hallmarks of cities and towns are decorated with Sindhi Ajrak. People across Sindh exchange gifts of Ajrak and Topi to each other. Even the children and women dress up in Ajrak, attending musical events where famous Sindhi singers sing Sindhi songs, which depicts peace and love message of Sindh.

7) Lok Virsa Mela

The Lok Virsa Mela is a cultural event held in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. The event is organized by the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage and is a celebration of the diverse culture and traditions of Pakistan. The event has become a source of national pride for the artists and performers that showcase their talent in the open air theatres.

Of primary importance are the gorgeous pavilions of all the four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan as well. These pavilions showcase the rich culture of these provinces including their handicrafts, cultural dresses, jewelry, pottery and the famous indigenous food, allowing visitors to see a wide range of Pakistan's traditionally rich culture throughout an exciting

ten-day period in Islamabad, Pakistan's federal capital city.

It is evident from the array of colours and festivals mentioned above that Pakistan is a country rich in culture and traditions. The country's cultural festivals are a reflection of its diverse heritage and history. From the colourful Jashn-e-Baharaan festival to the traditional Shandur Polo Festival, Pakistan offers a wide range of cultural festivities that attract visitors from all over the world. These festivals are an



excellent opportunity for tourists to experience the rich culture and traditions of Pakistan.

Adapted from the blog: Most Popular Cultural Festivals in Pakistan

(<https://travelpakistan.com/blogs/most-popular-cultural-festivals-in-pakistan/361>)

Post-reading

Which of the above mentioned festivals did you like the most and why?

1. Glossary

Given below are the difficult words from the unit. Look at their meanings and use these words in your own sentences.

Words	Meanings
vibrant	full of energy and enthusiasm
bountiful	plentiful; abundant
fervently	with intense passion or emotion
socio-economic	relating to both social and economic factors
prominent	widely recognized or well-known
handicrafts	goods made by hand, often with artistic or traditional significance
congregations	gatherings of people for a specific purpose, often religious or social
diaspora	the dispersion of people from their original homeland
indigenous	native to a particular region or environment
pavilion	a large tent or building used for entertainment or public events

2. Reading and Critical Thinking Skills

A. Read the unit carefully and answer the following questions.

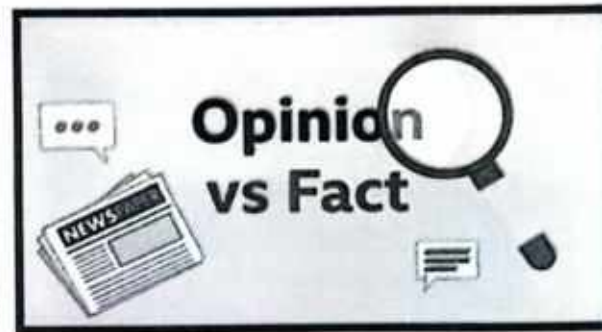
- Why is the Jashn-e-Baharaan celebration often referred to as the "Kite Festival" and what does it celebrate?
- What customary events take place at the Shandur Polo Festival, and where is it held?

- iii. Explain the importance of the Kalash Festival and how it relates to the identity of the Kalash people.
- iv. What is the role of Sibi Mela in Balochistan's cultural and economic landscape?
- v. Describe the cultural significance of Nowruz in Baltistan, Hunza, Chitral, and Gilgit.
- vi. What events are usually scheduled on Sindhi Cultural Day, and why is it celebrated by Sindhis?
- vii. How does the Lok Virsa Mela add to the celebration of Pakistan's rich cultural diversity?
- viii. How do these celebrations reflect the unique identities of different regions, and what can we infer about the role of such festivals in promoting national unity while preserving cultural heritage?

C. Differentiating between Fact and Opinion

When we read any text, we come across different types of information. Sometimes, it is difficult to decide whether what the author has written is a fact or his/her own opinion. Let's see how facts are different from personal opinion.

- **Fact:** A statement that can be proven to be true or false through evidence or reality.
 - *Example:* The Earth orbits the Sun.
 - *Example:* It is 34° C today.
- **Opinion:** A statement that expresses a belief, feeling, or thought and cannot be proven true or false.
 - *Example:* Chocolate ice cream is the best flavor.
 - *Example:* Red is the most beautiful colour in the world.



Importance of Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion:

It is crucial for readers to distinguish between fact and opinion to:

Evaluate Information Critically

Understanding what is factual helps in making informed decisions and developing a well-rounded viewpoint.

Avoid Misleading Information

Recognizing opinions ensures that one is not swayed by biases or personal beliefs presented as facts.

Develop Critical Thinking Skills

Being able to differentiate helps in analyzing and interpreting information more accurately.

Q. Read the following statements and label each one as a fact or an opinion. Also explain your choice.

1. The Great Wall of China is over 13,000 miles long.
2. In my opinion, the Eiffel Tower is the most impressive structure ever built.
3. Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius at sea level.
4. Vanilla is the best flavour for ice cream.
5. Albert Einstein developed the theory of relativity.
6. Cats make better pets than dogs.
7. Argentina won the FIFA world cup, 2022.

Q. Write three sentences of your own: one fact and two opinions. Share them with a classmate and have them identify which is the fact and which are the opinions.

3. Vocabulary and Grammar

A. Common Roots to Make New Words:

Common roots are linguistic elements that form the basis of many words. Understanding these roots helps in decoding the meanings of unfamiliar words. For instance, the root "bio-" relates to life, so it is easy to guess that words like "biology" or "biography" indicate a connection to living organisms or life stories.

Examples:

Autopilot

Root: "auto-" (self)

Meaning: Related to oneself, typically referring to a vehicle that drives oneself.

Geography

Root: "geo-" (earth)

Meaning: Pertaining to the study of the earth's surface, features, and the relationships between people and their environments.

Chronology

Root: "chrono-" (time)

Meaning: Arrangement of events in the order of their occurrence in time; a timeline.

Telephone

Root: "tele-" (distant)

Meaning: Communication device that allows distant voice transmission.

Aquarium

Root: "aqua-" (water)

Meaning: A tank or facility for keeping water-dwelling animals or plants.

Q: Use the roots given below to make three different words. Also give meaning of the root and the words formed using that root.

"Bio-" () _____

"Graph-" () _____

"Geo-" () _____

"Mega-" () _____

"Hydro-" () _____

Suffixes

A suffix is a group of letters added to the end of a word to modify it, change its meaning and alter its grammatical function in a sentence. For example, -tion in information, -ment in entertainment, -ful in beautiful, etc.

Q. Complete each sentence by turning the given verb into a noun using an appropriate suffix. Choose from the following suffixes: -tion (as in education) -ment (as in development) -ance (as in attendance), -ence (as in Excellence), -ing (as in interesting)

annoy, educate, compile, maintain, announce, communicate, discuss, complete

- i. The act of teaching is called _____.
- ii. Her constant complaining is becoming a real _____.
- iii. The manager's _____ of the new policy was well-received.
- iv. The _____ of the data took longer than expected.
- v. The team celebrated the _____ of their project with a party.
- vi. The _____ of the car is getting very expensive.
- vii. Effective _____ is essential for clear message.
- viii. The _____ on the issue has been postponed till the next meeting.

B. Collective Nouns

Collective nouns are words used to represent groups of people, animals, or things as a single entity. They are singular in form but refer to multiple individuals or items.

Examples:

Collective Nouns

People

An army of soldiers
 An army of musicians
 An audience of listener
 A band of musicians
 A bevy of ladies
 A board of directors
 A body of men
 A Bunch of crocks
 A caravan of gypsies
 A choir of singers

Animals

An army of ants
 A bevy of quail
 A brood of chickens
 A catch of fish
 A cloud of insects
 A colony of gulls
 A drove of horses
 A flight of birds
 A flock of sheep
 A gaggle of geese

Things

An album of photographs
 A bale of cotton
 A basket of fruit
 A batch of bread
 A battery of guns
 A block of Flats
 A book of notes
 A bouquet of flowers
 A bowl of rice
 A bunch of keys

Q. Practice Exercise:

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate collective noun.

- i. The _____ is planning a surprise party for our teacher.
- ii. A _____ of sheep was peacefully grazing in the field.
- iii. Our _____ won the championship last year.
- iv. A _____ of geese flew overhead, heading south for the winter.
- v. The school _____ is organizing a charity event.
- vi. We encountered a _____ of fish while snorkeling in the coral reef.
- vii. The _____ of actors rehearsed tirelessly for the upcoming play.
- viii. A _____ of ants was busy carrying food to their nest.

C. Present indefinite tense

The present indefinite tense is used to describe actions that are habitual, general truths, or events that are currently happening. It is also employed to express scheduled future events.

Examples:

- Arif plays cricket.
- They walk in the park daily.
- The moon revolves around the earth.

Where to use Present Indefinite Tense:

Habitual Actions	to talk about routines and repeated actions.	I eat breakfast every morning
General Truths	to state facts that are always true.	The sun rises in the east
Current Actions	to describe actions happening at the present moment.	She works at the library.
Scheduled Future Events	Used for events that are part of a timetable or schedule	The train leaves at 7 PM

Structure:

Affirmative: Subject + base form of the verb (+s/es for third person singular)

I/You/We/They work in the factory.

He/She/It works at the farm.

Negative: Subject + do not / does not + base form of the verb

I/You/We/They do not work in the factory.

He/She/It does not work at the farm.

Interrogative: Do/Does + subject + base form of the verb?

Do I/you/we/they work in the factory?

Does he/she/it work at the farm?

Practice Exercise:

Q. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in the present indefinite tense:

Once a week, Suniya _____ (go) to the gym. She _____ (like) to stay fit. She usually _____ (exercise) for about an hour. After the workout, she _____ (eat) a healthy snack. Sarah _____ (believe) that regular exercise _____ (improve) both physical and mental well-being.

D. Present Continuous Tense

The present continuous tense is used to express actions that are happening at the current moment or around the present time. It is formed by using the present tense of the verb "to be" (am, is, are) and adding the present participle (-ing form) of the main verb.

Structure:

Affirmative: Subject + [am/is/are] + present participle

Example:

She is reading a book.

We are playing football

Negative: Subject + [am/is/are not] + present participle

Example:

He is not studying right now.

They are not working on the project

Interrogative: [Am/Is/Are] + subject + present participle

Example:

Are you listening to music?

Is he writing an essay?

Q: Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in the present continuous tense.

Shahzeb and his brother _____ (study) for their exams. The clock _____ (tick) loudly, and the rain _____ (fall) gently outside. Shahzeb's cat _____ (sleep) on the sofa, and the smell of dinner' _____ (fill) the air. Shahzeb's phone _____ (ring), and he _____ (answer) it quickly. It's his friend inviting him to a party.

E. Modal verbs: (Must/Must not)

Modals are auxiliary verbs expressing necessity, ability, possibility, permission, or obligation. They modify the meaning of the main verb.

"Must" is a modal verb used to indicate *obligation, necessity, or a strong recommendation*. It conveys a sense of duty or requirement.

Examples:

- You must finish your homework before going out.
- Employees must attend the training session.

"Must not" (often contracted to "mustn't") is used to indicate *prohibition or the absence of permission*. It conveys that something is not allowed or is strongly advised against.

Examples:

- You must not smoke in this area.
- Students mustn't use their phones during the exam.

Structure:

Affirmative: Subject + must + base form of the verb

She must finish the project by tomorrow

Negative: Subject + must not + base form of the verb (or the contracted form "mustn't")

Modal Verbs**Ability**

can
could

Permission

can
may

Prohibition

can't
mustn't

Suggestions

shall
should

Future Probability

will
shall

Possibility

may
might

Obligation

must
have to

Offers

will
could

Requests

could
would

Past Probability

could have
would have

You must not smoke in the building.

Interrogative: Must + subject + base form of the verb?

Must we submit the report today?

Note: always use the base form of the verb with all modals. No other form of verb can be used with these verbs.

Q. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of "must" or "must not" based on the context.

Students, you _____ (bring) your textbooks to class every day. You _____ (forget) to do so. Also, you _____ (talk) during the lecture. It _____ (disturb) others. Remember, you _____ (submit) your assignments by Friday. You _____ (get) it signed by your teacher before 20th of this month.

F. Punctuation

Let's recapitulate some punctuation marks we have done in previous grades: Punctuation Marks:

Punctuation Mark	Use	Example
Comma (,)	clauses, and indicates pauses. Separates items in a list, joins independent	She enjoys reading, writing, and painting.
Period (.)	Ends a sentence.	The sun sets, and the stars appear.
Semicolon (;)	Connects related independent clauses	The storm raged on; the trees swayed violently.
Colon (:)	Introduces a list, explanation, or quotation.	The recipe requires three ingredients: bananas, strawberries, yogurt, and honey.
Question Mark (?)	Ends a question.	Are you coming to the party?
Exclamation Mark (!)	Indicates strong emotion or emphasis.	What a beautiful sunset!

Q. Rewrite the given passage with correct punctuation.

when sara went to the bookstore she bought three books two novels and a magazine She asked the cashier Do you have jane austens novel pride and prejudice. The cashier replied we just sold out you should check next week Sara said I,ll reserve a copy

Hyphen (-)

A hyphen is used to join words or parts of words, especially in compound words or when breaking a word at the end of a line.

Examples:

- well-known: The actor is well-known for his versatility in various film genres.
- one-way: The road is a narrow, one-way street.

- **self-esteem:** Developing strong self-esteem is crucial for personal growth.
- **twenty-five:** This is a twenty-five student group.
- **high-quality:** The company is known for producing **high-quality** products.

Q. Insert hyphens where necessary in the following sentences.

- The small apartment was well designed and spacious.
- She has a part time job in a book store.
- This is a two week project but can be completed in three days.
- The newly painted room is bright and colourful .
- The high school students organized a fund raising event for the local charity.

When to Use Hyphens

Compound Modifiers Before a Noun

- short-term plan
- full-scale review

Compound Adjectives with Noun

- old fashioned pen
- tight-lipped smile

Prefixes

- ex-husband
- self-imposed

Clarity & Readability

- re-collect (meaning to collect again)
- re-elect (vs. "reelect")

4. Oral Communication Skills

Geographic Information System (GIS) is a technology that captures, stores, analyzes, manages, and presents geographic data. It involves hardware, software, and data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information. GIS helps users understand patterns, relationships, and geographic context, making it a powerful tool for decision-making and problem-solving in various fields.

So where do we use GIS?

Navigation and Route Planning: GPS and mapping apps like Google Maps use GIS to provide real-time navigation, suggest the shortest routes, and display traffic conditions.

Environmental Management: GIS helps track deforestation, monitor wildlife habitats, and manage natural resources like water and minerals.

Disaster Management: Emergency services use GIS to map disaster-prone areas, plan evacuation routes, and coordinate response efforts during natural disasters.



Business and Marketing: Food Businesses and different sellers use GIS to identify the best locations for new stores, food and product deliver and parcel tracking.

Recreation and Tourism: GIS helps tourists find hotels restaurants, plan travel routes, and explore new destinations through interactive maps and travel apps.

Activity

- The teacher will introduce the concept of GIS and its use in travel.
- Students will form groups and choose a travel destination from the ones given below:
 - i. Badshahi Masjid, Lahore, Punjab
 - ii. Kaghan Valley, District Mansehra, KPK
 - iii. Banjosa Lake, Rawalakot, Azad Jammu Kashmir
- **GIS Exploration and Data Collection:** Groups use GIS to collect travel data, time required to reach, etc.
- **Travel Itinerary Planning:** Create a 2-day travel itinerary with GIS maps. Mention the route to take, the roads, motorways to follow, choose a restaurant/hotel for stay.
- **Presentation and Discussion:** Groups present itineraries, followed by Q&A. Prepare a brief oral presentation Use clear and concise language to convey information effectively. State the location of the selected place on the global map. Use maps and images, to enhance your presentation. Conclude with a summary.



5. Writing Skills

A. Personal Narrative

A personal narrative is a story about a real-life experience, told from the author's perspective, focusing on emotions and reflections.

Format

A personal narrative have the following parts:

Introduction: (Briefly introduce the topic of your narrative. Where and when did it take place? Who was involved?)

Body Paragraphs: (First paragraph: Describe the setting or beginning of the experience. Second paragraph: Share the main events or challenges you encountered. Third paragraph: Reflect on how you felt during the experience and what you learned.)

Conclusion: (Summarize the overall experience and how you'll remember the event.)

Q. Share your unforgettable experiences of traveling and adventure in Pakistan or attending its vibrant festivals, melas, and cultural events. Keep in mind the following points:

- Include setting; place, time, season, etc.
- Include significant details of the incident. (event, weather, route, etc.)
- Take care of the chronological details

B. Informal Letter

1. Write an informal letter to your friend in Australia, sharing the beauty of some lesser-known but stunning destinations in Pakistan. Describe the unique landscapes, cultural experiences, and warm hospitality that await travelers. Invite him/her to visit Pakistan in the summer vacations.

Keep the format in mind:

Examination Hall,

City ABC.

20th November, 2023.

Dear _____,

I hope this letter finds you in good health. With summer approaching, I can't help but think about the fantastic time we could have together. I wanted to invite you to Pakistan _____

Let me know your decision. I can't wait to share the beauty of my country with you. Send my regards to your family.

Warm regards,

XYZ.

C. Proof reading:

Proof read and edit your own, peers' or any given text from this book keeping in view the following points:

- faulty sentence structure.
- errors of subject / verb agreement.
- unclear pronoun reference.
- errors of correct word form.
- errors of punctuation and spelling.

Teacher's Point

- Help the students to read the passage with correct pronunciation and appropriate pitch. Also ask while reading questions.
- Engage students in discussion using conversation prompts to involve more students.
- Encourage students to share personal opinions and experiences.
- Recapitulate the previously learnt types of nouns in previous grades
- Recapitulate the tenses done in previous grades.
- Select and use a variety of pre-writing strategies such as brainstorming, mind mapping, outlining etc.
- Help students to plan, draft and revise writing to ensure that it is focused, purposeful and reflects insight into the writing situation. It has an organizational pattern that reflects a clear overall progression of ideas through proper use of signal and reference words. It uses writing strategies as are appropriate to the purpose of writing. It has varied sentence structure and length and has a good command of language with precision of expression.