**Holidays, Customs and Traditions in our Country**

A school magazine organises a competition entitled Holidays, Customs and Traditions in our Country. The main prize is a weekend wellness stay for two people. You have decided to participate in the competition. Write an opinion essay (200–220 words) focusing on the following points:

 The significance of holidays, customs and traditions for our society and your family

 The most significant holidays in Slovakia, in your opinion.

 Your opinion about including customs and traditions from other countries in our culture.

Throughout history, people of all cultures have created an innumerable amount of different customs. These customs have gradually developed into traditions and some even into official holidays and celebrating them is an important part of preserving the world´s cultural heritage.

Firstly, in Slovakia most of the traditions are connected to Christianity and are therefore celebrated in a calm, quiet way. For instance, on occasions like these a meeting is always organised in my family. Not only do we remind ourselves of the historical root of the tradition but the peaceful atmosphere also helps our relationships to tighten and flourish.

Secondly, Slovakia has two main holidays and they are Christmas and Easter. Both of them are again of a Christian background. However, both of them have also a unique way of celebrating. For Christmas Slovakia has adapted the American trend of buying and giving gifts. On the other hand, this country has a set of its own traditions for Easter, for instance, whipping and pouring water over girls on Easter Monday.

Thirdly, including customs and traditions from other countries is an important part of globalisation. For example, if this process had not started to occur years ago, Slovaks would have never begun to celebrate the greatly entertaining tradition of Haloween. Furthermore, celebrating the same traditions helps different countries to connect and have good relationships. Thus, it contributes to preventing conflicts.

To conclude, I believe that customs, traditions and holidays are an inseparable part of every culture. Celebrating them has always been and always will be undoubtedly greatly significant for every nation.