**Task 1**

**Read the text and choose the appropriate title for each paragraph.**

**Orthodox Religion in Modern Russia.**

Russian Orthodox Christianity has been the largest religion in Russia since it was adopted in the 9th century AD and is confessed by about 75% of Russians. The official church in the Russian Federation is Russian Orthodox Church of Moscow Eparchy, which is supported by the official government.

The rebirth of religion and religious traditions began not long ago, in 1970s. Since then the state has returned thousands of churches and temples as well as icons and other religious objects appropriated during the Soviet period to their respective communities. Monasteries and religious schools and training centers have sprung up or reopened, and the number of religious practitioners has more than doubled since the 1970s. Even though most Russians identify themselves as Orthodox Christians, not a big percent of citizens live an active religious life but the observance of the main Orthodox holidays is increasing. The statistic research shows that only 3, 6% visit church once a week. One fifth of the respondents go to churn on religious holidays. Women tend to visit church twice as much as men and elderly people do this more often than the youth. So the majority of church goers are elderly people and women.

Some features that can be characteristic of Russian Orthodoxies are that they mostly go to church on religious holidays or to "light a candle" and remember a close person who is dead. Adults are aware of religious postulates and read the Bible themselves and to their children. They are not used to discussing their faith openly in public or with other people. Most people address God asking for help in some difficult situations or with health problems. It is quite rare that children are taught to pray in the family. Some families follow the religious rules. Many people fast due to the church requirements and for keeping in a good physical and spiritual shape. Most people baptize children and order services for the dead. Russians normally show tolerance and respect to other religious denominations. Many educated people know world history, culture and origin of different religions.

It can be said for sure that nowadays religious culture and traditions are becoming more and more popular among children and young people. There are a lot of Sunday schools and other Orthodox centers where younger generation get acquainted with Orthodox religion, its saints and history, traditions, rituals and culture.

1. Orthodox education of youth. 2. Most widespread religion in Russia. 3. Characteristic features of Russian Orthodoxies. 4. Revival of religion. 5. Churchgoers

**Task 2**

**Choose the right translation and the date for each Orthodox holiday**

|  |  |  |
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| Epiphany | Яблочный Спас | The fiftieth day after Easter |
| Orthodox Easter | День Святой Троицы | January, 7 |
| Maslenitsa | Крещение | A week before Easter |
| The Savior of Apple Feast Day | Православное Рождество | The seventh week before Easter |
| Palm Sunday | Медовый Спас | January, 19 |
| Orthodox Christmas | Православная Пасха | August, 14 |
| The Savior of Honey Feast Day | Масленица | March, 22 – April, 25 |
| The Holy Trinity | Вербное Воскресение | August, 19 |

**Task 3**

**Match the Orthodox holiday and the related tradition.**

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| --- | --- |
| The Savior of Honey Feast Day | There is a tradition to decorate houses and rooms with brunches of a birch tree on this day |
| The Savior of Apple Feast Day | There is a tradition to make pancakes and eat them with honey, caviar or fish on this day |
| Epiphany | There is a tradition to put a vase with pussy willow in the icon corner of your house on this day |
| Orthodox Easter | There is a tradition to organize street markets, where people can taste and buy different kinds of honey on this day |
| The Holy Trinity | There is a tradition to go to an all-night service and swim in blessed water on this day |
| Orthodox Christmas | There is a tradition to greet people saying “Christ is risen!” and kiss three times |
| Maslenitsa | There is a tradition to treat people to newly harvested fruits on this day |
| Palm Sunday | There is a tradition to sing carols in front of the houses to get some tasty things on this day |