**IS AMERICA STILL PURITAN?**

Thinking routine

See

1. In the picture there is an huge turkey.
2. It seems there are a man and a woman, probably they are puritans, sitting on it.
3. The people in the foreground are wearing traditional clothes -a white hat and a sort of cape- .

Think

1. I believe is very important to maintain the cultural traditions, hence celebrating festivities linked to historical incidents.
2. This picture may represents the Thanksgiving day.
3. The magnitude of the turkey is the clue that make me think that this scene is from today’s world.

Wonder

1. These people are celebrating their Puritan origins in order both to state their identity and to bring to surface their tradition, showing their culture.
2. My country has a quite different celebration: Italian Republic Festivity that is celebrated every year on the 2nd June in memory of the Referendum (1947).
3. Italy has as national symbols the flag and the hymn.

Reading and Use of English -part 6-

1. 1. **G** Was he right?

2. **E** They also believed in predestination and viewed success as a sign of salvation.

3. **A** But first, some were subtly exposed to (or “primed” with) salvation – related words like “heaven” and “redeem”, while other were exposed to neutral words.

4. **F** They were also asked to rate their support for a school that banned revealing clothing.

5. **B** In none of this studies did the results hinge on the participants’ religious affiliation or level of religious feeling.

6. **C** It’s hard to say for sure that any given element of the American psyche results from our Puritan founders.

Cross-cultural analysis

1. 1. The first experiment reveals that the Americans, working harder, solved more anagrams with salvation on the mind than Canadians.

2. American students judge promiscuous women more sternly than British students do.

3. The author uses “we” instead of “they” referring to Americans.

4. Quoting the extract: “Whatever these Americans explicitly believed (or didn’t believe) about God, something like Puritan values seemed to be guiding their moral judgment”.

5. New England exercised a disproportionate influence on America ideals thanks to cultural institutions (universities) and writings. Besides, the historian J. Coffey highlights the power of Evangelicalism as a carrier of Puritan values and America’s resistance.

Headlines

Paragraph 1: Does the Protestant work ethic still apply today?

Paragraph 2: Some experiments prove that the work ethic of today’s American people reflects the protestant work ethic.

Paragraph 3: A belief in success as a path to salvation.

Paragraph 4: Do Americans share the prudishness of the Puritans?

Paragraph 5: A further experiment.

Paragraph 6: A paradoxical idea: Puritanical values didn’t depend on having a religious faith.

Paragraph 7: The influence of New England.

Paragraph 8: Puritanism’s consequences on the society.

Paragraph 9: It is still possible to identify signs of Puritan ethics in the USA today.