

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO
EVERYONE!!!



XMAS BAN! FIRMS SCARED OF TINSEL

Nearly three-quarters of British firms are banning Christmas decorations in the workplace for fear of being sued, research has shown. A new survey found most bosses are scared to put up festive tinsel and Christmas trees because they might offend non-Christian workers. Law firm Peninsula said the workplace was becoming caught up in the "wave" of political correctness.

"Christmas trees and decorations may well be a thing of the past in many workplaces this Christmas as political correctness culture has spread to the workplace", managing director Peter Done said.

"Although employers who are enforcing the ban are sceptical and dismayed by this trend, they feel they have little choice in the matter due to the threat of litigation, as they have to protect themselves, their reputation and their livelihood."

Office workers at Tower Hamlets council and the Royal Bank of Scotland have also been banned from hanging up Christmas decorations at work – in case they got hurt.

Staff were barred via email from climbing on office furniture to put up decorations in case they fell off, hurt themselves and sued.

Recently, workplace dispute reconciliation advisors ACAS attracted criticism for warning bosses they had to be politically correct at office parties.

A set of guidelines issued by the service warned against running raffles at end-of-year shindigs, because they might offend Muslims, and against playing too much modern music, because it might offend older members of staff.

Yahoo UK News, Tuesday December 5

Have a nice Christmas!!!

1. Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information from the text (2 points: 1 point each)

- a. Why are Xmas decorations being banned in British firms?
- b. What examples does the text give of political incorrectness?

2. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact words on the answer sheet. (1.5 points: 0.5 each)

- a. Most bosses are not frightened to offend non-Christian workers by putting up Xmas decorations.
- b. Political correctness doesn't affect the world of work in Britain.
- c. Employees of the Royal Bank of Scotland cannot put up Xmas decorations because they will get hurt.

3. Find a synonym for each of the words below. (1 point: 0.25 each)

Employees	signatures	forbidden	extended
well-being	companies		

- a. Firms
- b. Spread
- c. Barred
- d. Staff

4. Choose a, b or c in each question below. Only one choice is correct (1.5 points: 0.5 each)

1. Most bosses are scared to put up Xmas decorations
 - a. because not everyone celebrates Christmas.
 - b. because some people might get hurt.
 - c. because they don't want to be politically correct.
2. Employers are sceptical of this trend
 - a. but they want to cover their backs.
 - b. and so they won't fulfil this ban.

- c. and so they have a choice whether to ban Christmas decorations.
- 3. Too much modern music
 - a. might not be played at end-of-year parties.
 - b. is forbidden at end-of-year parties.
 - c. might offend the bosses.

Part B. Composition (130-150 words approximately). Choose ONE of the following topics. (4 points)

- A. "We're so obsessed with being politically correct that sometimes we go too far". Do you agree?
- B. Nowadays, we live in a multicultural society where we have to respect other traditions, ways of life, customs, public holidays,... What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in such a society?

