

COMPREHENSION D'UN TEXTE ECRIT

TOURISM AND TOURISTS

Ever since Thomas Cook invented tourism back, in 1841 (a day excursion to a temperance meeting at Loughborough), its practitioners have had a consistently bad press — to the extent, indeed, that few of us will even own up (1) to being tourists. Other people are tourists, or worse, trippers. We are travellers.

5 The archetypal tourist is American. "If it's Tuesday we must be in Luxor." The archetypal tripper is English, swigging (2) too many pina coladas in Torremolinos. The archetypal traveller is never encountered, since he rarely goes anywhere these days — too many tourists.

10 The character of modern tourism was moulded by two great scientific developments of the 20th century — flight and photography. The wide-bodied jet enables us to travel great distances at comparatively low cost. The Instamatic camera enables us to take a picture of the Taj Mahal when we get there. Of the two, possibly photography is the greater influence. Without flight there would still be mass travel, with package tours crammed into boats and trains instead of aeroplanes. Without cameras, tourists would not know what on earth to do with their hands. Perhaps they would take to carrying walking sticks — but that would make them  
15 travellers.

20 Marvelling at my first sight of the Grand Canyon a few summers ago, I watched a party of Japanese tourists troop out of their coach, already raising their cameras and squinting through their viewfinders as they crossed the car park. They approached the great crater and took numerous pictures of it, and of one another standing on the rim. They then, without a further glance at one of the most wondrous scenes on earth, headed back for their coach and were whisked away, doubtless to take a few snaps of the Painted Desert. There we have what tourism has come to in a nutshell — going everywhere, seeing nothing, but acquiring evidence of having been.

25 I am being unfair. There are good tourists and bad tourists. The good tourist plods assiduously round the Louvre, guide book in hand, then reaps the reward of the virtuous with a slap-up lunch at a Michelin-rated bistro. The bad tourist makes straight for the Mona Lisa, gawps (3), buys a picture postcard of it, and retires to the nearest McDonald's. The good tourist behaves like the deferential intruder he is. The bad tourist behaves like an invader.

Keith Waterhouse, *Lancashire-Life*, April 1988.

1. own up: confess.
2. to swig: to drink.
3. to gawp: to stare

Comprehension globale (30pts)

1. Circle the letter corresponding to the right statement (3pts)

1. This is an extract from
  - a) a biography
  - b) a news bulletin
  - c) a novel
  - d) an essay
  - e) a tourist guide
2. The tone is
  - a) nostalgic
  - b) light-hearted
  - c) bitter
  - d) sympathetic
  - e) sceptical
3. The writer would prefer to consider himself
  - a) a tourist
  - b) a tripper
  - c) a traveller

2. The writer admits he is prejudiced. (2pts)  
Find a sentence in the text to justify this statement:

**Comprehension détaillée**

I. Say whether the following statements are true or false and justify your answers by quoting from the text. Circle R (right) or W (wrong). (8pts)

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Tourism began more than a century ago.<br>.....  | R | W |
| 2. The first tourists went on a long distance journey.<br>.....                             | R | W |
| 3. Tourists are generally well thought of.<br>.....   | R | W |
| 4. American tourists are well organized.<br>.....   | R | W |
| 5. The English tourist is portrayed as a sober person.<br>.....                             | R | W |
| 6. There are a few real travellers nowadays.<br>.....                                       | R | W |
| 7. The camera and the plane have been of equal importance in popularizing tourism.<br>..... | R | W |
| 8. Mass tourism would exist without charter flights.<br>.....                               | R | W |

II. Circle the letter corresponding to the appropriate sentence. (4pts)

1. A package tour is one of
  - a) the most comfortable ways of travelling
  - b) the quickest forms of transport
  - c) the cheapest ways of travelling
  - d) the shortest ways of travelling
2. Tourists
  - a) don't know how to carry their photographic equipment
  - b) are lost without their cameras
  - c) would rather carry walking sticks than cameras
  - d) often lose their cameras
3. The writer
  - a) was struck by the scenery of the Grand Canyon
  - b) admired the Japanese tourists' organization
  - c) isn't amused by their arrival
  - d) has already visited the Grand Canyon
4. Japanese tourists
  - a) fully appreciate the landscapes they see
  - b) rush about taking photos
  - c) take their time taking photos
  - d) are good tourists

III. Find the words or expressions in the text which mean (7pts)

1. to admit: .....
2. to make possible: .....
3. packed, stuffed : .....
4. to adopt the habit of: .....
5. edge : .....
6. a quick look : .....
7. to make slow and heavy progress: .....

IV. Tick the correct equivalent. (3pts)

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1) In a nutshell    | 3) a slap-up lunch                        |
| a) in a small place | a) an expensive meal                      |
| b) in a few words   | b) a snack                                |
| c) on board a boat  | c) an exotic meal in an ethnic restaurant |
- 2) were whisked away
- a) had a swig of whisky  
b) felt sorry they had come  
c) moved on rapidly

V. From the list below select 3 words or phrases which could be applied to the writer's definition of good and bad tourists (6 words altogether). (3pts)

lazy, culturally-minded, meticulous, welcoming, trippers, studious, inconsiderate, souvenir-collectors, discreet, unfair, methodic, unintelligent.

1. Good tourists: .....
2. Bad tourists: .....

**EXPRESSION PERSONNELLE** (à rédiger sur une feuille d'examen) (40 points)

Expression libre (200-250 mots) au choix :

1. What recent scientific development, do you think, has played the most influential role in the evolution of modern society?
2. Suppose you were offered a trip to the U.S.A., where would you choose to go? What would you like to see or do? Give the reasons for your choice.

**Compétence linguistique (30 points)** A rédiger directement sur cette feuille photocopée.

I. Complétez par *some / any / no* (ou leurs composés), *few / a few / little / a little*. (5 points)

1. She could not bear to think of the man so close to her with .....but the brick wall separating them.
2. She began looking around for ..... to marry her.
3. He was rather reticent. He gave ..... explanations.
4. Charlie did not mind who it was; ..... would do.
5. These were ..... of the things they said.
6. There were ..... people in the cinema for it was early evening.
7. She would giggle ..... and relapse suddenly into a blank, staring silence.
8. He was idle most of the time; he had so ..... to do.
9. Mary awoke suddenly, as if ..... big elbow had nudged her.
10. She thought anxiously "outside, ....., among the trees, he is waiting".

II. Mettez les verbes entre parenthèses au temps et à la forme qui conviennent. (5 points)

1. He (*undertake*) ..... lots of things since he settled in the village.
2. I would rather (*see*) ..... more of the country than (*spend*) ..... most of my time

(bask)..... in the sun.

3. Once he (sell)..... his house, he will be able to pay off his debts.
4. The landscape was so gorgeous! He stopped (admire)..... it.
5. If you (listen) .....to my advice, you (not get)..... into trouble. It's too late now.
6. It is about time he (give up) ..... (drive) ..... a car.

**III. Reformulez les phrases suivantes à l'aide d'un modal (can, must, should, etc.) sans en modifier le sens. (10 points)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Perhaps he won't come:<br>He .....                        | 6. Perhaps he had an accident yesterday.<br>He .....                          |
| 2. I'm sure he didn't steal the jewels:<br>He .....          | 7. Why didn't he tell his parents?<br>He .....                                |
| 3. She looks very old; I'm sure she is over 80:<br>She ..... | <b>Complétez avec le modal qui convient.</b>                                  |
| 4. You'd better not behave like that, you know:<br>You ..... | 8. What a lovely swimming-pool!<br>I wish I .....swim !                       |
| 5. He is certainly lying in bed.<br>He.....                  | 9. You (kill). ..... me, but you'll never get a divorce.                      |
|  | 10. It is essential that you ..... be aware of the danger of this expedition. |

**IV. Mettez les phrases suivantes au passif (5 points)**

1. Someone stole my car yesterday. ....
2. My neighbour has just given me this book. ....
3. Everyone believes that John has seen the murderer. ....
4. Mary will do the job properly. ....
5. They are building a new house next door.....

**V. Mettez les phrases suivantes au style indirect en commençant par l'amorce proposée.(5 points)**

1. "What do you want" ?  
She asked me .....
2. "We haven't decided yet", they said yesterday.  
Yesterday they said .....
3. "When did the Martins last see Peter?"  
He'd like to know .....
4. "Take off your shirt, Peter, please !"  
The doctor wanted .....
5. "Don't do that, Jane !"  
He told .....