

**READING PAPER. 20 points. Time – 40 min.**

**Task 1. 4 points. 1 point per item.** Read Brigid's blog. For questions 1– 4, choose the correct answer A, B or C. An example (0) has been done for you.

**MY BLOG IS MIGRATING**

Hello,

I'm Brigid. I'm 19 years old. I'm a student at Hampshire College. - See more at:

<http://mylifeasateenagenovelist.blogspot.com/p/about-me.html>

First of all, I want to apologize. I haven't posted in months and I don't really have a good excuse. I am a busy college student and all, but I've also just been lazy and I waste a lot of time doing other random crap on the Internet.

Secondly, I want to thank everyone who follows this blog for reading my posts and putting up with my craziness for ... how long has it been? Four years or something?

Unfortunately, I will no longer be posting on my blog. A quick explanation as to why:

I think this blog is kind of a mess. It was my first experience blogging and I didn't really have any idea what I was doing. I was writing my first posts on here when I was 16 or so and I just wasn't that great at organizing my thoughts/advice or posting frequently enough. So, in other words, I feel like this blog is a bit outdated.

If you want to continue following me, I will now be posting on a Tumblr blog called Brigid Writes Things. (I decided to keep it simple, haha.) So, don't think of this as goodbye.

Once again, I'm sorry for taking so long to post this. And I'm sorry that I'm shutting this blog down. But it's been fun, and I hope to see you all on Tumblr blog! Thank you, wonderful followers! I love you all!

(0) Brigid is		For marking
A a college teacher		
B a blogger	B	
C a popular author		

1. The headline of the text says that Brigid is		
A updating news on her trips abroad		
B leaving the country		
C creating a new blog		

2. Brigid apologizes for		
A spending too much time on her studies		
B wasting her time on blogs		
C failing to blog regularly		

3. Brigid thinks her blog is		
A rather simple		
B too chaotic		
C well organized		

4. In her message Brigid		
A informs about the content of her blogs		
B says goodbye to other bloggers		
C gives an address		

**Points**

**Task 2. 5 points. 1 point per item.** Read the texts **A–G** about the cheapest cities in the world. For questions 1–5, choose **one** of the texts A–G. There are more texts than you need. An example (0) has been done for you.

### THE CHEAPEST CITIES IN THE WORLD

Where are the cheapest cities to live in?

**A Panama City, Panama**

Located at the pacific mouth of the Panama Canal, and known as one of the seven wonders of the modern world, this city offers tropical rain forests nearby and luxurious hotels, but will also be very light on your pockets, which may be why it is one of the top five most popular places to retire to.

**B Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Originally known as Kolamba, meaning Harbor, this city has been popular among international traders for 2000 years. It became the capital of Sri Lanka in 1815 when the British empire took over, and remained so until independence was won in 1978.

**C Bucharest, Romania**

The 10th largest city in Europe (by population), Bucharest is known to some as ‘little Paris’, and has been the capital of Romania since 1862. It is a city where the rich can enjoy their wealth while the poor can live on little.

**D Algiers, Algeria**

The city of white, with its buildings glistening in the sun, used to be a lot more expensive, and was actually considered in the top 50 of expensive cities to live in just 5-6 years ago. These days, you can buy a liter of unleaded petrol for about a quarter!

**E Kathmandu, Nepal**

Kathmandu is the commercial and industrial center of Nepal, as well as being a tourist attraction. This is a city rich with culture and history, and it doesn't do its reputation any harm that a loaf of bread costs about \$1.

**F Mumbai, India**

Formerly known as Bombay, this city has the highest population in India and fourth in the entire world. This city shares the title of the cheapest city in the world with the next city on the list, Karachi. That said, the spending power of most of its citizens is also quite low.

**G Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**

Not only is this city cheap to live in, but it is also the gateway to 2 of the holiest places in all of Islamic faith - Mecca and Medina. Jeddah is the 2nd largest city in Saudi Arabia and is one of the main resort cities.

Which of the cities	For answers	For marking
(0) has recently become much cheaper to live in?	<b>D</b>	
1. has been popular with merchants?		
2. is attractive for tourists interested in history?		
3. might be preferred by pensioners?		
4. is inhabited by a huge number of poor people?		
5. is attractive for pilgrims?		
	<b>Points</b>	

**Task 3. 7 points. 1 point per item .** Read the text about British customs. For questions (1-7), complete the text with the words from the box below. There are **more** words than you need to use. An example (0) has been done for you.

## MAY DAY CUSTOMS IN BRITAIN

**The Maypole**



**Morris Dancing**



**Jack in the Green**



### **The Maypole**

One popular Mayday custom was the making of a maypole. Early in the day the villagers would go to the nearest woodland and cut down a young tree. The tree (usually a tall birch tree) would be stripped of its branches except at the top (where the leaves symbolized new life) and dragged or carried to an open space in the town 0) square or village green. It was then decorated with garlands of flowers and ribbons. Traditionally the dancing was done by women but has now become a popular children's activity. Each child holds one of the coloured ribbons and 1) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ the maypole with a hopping, skipping step. Some of the children dance in one direction while others dance the 2) \_\_\_\_\_ way around the pole, changing their direction at carefully chosen moments. As they dance, the children pass each other until the 3) \_\_\_\_\_ are plaited together and wrapped tightly around the Maypole. When the circle is as small as it can be, the dance is reversed and the ribbons 4) \_\_\_\_\_ until the dancers come back to their starting places.

Maypoles were usually set up for the day in small towns and villages as a centre point for the days celebrations, but in London and the larger towns they were erected permanently. The most famous Maypole in England was 5) \_\_\_\_\_ on the first May Day of Charles II reign in 1661.

### **Morris Dancing**

Morris dancing is a traditional English form of folk dance which is also performed in other English-speaking countries such as the USA and Australia. The roots of Morris dancing seem to be very old, probably dating back to the Middle Ages. From around April and through the green summer months Morris Dancers will be seen in market towns and on village greens up and down the land. You are especially likely to see them 6) \_\_\_\_\_ their medieval dances to the click clack of their sticks and the sound of bells, pipes, and drums, around the month of May.

### **Jack in the Green**

Across rural England the key symbol of May Day is fresh spring growth. Traditionally villagers would disguise one of their number as Jack-in-the-Green. Jack and his followers danced around the town 7) \_\_\_\_\_ money from passersby for later feasting.

*For marking*

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

**Points**

<http://www.learnenglish.de>

*circles / collecting / erected / opposite / people / performing / ribbons / unwind*



**Task 4. 4 points. 1 point per item.** Read the text about typhoons in the Philippines. For questions 1–4, choose the correct answer A, B or C.

### A NATION AT RISK

Catastrophic natural disasters in the Philippines tend to be high. Here are 5 reasons why:

#### **Warm Ocean Waters**

Located just above the equator, the Philippines faces the western Pacific without much else in the way to take the force of storms before they make landfall. Those warm, equatorial waters power storms, about 20 typhoons a year. "It has the warmest ocean temperatures in the world. We call it the warm pool around Indonesia and the Philippines. You need temperatures above 28°C (82.4°F) for typhoons to form. In the western Pacific, the water's normally above 28 degrees," says atmospheric scientist Colin Price of Israel's Tel Aviv University.

#### **Coastal Homes**

A lot of people live on low-lying coastal islands in the Philippines, with more than 60 percent of the population living in coastal zones, according to World Bank estimates.

Storm surges for landfall of Super Typhoon Haiyan reached 23 feet (7 meters) in some places and were more than 16 feet (5 meters) high. Such waves roll over low-lying parts of populated islands such as Leyte, home to the coastal city of Tacloban, where more than 10,000 people live.

#### **Deforestation**

Hillsides denuded of trees have fewer roots to hold them together, which can lead to mudslides when they are hit by sudden huge outbursts of rain. Deforestation has caused similar problems in places such as Haiti, where mudslides were triggered by rainstorms. The soil clogged waterways, causing stagnation later linked to cholera outbreaks.

#### **Ring of Fire**

On top of everything else, the Philippines rests on the Pacific's earthquake and volcano Ring of Fire.

Driven by the Pacific's Ocean's crust diving underneath the continents, the result is earthquakes and tsunamis striking the Philippines with regularity. A magnitude 7.2 earthquake killed 222 people, for example, on the island province of Bohol, in October 2013.

#### **Underdevelopment**

The young, poor population of the Philippines has increasingly shifted to coastal regions, where rapidly constructed housing and inadequate evacuation plans may have played a role in the Haiyan disaster.

Indeed, reports are now emerging that people died in shelters too weak to withstand the storm surge and high winds of the super typhoon.

Over the long term, the Manila Observatory says that the combination of poverty and population shifts puts the Philippines among the Top 10 worldwide nations at risk of coastal flooding.

<i>(0) Typhoons often hit the Philippines because the country is</i>	<i>For answers</i>	<i>For marking</i>
<i>A located near the equator</i>		
<i>B open to the continent</i>		
<i>C surrounded by warm waters</i>	<b>C</b>	

1. Coastal homes suffer from		
A dense population		
B inaccurate estimates		
C rolling waves		

2. Sudden heavy rainfalls lead to		
A cholera		
B deforestation		
C mudslides		

3.The Ring of Fire is		
A a place in the Pacific		
B a regular earthquake		
C a tsunami		

4. People suffered from Haiyan tsunami because of		
A lack of shelters at the coast		
B poorly constructed houses		
C traveling across the country.		

		<b>Points</b>	
<b>Reading: 1+2+3+4</b>	<b>Total</b>		

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com>