

# Skills test 1

## READING

### *In between worlds: culture shock*

Although going to live in a foreign country can be an exciting adventure, it's sometimes a difficult experience. Everything is new and different: big things like the language and culture, and smaller things like where to buy bus tickets or if you can go shopping on a Sunday. Feeling a bit out of control can make you feel helpless, confused, and frustrated.

There are usually several stages that you have to go through before you can feel at home in your new environment. After the initial excitement of arriving, reality can make you feel angry and impatient. You may even blame your new home for this. Then, as you begin to understand and appreciate your new world better, you start to feel less uncomfortable, and eventually you settle in. Not everyone goes through all these stages – and some people don't spend long enough in the new culture to go through them.

The Honeymoon stage: First, the differences between the old and new culture are seen in a romantic light, everything seems exciting and wonderful, and the move just feels like an extended holiday abroad. You might love tasting new dishes and enjoy the different pace of life and cultural customs, even the way people dress differently.

The Negotiation stage: It may take a few frustrating days, weeks, or months to accept all the differences between the old and new culture. Some people start to miss food the way it is prepared 'back home.' Others find the locals' different habits annoying or their lifestyle too fast or slow.

The Acceptance stage: A few more weeks or months, and you get used to\* the new culture and develop your everyday routine. By this point, you don't think of your 'new culture' negatively or positively, because it no longer feels like a new culture. You just get on with your life. This is now your home.

The Reverse Culture Shock stage: Ironically, when you return to your own culture, you may go through the same experience in reverse, and find that you no longer feel completely at home in the country you were born in.

Some people will give up trying to feel at home in their new country and return home sooner than they planned. Others get so used to the new world that they choose to stay there permanently because they can no longer live anywhere else.

\*get used to: to become familiar with something

### 1 Read the article. Match 1–11 with a–l to make sentences. There is one extra ending.

- 1 Living in another country e.
  - 2 Sometimes people feel confused and frustrated when they \_\_\_\_
  - 3 The first feeling most people experience in a new country \_\_\_\_
  - 4 People who feel angry and impatient in the new culture sometimes \_\_\_\_
  - 5 The stages are not experienced by everyone, and \_\_\_\_
  - 6 In the Honeymoon stage, people living in a new country \_\_\_\_
  - 7 Differences in the Honeymoon stage between the old and new culture \_\_\_\_
  - 8 When people go through the Negotiation stage, they slowly \_\_\_\_
  - 9 When people start getting used to the new culture, they \_\_\_\_
  - 10 Some people experience a reverse culture shock \_\_\_\_
  - 11 When people fail to get used to living in their new country, they \_\_\_\_
- a sometimes go back home before they intended to.
  - b when they go back to their old country.
  - c is excitement.
  - d must move there permanently as it's their home.
  - e is exciting, but sometimes difficult.
  - f blame their new country.
  - g feel they are not in control.
  - h get used to the differences in tastes, customs, and lifestyles.
  - i are seen with positive feelings.
  - j some only stay there for a short time.
  - k begin to find a routine for their normal lives.
  - l view their world as an exciting place.

2 points for each correct answer 20

### 2 Match five of the underlined words with the definitions.

- 1 an unusual, exciting, or dangerous experience adventure
- 2 at the beginning \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 to enjoy or understand the value of \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 longer, increased \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 the usual order or way that you do things \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 for ever \_\_\_\_\_

1 point for each correct answer 5

Reading total 25

# Skills test 1

## WRITING

**1 Write a note to your English friend to say you cannot go to the cinema with him/her. You should:**

- include a suitable greeting.
- apologize for changing your plans.
- give the reason you cannot go to the cinema with him/her.
- suggest another time you could go together.
- find a suitable closing phrase.

**Write your note in 80–100 words.**

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shorter Writing task 

	10
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**2 Your English teacher has asked you to write a book review for an English language book club. You should summarize the plot, describing the main events and characters, and say why you would recommend the book.**

**Write your review in 140–180 words.**

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longer Writing task 

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Writing total 

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## Skills test 1

### LISTENING

**1 Listen to Jan, a young man from Slovakia, talking about living in the UK. Choose the correct answer.**

- 1 When Jan first arrived in Britain, he
  - a really loved living in Oxford.
  - b spent a year in Oxford as a student.
- 2 What he found difficult in Oxford was
  - a finding opportunities to socialize.
  - b making friends.
- 3 He avoided contact with other students because
  - a they didn't let him borrow money from them.
  - b he was embarrassed about not having enough money.
- 4 Jan thinks the other students thought he was
  - a cold and unfriendly.
  - b quite popular.
- 5 When he was at university in Bratislava,
  - a Jan organized a lot of parties.
  - b students thought he was unfriendly.
- 6 He moved to Oxford again four years later
  - a after he sold some houses and flats in Slovakia.
  - b when he got a job at a small company.
- 7 He works in an office
  - a like he did when he was in Slovakia.
  - b which he's never done before.
- 8 What Jan likes about British companies is the fact that
  - a they pay for the extra hours you have to work.
  - b you work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 9 He visited the famous sights in the city
  - a when he first lived in Oxford as a student.
  - b when he moved to Oxford for the second time.
- 10 He's got a lot of friends and he especially likes
  - a going out for meals or a drink with them.
  - b spending summer evenings in a friend's garden.
- 11 What Jan misses most about living in Slovakia is
  - a the hot summers.
  - b the way people behave.

2 points for each correct answer

**2 Listen again. Write true (T) or false (F).**

- 1 Jan first moved to Oxford in 1999. T
- 2 He returned to Slovakia a year later.
- 3 He moved to Oxford again in 2004.
- 4 Jan thinks the working situation is getting worse in Slovakia.
- 5 He never visits the local sights any more.
- 6 He thinks summer weather in Britain is too hot.

1 point for each correct answer

Listening total

### SPEAKING

**1 Ask and answer the questions with a partner.**

- 1 Are you close to your extended family? How often do you see them?
- 2 What is your favourite free-time activity?
- 3 What kind of weather do you like/dislike most? Why?
- 4 Do you enjoy shopping? What kind of things do you like to buy?
- 5 How do you imagine yourself twenty years from now?

max. 1 point for each topic

**2 Your English friend is planning to spend a holiday working in your country. Discuss what he/she should bring and what he/she should plan to do.**

max. 10 points

**3 Who is your best friend? Describe what he/she is like. Include the following information:**

- his/her appearance
- his/her character
- what you like about him/her
- how you became friends
- what kind of things you share with each other

max. 5 points for each topic

Speaking total

Skills Test 1 total