

## Speaking (20 pts)

A. Think of a memorable travel experience that you have had. Work in groups of three. Take it in turns to tell your story. The other members of the group each choose two of the responses in the Language for speaking box and try to insert them in the story.

<b>LANGUAGE FOR SPEAKING</b> telling and reacting to a story		
<b>Introducing the story</b> <i>Have I ever told you about ...?</i> <u><a href="#">Did you hear about...?</a></u>	<b>Ending the story/part of the story</b> <i>In the end, ...</i> <u><a href="#">We ended up</a></u>	<b>A:</b> Have I ever told you about the time I got lost in Rome? <b>B:</b> No, what happened? <b>A:</b> This happened two years ago when I was traveling alone. I was exploring the city, and suddenly, I realized I had no idea where I was! <b>C:</b> You can't be serious! <b>A:</b> Yes! And you'll never guess what happened next—I had no internet, and my phone battery was almost dead. <b>B:</b> I bet you were petrified! <b>A:</b> I was! But that wasn't the end of the story... I asked for directions in my broken Italian, and a kind local actually walked with me back to my hotel. <b>C:</b> That's amazing! <b>A:</b> In the end, it turned out to be a great adventure, and I even made a new friend!
<b>Giving a time context</b> <i>This happened ... ago.</i> <u><a href="#">This was in the days before</a></u>	<b>Reacting to a story</b> <i>I'm not surprised.</i> <i>You can't be serious!</i> <i>You're kidding!</i> <i>I bet you were furious/petrified, etc.!</i> <u><a href="#">That is hilarious</a></u>	
<b>Adding emphasis</b> <i>You'll never guess ...</i> <i>But that wasn't the end of the story ...</i> <u><a href="#">And the, to make matters worse...</a></u> <u><a href="#">You're not going to believe this...</a></u>		

## Listening (20 pts)

B. ▷ Listen and circle the sound you hear. Decide if the speaker is British (B) or North American (NA).

1. better /t/ /d/ \_\_\_\_\_
2. tomato /ɑ:/ /æ/ \_\_\_\_\_
3. long /a:/ /ɒ/ \_\_\_\_\_
4. aunt /ɑ:/ /æ/ \_\_\_\_\_
5. chance /a:/ /æ/ \_\_\_\_\_

C. ▷ Listen and complete the sentences. Write no more than seven words in each gap. Decide if the speaker is British (B) or North American (NA).

1. We just drank \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Lisa used \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are you \_\_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Joe's not \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_
5. I'm definitely not \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_

## Writing/Grammar (25 pts)

D. Complete the sentences with the correct past perfect form of the verb in brackets.

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ for about two hours when we ran out of petrol. (drive)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Steve for a long time when you went into business together? (you / know)
3. Unfortunately, Lisa and Ollie \_\_\_\_\_ preparing the meal when their guests arrived. (finish)
4. Because Zainab \_\_\_\_\_ all day, she really needed a break. (study)
5. Ted was upset when his parents cancelled their arrangement. He \_\_\_\_\_ to take them out for dinner. (want)

**E. Choose the correct answer to complete the text.**

Travelling alone for the first time <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ me with a wave of conflicting emotions. When I set out to travel around Europe alone, I <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ what to expect. I wasn't well travelled – I'd only been abroad once on a family holiday. No one I knew <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ this before either, so there was no one to get advice from. To make up for how unprepared I felt, I followed my guidebooks and got used to it all by going on some tours. The guidebooks were useful for a general overview of a destination, but one day as I <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ round yet another town square, I suddenly <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ that there <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ more to travel than reading out-of-date information from a thick guidebook. So I <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to leave the book to one side. That was one of the best decisions I <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ during my time away. I much preferred to get information from local people. Another thing that I realized was that it was best to go with the flow and not worry about strict schedules. Sometimes it was simply the case that I <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to fit in too much in one day and I just ended up getting stressed. And it was when I <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ around quite so much that I had some of my sweetest travel moments.

1 a was filling	6 a had to be
b filled	b had had to be
c had filled	c was having to be
2 a didn't know	7 a was deciding
b wasn't knowing	b decided
c haven't known	c had decided
3 a did	8 a made
b was doing	b had made
c had done	c was making
4 a walked	9 a planned
b was walking	b was planning
c had walked	c had planned
5 a thought	10 a didn't rush
b was thinking	b hadn't rush
c had thought	c wasn't rushing

**F. Match 1–5 to A–F to make complete sentences. There is one letter that you don't need.**

- 1 Graeme was sure he'd made a complete mess of his maths exam,
- 2 Camping in a storm overnight in the middle of the forest wasn't a good idea
- 3 As the players lined up to take the penalty kicks,
- 4 When Henri came out of the train station all the streets looked the same,
- 5 Jane and her friend have both cheered up a bit now,

A because we were all petrified.  
B but they were feeling rather down about things earlier on.  
C and he felt very relieved about that.  
D so he was delighted to find out that he'd passed.  
E the atmosphere in the stadium was tense.  
F so he felt completely disorientated.

**G. Replace the words in bold in each sentence with the equivalent in British English.**

**EXAMPLE:** *There wasn't any room in the **parking lot**. car park*

1. We put our **garbage** out every night to prevent bad smells in the kitchen. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Luckily our car has a huge **trunk**, so all our stuff could easily fit in. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Millions of commuters use the **subway** each day to get around the city. \_\_\_\_\_
4. I ran out of **gas** while I was driving on the **freeway** earlier today. It was so embarrassing! \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Hahn was furious when she arrived at her destination and realized that the airline had lost her **baggage**.

6. The British are well known for forming a **line** in shops or getting on public transport. \_\_\_\_\_

7. We used to live in **downtown** Chicago, but we moved out to the suburbs last year. \_\_\_\_\_

8. When I was a child all our family **vacations** were spent in a large **travel trailer** near the sea.

\_\_\_\_\_

H. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word(s) given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word(s) given.

1. Dimitris asked the manager to find out what had gone wrong.

**LOOK INTO**

Dimitris wanted \_\_\_\_\_ what had happened

2. It was a shame that they cancelled the trip because I'd been keen to go.

**LOOK FORWARD**

I was puzzled when the trip got cancelled because everyone \_\_\_\_\_ it.

3. The service she received led Aliya to complain.

**DISSATISFACTION**

Aliya \_\_\_\_\_ the service she'd received.

4. Michel started learning Arabic two years ago.

**FOR**

Michel \_\_\_\_\_ two years.

5. The journey wasn't as easy as she had expected.

**MORE**

The journey \_\_\_\_\_ she had expected.

I. Write an email of complaint. Either think of your own situation or use the situation below. Use the Language for writing to help you.

<p><b>LANGUAGE FOR WRITING</b> writing an email of complaint</p> <p><b>Explaining the reason for writing</b> <i>I am writing to complain about/express my dissatisfaction with ...</i></p> <p><b>Describing the incident</b> <i>We were told that ...</i> <i>We had been informed that ...</i> <i>I discovered that ...</i> <i>Clearly, ...</i> <i>I am extremely annoyed/dissatisfied/upset about ...</i></p> <p><b>Requesting action</b> <i>I suggest/trust/would ask that you investigate/look into the situation.</i> <i>I am therefore requesting compensation for ...</i></p> <p><b>Closing the email</b> <i>I look forward to your reply ...</i></p>	<p>You recently stayed in a hotel. You asked reception to give you a wake-up call at 6 a.m. as you had to catch a plane. You received the wake-up call an hour late and, as a result, you missed your flight and had to pay for another one.</p>
---	--

**Reading (20 pts)**

J. You are going to read a text about six very unusual tourist attractions. For questions 1-6, choose the correct answer.

## The most unusual tourist attractions

### A. Island of Dolls, Mexico

Deep in the verdant waterways of Xochimilco near Mexico City lies a small island with a history that chills to the bone. The Island of Dolls is a place where countless dolls, in varying states of decay, hang ominously from trees. These dolls, weathered by the elements, are said to be an offering by a grieving caretaker to soothe the restless spirit of a young girl who drowned in the canal nearby. Visitors describe an intense atmosphere, where the silence is broken only by the whispering leaves and the unblinking gazes of plastic figures. It's an attraction that blends folklore, sadness, and the supernatural.

### B. Temple of Rats, Deshnok, India

At the Karni Mata Temple in the small town of Deshnok, Rajasthan, thousands of rats scurry underfoot, revered as sacred. Locals and travellers alike tread carefully so as not to disturb these holy creatures, believed to be the reincarnated kin of the goddess Karni Mata. The air is filled with the musky scent of incense and the quiet chitter of rodents. Offerings of milk and grain are left for them, and it's considered particularly auspicious to spot the rare white rat among the throng.

### C. The Gum Wall, Seattle

Adjacent to the box office for Seattle's Market Theater, this colourful wall covered with used chewing gum is a quirky testament to spontaneous urban art. Starting in the early 1990s as a peculiar habit by theatregoers, it has transformed into a picturesque collage. Despite several cleanings of the walls, the gum-sticking prevailed, and the authorities eventually reversed course and embraced the eccentric tradition.

### D. Baldwin Street, Dunedin, New Zealand

Dunedin's claim to fame is Baldwin Street, recognised by the Guinness World Records as the world's steepest street. Visitors huff up the 35% grade slope, where the footpath is practically vertical, and houses sit at gravity-defying angles. This quirky urban wonder is a hub for novelty events, including the annual Jaffa Race, where thousands of spherical candies roll down to the amusement of spectators, turning this steep street into a spectacle of community and celebration.

### E. California's Life-Sized Dinosaurs

Driving through the arid landscape of Cabazon, California, travellers are greeted by the sight of enormous prehistoric beasts. These life-sized concrete dinosaurs, remnants of a prehistoric-themed park, loom large against the desert sky. Visitors can clamber up the stairs into the belly of 'Dinny the Dinosaur' for a whimsical view or browse the accompanying gift shop nestled within 'Mr. Rex.' It's a playful homage to the giants of the past, attracting those with a taste for kitsch and nostalgia.

### F. Catacombs, France

Major public health problems led the Parisians in the late 18th century to evacuate the bones from their largest cemetery, the Saints-Innocents, which had accumulated over approximately 1,000 years. Today, twenty meters beneath the bustling and romantic streets of Paris, the Catacombs represent a dark and introspective journey into the city's history. This subterranean maze of tunnels is a stark reminder of the finite nature of life, where the bones of over six million people are meticulously arranged, creating a silent and sombre tableau. Visitors descend into this realm of darkness, walking through corridors lined with the remains of past Parisians, a poignant and reflective experience that's as humbling as it is macabre.

1. Which place might you stumble across on your way to see a performance? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where might you be inclined to search for something that uniquely distinguishes itself from the rest? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where will you be more likely to struggle to find your way back? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which attraction is a testament to remarkable persistence? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Which place was created to appease an afflicted soul? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which place offers sights from a peculiar height? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Which place brings the locals together? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Which place will fill you with a sense of eerie isolation? \_\_\_\_\_