



Upper secondary
Week 3

The Write Tribe

PAPER 2 TECHNIQUES SECTION C



Section C (25 marks)

The text is about UNESCO. Read it carefully and answer Questions 1 - 6.

- 1 It sounds like the beginning of a bizarre guessing game. As of this month, the following unlikely mixture of people and agencies found themselves tarred with the same brush: Liverpool City Council, the developers and municipal authorities of Panama, the islamist rebels of West Africa and the *quarrelsome* bishops of some ancient Christian churches in the Middle East. They all bear a share of responsibility for the fate of places that have recently been deemed by UNESCO to be "World Heritage Sites in danger". 5
- 2 In an unusual, fast-track procedure, the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem was accepted as a world=heritage site and declared to be in danger - at the behest of the Palestinian authority which was, controversially, admitted to UNESCO as a full member last November. UNESCO's World - Heritage regime began life of 40 years ago, when dozens of countries signed up to the idea that the world's cultural and natural patrimony was under threat not only from "traditional causes of decay" but also the principle was the Republican administration of Richard Nixon, which gave remarkably high priority to conservation and the environment. (Since then, America has had a stormy relationship with UNESCO; it cut off payments to the agency last year, under a law which denies funding to anybody that admits Palestine.) 10 15
- 3 In many poorer countries which host heritage sites, the biggest changes since 1972 have been exploding populations and a huge rise in global tourism, combined with a lack of the governance needed to cope with both phenomena. Angkor Wat, a temple complex in Cambodia, and the inca fortress in Machu Picchu in Peru are often cited as places of world-historical importance where a vast influx of tourists may be causing serious damage. By recognising and thus publicising individual sites, UNESCO and other cultural watchdogs risk harming the cause of conservation, which would be better served if visitors to the country were spread around a broader range of places. 20 25
- 4 But there are no easy ways to maintain heritage sites in relatively poor countries; it requires delicate balancing acts. much local diplomacy and long - term engagement, according to organizations that work in that field. Even a well - functioning state, be it democratic or authoritarian, will fall to conserve monuments unless local people see an interest in maintaining their heritage and using it rationally, says Vincent Michael, new chairman of the Global Heritage Fund (GHF) , based in California. The effort will collapse if cultural heritage is seen either as a pesky impediment to making money, or as something to be exploited for short - term gain. Nor should local economies ever be too reliant on tourism, which can fall as rapidly as it rises. 30



- 5 But UNESCO, like most other UN agencies, suffers from a house culture which prefers to deal with governments, and lives happily with the fiction that governments genuinely care about citizens and their heritage. If that were true, then the problem of protecting patrimony could simply be solved by telling governments to pass good laws and enforce them. But in many places where sites are at risk, government either does not operate at all, or functions only in the interest of a kleptocratic elite. In some such places, so-called non-state players (from warlords to private firms to religious leaders) are about the only things that really function at all. 35 40
- 6 One of the biggest global challenges to conservation, says the WMF's president, Bonnie Burnham, is that national agencies which control abandoned precious places (culture ministries, for example) often have no say over what goes on - in terms of development, transport or sanitation - in the surrounding areas. That is one of the obstacles to conserving inca sites in Peru. But an outsider with a real concern for preserving the past can help overcome that problem. 45 50
- 7 In certain cases, UNESCO has helped tilt the balance of internal debates in favour of the cause of conservation, merely by issuing rebukes; that, presumably, is the intention behind the danger listing for Liverpool, which was not contested by the British Government, even though the controversial development is defended by the (Labour-controlled) city council. But to do that job effectively, UNESCO may need to overcome its own cultural aversion to parlaying with the private sector. 55

1. (i) With reference to paragraph 1 (line 1), why was it a 'bizarre guessing game'?

(1)

1. (ii) What is common amongst the different groups of people mentioned in paragraph 1? Answer in your own words.

(2)



2. In paragraph 1 (line 4), '.... and the *quarrelsome* bishops of some ancient Christian churches in the Middle East'. What does the word in italics imply about the author's view of the bishops? (1)

3. Was the speed in which the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem was acknowledged as a world-heritage site and declared in danger, customary? Quote a word in paragraph 2 to support your answer. (2)

4. State the type of relationship that America has with UNESCO, and provide evidence for your answer. (2)

Before	
Current	

5. With reference to paragraph 6, (line 46), '... is that national agencies which control *abandoned precious places*...' What is unusual but effective about the phrase 'abandoned precious places'? (2)



6. Using your own words as far as possible, summarise UNESCO's objective and the problems UNESCO faces to achieve its objectives.

Use only the material from paragraphs 2 - 5.

Your summary must be in continuous writing (not note form). It must not be longer than 80 words, not counting the words given to help you begin.

UNESCO was set up to...



NO. OF WORDS

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