Unit 6: Exercise 1

In any IELTS Reading task, it is useful to skim read the title and text to get a general idea of the context.

Spend one minute looking at the title and skim reading the paragraphs. Then choose the best summary in the box for each paragraph. There are more summaries than you need.

How leisure time developed

A The beginning of what we now know as tourism – travelling as a leisure activity – didn't exist for the majority of people before the 1900s. Although people had been participating in travel activities for centuries beforehand, it had been something that only those fortunate people who had a lot of money and free time could enjoy. Either that, or people would travel on pilgrimages to visit sacred shrines, cathedrals or other places with spiritual or holy significance.

B For ordinary people, however, the experience of having 'time off' only really began after the period of history in which people started using machines and tools to manufacture goods on a mass scale. Once this began in Europe in the 1700s, the idea of a 'working day' independent of the seasons or weather emerged. However, most factory workers had no realistic chance of a vacation. Many had to work continuous ten-hour days in monotonous jobs. Even our modern idea of the 'weekend' is a relatively recent phenomenon, having been created by an American factory owner in 1908 to give his workers a little leisure time. The ruling classes might have noticed that this allowance of free time made their workers more efficient during the week.

C Still, the idea of an ordinary working-class person leaving their hometown for a holiday did not become a reality until the mid-1800s in Europe. Perhaps the most influential development was that of the railways. In particular, train routes were extended to connect large industrial towns with what had previously been tiny settlements on the coast, such as the town of Blackpool in the UK, where people could enjoy the fresh air, beaches and exciting new delicacies such as fish and chips. This led to the spectacular growth of holiday resorts. By the end of the 1800s, there were over 100 growing towns along the English coastline.

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How few people used to take part in tourism

The beginnings of leisure time for working people

The development of the first machines and tools

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The typical home town of a working-class person

What is tourism?

Working-class people began to holiday away from their home towns

1 Paragraph A:

2 Paragraph B:

3 Paragraph C:

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