Unit 6: Exercise 5

Try to complete this IELTS Reading summary completion task in 10 minutes.

Complete the summary using the list of words, A–I, below.

Write the correct letter, A–I, in the gaps.

How travel has changed

In the first half of the 19th century, some of the world's most famous explorers were trekking through jungles, climbing dangerous mountain peaks and crossing endless miles of desert. The purpose of this was often to discover new places and trade routes rather than pleasure, and for most people it was the kind of adventure they could only read about, rather than take part in. However, by travelling through unknown and often dangerous new lands, a few of these explorers hoped to test themselves in a way that would increase their physical strength, their courage and their ability to rely on themselves and no-one else. It can be hard for people today to imagine how challenging some of these trips would have been. If you wanted to head north, the stars or a compass would have been your main tools. Many regions, such as deserts and mountains, would have been unmapped. Certainly, travelling in those times involved a lot more risk than any kind of journey today, and there was little chance of easily available help should things go wrong.

By the second half of the 19th century, travel had become easier thanks to the development of the steamship and the growth of railway networks. The tourism industry began to grow from simple beginnings, but travel to other countries for pleasure was, of course, still something that only wealthy people could afford. They travelled mostly in order to gain an appreciation of music, art and literature, and therefore the places they visited tended to be mainly ones with some historical importance, like Rome or Venice. As this type of tour could be hard work, and often go on for weeks or even months, travellers had to dress for both formal occasions (dining and receiving guests) and informal occasions (visiting ancient ruins, etc.). This meant that each traveller needed to take lots of luggage with them (and staff to help transport it).

Huge changes in the travel industry occurred during the 20th century. During the 1960s, air travel became relatively common, and for the first time ordinary people could afford to go abroad for their holidays. Furthermore, travel agencies emerged to conveniently organise flights, hotel rooms, day trips, and so on. While people might have had a good time, this kind of organisation also meant that most people would go to the same resorts, eat at the same restaurants and visit the same shops. In fact, you would spend most of the holiday with the group who had booked the same holiday as you.

A plenty of food

B suitable clothes

C basic technology

D several documents

LIVEWORKSHEETS

E unique experiences

F cultural education

G personal qualities

H pleasant experiences

I long journeys

Travel experiences from the 19th century to the present day

In the early 19th century, many explorers went travelling in foreign countries. One of the reasons that some of them did this was to develop their **1** ____ during a trip. Because the explorers had **2** ____ , their travel experiences were much more challenging than those that people have today. As the 19th century progressed, one aim of early tourism was for wealthy people to enjoy the **3** ____ that they could get from visiting special places. Because journeys might continue for a long time and involve a variety of activities, it was necessary for travellers to take **4** ____ with them. In the mid-20th century, it became more common to travel by plane. It was also usual for travel agents to organise every aspect of a holiday. Although this made things easier for travellers, it also reduced their chances of having **5** ____ .

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