

B. READING

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.

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

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:

Exercise 2. Read the information. Then look at the summary again. What types of word do you need to complete each gap? Choose the correct answers.

Before you read the passage in detail, think about these questions:

- Do you need an adjective or a noun?
- Do you need a word with a positive or negative connotation (feeling)?

The beginning of leisure time

Tourism was (1) _____ for most people before the 20th century, unless they were very wealthy. Some people travelled for (2) _____, although this can't be seen as a leisure activity.

It wasn't until the (3) _____ that the concept of having 'time off' started. Employers began to see that having holiday time could make their employees (4) _____, which would help their businesses.

In the 20th century, the extension of railway lines to (5) _____ led to the rapid development of holiday destinations for ordinary workers.

1 a noun/noun phrase a positive adjective a negative adjective

2 a noun/noun phrase a positive adjective a negative adjective

3 a noun/noun phrase a positive adjective a negative adjective

4 a noun/noun phrase a positive adjective a negative adjective

5 a noun/noun phrase a positive adjective a negative adjective

Exercise 3: Read the paragraphs again. Then complete the summary. Use the words in the box. There are more words than you need.

impossible

industrial age

invention of machines

more productive

relaxed

religious reasons

seaside towns

unpleasant

work

work places

The beginning of leisure time

Tourism was 1 for most people before the 20th century, unless they were very wealthy. Some people travelled for 2 , although this can't be seen as a leisure activity. It wasn't until the 3 that the concept of having 'time off' started.

Employers began to see that having holiday time could make their employees 4 , which would help their businesses. In the 20th century, the extension of railway lines to 5 led to the rapid development of holiday destinations for ordinary workers.

Exercise 4 :

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
- 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 ____ .

Exercise 5: Read the information. Then read the sentences taken from the Reading passage that you read in Exercise 5. What do the words in bold mean? Choose the correct answers.

In the IELTS Reading test, there might be words you don't understand, but don't worry. Try looking at the surrounding words to get an understanding of the context. You can sometimes work out what the word might mean.



Remember, you can often answer the question without understanding every word.

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.).

5 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.

1 **courage**

- knowledge
- the ability to deal with a dangerous situation without being scared
- the ability to deal with other people

2 **a compass**

- a local guide
- a piece of equipment that shows the direction you are going in
- an animal used for transport

3 **an appreciation**

- an understanding
- being aware of how good something is
- examples

4 occasions

- celebrations
- situations
- tasks

5 resorts

- businesses which sell holidays
- foreign countries
- places where people go on holiday

Exercise 6: Read the information. Then read the extracts. Do the statements below match what the writer says in the extracts? Choose the correct answers.

1. 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.
2. However, most factory workers had no realistic chance of a vacation. Many had to work continuous ten-hour days in monotonous jobs.
3. The ruling classes might have noticed that this allowance of free time made their workers more efficient during the week.
4. 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.
5. 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.

	This statement agrees with the writer.	This statement contradicts the writer.	It is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this.
1 If you were lucky enough to have the right resources many centuries ago, you could travel to different places.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Most people had satisfying jobs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 It would have been better if employers had given their workers more free time.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 The railways were very important to the development of enjoyable holidays for workers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 It is surprising that holiday resorts grew quickly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Exercise 7: Read the information. Then read the passage and decide if the statements agree with the views of the writer.

Choose YES if the statement agrees with the views of the writer of the text, choose NO if the statement contradicts the views of the writer, or choose NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this.



- Quickly look through the passage to get an idea of what each paragraph is about.
- Look carefully at the first statement.
- If you need to look for the writer's view, decide if it is a positive or a negative one.
- Scan the passage to find the part which contains the information that matches each statement.
- Read this part of the passage carefully, paying attention to words with a positive or negative tone.
- Choose the best answer. Then go on to the next question (remember, they are in the same order as in the passage).
- Use any time left at the end to check your answers.

Nowadays, tourism continues to change, most of those changes having been brought about by technology. Statistics show that 148.3 million travel bookings are made online each year, 39% of which are accommodation bookings, and 37% are plane tickets. It is now estimated that people spend at least three hours online researching their trips, even if they go to a travel agent to make a final purchase. In addition, it is increasingly common for people to create online reviews of hotels, restaurants and so on, after having experienced something while travelling. Although this is very useful for travellers, the effect is that the tourism industry is becoming much more consumer-oriented than ever before, and much more alert to the needs of travellers, in the hope of receiving good reviews. A good travel experience is something you can actively seek out and pay for.

By taking a mobile device on holiday, you can clearly save time, money and effort. The contents of a restaurant menu can be quickly checked. The opening times of a museum can be found immediately. It may be, however, that these are making the travel experience less of an adventure. It is possible that we have lost the notion of going to a new place in order to explore it. It is, perhaps, regrettable if we go to a place and already know what we will find there.

Indeed, a recent survey shows that over 1.8 billion photos are shared online each day. A great many of these are images from holidays, and can share worthwhile information with other travellers. Such photographs can tell you more about a place than any professional advertisement could, and it's likely

that they are more honest. Just one amateur photo can give an accurate impression of whether or not a particular festival, ski resort or hotel is the best one to choose.

It seems also that the average traveller is less likely to pack large amounts of clothes, and more likely to take equipment for recording their journey and sharing it with others. According to another survey, the most common things to take are laptops, smartphones, tablets, digital cameras and e-readers (not to mention the adaptors, cables and chargers that accompany them). One recent innovation that is certain to attract consumer attention is a suitcase with its own GPS. Even if the owner loses it, it is easily tracked, wherever it goes.

Back in the 19th century, many of the explorers sat down at the end of a long day to write an entry in their diaries, some of which are now regarded as historical treasures. In the 20th century, it was common for tourists to buy postcards, spend an afternoon writing brief messages, and post them home. Nowadays, we have social media. Regardless of the convenience, and the easily accessed information, if the point of travelling is freedom, it's hard to say that this is what technology allows us to gain. There is a constant pressure nowadays to update others about our lives and the experiences we are having. Many people feel forced into checking everything before they go there, and relying on other people's recommendations about what to do. Surely a holiday is the one time when people shouldn't feel the need to do this.

3 An individual traveller's photo is far more useful to other travellers than an official one.

YES

NO

NOT GIVEN

1 It is best to avoid using online reviews as a way of choosing a hotel to stay in.

YES

NO

NOT GIVEN

4 It is a good idea for travellers to limit the number of devices that they take with them on their trip.

YES

NO

NOT GIVEN

2 The use of a mobile device on holiday may have negative effects on people's experience on the holiday.

YES

NO

NOT GIVEN

5 A clear benefit of technology is that it gives people a lot more freedom when they are travelling.

YES

NO

NOT GIVEN

Exercise 8: Read the information. Then look at these extracts from the passage you read in Exercise 8. Is it the writer's View or is it a Fact? Choose the correct answer.



In the IELTS Reading test, remember that you might be asked to read a passage where the writer is giving his or her views (or opinions) as well as presenting facts. Don't forget – an opinion is not the same as a fact!

Also, you will only be asked to identify the writer's views, not the views of anyone else.

1 In addition, it is increasingly common for people to create online reviews of hotels, restaurants and so on, after having experienced something while travelling.

View Fact

2 It is, perhaps, regrettable if we go to a place and already know what we will find there.

View Fact

3 Such photographs can tell you more about a place than any professional advertisement could, and it's likely that they are more honest.

View Fact

4 According to another survey, the most common things to take are laptops, smartphones, tablets, digital cameras and e-readers.

View Fact

5 In the 20th century, it was common for tourists to buy postcards, spend an afternoon writing brief messages, and post them home.

View Fact

6 Regardless of the convenience, and the easily accessed information, if the point of travelling is freedom, it's hard to say that this is what technology allows us to gain.

View Fact