

B. READING

Exercise 1. In this unit, you will look at Yes / No / Not Given questions and summary completion. You will read a text about travel photography. Read the information. Then read the sentences about photography and decide if they are the writer's views or claims.

For IELTS Reading Yes / No / Not Given questions, you need to recognize and understand the views and claims that a writer expresses in a text:

- a **view** is the writer's opinion about something.

Example:

The best way for students to spend their free time is in travelling and taking photos.

- a **claim** is something that the writer believes is a fact – information they understand to be true.

Example:

The first modern photograph was taken in France in 1826 or 1827.

1. I was delighted with the way my photographs turned out.
 - View
 - Claim
2. One of the world's first travel shoots took place in 1849.
 - View
 - Claim
3. Photographers now need to be more flexible about the kind of projects they work on.
 - View
 - Claim
4. Some groups of native Americans strongly dislike photographs.
 - View
 - Claim
5. The festival is held in November.

- View
- Claim

6. This festival should be included in any photographer's diary.

- View
- Claim

Exercise 2. Read the information. Then read the first paragraph of an article on travel photography and the statement which follows. Decide if the statement agrees with a view or claim of the writer. Choose the correct answer.

In an IELTS Reading Yes / No / Not Given task, you read a text in which the writer expresses some views or makes some claims. Then you decide if a set of statements agree with the writer's views or claims in the text.

- *If the statement expresses **the same idea as the writer**, the answer is **Yes**.*
- *If the statement expresses **the opposite idea to the writer's**, the answer is **No**.*
- *If the statement expresses an idea that **the writer does not express any views or claims about**, the answer is **Not Given**.*

‘Eyes on the World’: Travel photography in the 21st century

One of the world's first travel shoots took place in 1849 when two young Frenchmen, Gustave Flaubert and Maxime Du Camp, decided they would set out on a great adventure and travel to Egypt. Du Camp took hundreds of photographs of the Pyramids and the Sphinx, and when he returned home and published his travel album, the images amazed the European public and turned Du Camp into a celebrity overnight.

Maxime Du Camp became famous because of the photos in his travel album.

- Yes
- No
- Not Given

Exercise 3. In the IELTS Reading task, choosing No or Not Given can sometimes be more difficult than choosing Yes. Read the paragraph again. Then choose the correct answers.

1. The European public was disappointed with the photos in Maxime Du Camp's travel album.
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Not Given
2. The European public saw photos of Egypt for the first time when they looked at Du Camp's travel album.
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Not Given
3. Maxime Du Camp was surprised by the amount of attention he received after publishing his book.
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Not Given
4. It took a long time for Maxime Du Camp to become famous after he published his travel album.
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Not Given

Exercise 4. Read the information. Then read the statements 1–7. Match the synonyms and paraphrases in the box with the bold words and phrases in the statements.

In an IELTS Reading Yes / No / Not Given task, it is important to look for paraphrases of the statements in the text. This will make it easier to decide the correct answer.

dangerous	event	great	is now acceptable	outsiders
realize what the challenges were			work hard for	

1. Most photographers **understand how hard it was** to take photographs in the 19th century.

2. Some of the chemicals that Du Camp used for his photography were **unsafe** .

3. There is a lot of luck involved in taking **really good** photographs.

4. It's usually photographs that **require a lot of effort** that professional photographers are most pleased with. _____
5. All Souls Day in the Philippines is an older **festival** than the Day of the Dead in Mexico.

6. Mexican locals are happy for **foreigners** to attend Day of the Dead celebrations.

7. It **has become common** for some native American groups to photograph important ceremonies. _____

Exercise 5. Read the information. Then read the next four paragraphs of the 'Eyes on the World' article. Answer the questions.

While Du Camp's photographs may appear simple in comparison to modern photographs with their special effects, it seems to me that nowadays the majority of photographers fail to realise what the challenges were in taking photographs in the 19th century. To begin with, foreign travel was expensive and difficult to organise. Fortunately, Du Camp had money of his own and he was also able to get additional funding for the journey from the French government. Another issue was the size and weight of 19th-century cameras – they were very large and heavy. Finally, not only was there a great deal of equipment and chemicals to transport, but travelling itself could be highly dangerous. Of course, travel photographers do still take risks as part of their job, but the level of danger is hardly the same as when Du Camp was travelling across continents.

Nevertheless, as any professional photographer knows, to be good at the job still requires hard work and dedication. The popular idea that great photographs are often the result of a photographer being in exactly the right place at exactly the right time, just by chance, does not reflect reality. Last year, for example, on a visit to Reykjavik, Iceland, I met several photographers I knew. We were all there for the annual Winter Lights festival, involving works by many artists and musicians. One shot we all wanted was the perfect image of the *aurora borealis* – the strange green lights that sometimes

appear briefly in the sky as the sun is going down. It took hours for everyone to decide how best to catch this moment and to work out where to place themselves to get the best result. In the end, I was delighted with the way my photographs turned out. In general, professional photographers share the feeling that the most rewarding photographs are the ones you've worked hard for.

Events like this attract photographers because the atmosphere can help create some wonderful photo opportunities. The Day of the Dead in Mexico is a perfect example. Although other countries have a similar event, for example, All Souls Day in the Philippines, the Mexican event is a photographer's dream. It's a time of celebration, when people remember relatives who have already passed away. Good photographs will capture that sense of joy in the bright and colourful decorations on the gravestones and in the faces of the families who are using humour and art to remember their dead. What's more, the local people are usually happy to share this experience with outsiders so visitors can participate if they wish. The festival is held in November, and should be included in any photographer's diary.

Travelling as a photographer has encouraged me to question some ideas I previously believed to be true. An example of this is the popular belief that some groups of native Americans strongly dislike photographs and will turn away from cameras. This, however, is not the case. From talking to native Americans I've met on my journeys, it seems that it is now acceptable to regard photographs as valuable connections to ancestors and even include them in important ceremonies, some of which I have been lucky to observe and record.

Read the statements and choose the correct answers. Note that the words and phrases for expressing views and claims have been underlined here for reference.

1. Most photographers understand how hard it was to take photographs in the 19th century.
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Not Given
2. Some of the chemicals that Du Camp used for his photography were unsafe.
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Not Given

3. There is a lot of luck involved in taking really good photographs.
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Not Given
4. It's usually photographs that require a lot of effort that professional photographers are most pleased with.
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Not Given
5. All Souls Day in the Philippines is an older festival than the Day of the Dead in Mexico.
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Not Given
6. Mexican locals are happy for foreigners to attend Day of the Dead celebrations.
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Not Given
7. It has become common for some native American groups to photograph important ceremonies.
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Not Given

Exercise 6. Read the final paragraph of the 'Eyes on the World' article carefully. Then choose the four ideas which are found in the text.

One question that people often ask is whether it's possible to make a reasonable living in the travel photography industry today. Gone are the easy days when photographers simply shot photos for magazines and newspapers, sent them to an editor and got paid at the end of every month: these forms of media now usually buy photos for their stories directly from companies that store millions of them. As a result, photographers now need to be more flexible about the kind of projects they work on. One way to do this is by working for big businesses. In the past, photographers often decided where they would like to go, and could perhaps experiment more with the kinds of

photographs they took. However, working for a big business often means that you are sent where the company wants you to go; perhaps to a beach or a mountain if they want to promote these as tourist destinations. The desert is another popular place: many car companies like to shoot this kind of background to advertise their new vehicles. Of course, nowadays this kind of well-paid work opportunity is very popular, so a huge number of photographers will all apply for the same job; a situation which you didn't see so much in the past. Nevertheless, in my experience, whether photographers are amateurs or professionals, there is a generally positive feeling between them: they are supportive of each other and willing to share advice about work opportunities and the risks that travelling to foreign destinations sometimes involves.

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- ☐ Some photographers like to take photographs of serious subjects while others like to take amusing ones.
 - ☐ The typical career of a photographer is not the same today as it was in the past.
 - ☐ Newspapers no longer buy so many photographs from individual photographers.
 - ☐ Big businesses sometimes use photographers to take pictures of their products or services.
 - ☐ The internet has made it much easier to see the work of many photographers.
 - ☐ There are a huge number of training courses if people want to study photography.
 - ☐ Photographers talk to each other about their experiences and provide useful information.

Exercise 7. Match the paraphrases and synonyms in the box with the ideas in the sentences.

Good relationships	great competition	international exhibitions
marketing purposes	new ideas	public interest
work experience	regular income	

1. The photographs are displayed in a gallery. _____
2. Each month, the photographers get money for their work.

3. People really enjoy looking at their photographs. _____
4. The photographers make suggestions and plans about what to do next.

5. The photographers do the job to improve their skills but they don't get paid anything.

6. The photographers get on well with each other. _____
7. Some people use photographs to persuade other people to buy things.

8. A lot of photographers are all trying to get the same job. _____

Exercise 8.

Making a chance

How easy is it for us to change our lives – and why?

In 1990, a young American named Christopher McCandless gave up his career plans, left behind everyone he knew, including his family, and went off on an adventure. He was 22 at the time. In an act of kindness, he donated all his savings to the famous charity, Oxfam International, and hitchhiked his way through America to Alaska. His decisions were so unusual for his age that Jon

Krakauer wrote a book about them called *Into the Wild*, and Sean Penn directed a film that had the same title.

Of course, this is an unusual story. Most college graduates would not do quite the same thing. However, studies do show that in teenage years, people are more likely to try out new experiences. Instead of following the family career path, for example, and working his way up the same organization like his grandfather did, a 15-year-old may dream about becoming a traveler – only to find in his early 20s that this fascination with new places is declining and change is less attractive. This age-related trend can be observed in all cultures.

The reason why people all over the world become less keen to change as they get older may be because people's lives generally follow similar patterns and involve similar demands. Most people, wherever they are, aim to find a job and a partner. As they get older, they may have young children to look after and possibly elderly family members. These responsibilities cannot be achieved without some degree of consistency, which means that new experiences and ideas may not have a place in the person's life. New experiences may bring excitement but also insecurity, and so most people prefer to stay with the familiar.

However, not every individual is the same. One toddler may want to play a different game every day and get fed up if nothing changes at the nursery. Another may seek out and play with the same children and toys on every visit. Young children who avoid new experiences will grow up to be more conventional than others. Psychologists argue that those who have more open personalities as children are more open than others might be when they are older. They also suggest that young men have a greater interest in novelty than women, although, as they age, this desire for new experiences fades more quickly than it does in women.

The truth is that, as we get older, we prefer the things we know. We tend to order the same meals in restaurants, sit on the same side of the train when we commute to work, go on holiday to the same places and construct our day in the same way. If you are older than 20, remember that your openness to new experiences is slowly declining. So you are better off making a new start today than postponing it until later.

Questions 1-6: Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in the reading passage? Write



YES if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer

NO if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer

NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

1. *Teenagers are more ready to have new experiences than young adults.*
2. *Grandparents usually encourage their grandchildren to get a well-paid job.*
3. *Life demands are different depending on which country you live in.*
4. *Some toddlers find repetitive activities boring.*
5. *Children who dislike new experiences become more adventurous than others as adults.*
6. *If you want to change something in your life, you should avoid delay.*