Unit 6: Exercise 6

Read the information. Then read the next four paragraphs of the 'Eyes on the World' article. Answer the questions on page 2.

In an IELTS Reading Yes / No / Not Given task, the statements follow the *same* order of information provided in the text (i.e. the part of the writer's text that answers statement 2 will always come after the part of the text for statement 1 and before the part for statement 3).

In this task type, it is a good idea to read the statements *before* you start reading the text. It is also a good idea to underline common language for views and claims in each statement. This will help you to:

- find the part of the text you need to answer the question more quickly.
- compare the words and phrases you underlined in the statement with the writer's view or claim so you can check your answer (you will need to recognise synonyms and paraphrases in the writer's text when you do this).

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

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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.

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Read the statements and choose the correct answers. Read the text on page 1 again if you need to.

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

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

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Not Given

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