AMES ENGLISH

Full name: ..... **READING HOMEWORK – PART 1**

Worksheet 5	**Topic: The natural environment**		**WID:** IELTS5.5_05_R **QR code:**
Skills	**IELTS Reading skills:** - Yes/No/ Not Given - True/ False/ Not given - Summary completion	**..... pts/10**	

Exercise 1. [IELTS Reading: Summary completion] Read the information. Then complete the summary. Use the words in the box. There are more words than you need.

How leisure time developed

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.

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.

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.

impossible	industrial age	invention of machines	work
more productive	relaxed	religious reasons	work places
seaside towns	unpleasant		

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 2. [IELTS Reading: Summary completion] 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_____.

<u>Exercise 3.</u> [IELTS Reading: Summary completion – Y/N/NG] Read the passage and complete the summary.

Working conditions in Australia during the 19th and early 20th century

In the 19th century, work for Australia's manual laborers was tough. They worked in areas such as the building and construction trade, or the mechanical and maintenance industry, and their working experiences were typified by uncomfortable and dangerous conditions, low pay and long hours. Most manual laborers in the cities worked in factories. Quite often these had little or no fresh air, were without basic facilities, were overcrowded, and often reached over 40 degree Celsius in summer, while being cold and damp in winter. In addition, it was not uncommon for

injuries to result from faulty machinery and a lack of safety equipment or protective clothing, which are compulsory at factory sites today.

Factory workers also had to work long hours. Rather than today's average working week of 40 hours, most people worked ten-hour days for six days of the week. Some even had to work overtime without being given any extra pay. Despite these difficult conditions, workers were too afraid to complain out of fear of being dismissed from their job, as they knew that life could be even more difficult if they were unemployed. Unlike today, where the unemployed are able to access money from the government, there was no similar system available at that time. There was also no payment for those who were injured at work, no sick leave, and no retirement pay.

Manual laborers in rural Australia did not fare much better. A vast number of manual laborers in the rural sector were sheep shearers (workers who cut off the sheep's coat). Although wool had been a major part of Australia's export industry since the 1870s, the shearers were undervalued. They usually had to shear 100 sheep just to earn £1 (Au $2), and if their work was not to the satisfaction of their employer, then he might withhold their wages. The shearers also had to endure dirty and rat-infested conditions in the shearing sheds and at the accommodation which was provided for them.

The work of most women involved attending to their household duties and looking after children who were not of school age. Those who did enter the workforce belonged to Australia's working class. They had to endure similar working conditions to the men, except they did so with much less pay: women received a wage 50 percent lower than that of their male counterparts. The women were often employed as servants in private homes. Some of them enjoyed their jobs and were treated fairly by the families for whom they worked. A number of them, however, had a heavy workload. Women were also employed in the service industry. While shop assistants did not have to engage in any hard physical labour, their hours were exceptionally long. On weekdays, they had to work from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and until 11 p.m. on Saturday.

Working-class children were also expected to help out the family by gaining employment. The majority of them left school at the age of twelve, but there were some children as young as eight who were working in trades such as textile and boot production. Children worked up to 60-hour weeks, and were paid around 2-3 pence (2 cents) an hour. This was approximately half the wage a woman received. Factory owners were keen to make use of children, as cheaper labour meant a greater profit.

At the turn of the 20th century, life and working conditions in Australia were still harsh, dangerous and dirty compared with today's standards. However, in other parts of the world, the country had a reputation as the "working man's paradise". This reputation was based on the adoption of the eight hour day and other benefits which were unimaginable at that time in Europe. Rights

relating to working conditions, safety in the workplace, weekly working hours and wages all progressed around this time. They did not, however, all come at once, and they were often only extended to workers within certain industries. Yet despite this, it represented the beginning of a new era, where employees had rights and employers had a greater responsibility towards their workers.

These gradual improvements were partly achieved through the efforts of workers who had begun, as early as the 1830s, to form unions which were beginning to take effect. The workers were so confident that their unions had become strong enough to seek action to unfair treatment and wages on their behalf, that throughout the 1890s they held a number of strikes. These led to a gradual improvement in working conditions, and formed the basis of the rights enjoyed by Australian workers today.

**Unions* are organizations formed by workers to protect their rights.

**A strike* is when employees stop working because they are unhappy about something.

I. Do the following statements agree with the information given in the reading passage?

Write: TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

1. At certain times of the year, factories could be extremely hot.
2. Employers normally paid the hospital bills of anyone injured at work.
3. Working conditions for domestic servants were sometimes quite good.
4. Shop assistants usually worked shorter hours than factory workers.
5. Children under the age of eight weren't allowed to work.
6. Australia was among the first countries to limit the length of the working day.

II. Complete the summary below. Write ONE WORD ONLY from the passage for each answer.

Improvements in Australian working hours

By the beginning of the 20th century, conditions for Australian workers had started to get better. Their 7_____ were now recognized, and employers had to accept some responsibility for their welfare. Compared to other countries, Australia was regarded as a(n) 8_____ for workers.

To some extent this progress was due to the creation of 9_____ earlier in the 19th century. By the end of that century, workers felt sufficiently confident to hold 10_____, which were effectively in achieving change.