Reading

1 **Look at the title of the article. What do you think it is about?**

1 popular tourist destinations
2 the good points of tourism
3 good places for activity holidays

Great students' tip

Preparing before reading

Before you read a text, look at the title and any pictures or paragraph headings. Imagine what the text is about and think about any knowledge and vocabulary you already have on the topic. This helps you to understand the text when you read.

2 **Read the article quickly. Check your answer for 1.**

OVERTOURISM

A Crowds of tourists wait for hours to look at the painting of the *Mona Lisa* in Paris. Lots of cruise ships with thousands of passengers enter the harbour of Venice. A long line of climbers wait on the side of Mount Everest to climb to the top. These are all examples of overtourism or, in other words, more tourists than a place can deal with.

B Tourism is important for money and jobs in many countries, but large numbers of visitors can also be a danger to famous places. For example, Venice in Italy has got a population of around 300,000 people, but according to many online sources it has over 24 million visitors a year. There are problems with traffic, rubbish and damage to buildings. It's also a problem for local people because the price of houses and food in restaurants increases in popular tourist areas, so it becomes difficult for local people to live there.

C Is there a way to stop overtourism? Some places are increasing the price of tickets to museums and famous buildings. Cities like Amsterdam and Paris have a tourist tax. Cities collect this money to help to pay for collecting rubbish and repairing streets and buildings. Another way is to limit numbers. According to an online article by *Forbes*, in 2016 there were 10,000 tourists a day from cruise ships on the Greek island of Santorini between May and September. Now there is a limit of 8,000 a day. The Peruvian tourist board reported that in 2018, there were over 1.5 million visitors to the historic site of Machu Picchu in Peru. Now there is a time limit of four hours to control the number of people passing through it in each part of the day.

D What can we do to stop overtourism? For your next sightseeing trip, why not visit some small towns and places that aren't as popular with tourists? Or plan your visit for a time when the number of visitors is low. Spend money in local restaurants and hotels. Above all, be careful not to damage buildings and don't leave rubbish.

For sources of data in exercise, see acknowledgements page.

3 **Match the headings (1–4) to the paragraphs (A–D).**

1 What can people do about overtourism? .....
2 What problems are there because of overtourism? .....
3 What is overtourism? .....
4 What are cities doing about overtourism? .....

4 **Read the article again and answer the questions.**

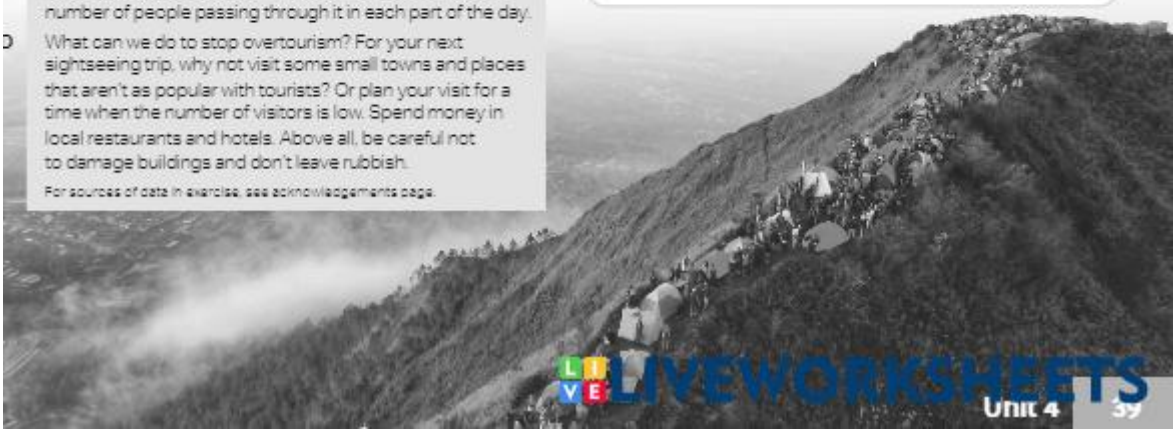
1 What is overtourism?
.....
2 Which three examples does the writer give of overtourism?
.....
.....
3 Why is overtourism bad for Venice?
.....
.....
4 What do some cities do with money from tourism?
.....
5 How many people can now leave cruise ships in Santorini in the summer?
.....
6 What four things can tourists do to help with overtourism?
.....
.....

5 **Match the underlined words in the text to the definitions.**

1 ships stop here .....
2 money people pay to the city council .....
3 to become more in amount or level .....
4 hurt or harm, have a negative effect .....
5 ability to work well (often on problems) .....
6 fixing something .....

Critical thinkers

6 **What two positive effects of tourism does the text mention?**
.....
.....



LIVEWORKSHEETS