

RETURN TO ENGLAND

Test 2 Part 5 read this excerpt from a novel and do the multiple choice.

I returned from the City on that May afternoon disgusted with life. I had been back in England for three months and was fed up with it. If anyone had told me a year ago that I would have been feeling like that, I would have laughed at him; but there was the fact. The weather made me feel ill, the talk of the ordinary Englishman made me sick. I couldn't get enough exercise and the entertainment in London seemed flat. "Richard Hanny," I kept telling myself, "you have got into the wrong ditch, my friend, and you had better climb out."

It made me bite my lips to think of the plans I'd made during those last years in Bulawayo. I had got my inheritance - not one of the big ones, but good enough for me - and I had figured out all kinds of ways of enjoying myself. My father had brought me out to South Africa from Scotland at the age of six and I had never been home since; so England was like an adventure to me and I counted on stopping there for the rest of my days.

But from the first I was disappointed with it. In about a week I was tired of seeing the sights and in less than a month I had had enough of restaurants and theaters and race-meetings. I had no real friend to go about with, which probably explains things. Plenty of people invited me to their houses, but they didn't seem much interested in me. A lot of ladies asked me to tea to meet schoolmasters from New Zealand and editors from Vancouver, and that was the most boring business of all. Here was I, thirty-seven years old, sound in wind and limb, with enough money to have a good time, yawning my head off all day. I had just about settled to clear out and get back to South Africa, for I was the best bored man in the United Kingdom.

That afternoon I had been worrying my brokers about investments to give my mind something to work on, and on my way home I turned into my club. I had a drink and read the evening papers. They were full of the row in the Near East, and there was an article about Karolides, the Greek Premier. I rather liked the chap. From all accounts he seemed the one big man in the show; and he played an honest game too, which was more than could be said for most of them. I gathered that they hated him in Berlin and Vienna, but that we were going to stick by him, and one paper said that he was the only barrier between Europe and the end of the world. I remember wondering if I could get a job in those arts. It struck me that Albania was the sort of place that might keep a man from yawning.

About six o'clock I went home, dressed, dined at the Café Royal and turned into a music-hall. It was a silly show and I did not stay long. The night was fine and clear as I walked back to the flat I had hired near Portland Place. The crowd surged past me on the pavements, busy and chattering, and I envied the people for having something to do. I gave half-a-crown to a beggar because I saw him yawn; he was a fellow-sufferer. At Oxford Circus I looked up into the spring sky and I made a vow. I would give England another day to come up with something; if nothing happened, I would take the next boat for the Cape.



1. What are Hannay's feelings about London?

- A. He had expected it to be more exciting.
- B. He can't understand the way English people speak.
- C. The people who live there are ordinary.
- D. He finds it too hot.

2. What do we learn about Hannay in the second paragraph?

- A. He had lived in Scotland for most of his childhood.
- B. He had been planning to live in England.
- C. He had spent most of his adult life in Bulawayo.
- D. He was enjoying his life in South Africa.

5. What does Hannay say about his first few weeks in England?

- A. There weren't enough places for him to visit.
- B. He found sightseeing tiring.
- C. He needed someone to explain things to him.
- D. Having a friend there would have made the experience better.

6. What does Hannay suggested about "them" when he says "which was more than could be said for most of them"?

- A. He doesn't know much about them.
- B. They are less important than Karolides.
- C. Karolides is more honest than most of them.
- D. They are not taking the situation seriously.

7. What impression are we given of Karolides?

- A. He is an important person to have around at a dangerous time.
- B. The newspapers do not agree with him.
- C. He is preventing Europe from expanding its influence in the world.
- D. He doesn't have many supporters.

8. Why does Hannay see the beggar as "a fellow-sufferer"?

- A. They both envy the people in the crowd.
- B. Neither of them has a job.
- C. They are both tired.
- D. They are both bored.