SUM 2 UNIT 6 **READING QUIZ** **N°**

NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____ **SCORE:** _____/10

A. Read the magazine article.

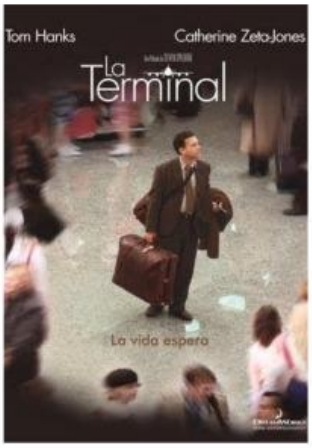
WAITING AS A WAY OF LIFE

Merhan Nasseri waits patiently on a bench in Charles de Gaulle Airport, suitcases stacked neatly beside him. If his clothing looks rumpled, and his suitcases a bit frayed, it's hardly surprising—after all, Nasseri has been waiting for a flight to London for over 17 years. What began as a travel nightmare on August 26, 1988, has become a way of life. Meet the man who lives in Charles de Gaulle's Terminal One.

Nasseri's odyssey began in 1977, when he was expelled from his home country of Iran for his political views. Forced to abandon his family, Nasseri headed to Europe, where he bounced from country to country until finally, in 1981, he obtained refugee status from the United Nations. Granted the right to live in any European country, Nasseri boarded a flight to Great Britain, where he has relatives. On a stopover in Paris, however, his bag containing his identity papers was stolen. Without these documents, British immigration officials refused to allow Nasseri into Great Britain, and he was returned to France. Back at Paris's Charles de Gaulle Airport, Nasseri found himself in the ultimate travel nightmare. Without identifying documents, he could neither enter France nor travel to another nation. He had become a man without a country.

With nowhere to go, Nasseri made Terminal One his home while he waited for a decision from the French government. According to airport workers, Nasseri has settled into a routine. Before passengers arrive, he awakens each morning at 5:30 on the bench where he spends each night. He shaves and brushes his teeth (using toiletries from free airline travel kits) in the men's room. Careful about appearing tidy, he washes his clothing once a week in the sink and keeps his belongings neatly organized in suitcases and boxes. Nasseri spends much of the day reading—keeping up with current events with the latest newspapers and magazines.

The would-be traveler has been befriended by airport employees, who call him "Sir Alfred" and look after him—donating meal vouchers, pocket money, and clothing and lifting his spirits with coffee and conversation on their breaks. He receives weekly visits from the airport doctor, who worries that his confinement has affected his mental health. Now the subject of several documentaries and movies (most notably, Stephen Spielberg's The Terminal, starring Tom Hanks), Nasseri's popularity has extended beyond Terminal One. He receives hundreds of letters at the airport each year.



In 1999, Nasseri was finally granted French residency, allowing him to leave the airport and live in France. However, Nasseri refused to leave until allowed to live in Great Britain. Friends worry that, after being confined to the terminal for so long, Nasseri may be afraid to leave. In a magazine interview he said, "I'm happy. This is my dream world. I don't have any worries."

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B. Read the questions and choose the correct option.

1. How long did Merhan Nasseri wait for a flight to London?
   - **a)** More than 10 years
   - **b)** More than 17 years
   - **c)** More than 20 years
   - **d)** 5 years

2. Why was Nasseri expelled from Iran?
   - **a)** For legal issues
   - **b)** For his political views
   - **c)** For not having documents
   - **d)** For attempting illegal emigration

3. What happened to him during his stopover in Paris that left him stranded?
   - **a)** He lost his ticket to London
   - **b)** His flight was canceled
   - **c)** His bag with identity papers was stolen
   - **d)** He was detained by French authorities

4. Why did Nasseri refuse to leave the airport after getting French residency?
   - **a)** Because he didn't want to leave his belongings
   - **b)** Because he liked living there
   - **c)** Because he hoped to go to Great Britain
   - **d)** Because he was afraid to leave

5. What did Nasseri say in an interview about his life at the airport?
   - **a)** "I'm sad, I want to leave"
   - **b)** "I'm happy. This is my dream world. I don't have any worries"
   - **c)** "I'm tired and want to go home"
   - **d)** "I'm angry at the authorities"

C. Read the statements and choose T (True) or F (False).

1) Mehran Nasseri first arrived at Charles de Gaulle Airport on August 26, 1988, when his attempt to fly to London was interrupted by the theft of his identity documents. **T** **F**
2) Nasseri maintains personal hygiene by using toiletries provided in complimentary airline travel kits and washes his clothes once a week in the men's room sink. **T** **F**
3) Having been granted refugee status by the United Nations in 1981, Nasseri had the legal right to reside in any country worldwide. **T** **F**
4) Nasseri has no connections outside the airport, which is why he describes it as "my dream world" with no worries. **T** **F**
5) Without identifying documents, Nasseri was unable to either enter France or travel to another nation, rendering him effectively stateless. **T** **F**

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