

THEME 5 REVIEW TEST

LISTENING PRACTICE. Listen and complete. Write **ONE WORD ONLY**.

Balancing Tourism and Conservation

Over the past few decades, tourism has expanded at an unprecedented rate. Remote destinations that were once visited only by explorers or pilgrims have now become popular among (1) _____ and adventure tourists. With the advent of travel blogs and online databases that compile detailed (2) _____, it has become easier than ever for travellers to venture into (3) _____ areas, deserts, wetlands and even the Arctic. Many visitors are amazed by the stunning scenery and the opportunity to gain insight into aboriginal or (4) _____ cultures whose customs and cultural identity have been preserved for centuries.

Tourism can bring clear economic benefits. In many tourism-dependent regions, the sector constitutes a large (5) _____ of the local economy and can drive economic growth. Visitors inject (6) _____ into local communities through accommodation, transport fares, and spending in small businesses such as bed-and-breakfast guesthouses or budget hostels. Governments often promote such destinations through campaigns that (7) _____ heritage sites or annual cultural celebrations. In theory, tourism also facilitates intercultural exchange and mutual understanding between visitors and host communities.

However, the expansion of mass tourism also has consequences. (8) _____ ecosystems, including wetlands and wildlife habitats, may deteriorate when large volumes of tourists traverse sensitive areas using all-terrain vehicles or other equipment. Environmental degradation, (9) _____, and excessive consumption of local resources can strain infrastructure and threaten (10) _____ species. In addition, some critics argue that cultural traditions may become commercialized as communities adapt their customs to meet tourist (11) _____. What begins as a genuine cultural experience may gradually turn into a performance designed primarily for (12) _____ purposes.

In response, many conservation groups and non-governmental organisations have begun to (13) _____ these issues through grassroots schemes. Some projects run small-scale tourism initiatives that involve local residents directly in preservation and (14) _____ efforts. These programmes aim to balance economic development with ecological (15) _____ while ensuring that tourism revenue benefits the community.

What it comes down to is whether tourism can develop in a sustainable way or not. While the industry clearly holds the potential to support economic survival in (16) _____ regions, its long-term success depends on responsible management. If governments, businesses and travellers acknowledge the environmental hazards and adopt sustainable (17) _____, tourism may continue to thrive without overwhelming the very landscapes and cultures that make these (18) _____ compelling in the first place.

WRITING TASK 2 PRACTICE. Complete the sample.

Eco-tourism has become (1) i _____ popular in fragile natural environments such as rainforests, wetlands and polar regions. (2) _____ some people argue that tourism in these areas can (3) _____ environmental damage, I believe that its advantages (4) _____ the disadvantages overall.

(5) _____, eco-tourism can place pressure on sensitive ecosystems. Fragile natural environments are often vulnerable (6) _____ human activity, and an increase in visitor numbers may (7) _____ to soil erosion, habitat disturbance and greater waste production. Tourists travelling through wilderness areas can unintentionally interfere with (8. = wild animals) _____ or damage vegetation. In (9) _____, the development of tourism infrastructure such as accommodation, roads and transport facilities may accelerate (10. environment) _____ degradation. There is also a concern that some destinations become overly (11. commercial) _____ as local customs and cultural traditions are adapted mainly to satisfy tourist expectations rather than being preserved authentically.

(6) _____, | (7) _____ eco-tourism can bring significant environmental and economic (8) b _____ when it is properly managed. Firstly, tourism (9) r _____ can provide vital funding for (10) co _____ programmes. Entrance fees, guided tours and park permits often help finance the protection of (11) e _____ species and the preservation of (12) f _____ habitats. (13) _____, eco-tourism can inject revenue into remote communities that may have limited (14. economy) _____ opportunities. Local residents can earn income by providing accommodation, guiding services or transportation, (15) _____ reduces their reliance on activities such as illegal logging or wildlife exploitation. As a (16) _____, protecting the natural environment becomes directly linked to the community's economic survival. Moreover, eco-tourism can increase environmental (17. aware) _____ among travellers, allowing visitors to gain (18) i _____ into ecological issues and encouraging more responsible behaviour.

(19) _____, although eco-tourism may cause environmental strain if poorly controlled, its role in supporting conservation efforts and local economies means that the advantages are generally (20) _____. With careful planning and sustainable management, eco-tourism can help protect fragile natural environments while also benefiting the communities that depend on them.

WRITING TASK 1 PRACTICE. Complete the sample.

The graph below shows the number of overseas visitors to three different areas in a European country between 1987 and 2007. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

The line graph (1) _____ the (2) _____ of overseas visitors (in thousands) (3) _____ travelled to (4) _____ areas in a European country—the coast, the mountains and the lakes—(5) _____ 1987 and 2007.

(6) _____, the coast and the lakes became increasingly (7) p _____ with international tourists, (8) _____ the mountains (9) e _____ a slower and more gradual rise. It is also noticeable that the lakes saw a sharp (10) _____ before declining towards the end of the period.

In 1987, the coast (11) a _____ the largest number of visitors, (12) _____ around 40 thousand. However, the (13) _____ fell slightly to about 35 thousand in 1992. After that, the number increased (14. steady) _____ and reached approximately 50 thousand in 1997. The (15) _____ trend continued over the following decade, and by 2007 the coast welcomed about 75 thousand overseas tourists.

The lakes started with the (16) _____ figure of roughly 10 thousand visitors in 1987. There (17) _____ then a significant increase, with the number rising (18) _____ around 25 thousand in 1992 and about 40 thousand in 1997. The lakes (19) w _____ a dramatic peak of approximately 75 thousand tourists in 2002. (20) _____, this figure dropped noticeably to around 50 thousand by 2007.

In (21) _____, the mountains experienced a more moderate rise. There was a gradual increase from around 20 thousand visitors in 1987 to about 25 thousand in 1992. The number then climbed slowly to around 30 thousand in 1997 and remained (22) _____ stable afterwards, finishing at roughly 35 thousand visitors in 2007.

