

Reading

- 1) For as long as I can remember, the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace has been touted as one of the must-do-in-your-lifetime experiences. It's on every generic bucket list. London is an incredible city full of amazing things but The Changing of the Guard is not one of them. In fact, it's actually a colossal waste of time. The Changing of the Guard is a military exercise carried out by soldiers on active duty in the royal palaces and castles of England. You can see a changing of the guard at many important sites around Europe. But no ceremony is more over-the-top and unnecessarily popular as the one at Buckingham Palace.
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- 2) Though it may have once been interesting to catch a glimpse of the changing ceremony at some point in the last 100 years, it's now one of the worst travel experiences because of how popular it is. If you don't get a space right against the gate, your view of the ceremony is the back of people's heads and the gate itself. During the ceremony, the guards do marching drills back and forth, which is only interesting for the first 3 minutes when you see them all in their red uniforms and traditional furry bearskin hats.
 - 3) The band put on a show while the guards officially change shifts, playing a combination of traditional marching music and pop music. People are jostling you to get a better view. And the worst part is that once you're there, you can't really escape because the roads are closed to allow the Guard to enter and exit the palace. When the crowds begin to disperse, even relatively quiet and peaceful areas like Green Park and St. James's Park become a crowded mess. It's like leaving the worst concert you've ever attended. If you're hell bent on seeing this military exercise, you might consider seeing the changing of the horse guards in Whitehall. It's about a mile away, walkable in 15-20 minutes and therefore avoid the crowdedness.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Tick the best option (1 mark)

The text is mainly about a traveler who is

- a) pleased with the uniqueness of the London Changing of the Guards ceremony
- b) disappointed by the performance of the Changing of the Guards ceremony
- c) displeased because of how overestimated is the Changing of the Guards ceremony

2. For each of the following FALSE statements, pick out ONE DETAIL FROM THE TEXT showing that it is false (3 marks)

- a) The author sees London as a disappointing city. (p1)

○ _____

- b) It is impossible to see the ceremony anywhere else in European continent.(p2)

○ _____

- c) Visitors can easily leave the ceremony early if they feel uncomfortable.(p3)

○ _____

3. Complete the table below with information from Paragraphs 2 & 3. (3 marks)

Problem Faced by Tourists	Cause / Reason
Bad view of the ceremony	a) _____
Losing interest quickly	b) _____
Nearby parks become overcrowded	c) _____

4. Find words or expressions in the text meaning the same as: (2 marks)

- a) Highly praised or promoted (Paragraph 1): _____
- b) Pushing or bumping against someone in a crowd (Paragraph 3): _____

5. What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2 marks)

- a) them (Paragraph 1): _____
- b) It (Paragraph 3): _____

6. Answer the following question in your own words based on the text. (2 marks)

- What alternative does the writer suggest for tourists who still want to see a royal guard ceremony, and why?

7. Give a personal opinion on the following prompt. (2 marks)

- Do you prefer visiting famous, crowded tourist landmarks or exploring lesser-known places when traveling? Give at least two reasons to justify your opinion.*

Put the bracketed words in the right tense of form

Located in the northern region of Great Britain, Scotland forms part of the United Kingdom and borders England to its south. Its capital, Edinburgh, is the country's (two- large) _____ city and has grown into a (bustle) _____, world-class destination that offers a urban contrast to the Scottish countryside, drawing (travel) _____ throughout the year—particularly between April and October. Frequently celebrated as **one of the (breath/take)** _____ **cities in Europe**, Edinburgh stands as Scotland's **top tourist hub** with around 13 million annual visitors, (rank) _____ as the **second-most visited city in the entire United Kingdom** behind London. Furthermore, the capital (host) _____ a renowned international festival every late summer, delivering three weeks of exceptional classical music, drama, opera, and dance across numerous local performance spaces and major venues.