CEFR LEVEL PLACEMENT & DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT

B1 Reading & Listening Comprehension

Student Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Target Level:** B1 Intermediate

PART 1: READING COMPREHENSION

Read the article carefully and complete Tasks 1, 2, and 3 below.

The Rise of the "Workation": Paradise or Problem?

Paragraph 1 Over the past few years, the way people work has changed dramatically. Thanks to faster internet and video-calling technology, millions of employees no longer need to sit in a traditional office from nine to five. Instead, a growing number of professionals are choosing to take "workations"—trips where they combine remote work with travel in a new city or country.

Paragraph 2 At first glance, working from a beach café in Thailand or a quiet apartment in Lisbon sounds like a dream come true. Many companies have noticed that employees who enjoy greater flexibility often report lower stress levels and higher job satisfaction. In addition, living in a different culture can inspire creativity and help workers develop better problem-solving skills.

Paragraph 3 However, turning a vacation destination into an office is not always as relaxing as it looks on social media. One major challenge is dealing with different time zones. A graphic designer living in Bali, for example, might have to attend team meetings at midnight to match their company's schedule in London. Furthermore, unreliable Wi-Fi, noisy environments, and the temptation to go sightseeing can make it difficult to meet important deadlines.

Paragraph 4 Another issue is loneliness. While traditional tourists spend their days exploring with friends or tour groups, remote workers often spend eight hours a day alone behind a laptop screen. As a result, many cities have begun opening "co-living" spaces—buildings that offer both private bedrooms and shared offices where remote workers can socialize. For most people, a successful workation requires careful planning, strong self-discipline, and clear boundaries between work and free time.

Task 1: Skimming — Paragraph Headings

Match each paragraph (1–4) with the correct heading (A–E). There is ONE extra heading you do not need.

A. Practical problems with working abroad | **B.** How technology created a new travel trend
C. Why companies are banning remote work | **D.** The benefits of flexible working locations
E. Solving the problem of isolation

Paragraph	Main Focus	Heading (A–E)
Paragraph 1	Introduction to modern remote work and travel	
Paragraph 2	Positive effects on workers' mood and skills	
Paragraph 3	Daily obstacles when working from tourist spots	

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Paragraph	Main Focus	Heading (A–E)
Paragraph 4	Social challenges and how to make workations succeed	

Task 2: Scanning — True or False

Scan the text quickly to decide if each statement is True or False.

Statement	True / False
1. A "workation" means taking a long holiday without checking work emails.	
2. Workers with more flexibility often feel less stressed about their jobs.	
3. A worker in Bali might need to join meetings late at night for a London company.	
4. Co-living spaces only provide desks and internet, not places to sleep.	

Task 3: Detailed Comprehension & Vocabulary

Select the best answer (A, B, or C) based on the article.

1. According to the article, why can working from a tourist destination hurt productivity?

- ☐ **A.** Companies pay remote workers less money.
- ☐ **B.** Internet problems and distractions make finishing work on time harder.
- ☐ **C.** Most cafés do not allow customers to use laptops.

2. In Paragraph 4, what does the word "boundaries" mean?

- ☐ **A.** Clear limits separating two things
- ☐ **B.** Expensive plane tickets
- ☐ **C.** Online communication apps

3. What is the writer's overall opinion about workations?

- ☐ **A.** They are always better than working in a normal office.
- ☐ **B.** They are too difficult for most employees to try.
- ☐ **C.** They can work well, but only if people stay organized and disciplined.

PART 2: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Listen to the conversation between Maya and Leo twice, then complete Tasks 1 and 2.

AUDIO PLAYER AREA — SUMMER VOLUNTEER PLANS

Click play to listen to the dialogue between Maya and Leo.

Task 1: First Listening — Listening for Gist

Listen once for the main ideas and select the correct option.

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1. What is the main topic of Maya and Leo's conversation?

- ☐ **A.** Leo's upcoming volunteer trip abroad
- ☐ **B.** A biology class Leo is taking at university
- ☐ **C.** Maya's plans to visit Costa Rica with her cousin

2. How does Leo feel about the trip overall?

- ☐ **A.** Regretful that he already paid for his ticket
- ☐ **B.** Excited, even though he is worried about a few challenges
- ☐ **C.** Confident because he speaks fluent Spanish

Task 2: Second Listening — Listening for Specific Details

Listen again carefully and select the correct answer for each question.

1. How long will Leo stay in Costa Rica?

☐ **A.** Two weeks ☐ **B.** Three weeks ☐ **C.** One month

2. What will Leo's main job on the beach be?

- ☐ **A.** Cleaning plastic waste during the afternoon
- ☐ **B.** Guarding nests at night and helping baby turtles
- ☐ **C.** Taking tourists on guided boat tours

3. What is included in Leo's weekly volunteer fee?

- ☐ **A.** Flights and airport transfers
- ☐ **B.** Accommodation and daily meals
- ☐ **C.** Spanish lessons and hotel stays

4. Which requirement must volunteers meet before joining?

- ☐ **A.** Have a university degree in biology
- ☐ **B.** Be at least 18 years old and physically able to walk far
- ☐ **C.** Speak intermediate-level Spanish

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