

Life, Intermediate, Unit 8 Test

Reading

You are going to read an article about Puglia. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap (1–5). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

A I soon discovered that the whole region is a place where towns fall silent at noon, where there is birdsong everywhere, and where old roads pass older olive trees.

B Others, such as the war-like Lombards and Saracens, came to conquer and control the region.

C From my high viewpoint on a dry, rocky cliff, I turn towards the sea and watch it turn red as the sun sets.

D However, when Elena, the tourist guide in my hotel, suggested walking down to a small rocky beach by the sea, not far from where I was staying, I agreed to go with her.

E Much of this intensity of feeling is down to their love of the land, and its produce.

F At Monopoli, a medieval fishing port 25 miles south, I found an equally simple culinary tradition, based on produce straight from the sea.

G Whereas other Italian regions have Roman ruins and Renaissance architecture, Puglia's landscape has prehistoric columns and medieval watchtowers.

(10 points)

Puglia

I've always visited Puglia, the hot, dry region in the south of Italy, not for the coastline but for the food and the sightseeing. (0) D At first, it didn't seem a particularly inspiring place, but I was surprised to find strange red stones in the rock pools and unusual holes in the walls of the cliffs. I discovered that the stones were pieces of Roman pottery, and the holes were two-thousand-year-old Messapian tombs. The thing about Puglia, you see, is that there is a surprising amount of history everywhere, and much of it astonishingly beautiful.

All Italians are proud of their region, of course, but the Pugliese are especially so. If you meet one living abroad, they'll talk of how much they miss their homeland. (1) _____ I've been told that the cuisine of the region is based on poverty, and is often very simple. They use what they grow. Rice with potatoes and seafood is a typical dish, as is pasta with plain tomato sauce. Despite the simplicity, local chefs manage to make each dish taste delicious.

Each area of Puglia – every town, even – has its own cuisine. Historically poor, that of the city of Bari is basic. (2) _____ Knowing that what was on my plate was swimming around not so long

ago, and being able to look out at where it came from, made my lunchtime meal in that historical place particularly wonderful. The slow-cooked octopus I ordered fell apart on the fork. There's no fancy cooking here.

I adore visiting Puglia. However, a stranger's love for Puglia is nothing new. Foreigners have been coming here since ancient times, and they have been surprised at its unique historical monuments.

(3) _____ Centuries-old, the latter were once defences against the outsiders who've always migrated here. Some came in peace, like the eighth-century Basilian monks fleeing Jerusalem, who built underground churches. (4) _____ All have left their mark – on the food, the architecture, the language and the appearance of the local people.

The region of Puglia ends at Santa Maria di Leuca, Italy's most south-easterly point. This is where, legend has it, Saint Peter landed on his way to Rome. The temple that once stood here has become a church, and I decide to climb up towards it. (5) _____ De Finibus Terrae, the Romans called this place – the end of the land – the last of that living dark-coloured earth, and the point at which the Adriatic and Ionian come together. I look closer – at lines in the water below – and think, once more, what a wonderful and special place Puglia is.

Listening

[Track 111] You will hear an interview with Stephanie Kerr, a backpacker, who is talking about airports. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)? Or is there not enough information (N)? There is an example at the beginning (0).

Stephanie hates

0 the carpets in airports. F

1 the poor quality of the toilets in airports. _____

2 the distance between check in and departures at an airport. _____

3 the fact that airports are so far from city centres. _____

4 the long queue at the check-in desk. _____

5 having to use a lift at an airport. _____

6 the cost of products in the Duty Free section. _____

7 the price of food in the cafés in an airport. _____

8 the fact that all the restaurants look the same. _____

9 the fact that there are too many designer shops. _____

10 having to pay to go online. _____

(10 points)