

Part One: READING COMPREHENSION

8 points

Learning to ski

I first went on a foreign holiday with my parents when I was sixteen. We had arranged a two-week trip to Switzerland. For me the trip would be a life-changing experience.

I grew up in Lincolnshire, a part of England which is almost completely flat, so when I arrived in the Alps it was the first time I had been in real mountains. It was great – and very cold, minus fifteen degrees!

My first view of snow-covered peaks will stay with me forever. I remember waking up in my hotel and waiting for the sun to come up because I wanted to be on the slopes.

Luckily, I already knew how to ski because I had been learning in my local sports centre on an artificial slope. It wasn't glamorous, being in the ski club on wet Tuesday afternoons. But, actually, when I started skiing in the mountains, I found that my hours at the local club had really helped. Because my ski centre didn't have fabulous views or huge slopes, I had never been distracted by scenery or by trying to reach extreme speeds. Instead I had spent my time learning the fundamentals of the sport. This meant that slowly I had mastered the art of stopping, the manoeuvres, the techniques that you need in real life. Skiing can be risky if you don't know what you're doing.

So when I was finally on the top of the mountain, I felt prepared. But as I was moving down the slope for the first time, with the snow under my skis, I knew that I had never felt anything like it before. The experience was incredible! I was hooked!

When I came home from that first trip, I spent all my spare time learning to be a ski instructor. Although the training was expensive, it was worth it, because I knew that I wanted to live and work in the mountains. I had to be disciplined about studying because there was a lot to learn. However, I made it in the end and I now teach skiing to tourists in the French Alps. When people find out that I grew up in the flattest part of Britain, they are always amazed that I make my living as a ski instructor.

Answer the following questions, using information from the text.

- 1 The author was impatient to go skiing. What information in the text tells us this?
- 2 Name two things that the author learnt in his local ski centre.
- 3 Which of the following sentences summarises the fifth paragraph?
 - a The author was not surprised at all by the experience of skiing on real snow.
 - b The author was nervous about having real snow under his skis.
 - c The author was amazed because skiing on real snow was so enjoyable.
- 4 Name two reasons why learning to become a ski instructor was difficult.
- 5 Join these sentences using the words given.
When I came home from that first trip, I spent all my spare time learning to be a ski instructor.
After I had _____.
- 6 Which words in the text mean:
 - a units of temperature? (paragraph 2)
 - b very beautiful and exciting? (paragraph 4)
 - c much greater than normal? (paragraph 4)
 - d dangerous? (paragraph 4)
 - e addicted? (paragraph 5)
 - f hard-working and serious? (paragraph 6)

Part Two: WRITING

5 points

Write a formal letter to a ski centre in the Pyrenees. You want to do a gap year working with tourists at the ski centre and you have seen gap year positions on their website. Ask any questions you think are important.

Write between 75 and 100 words.

Part Three: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

8 points

How the web helps you travel the world

In this radio programme you are going to hear the following words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

English	castellano	català	euskara	galego
travel agency	agencia de viajes	agència de viatges	bidai agentzia	axencia de viaxes
backpacker	mochilero	turista de motxilla	bidaiari	mochilero
handy	útil / accesible	útil / accessible	erabilgarri	útil / accesible

Read the extract and questions 1-8 carefully before listening to the radio programme.

PRESENTER: We know that many of you are probably planning your next holiday. You've seen the travel guides and you may have visited your local travel agency. Some of you are probably going away with friends, maybe as a backpacker or to stay in a fashionable hotel. And a lot of you have probably surfed the net to get holiday information. Recently, there's been a big increase in the number of travel advisors on the World Wide Web. Websites like turnhere.com and tribewanted.com are just two examples of how we are changing the way we plan our holidays. Tom Land is here with us today. He is a travel advisor and uses some of these websites when he plans holidays with his friends. Tom, welcome to the programme.

TOM: Thank you very much.

Choose the correct answers.

- The travel advisor websites are
 - offering new holiday ideas.
 - offering the same holidays as travel agencies.
 - offering holidays to new people.
- turnhere.com have many videos of
 - local tourist attractions, family restaurants and shops.
 - local tourist attractions and famous meals in restaurants.
 - local tourist attractions, famous streets and restaurants.
- Everyone who joins Tribewanted will
 - live on Fiji for three years.
 - stay on Fiji for one, two or three weeks.
 - live on Fiji at the same time.
- Tribewanted is
 - ambitious and not very old.
 - fun and old.
 - great, but sometimes it's not much fun.
- Tribewanted would like tourists to
 - help local people.
 - help local communities travel to another place.
 - have fun and not worry about anything else.
- Young people
 - make more holiday preparations.
 - have changed their holiday expectations.
 - don't want new holiday locations.
- Young people may want
 - to start a hobby when they are on holiday.
 - their hobby to be included in their holiday.
 - to change their hobby as a part of their holiday.
- The best advice is
 - to use one really good website.
 - to explore different websites because some are more dependable.
 - not to spend too much time online.

Part Four: SPEAKING

4 points

Your teacher will give you a picture. Describe what you see. What are the people doing? Where do you think they are? Do you think this is a popular activity among young people today?

OR

Describe what is happening in the photo. Is this one of your pastimes? Why / Why not? Speak for one to two minutes.