

READING COMPREHENSION - TEXT

From the top of ice mountains where winds can reach 200 miles per hour, the panoramic landscape looks wonderful. On the other hand, the scene of cold, “white desert”, even at the height of summer, warns of completely unfriendly surroundings to life. This is Antarctica, the continent where temperatures can be 85 degrees below zero – the only wild continent on the Earth.

The view from the hilltop overlooking McMurdo Straits (narrow sea), on the eastern side of Antarctica, give out an illusion – no life anywhere around. A closer look at the seemingly lifeless land and seascape uncovers an amazing variety of life. The narrow sea is filled with plankton and fish. And its thick ice has breathing holes made by seals. Thousands of penguins live there, as well and many other scavenger birds (that feed on dead organic matter). The ice itself is filled with bacteria and algae.

There is another type of life going on all around Antarctica. The coast is dotted with rusty metal buildings, oil-storage tanks, garbage dumps – recognizable signs of human presence in this area. No fewer than sixteen nations have established bases on the only continent that belongs to the whole world. They were sent there for scientific research work, but they have become magnets for numerous tourists. Although the number of people who have visited the White Continent is rather small, the negative effects are not unimportant. The inhabitants of the bases have been evidently careless, often throwing wastes in ways that would be illegal at home. They did it unnoticed until January 1987, when Greenpeace became the first nongovernmental organization to establish a permanent Antarctic base. They publicized dumping of untreated sewage into sea and burning of garbage on an open-air pit. Some tourists, though warned not to litter, leave behind film wrappers, water bottles, and cigarette butts. Plants and animals living on Antarctica have a limited area of only two percent that is ice-free for part of the year. That’s why going near wildlife habitats can frighten certain seabirds to break their feeding habits and reproductive behaviour. So the least populated continent is, paradoxically, overcrowded. Environmentalists fear that miner and oil drillers may not be far behind.

After the oil crisis in 1973 interest in mineral development, even in the harsh environment of Antarctica, became rather big. Anticipating the danger, representatives of twenty nations gathered in the capital of New Zealand in June 1988 and the result was Wellington Convention. It forbids mineral exploitations or development without agreement by all treaty participants. People should protect Antarctica, for it may be the only place where human beings finally learn to live in harmony with nature.

READING COMPREHENSION

Circle the most appropriate answer (a, b, c or d) in each of the eight tasks.

1. The observer enjoyed
 - a) the reality
 - b) the view
 - c) unusual colours
 - d) summer weather

2. The observer has
 - a) The same attitude to the whole “white desert”
 - b) Three opposite points of view on the whole “white desert”
 - c) A scientific point of view on the whole “white desert”
 - d) A common point of view on the whole “white desert”

3. The observer says that the people on the “white desert” do things they
 - a) sometimes openly do at home
 - b) always do at home
 - c) never do in public at home
 - d) are told not to do at home

4. The observer states that the “white desert”
 - a) is overpopulated
 - b) has many visitors
 - c) has a regular population
 - d) is not visited at all

5. Greenpeace is now ... present on the “white desert”
 - a) always
 - b) sometimes
 - c) rarely
 - d) never

6. An agreement was founded to protect this continent for people
 - a) to enjoy icy atmosphere
 - b) to learn to live together in the seascape
 - c) to look for energy resources
 - d) to keep food supplies fresh

7. The agreement was initiated by the people who
 - a) planned to do oil investigations
 - b) feared the greed for money could destroy the Continent
 - c) suddenly saw the ice beauty
 - d) wanted to organize tours to the Continent.

8. The observer points out that
 - a) human presence doesn't harm animals
 - b) human presence should be controlled

- c) human presence should be free
- d) human presence should be forbidden

GRADSKO / REGIONALNO TAKMICENJE
ENGLJSKI JEZIK 8. RAZRED
24. mart 2007. godine

CODE _____
TIME: 20 minutes
POINTS: ____ / 7

LISTENING COMPREHENSION - TEXT

San Francisco is a lovely city in a beautiful bay. It's got lots of great buildings and palaces. It's smaller and much more modern than London, but it's less interesting. London has a lot more theatres and museums. The Americans are usually more interested in money than culture! The architecture in London is incredible and very stimulating, and the parks and markets are wonderful. London isn't as dangerous as San Francisco, and it's less violent. I feel much safer living here – nobody carries gun, not even the police!

People have a higher standard of living in the States because generally, it's much less expensive than England. For example, petrol is less than half the price and things like food, clothes, and cameras are much cheaper. It's a shopper's paradise and I always spend a fortune when I go back! It's a bit more expensive to rent a flat in London and my bills are much bigger than they were in San Francisco.

In San Francisco you can walk everywhere because it's a small city. There's less traffic than in London, and public transport is great. There are cable cars to go up all hills and electric buses which make the city much cleaner. Public transport in London is terrible and really expensive. It takes me an hour to get to work and the journey is usually stressful. London's dirtier too and much more polluted. The traffic is awful.

Food in the States is generally much better. It's fresher, cheaper, and there's much more choice. Restaurants aren't as expensive as in London and the service is much better. In some restaurants they put a clock on the table when you arrive, and if they haven't served your meal in five minutes, they'll give you the food free! I'm usually disappointed when I eat out in London, although the Indian restaurants are excellent.

Julie Willis, an artist from San Francisco who moved to London

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Circle the most appropriate answer in each of the seven tasks.

The two cities differ in several ways and characteristics. Circle the correct one according to the writer's description in each set of four choices.

1. a) London is more fashionable and more amusing.
b) San Francisco has more cultural institutions.
c) They care too much for money in London.
d) The American city is smaller and less interesting.
2. a) The architecture, parks and markets in London make you happy.
b) The buildings, freedom and shops in San Francisco are great.
c) San Francisco is less violent and dangerous – it's safe.
d) People in London have pistols on themselves like policemen.
3. a) For the same thing you spend more money in England.
b) For the same thing you spend more money in the USA.
c) You spend less money in the US for petrol but more for clothes and food.
d) It's cheaper to find flat in London than in San Francisco.
4. a) The writer likes buying in the USA much more than in England.
b) The writer likes buying in England much more than in the USA.
c) The writer needs to work much more in the USA than in England.
d) The writer doesn't need to work much more in England than in the USA.
5. a) There are traffic jams in San Francisco but there are no traffic jams in London.
b) There are traffic jams in London but there are no traffic jams in the States.
c) Traffic in San Francisco does not take much time as it does in London.
d) There are no traffic jams in San Francisco and in the United Kingdom.
6. a) Travelling around San Francisco isn't a pleasure but it's neither a disaster.
b) Public transport in London gets on the people's nerves but isn't expensive.
c) Thanks to city authorities the traffic in San Francisco is cheap and clean.
d) Travelling along dirtier and more polluted streets in London lasts too long.
7. a) You don't have to pay if they are late with the service in a restaurant in London.
b) You can get food without having to pay in all restaurants in San Francisco.
c) Some restaurants in London have excellent food but they aren't numerous.
d) food is better in the States but service is better in England including London.

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GRAMMAR TEST

A. Fill in the gaps with one of these words: on, the, in, a, by, at, an, for, of or to. Put a cross (X) where no word is necessary. You can use the same word several times if it makes sense.

1. I can never remember _____ names.
2. I usually listen _____ news while I'm having _____ lunch.
3. Last year we had _____ wonderful holiday _____ the south of _____ Wales.
4. We went _____ hotel _____ foot after midnight.

B. Underline the mistakes and write acceptable forms in the column next to the sentence. Don't change the order of the words and don't add new words.

1. They have lunch at the moment.	
2. Will I take the bag for you?	
3. I do an interesting work from time to time but it's hard work	
4. Can you make me a favour?	
5. I'm sitting, am not I?	
6. They warmly wellcame the guests yesterday.	
7. You mustn't write the speech now, the meeting is next week.	
8. Paul speaks very well English.	
9. There isn't many news in the paper today.	

10. She works hardly and makes excellent success.	
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C. Circle the best choice.

1. I ... to Edinburgh several times.
a) was b) have been c) am d) went
2. She prefers ... TV to ... to the radio.
a) watch / listen b) to watch/to listen c) watching/listening d) to watch/listening
3. What is it that somebody ... before you can get it?
a) has to take b) could to take c) ought take d) have to take
4. How long ... you to get home?
a) it takes b) takes it c) does it take d) has it taking
5. They haven't ... up their mind yet.
a) taken b) made c) thought d) got
6. A policeman caught two ... and took them to the police station.
a) thief b) thieves c) thieves d) thiefes
7. Our neighbours get in the stadium admission free. It means they...
a) can shout and cheer. b) can clap their hands. c) go together. d) don't pay.
8. Watch ...! They are cutting the tree.
a) about b) at c) down d) out
9. We all look forward to ... you next week.
a) have met b) meet c) met d) meeting
10. My ... knowledge comes from our home library which is very rich.
a) the best b) best c) better d) goodest

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KEY TO THE TEST

READING COMPREHENSION max 8 / min 6

1. b, 2. b, 3. c, 4. c, 5. a, 6. b, 7. b, 8. b

LISTENING COMPREHENSION max 7 / min 4

1. d, 2. a, 3. a, 4. a, 5. c, 6. d, 7. c

GRAMMAR max 30 / min 24

A 1. / , 2. to 3. the 4. / 5. a 6. in 7. / 8. to 9. the 10. on

B 1. have – are having 2. will – shall 3. work – job
 4. make – do 5. am not – aren't 6. wellcome – welcomed
 7. mustn't – needn't/don't have to 8. well – good
 9. many – much 10. hardly – hard

C 1. b 2. c 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. c 7. d 8. d 9. d 10. b