



## English exam

**Question 1. Read the magazine article below and then do the tasks that follow. ( total 20 marks)**

### ROAD TO FREEDOM

**Berry Ritchie and his wife, Carole, did it: they packed their bags, rented out their home and travelled the globe.**

*We fled our semi-detached nest in safe, suburban Richmond some 18 months ago. We bought round-the-world air tickets and left London early in October.*

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

We visited some of the most exotic places in the world and some of the least. We stayed with friends in some places, and in hotels, motels and guest houses. We travelled in taxis, buses, cars, vans, jeeps, rickshaws, trains and planes. We ate well and we ate badly. And all the time we were together. After more than twenty-five years. Just each other. Alone at last.

I will pass over the day that we were supposed to fly to New York and didn't because my wife lost her passport. We discovered this on the way to the airport. Several hours passed before we found it, stored for safe keeping along with her diaries in my mother's attic. It was something that could have happened to anyone.

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

We were also consumed with misgivings about giving up our jobs, though the desire to make a break from routine had been one of the motives behind the trip. Our feelings came to a head one morning in the rather shabby room we were renting in Brooklyn. We looked each other in the eye. 'Shall we go home?' we said together.

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

Less emotional and more predictable was the problem of living out of suitcases. My theory that we could buy disposable clothes as we went along was wrong, at least from the perspective of a style-conscious Englishwoman. The truth is that you get what you pay for, which in the Far East is often not much.

(4) \_\_\_\_\_

We learned that floor space, a view and a private bathroom were vital for a stay of any length. Usually we found all three, though sometimes not before a search. We wouldn't recommend you staying in the Transit Hotel in Jakarta.

(5) \_\_\_\_\_

Much of our reading was escapist, but we did discover that books about their history and culture added to our appreciation of the countries we visited.

We expected, of course, to be ill. Nothing serious, you understand, because we'd been inoculated against everything. But we confidently feared food poisoning, snake bites, insect stings and a variety of alien fevers. In the event I caught a cold and Carole had to have a filling replaced in Melbourne, the home of dentistry.

(6) \_\_\_\_\_

As the days turned into weeks the people we stayed with commented on how well we looked, and how young. We felt it. We also felt something else. We felt free.

(7) \_\_\_\_\_

We arrived back a year and a week after we left. After a month we recognised that being back home really had been hard!

**1. (i) ( 7 marks)**

**Seven paragraphs have been removed from the article. Fill each gap 1-7 with the paragraph which you think fits best from the list A-H. There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.**

**A** Another pressure point was accommodation. It is hard to say which is worse, a hotel room or one belonging to friends. The former lacks home comforts, the latter imposes behavioural constraints.

**B** One reason for our good health was that as our journey progressed we gradually became fitter. Neither of us was in very good shape when we left home. We hadn't had time to get fit, what with all the stresses and strains of preparing to go.

**C** At the end of the first fortnight we felt desolate. We both missed our daughter. My wife, Carole, suffered from homesickness and missed her friends and colleagues.

**D** It couldn't last, of course. As months and continents passed, the pull of home and loved ones strengthened. Again there came a moment when we asked each other 'Shall we go home?'. This time, though, it was because we'd had enough, not because we were afraid.

**E** This back injury was not helped by having to carry our cases the length of the Sydney to Melbourne express train before finding a seat.

**F** We didn't miss television but books were a problem, solved by begging, borrowing and stealing. Books were also a major contribution to the weight of our luggage.

**G** It was a rhetorical question, as we had let our house for the year and in any case the moment passed. It recurred, but with less and less intensity, though we never did stop missing our near and dear ones.

**H** Our journey took us in leisurely stages to New York and California, over the Pacific to Australia, through Hong Kong, Bali, Singapore, Thailand and Southern India and back through Europe.

**1. (ii) Find words or expressions which mean the same as the following. (10 marks)**

- a) escaped (2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) doubts and fears (7<sup>th</sup> paragraph) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) leave completely (7<sup>th</sup> paragraph) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) reached crisis point (7<sup>th</sup> paragraph) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) dirty and untidy (7<sup>th</sup> paragraph) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) point of view (9<sup>th</sup> paragraph) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) fashionable (9<sup>th</sup> paragraph) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) most important (11<sup>th</sup> paragraph) \_\_\_\_\_
- i) slow and relaxing (H) \_\_\_\_\_
- j) fit and healthy (B) \_\_\_\_\_

**1. (iii) ( 8 marks)**

**Explain in your own words (50 words) the problems Berry and Carole had when travelling.**

**Question 2. Writing 1.****(15 marks)**Write a very short story based on **ONE** the following pictures. Write about 120 words.**Question 3. (8 marks)**

Choose the most suitable way to complete each sentence. Write the correct letter on your answer sheet.

- (1) He \_\_\_\_\_ stealing his coat.  
a) accused me to                      b) accused me of                      c) accused me to have
- (2) It took me some time, but I did \_\_\_\_\_ find out who had been opening my mail.  
a) basically                      b) anyway                      c) eventually
- (3) Supposing that you \_\_\_\_\_ become a doctor, what do you think you would have done?  
a) hadn't                      b) haven't                      c) didn't
- (4) She \_\_\_\_\_ in bed when I called. It was two in the afternoon!  
a) can't be                      b) couldn't have been                      c) couldn't be
- (5) I think John might \_\_\_\_\_ problems at work lately.  
a) have been having                      b) have                      c) be having
- (6) Do you think that your money could \_\_\_\_\_ when you were on the bus?  
a) be stolen                      b) have stolen                      c) have been stolen
- (7) I live in Seattle, \_\_\_\_\_ is in Washington State.  
a) where                      b) which                      c) that
- (8) He offered me some whisky, \_\_\_\_\_ was very strange because he knows I don't drink alcohol.  
a) that                      b) who                      c) which
- (9) What I don't understand \_\_\_\_\_ they managed to get there before we did.  
a) is                      b) was if                      c) is how

- (10) I was \_\_\_\_\_ uneasy before the concert started.  
a) absolutely                                      b) quite                                      c) utterly
- (11) His parents thought he was going to be a big star, but his career never amounted to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) much                                      b) take off                                      c) something
- (12) Can you tell me as soon as she \_\_\_\_\_?  
a) phones                                      b) is phoning                                      c) will phone
- (13) \_\_\_\_\_ anything special over Christmas, Mark?  
a) Will you have you done                      b) Will you be doing                      c) Might you do
- (14) By the end of next week she \_\_\_\_\_ all her exams.  
a) will finish                                      b) will have finished                      c) will be finishing
- (15) I took far too \_\_\_\_\_ stuff with me on holiday.  
a) many                                      b) few                                      c) much
- (16) There's no electricity so the presentation will have to \_\_\_\_\_ without a projector.  
a) be doing                                      b) have done                                      c) be done

#### Question 4 - Vocabulary (12 marks)

Select the correct word in each sentence:

- a) They **admitted / told / negated** that they had been speeding.
- b) She **denied / recused / refused** to say what had happened.
- c) Joe **insisted / invited / claimed** us to have dinner with them.
- d) The representative **explained / reassured / asked** them that nothing was wrong.
- e) Shaun **insisted / persuaded / defended** on telling the truth.
- f) It was amazing. It took my **breath / mind** away.
- g) I live in a **semi-terraced / semi-detached** house.
- h) That was a **complete / thoroughly** waste of time.
- i) There have been a number of **technologic / technological** breakthroughs.
- j) It is a **tourist / touristic** spot.
- k) **Brand / Client** loyalty means that you always try to buy the same thing.
- l) I was **bored / afraid** stiff during that film.
- m) I'm always **totally / extremely** nervous before exams.
- n) I'm **useless / inuseful** at learning things by heart / head.
- o) The dog got over-excited and **nipped / napped** her on the ankle.
- p) Last year he spent three weeks **confined / restricted** to a wheelchair.
- q) Jack's really **laid-back / sensitive**. Nothing seems to get to him.
- r) Her speech was boring and **long-winded / long-windy**.
- s) **Strict / Strong** parents usually set a whole range of rules for their kids.
- t) The company holds a staff **meeting/ reunion / union** every Tuesday morning.
- u) The **present / actual / now** prime minister of Portugal is António Costa
- v) Before ordering the parts for the machine, make sure that you take precise **measures / measurements / measuring**.
- w) Please **resume / summarise** your report in no more than 2,000 words.
- x) This is a very **vulgar / common / usual** type of problem.

#### Question 5- Writing 2 (20 marks)

Choose one of the following tasks. In either case, you do not have to write addresses.

- a) Write a letter to a prospective UK employer in your area of choice in the UK. Explain that you are looking for a job and describe your experience, skills and ambition, what you can bring to the company etc. Include your CV and ask for a Skype or face-to-face interview.
- b) You have decided to organise a street party in your street to celebrate an occasion that is important to you/the residents. Write a letter to your local council asking for permission to close off the street and hold the party. You should also ask for any financial or other support they might be able to offer (equipment, policing, cleaning services, etc.)