

Exercise 1

Read the following article about places to visit in France, and then answer the questions on the opposite page.

VISITING FRANCE

France offers great opportunities for visitors and a wide variety of different types of holiday.

Countryside and villages

There is plenty to see in the French countryside, including beautiful wooded valleys, rivers and gorges. In most areas of France you can find pretty villages, especially in central Alsace, in the countryside of Normandy and along the river in the Dordogne.

Castles

France is famous for its wonderful architecture, and two areas in France are particularly visited for their attractive castles. The Loire valley to the south-west of Paris is best known for its large houses or castles called 'chateaux', which were built by rich noblemen and kings from Paris. Towards the south of France the Dordogne is famous for its medieval castles.

Mountains

The impressive mountains of the French Alps are popular in both summer and winter for skiing. The area attracts skiers of all abilities, from beginners to experts. Less visited by overseas visitors, the Pyrenees offer an attractive alternative to the French Alps for people interested in skiing or a holiday in the mountains.

Beaches

France has thousands of beaches to meet every requirement. Some of the most popular beaches with sun-seekers are those along the French Riviera, where high temperatures are almost guaranteed during the summer months. The long sandy beaches of the Atlantic Coast north of Biarritz are also well worth visiting, as is the very picturesque coast of Brittany.

Family fun

Among the most popular regions for people visiting France with children are the beaches of the western coast such as those found in the Vendee department, which also has several large attractions and events for families. Another favourite destination here is Ile de Ré, well known for having lots of cycle paths which make it a pleasure for families to travel around. In addition, amusement parks such as Disneyland and Asterix in the north of France offer great fun for both children and adults.

Paris

Everyone loves Paris, as much for its café life and general romantic atmosphere as for the more famous sights such as the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral and the Louvre museum. The Metro makes it easy to travel around the city and everywhere you go there is something new and exciting to discover.

Eating out

Wherever you choose to visit, remember that good food is appreciated and widely known about throughout France. Eating out is generally inexpensive, outside the large cities. A decent two course lunch will cost about 12 euros. It is not necessary to leave a tip for the waiter or waitress because the service charge is now included in the bill. However, most people still leave a small tip, especially for good service.

(a) What **three** natural features can you see in the countryside in France?
..... [1]

(b) Why might tourists want to visit the Loire valley?
..... [1]

(c) What is particularly attractive about the beaches on the French Riviera?
..... [1]

(d) What makes Ile de Ré a good place for families to visit?
..... [1]

(e) Apart from the famous sights, what makes Paris so popular for visitors? Give **two** details.
.....
..... [2]

(f) Where is it especially good value for money to eat out?
..... [1]

[Total: 7]

Exercise 2

Read the following article about spices, and then answer the questions on the opposite page.

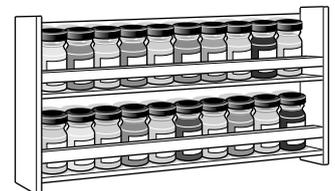
SPICES

By the year 1000, Arabian traders had found many wonderful treasures in India, but perhaps the most precious trading goods were spices. These traders brought rare and exotic spices such as *cumin* and *coriander* from India. They then supplied these spices to their countrymen and to Europe. Through this trade they were able to make fortunes.

Today, when spices are cheaper and more widely available, it seems unbelievable that they were once a royal luxury and that men were willing to risk their lives to acquire them. In 1497, four tiny ships sailed southward from Portugal, under the guidance of Captain Vasco da Gama. He was searching for a new route to the spice lands of Asia. In a two-year journey that covered 38,624 kilometres, he took his ships around the continent of Africa to India and back to Portugal. Although only two of the four ships returned safely to their home port, they brought back a cargo of spices worth 60 times the cost of the voyage, making da Gama a wealthy man. Rich people were eager to exchange their gold for his *pepper* and *cinnamon*. *Cinnamon* was particularly valued for use in funeral ceremonies when a wealthy person died. *Vanilla* was another favourite of the rich because, when mixed with cacao, it made a previously unknown, delicious drink. *Pepper* was the most precious spice of all, often used as a form of money, particularly when rent had to be paid.

Da Gama's successful voyage started a European power struggle for control over the spice trade. For three centuries afterwards, the nations of western Europe fought violent battles at sea. Some people believe that the wealth made from the spice trade in the past is similar to the wealth of oil companies today.

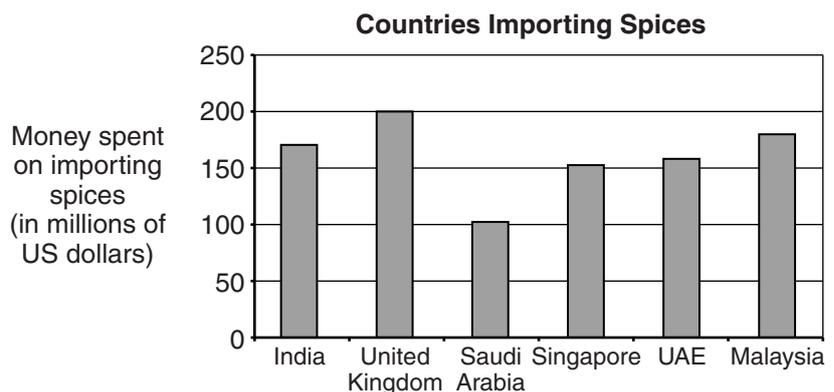
The people of those times used spices, as we do today, to improve or vary the flavours of their food. Spices were also used to disguise the taste of food that was not fresh. Without the addition of spices it would have been too unpleasant to eat. In times when there was no refrigeration, spices were also used for preserving food, such as meat, for a year or more. In the 16th century, *cloves* were commonly used both to preserve food and for medicinal purposes. It is fascinating to note that *cloves* are still used in the same way in some modern food. Later, *mustard* and *ground mustard* were also found to have preservative qualities. When spices were not available, people often went hungry because they could not prevent their food from going bad.



Today, we use spices to flavour our food but do not have to spend a large amount of money to purchase them. Nevertheless, the total amount that countries spend on importing spices continues to be significant.

Many people around the world work in very difficult conditions to produce spices for us. Much of the work is done by hand and very specific skills are needed. These skills have been handed down from generation to generation, but there is now some concern that younger people no longer want to do this sort of work because they prefer to go to the cities and work in office jobs.

Most of us are completely unaware of the origin of the spices, and varied traditions surrounding the spices, that we keep in small packets or bottles on our kitchen shelves. For example, when we shake some *cumin* into a pan we are not expecting it to keep married couples together, which is what people believed in the past.



- (a) How were Arabian traders able to make fortunes by the year 1000?
..... [1]
- (b) How does the price of spices nowadays compare with the cost in the 15th century?
..... [1]
- (c) How far in total did Vasco da Gama travel on his journey, **and** how long did the voyage last?
..... [1]
- (d) How do we know that Vasco da Gama's journey was a financial success?
..... [1]
- (e) How did the relationships between European countries change after da Gama returned?
Give **two** details.
.....
..... [2]
- (f) What modern industry has been as successful as the spice trade of the past?
..... [1]
- (g) Why were spices used to hide the flavour of foods?
..... [1]
- (h) What quality do *cloves* and *mustard* share that made them particularly important in the past?
..... [1]
- (i) According to the chart, which country spends the most on importing spices **and** how much does it spend?
..... [1]
- (j) How have people learnt the skills needed to produce spices?
..... [1]

[Total: 11]

Exercise 3

Rachael Thomas is a 17-year-old girl who lives at 28 North Lane, Hillhead, RO14 7XY, which is in England. Recently she went to Spain to visit a friend in Madrid. It was the first time that she had travelled alone, and her father was very keen to make sure that the trip went well. He bought the tickets for her and made sure that the flights were at convenient times. Rachael flew from Southampton on Blue Sky Airways flight number 235, which departed at 2:00pm. She returned on the same airline, flight number 437, which departed from Madrid at 10:00am and arrived back in England at midday.

Rachael's father had booked a taxi to meet her when she arrived so that she could travel quickly and safely to her friend's home at Mimbrenas 2, 28027 Madrid, Spain. He also made sure that his daughter's friend had Rachael's mobile phone number, 079350642.

Rachael had bought a new suitcase for the trip; it was bright pink, with wheels that made it very easy to manage. Rachael particularly liked the leather luggage tag that matched the case. She had chosen a suitcase with a hard case because she wanted to be sure that everything inside it would be well protected during the journey. Her mother had given her a personalised luggage strap, which she tied around the case to make it easier to identify.

The mother of Rachael's friend had asked Rachael to bring out a special jewellery set which she had seen advertised in a magazine and which was only available in England. The necklace and earrings were of an unusual design. The set had cost £80 and Rachael thought that it was very pretty. Of course her friend's mother would pay her back as soon as she arrived. Rachael was also taking quite a lot of clothes as she wanted to be able to dress well during her stay.

Although it seemed that everything had been planned very carefully, the trip was not completely successful because when Rachael arrived in Madrid, she discovered that her suitcase had been lost. Rachael then had to complete a lost luggage form so that the authorities could start trying to find her suitcase.

Imagine you are Rachael. Fill in the form on the opposite page using the information above.

LOST LUGGAGE FORM**Section A: Passenger details**

Name:

Home address:

Telephone number:

Destination address:

Section B: Flight details

Airline and flight number:

Departure airport:

Arrival airport:

Section C: Luggage details

Type of suitcase (please circle as required):

soft case

hard case

with wheels

without wheels

Was there a luggage tag attached to your suitcase? (please delete) YES / NO

Colour of suitcase: (please circle)

black

brown

red

blue

other (please give colour)

Section D: Further details

In the space below, write **one** sentence giving other details which may help us to identify the luggage, and **one** sentence describing anything of value in the luggage.

[Total: 14]

Exercise 4

Read the following article about mobile phones, and then complete the notes on the opposite page.

MOBILE PHONES

More than half the people in the world now pay to use a mobile or cell phone. Recent estimates show that there are 4.1 billion mobile phone subscriptions, up from 1 billion in 2002. Over the same period, land-line subscriptions rose more slowly, from 1 billion to 1.27 billion, indicating that many people are rejecting the older technology altogether.

For many parents, knowing that their children can call them in an emergency situation saves them a lot of worry. They are confident that their child can reach them at the push of a button. Similarly, in an accident, a mobile phone makes contacting emergency services much faster; there is no longer any need to wait for a kind person nearby to lend a hand. People on holiday appreciate the fact that if they want to call home, they do not have to struggle with public phones with unfamiliar dialling codes.



The mobile phone industry was initially aimed at business people, and it is easy to see the advantages. They have access to clients 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and clients can contact them at any time as well. This means they are always able to do business. Mobile phones with multimedia capabilities also allow users to check their work email, which is useful for business people who are frequently out of the office. Mobile phones that have dual SIM card capability are convenient for business people. They can then use their phone for both private and business purposes without needing more than one phone.

Many people have become so attached to their mobile phone that it is almost like an extra body part. However, some are still unconvinced of the huge power of the mobile. While there are obvious advantages to carrying a mobile phone, it is easy to overlook some of the problems that can be caused.

Some people feel that although ease of access makes mobile phones so convenient for business people, it can be a problem for the rest of us. There are many people who like to keep their public and private lives separate. A mobile phone can destroy the barrier between the two worlds. For example, if regular mobile phone users have to send their devices away for repair or service, they are amazed by the sense of freedom they feel when no-one can contact them.

Many parents express doubt about the overall benefit of the mobile phone to their children. Some parents have noticed changes particularly in the behaviour of their teenage children. They have noticed that some show extreme anxiety if they miss a call or text message. Some teenagers show signs of depression when they do not have access to their mobile phone. Others face problems at school if they are not allowed to have their phones in class. Although not everyone wants to define this obsession as a 'disease', an increasing number of clinics are treating it in the same way as they would any other serious addiction. Perhaps even more seriously, research has shown that over 20% of car accidents involving teenagers occurred while they were driving and using their mobile phone at the same time.

Whether we like it or not, there is no doubt that the mobile phone is here to stay.

You have been asked to give a talk to your technology club about mobile phones. Prepare some notes to use as the basis of your talk.

For
Examiner's
Use

Make your notes under each heading.

Benefits to business people of having a mobile phone

-
-
-

Disadvantages of the mobile phone

-
-
-
-

[Total: 7]

Exercise 5

Imagine that you have given your talk to your technology club. Now your teacher wants you to follow up these notes with a short article for the school magazine.

Look at your notes in Exercise 4. Using the ideas in your notes, write a summary about the disadvantages of the mobile phone.

Your summary should be about 70 words long (and no more than 80 words long). You should use your own words as far as possible.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

[Total: 5]

Exercise 6



Recently, you were disappointed because you didn't get something you had worked hard for.

Write a letter to your friend about this experience.

In your letter you should:

- describe what you had worked hard for
- explain why you didn't get it
- say what you have learnt from this experience.

The pictures above may give you some ideas, and you should try to use some ideas of your own.

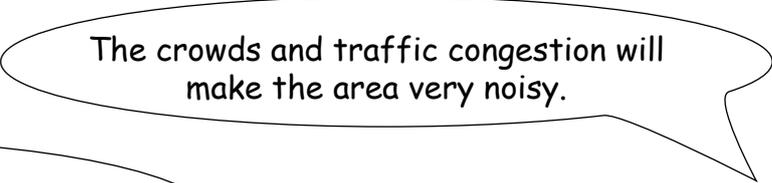
Your letter should be between 100 and 150 words long. Do not write an address.

You will receive up to 7 marks for the content of your letter, and up to 6 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

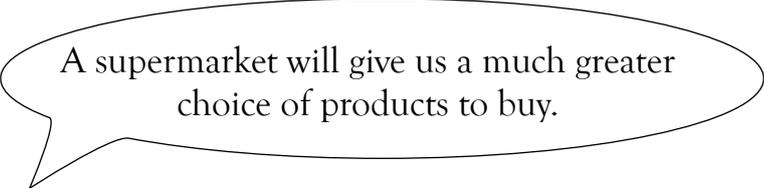
Exercise 7

A big international supermarket chain is planning to build a new store not far from where you live.

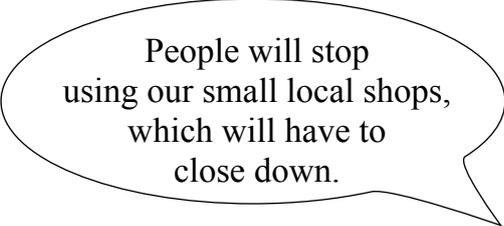
Here are some comments already made by local people:



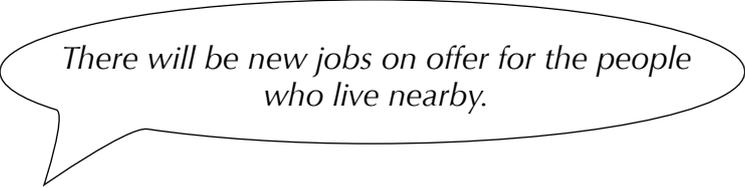
The crowds and traffic congestion will make the area very noisy.



A supermarket will give us a much greater choice of products to buy.



People will stop using our small local shops, which will have to close down.



There will be new jobs on offer for the people who live nearby.

Write an article for the local newspaper giving your opinion of the plan.

The comments above may give you some ideas, and you should try to use some ideas of your own.

Your article should be between 100 and 150 words long.

You will receive up to 7 marks for the content of your article, and up to 6 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

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