WRITING 1 hour 30 minutes

PART 1

Read the two texts below.

Write an essay summarising and evaluating the key points from both texts. Use your own words throughout as far as possible, and include your own ideas in your answer.

Write your answer in 240-280 words.

1

Unsustainable tourism

We are increasingly familiar with some of the worst effects of unthinking, unmanaged, unsustainable tourism: previously undeveloped coastal villages that have become sprawling, charmless towns, their seas poisoned by sewage, denuded of wildlife, their beaches stained with litter and tubes of suncream; and historic towns, their streets now choked with traffic, their temples, churches and cathedrals seemingly reduced to a backdrop for holiday snaps that proclaim, 'Been there, Done that'. Less appreciated, perhaps, is the social dislocation unsustainable tourism can cause: once-cohesive communities disrupted as the holiday industry replaces old crafts, turning fishermen into tour boat operators and farmers into fast-food store waiters or hotel cleaners.

Criticism of the tourism industry

Although its strongest critics view the tourism industry as a rapacious predator - moving on to fresh conquests after one environment has been spoiled, and forever fuelling the desires of holidaymakers with the prospect of a new paradise that must be enjoyed 'before it's gone' – there are many within the industry who reject the claim. They are at least partly right. There are examples where the travel trade is doing better. Of course, reforming initiatives often come after the damage has been done and in some cases for public relations purposes rather than from a commitment to sustainability.

Write your essay.

NOTE: There is a sample answer to this question and assessment of it on page 126.

PART 2

Write an answer to one of the questions 2–5 in this part. Write your answer in 280–320 words in an appropriate style.

2 A magazine is running a competition for the best article entitled 'I Was There'. Those entering have to write an article describing an historical event as if they had been present at it. Write an article for this competition, describing the event you have chosen and what your impressions would have been if you had witnessed it.

Write your article.

3 You have been appointed as a student representative at your school or college. The head has asked you to write a report on what facilities and forms of entertainment the students would like to see introduced, based on a project you organize yourself to find out the opinions of students. Within your report, you should explain how you gathered the opinions and make recommendations as to what should be introduced and what benefits would result.

Write your report.

4 A TV listings magazine has invited readers to contribute a review of a television series that is or was particularly popular. Write a review, explaining why this programme is/was so popular in your opinion and commenting on whether you believe it deserves/deserved such popularity.

Write your review.

5 Set book questions – a choice from three questions.

NOTE: There is a sample answer for Question 4 and an assessment of it on page 126.