

Recommended Reading tests for Mid and Final Exams

Test 1

The man who tried to destroy Paris

Le Corbusier was one of the most influential architects of the 20th century. But many may wish he had never built anything

Born Charles-Edouard Jeanneret in Switzerland in 1887, the architect Le Corbusier used his grandfather's name when he went to Paris at the age of 29. As Jeanneret, he had been a fairly successful small-town architect; as Le Corbusier, he had bigger ideas. He disliked the architectural styles that were popular at the time, and considered them to be out of date in an industrial age. He believed that the 20th century deserved a **brand-new** style of architecture. "We must start again from zero," he said.

The new style of architecture was called the International Style, and it attracted many **followers** in the architectural world. However, nobody was as **enthusiastic** about it as Le Corbusier at the beginning. He worked hard to promote his ideas at exhibitions, at talks, in books and in his own magazine. He loved machines, and believed that, like a machine, a building should have a function. He is famous for saying: "A house is a machine for living in."

The machines he admired the most were ships, and his early buildings tried to capture the spirit of the sea with their white walls, **exposed** rooms, shining glass and flat roofs. He called this style of architecture 'purism'. The first building to embrace this style was the Villa Savoye in France. Le Corbusier believed that it was one of the best, most functional houses ever built. Unfortunately, this turned out to be an **exaggeration**. The flat roof was a particular problem, as water poured in every time it rained, and it needed constant repairs. Nevertheless, its design was **revolutionary**, and it should be considered a **significant** piece of early 20th-century architecture.

In 1935, Le Corbusier visited New York City. He loved the city, and especially its tall buildings. He had only one reservation, which he explained to a journalist for the *Herald Tribune* newspaper. American skyscrapers were the biggest, tallest buildings in the world at that time, but Le Corbusier was a man who always thought big, and as far as he was concerned, they were "just too small". Le Corbusier had always admired tall buildings. Now, inspired by his visit, he **abandoned** purism. It is doubtful that he could have created anything as grand as the skyscrapers he had seen in the city, but from now on Le Corbusier started designing buildings that sent out a more powerful message.

He first started using bright colours, and then experimented with concrete. Le Corbusier loved the look and flexibility of concrete, and found it hard to hide it

behind brick or paint, preferring to leave it on full view. At a time when concrete was seen as modern and exciting, his designs made him world famous, and he was asked to design several important buildings around the world. Altogether, he designed about 60 major buildings worldwide, in a style that became known as 'modernism'.

However, while many admired and copied his new style of architecture, many more hated it. They turned against him, and tried to block his plans. Buildings should inspire people and make them feel good, they said, and Le Corbusier's ugly, depressing buildings often had the opposite effect. In this respect, the people of Paris had a lucky escape. Early in his career, Le Corbusier had wanted to knock down the centre of Paris and replace the old buildings with huge towers. Fortunately, his plan was rejected. Justifiably, in view of his plans to transform one of the world's most beautiful cities into a **hideous** concrete jungle, Le Corbusier is still known as 'the man who tried to destroy Paris'.

Despite the criticism, he had an enormous effect on the world of architecture, and attracted a large number of followers. As a result, many places were **subjected to** his style. In the Paris suburbs of Bobigny, for example, huge towers were built to house some of the city's poorer inhabitants. Other European cities such as London, Berlin and Dublin also felt his influence.

Apart from the buildings that were directly influenced by Le Corbusier, something else happened that the architect never planned: there was a return to older styles of architecture. Today, many people live in modern houses that look like they are much older. This look may represent a return to traditional tastes and values. More likely, however, it represents a reaction against modernist architecture.

Underline the key ideas in Questions 1-4. Then answer the questions.

Questions 1-4

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

1. What does the writer say about Le Corbusier in the first paragraph?
A He had a relative who was also an architect.
B He became successful when he went to Paris.
C He thought that there were too many industrial buildings.
D He wanted to do something different from everyone else.

2. What does the writer say about the International Style in the second paragraph?
A A lot of other architects liked it.
B At first, people did not like it very much.
C It took a lot of hard work to get people to accept it.
D The buildings looked like machines.

3. Why does the writer describe the Villa Savoye as 'revolutionary' in the third paragraph?

A It looked more like a ship than a building.

B Nobody had built anything like it before. .

C It looked nice, but had too many faults.

D It was more functional than any other building of the time.

4. What is the writer's main purpose in the fourth paragraph?

A to explain why Le Corbusier visited New York

B to show that Le Corbusier was not impressed by New York's skyscrapers

C to describe Le Corbusier's reaction to New York

D to explain why Le Corbusier changed his style of architecture

Matching sentence endings

3. Read Questions 5-8 and the endings A—F.

1. Underline the key words in the questions and use these to find the right place in the passage.

2. Read that part of the passage carefully and match the information to the key words in the endings.

Questions 5-8

Complete each sentence with the correct ending, A—F, below.

5 Le Corbusier's Villa Savoye

6 The concrete in Le Corbusier's later buildings

7 Le Corbusier's style of architecture

8 Le Corbusier had a large following which

A copied the style that he had invented.

B is a classic example of modernist architecture.

C made him friends and enemies.

D was not as good as he claimed.

E was covered in bright colours.

F was left exposed so that people could see it.

Yes / No / Not Given

Underline the key words in Questions 9-14 and use them to find the right place in the passage. Then read each part of the passage carefully in order to answer the questions.

Questions 9-14

Do the following statements agree with the views of the writer in the reading passage?

Write

YES

if the statement agrees with the views of the writer.

NO *if the statement contradicts the views of the writer.*
NOT GIVEN *if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this.*

9 At first, people were not as enthusiastic about the International Style as Le Corbusier was.

10 The Villa Savoye is an important building.

11 Le Corbusier could have designed buildings that were as big and as impressive as those in New York.

12 Le Corbusier found concrete a difficult material to work with.

13 Le Corbusier's plans for Paris would have ruined the city.

14 Many people show they reject Le Corbusier's style of architecture by living in old houses.

Test 2

THE RAIN MAKERS

Science and technology work with nature to bring rain when and where it is needed

A. Wheat farmer Gang Liu is a worried man. The annual rains have not arrived, and there is a danger that unless there is substantial rainfall soon, his annual wheat crop will fail. As he looks anxiously at the clouds which promise rain but are failing to deliver it, there is a sudden loud roar, and from fields for miles around, hundreds of small rockets are fired into the clouds. Within twenty minutes, the farms around the eastern Chinese city of Luohe are experiencing their first rain for many weeks. Gang Liu's valuable wheat has been saved, thanks to a technique known as 'cloud seeding', in which the chemical silver iodide (AgI) is introduced into clouds. This causes the tiny drops of moisture in the clouds to turn to ice. These tiny ice particles join until they become heavy enough to fall from the sky, turning into rain as they melt.

B. But did cloud seeding really cause the rain in Luohe to fall, or was it just a coincidence? Experts often question whether cloud seeding actually works. It is hard to tell how effective cloud seeding actually is, they say, as it might have rained anyway, without human intervention. But this has not stopped many governments and organisations from trying. There are currently 150 weather-modifying projects taking place in more than 40 countries. Not all of them are aimed at creating rain. The Eastlund Scientific Enterprises Corporation in the USA, for example, is experimenting with firing microwaves into clouds to prevent the tornadoes which cause enormous damage to the country every year. In Russia, experiments have been carried out to make sure the sun shines during important national events.

C. However, it is rainmaking that dominates the research programmes. In many of these, researchers are using trials in which some clouds are 'seeded' while others are not, and both groups are monitored. Arlen Huggins of the Desert Research Institute is leading a research project in Australia. Weather-monitoring technology is so good nowadays, he says, that we can measure clouds much

more effectively, even from the inside. As a result, we now know much more about the effect humans can have on the weather. What Huggins' team has discovered so far is promising. They believe that cloud seeding does work, although there are still two years of the six-year project left to go.

D. In China, where the majority of cloud-seeding operations take place, weather-modification authorities use army rockets to fire silver-iodide particles into the clouds. 39,000 staff working for the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) are equipped with 7,113 army cannons which, in 2006, were used to fire a million silver-iodide rockets into the atmosphere. This costs over \$100 million a year, although the CMA claims the results are worth the expense. Between 1999 and 2006, they say, cloud seeding produced 250 billion metric tonnes of rain and prevented thousands of farmers from losing their crops.

E. "We want to understand what makes clouds rain," says Philip Brown of the UK Meteorological office, explaining why so much time, effort and money are being invested. "But there is a more powerful economic reason. A lot of countries around the world are at risk from drought, and governments will try anything to make sure that doesn't happen, even if the scientific evidence is weak. The potential economic value is greater than the scientific value. Making it rain might allow you to keep agriculture going where, without human intervention, it might fail."

F. Some people are concerned, however, that altering the weather can have negative consequences. Leonard Barrie, director of the research department at the World Meteorological Organisation in Geneva, explains why. "All areas of weather modification are still very controversial. Some people think that diverting water for irrigation benefits some people, but is a disadvantage to others. Someone in one area will get more water, but as a result, someone somewhere else could get less." His fears may be justified. Recently, the town of Zhoukou in China's Henan province accused neighbouring town Pingdingshang of 'stealing' rain from clouds that were due to pass over its own farms, prompting what may be the world's very first documented incident of 'rain rage'.

Questions 1-6

The reading passage has six paragraphs, A-F.

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below

List of headings

- | | |
|------|---|
| i | Making peaceful use of a military weapon |
| ii | How modifying the weather has changed the world |
| iii | What is prompting this research? |
| iv | A period of drought comes to an end |
| v | An old solution to a new problem |
| vi | Winners and losers |
| vii | Tests provide encouraging results |
| viii | A waste of money |
| ix | Global attempts to change the weather |

1. Paragraph A
2. Paragraph B
3. Paragraph C

4. Paragraph D
5. Paragraph E
6. Paragraph F

Questions 7-12

Complete the sentences below.

Choose NO MORE THAN ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer.

7. Experts are unsure if cloud seeding is or not.
8. At the moment, there are over where projects are being carried out to modify the weather.
9. Thanks to modern , it is now possible to get better results when clouds are monitored.
10. The Desert Research Institute project will finish in a couple of .
11. The CMA gets the equipment they need from the
12. A large number of benefited from cloud seeding carried out by the CMA.

Questions 13-14

Choose TWO letters, A-E.

Which TWO of these sentences are true about cloud seeding, according to the passage?

- A. China carries out more cloud seeding than anywhere else.
- B. Cloud seeding is too expensive for most countries.
- C. Cloud seeding is mostly done for scientific rather than economic reasons.
- D. Cloud seeding helps turn dry areas of land into agricultural areas.
- E. Cloud seeding may affect the distribution of rainfall.

Test 3

Holidays with a difference

Tribal tourism is becoming more popular. But at what cost to the locals?

Tribal tourism is a relatively new type of tourism. It involves travellers going to remote destinations, staying with local people and learning about their culture and way of life. They stay in local accommodation, share facilities with local people, and join in with meals and celebrations. At the moment, less than one percent of holidays are tribal tourism holidays, but this is set to change.

Tribal tourism is often compared with foreign exchange visits. However, a foreign exchange involves staying with people who often share the same values. Tribal tourism takes visitors to places where the lifestyle is very different from that in their home location. Those who have been on a tribal holiday explain that experiencing this lifestyle is the main attraction. They say that it offers them the chance to live in a way they never have before.

Not everyone is convinced that tribal tourism is a good thing, and opinions are

divided. The argument is about whether or not it hells the local population, or whether it exploits them. The main problem is that, because tribal tourism is relatively new, the long-term effects on local populations have not been studied in much detail. Where studies have been carried out, the effects have been found to be negative.

Travel writer Ian Coleman recalls a recent trip to Guatemala, where he saw an example of this. 'There is a village with a statue of a man called Maximon, who has a special spiritual meaning for the local tribe,' he explains. 'The statue is kept indoors, and once a year the locals bring him out and carry him around the village. However, visitors now pay money for them to bring the statue out and carry it around, while they take photographs. As a result, Maximon has lost his original meaning, and is now just another tourist attraction'

So, is it possible to experience an exotic culture without harming it in some way? 'With a bit of thought, we can maximise the positive impacts and minimise the negative,' says travel company director Hilary Waterhouse. 'Remember that you are there not only to experience a different culture, but to help it in some way. Tourists bring money to the community, which the community can invest in local projects. However, this does not mean you can act the way you might do back home. The most important thing is to show respect, learn about, and be aware of, local customs and traditions. Always remember you're a guest.'

Dawn Baker, manager of travel company Footprints, runs tours to tribal areas in Peru. 'Good companies specialising in tribal tours are very careful about who they allow on their tours,' she says. 'They won't take anyone they feel is unsuitable' Baker offers reading recommendations so that visitors can read about the country and its cultures. 'The rewards of a trip to this country are priceless, and the more you know in advance, the more priceless they are.'

Tribal tourism travellers are often surprised at how basic their facilities are when they get there. 'It's not for everyone, but for me was all part of the experience,' says Jamie White, who has recently returned from a trip to Borneo. 'We stayed in the same huts that everyone was living in, with no running water and no electricity. It was basic, but it was an ethical way to travel. Being comfortable means you use more local resources and so have more of an environmental impact'.

Read the summary in Exercise 4

- 1** Decide what type of information you need for each gap.
- 2** Find the paragraphs in the passage where you will find the information you need.

4. Now answer Questions 1-8.

Questions 1-8

Complete the summary below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the*

passage for each answer.

Tribal tourism

People who take a tribal tourism holiday visit places that are **1** When they are there, they find out about the local **2**and how people live. Currently, tribal tourism accounts for less than **3**of the tourism industry. Tribal tourism holidays are different from foreign exchange visits because the travellers and the people they meet have different **4** Tribal tourism travellers experience a **5** that they are not familiar with. For them, this is its **6** However, some people argue that **7**do not benefit from this kind of tourism. **8**show that the effects of tribal tourism are not good.

Matching features

5. The passage contains the names of four people.

- 1** Find their names and underline them.
- 2** Underline the key words in this statement. 'Some people may be refused a place on a tribal tour.'
- 3** Now match the statement with the person who says something which has the same meaning in the passage. Complete this sentence with the person's name: The statement can be matched with
- 4** How do you know this is the correct answer? Underline the sentence or sentences in the passage that give you this information.

6. Now underline the key words in statements 9-13 in Exercise 7.

7. Answer the questions by reading around each name in the passage carefully and then read the list of statements to find the ones that match. Write the correct letter A-D after each statement.

Questions 9-13

Look at the following statements and the list of people below.

Match each statement with the correct person, A-D. NB You may use any letter more than once.

- 9** Travellers may need to change the way they behave.
- 10** Some travellers would not enjoy living the way that the local people do.
- 11** Tribal tourism can have benefits for local people.
- 12** Some travellers make local people do things that they would not normally do.
- 13** Learning about a place before you go there makes your trip much more satisfying.

List of People

A Ian Coleman

- B Hilary Waterhouse**
- C Dawn Baker**
- D Jamie White**

Test 4

Pompidou Centre

More than three decades after it was built, the Pompidou Centre in Paris has survived its moment at the edge of architectural fashion and proved itself to be one of the most remarkable buildings of the 20th century.

It was the most outstanding now building constructed in Paris for two generations. It looked like an explosion of brightly coloured service pipes in the calm of the city centre. However, when in 1977 the architects Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano stood among a large crowd of 5,000 at the opening of the Centre Culturel d'Art Georges Pompidou (known as the Pompidou), no one was really aware of the significance of this unusual building.

Rogers was only 38 when he and Piano won the competition to design a new cultural centre for Paris in the old market site. Young, unknown architects, they had been chosen from a field of nearly 700 to design one of the most prestigious buildings of its day. After six difficult years, with 25,000 drawings, seven lawsuits, battles over budgets, and a desperate last-minute scramble to finish the building, it had finally been done.

Yet the opening was a downbeat moment. The Pompidou Centre had been rubbished by the critics while it was being built, there was no more work in prospect for the architects, and their partnership had effectively broken down. But this was just a passing crisis. The Centre, which combined the national museum of modern art, exhibition space, a public library and a centre for modern music, proved an enormous success. It attracted six million visitors in its first year, and with its success, the critics swiftly changed their tune.

The architects had been driven by the desire for ultimate flexibility, for a building that would not limit the movement of its users. All the different parts were approached through the same enormous entrance hall and served by the same escalator, which was free to anyone to ride, whether they wanted to visit an exhibition or just admire the view. With all the services at one end of the building, escalators and lifts at the other, and the floors hung on giant steel beams providing uninterrupted space the size of two football pitches, their dream had become a reality.

The image of the Pompidou pervaded popular culture in the 1970s, making appearances everywhere - on record-album covers and a table lamp, and even acting as the set for a James Bond 1 film. This did much to overcome the secretive nature of the architectural culture of its time, as it enabled wider

audience to appreciate the style and content of the building and so moved away from the strictly professional view.

The following year, Rogers was commissioned to design a new headquarters for Lloyd's Bank in London and went on to create one of Britain's most dynamic architectural practices. Piano is now among the world's most respected architects. But what of their shared creation?

It was certainly like no previous museum, with its plans for a flexible interior that not only had movable walls but floors that could also be adjusted up or down. This second feature did not in the end survive when the competition drawings were turned into a real building. In other ways, however, the finished building demonstrated a remarkable degree of refinement - of craftsmanship even - in the way the original diagram was transformed into a superbly detailed structure. It was this quality which, according to some critics, suggested that the Pompidou should be seen as closer to the 19th-century engineering tradition than the space age.

Nevertheless, as a model for urban planning, it has proved immensely influential. The Guggenheim in Bilbao* and the many other major landmark projects that were built in the belief that innovatively designed cultural buildings can bring about urban renewal are all following the lead of the Pompidou Centre.

Other buildings may now challenge it for the title of Europe's most outlandish work of architecture. However, more than a quarter of a century later, this construction - it is hard to call it a building when there is no façade, just a lattice of steel beams and pipes and a long external escalator snaking up the outside - still seems extreme.

Today, the Pompidou Centre itself still looks much as it did when it opened. The shock value of its colour-coded plumbing and its structure has not faded with the years. But while traditionalists regarded it as an ugly attack on Paris when it was built, they now see it for what it is - an enormous achievement, technically and conceptually.

Questions 1-4

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

1 What does the writer say in the first paragraph about the opening of the Pompidou Centre?

- A** The elderly did not like it.
- B** The architects were not present.
- C** The atmosphere was very noisy.
- D** The people did not realise its importance.

2 What does the writer say in the second paragraph about the construction of the Pompidou?

- A** There was a hurry to complete it.
- B** It cost less than expected.

- C Other experts helped draw the plans.
- D The market location was criticised.
- 3 What is the writer's main purpose in the third paragraph?
- A to explain the multi-functional role of the centre
- B to praise the architects for their design ideas
- C to say why some people's opinions quickly altered
- D to show how the media benefited from its success
- 4 What was the architects' 'dream', referred to in the fourth paragraph?
- A to become famous
- B to provide entertainment
- C to allow visitors to use it freely
- D to build the biggest museum in the world

Questions 5-8

Complete each sentence with the correct ending, A-F, below.

- 5 The escalators and lifts inside the Pompidou
- 6 In the 1970s, pictures of the Pompidou
- 7 The original plans for the floors of the Pompidou
- 8 The detailed structure of the finished building
- A reminded some people of past building styles.
- B were used to decorate everyday objects.
- C fitted in well with the external surroundings.
- D were situated on one side of the building.
- E showed people which area to visit.
- F were changed during the construction process.

Questions 9-14

Complete each sentence with the correct ending, A-F, below.

Do the following statements agree with the views of the writer in the reading passage?

Write

YES *if the statement agrees with the views of the writer*

NO *if the statement contradicts the views of the writer*

NOT GIVEN *if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this*

- 9 YESNONOT GIVEN The Pompidou has influenced the way cities are designed.
- 10 YESNONOT GIVEN The Guggenheim has been more popular than the Pompidou.
- 11 YESNONOT GIVEN The word building fits the Pompidou better than the word construction.
- 12 YESNONOT GIVEN The Pompidou's appearance has changed considerably since it opened.
- 13 YESNONOT GIVEN Nowadays, the design of the Pompidou fails to shock people.
- 14 YESNONOT GIVEN The traditionalist view of the Pompidou has changed over the years.

Test 5

The burden of thirst

Millions of women carry water long distances. If they had a tap by their door, whole societies would be transformed.

A Aylito Binayo's feet know the mountain. Even at four in the morning, she can run down the rocks to the river by starlight alone and climb the steep mountain back up to her village with a container of water on her back. She has made this journey three times a day since she was a small child. So has every other woman in her village of Foro, in the Konso district of south-western Ethiopia in Africa. Binayo left school when she was eight years old, in part because she had to help her mother fetch water from the Toiro River. The water is unsafe to drink; every year that the drought continues, the river carries less water, and its flow is reduced. But it is the only water Foro has ever had.

B In developed parts of the world, people turn on a tap and out pours abundant, clean water. Yet nearly 900 million people in the world have no access to clean water. Furthermore, 2.5 billion people have no safe way to get rid of human waste. Polluted water and lack of proper hygiene cause disease and kill 3.3 million people around the world annually, most of them children. In southern Ethiopia and in northern Kenya, a lack of rain over the past few years has made even dirty water hard to find. But soon, for the first time, things are going to change.

C Bringing clean water close to villagers' homes is the key to the problem. Communities where clean water becomes accessible and plentiful are transformed. All the hours previously spent hauling water can be used to cultivate more crops, raise more animals or even start a business. Families spend less time sick or caring for family members who are unwell. Most important, not having to collect water means girls can go to school and get jobs. The need to fetch water for the family, or to take care of younger siblings while their mother goes, usually prevents them ever having this experience.

D But the challenges of bringing water to remote villages like those in Konso are overwhelming. Locating water underground and then reaching it by means of deep wells requires geological expertise and expensive, heavy machines. Abandoned wells and water projects litter the villages of Konso. In similar villages around the developing world, the biggest problem with water schemes is that about half of them break down soon after the groups that built them move on. Sometimes technology is used that can't be repaired locally, or spare parts are available only in the capital.

E Today, a UK-based international non-profit organisation called WaterAid is tackling the job. Access <http://mini-ielts.com> for more practices 1 of bringing water to the most remote villages of Konso. Their approach combines technologies proven to last - such as building a sand dam to capture and filter rainwater that would otherwise drain away. But the real innovation is that WaterAid believes technology is only part of the solution. Just as important is involving the local community in designing, building and maintaining new water projects. Before beginning any project, WaterAid asks the community to create a

WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) committee of seven people. The committee works with WaterAid to plan projects and involve the village in construction. Then it maintains and runs the project.

F The people of Konso, who grow their crops on terraces they have dug into the sides of mountains, are famous for hard work. In the village of Orbesho, residents even constructed a road themselves so that drilling machinery could come in. Last summer, their pump, installed by the river, was being motorised to push its water to a newly built reservoir on top of a nearby mountain. From there, gravity will carry it down in pipes to villages on the other side of the mountain. Residents of those villages have each given some money to help fund the project. They have made concrete and collected stones for the structures. Now they are digging trenches to lay pipes. If all goes well, Aylito Binayo will have a tap with safe water just a three-minute walk from her front door.

Questions 1-6

The reading passage has six paragraphs, A-F.

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.

- 1..... Paragraph A
- 2..... Paragraph B
- 3..... Paragraph C
- 4..... Paragraph D
- 5..... Paragraph E
- 6..... Paragraph F

List of Headings

- i Why some plans have failed
- ii A rural and urban problem
- iii A possible success
- iv Explaining a new management style
- v Some relevant statistics
- vi A regular trip for some people
- vii Treating people for disease
- viii How water can change people's lives

Questions 7-11 Complete the sentences below. Choose NO MORE THAN ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer. 7 The water

levels in the Toiro River are falling because of 7..... 8 Globally, the number of people who die each year as a result of using dirty water is

8..... 9 When families have clean water, they can spend more time growing 9..... 10 Specialist knowledge and equipment are needed to dig

10..... 11 WaterAid uses a dam made of 11..... to capture rainwater.

Questions 12-13

Choose TWO letters, A-E.

Which TWO of these activities were performed by the villagers of Orbesho?

- A building a transport route
- B digging a reservoir
- C gathering building materials
- D making pipes
- E fitting taps

Test 6

Here today, gone tomorrow

The Arctic and Antarctica are now within reach of the modern tourist, with many going to see these icy wildernesses before it's too late. Christian Amodeo reports on the growth of polar tourism.

Travel at the North and South Poles has become an expensive leisure activity, suitable for tourists of all ages. The poles may be inhospitable places, but they are seeing increasing numbers of visitors.

Annual figures for the Arctic, where tourism has existed since the 19th century, have increased from about a million in the early 1990s to more than 1.5 million today. This is partly because of the lengthening summer season brought about by climate change.

Most visitors arrive by ship. In 2007, 370,000 cruise passengers visited Norway, twice the number that arrived in 2000. Iceland, a country where tourism is the second-largest industry, has enjoyed an annual growth rate of nine percent since 1990. Meanwhile, Alaska received some 1,029,800 passengers, a rise of 7.3 percent from 2006. Greenland has seen the most rapid growth in marine tourism, with a sharp increase in cruise-ship arrivals of 250 percent since 2004.

The global economic downturn may have affected the annual 20.6 percent rate of increase in visitors to the Antarctic - last season saw a drop of 17 percent to 38,200 - but there has been a 760 percent rise in land-based tourism there since 1997. More people than ever are landing at fragile sites, with light aircraft, helicopters and all-terrain vehicles increasingly used for greater access, while in the past two seasons, 'fly-sail' operations have begun. These deliver tourists by air to ships, so far more groups can enjoy a cruise in a season; large cruise ships capable of carrying up to 800 passengers are not uncommon.

In addition, it seems that a high number of visitors return to the poles. 'Looking at six years' worth of data, of the people who have been to the polar regions, roughly 25 percent go for a second time,' says Louisa Richardson, a senior marketing executive at tour operator Exodus.

In the same period that tourism has exploded, the 'health' of the poles has 'deteriorated'. 'The biggest changes taking place in the Antarctic are related to climate change,' says Rod Downie, Environmental Manager with the British Antarctic Survey (BAS). Large numbers of visitors increase these problems.

Although polar tourism is widely accepted, there have been few regulations up until recently. At the meeting of the Antarctic Treaty in Baltimore, the 28 member nations adopted proposals for limits to tourist numbers. These included safety codes for tourist vessels in Antarctic waters, and improved environmental protection for the continent. They agreed to prevent ships with more than 500 passengers from landing in Antarctica, as well as limit the number of passengers going ashore to a maximum of 100 at any one time, with a minimum of one guide for every 20 tourists. 'Tourism in Antarctica is not without its risks,' says Downie. After all, Antarctica doesn't have a coastguard rescue service.'

'So far, no surveys confirm that people are going quickly to see polar regions before they change,' says Frigg Jorgensen, General Secretary of the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO). 'However, Hillary Clinton and many other big names have been to Svalbard in the northernmost part of Norway to see the effects of climate change. The associated media coverage could influence others to do the same.'

These days, rarely a week passes without a negative headline in the newspapers. The suffering polar bear has become a symbol of a warming world, its plight a warning that the clock is ticking. It would seem that this ticking clock is a small but growing factor for some tourists. 'There's an element of "do it now",' acknowledges Prisca Campbell, Marketing director of Quark Expeditions, which takes 7,000 People to the poles annually. Leaving the trip until later, it seems, may mean leaving it too late.

Questions 1-7

Complete the summary below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.*

Polar tourism - the figures

Tourism in the Arctic began in the **1** and visitor numbers have risen since that time.

These days, over **2** people travel there, mostly by ship.

The country with the greatest increase in visitors is **3**.

Tourism has expanded in the Arctic because the **4** lasts longer than it used to.

Travel to the Antarctic has fallen by **5** over the past year.

However, many more people are using small planes and **6** to land on the ice.

Aircraft are also taking visitors to huge ships that hold as many as **7** tourists.

Questions 8-12

*Look at the following statements and the list of people below.
Match each statement with the correct person, A-D.*

NB You may use any letter **more than once**.

8 ABCD Some tourists believe they should not delay their trip to the poles.

9 ABCD There are some dangers to travelling in Antarctica.

10 ABCD Some famous people have travelled to polar regions to look at the impacts of global warming.

11 ABCD Some tourists make more than one trip to the poles.

12 ABCD There is no evidence that visitors are hurrying to the poles.

List of People

A Louisa Richardson

B Rod Downie

C Frigg Jorgensen

D Prisca Campbell

Recommended Writing tasks for Mid- and Final Exams

1. Request for a job application
2. Complaint about a product or service
3. Inquiry about a business opportunity
4. Request for information about a course or program
5. Letter of recommendation for a colleague or employee
6. Request for a meeting with a client or business partner
7. Complaint about workplace harassment or discrimination
8. Application for a scholarship or grant
9. Request for a refund for a faulty product or service
10. Complaint about a noisy neighbor or neighborhood issue
11. Request for a donation for a charitable cause
12. Inquiry about a job opening or vacancy
13. Complaint about a delayed or canceled flight
14. Request for a price quote or proposal
15. Letter of resignation from a job
16. Complaint about a billing error or overcharge
17. Request for a loan or financial assistance
18. Inquiry about a potential collaboration or partnership
19. Complaint about a faulty or damaged product
20. Request for a change in a contract or agreement
21. Inquiry about a customer service issue
22. Complaint about poor service at a restaurant or hotel
23. Request for a reference letter
24. Complaint about a coworker or supervisor
25. Request for a product demonstration or trial
26. Application for a leave of absence
27. Request for sponsorship for an event or project

28. Complaint about a healthcare provider or medical treatment
29. Request for an extension on a deadline
30. Inquiry about a property rental or purchase
31. Complaint about a noise or environmental pollution issue
32. Request for technical support or assistance
33. Inquiry about a legal matter or advice
34. Complaint about a breach of contract or agreement
35. Request for a job interview or informational interview
36. Inquiry about a warranty or product guarantee
37. Complaint about a transportation issue (e.g., public transit)
38. Request for a business partnership or collaboration
39. Inquiry about a government service or program
40. Complaint about a utility service (e.g., electricity, water)
41. Request for a product return or exchange
42. Inquiry about a conference or event registration
43. Complaint about a misleading advertisement or marketing campaign
44. Request for clarification on a policy or procedure
45. Inquiry about a customer loyalty program or rewards
46. Complaint about a breach of privacy or data protection
47. Request for a job promotion or salary increase
48. Inquiry about a professional certification or training program
49. Complaint about a defective or unsafe product
50. Request for assistance from a government agency or representative
51. Application for a business license or permit
52. Request for a contract termination or cancellation
53. Inquiry about a dispute resolution process
54. Complaint about a violation of consumer rights
55. Request for a product sample or trial
56. Inquiry about a travel visa or immigration process
57. Complaint about a landlord or rental property issue
58. Request for a business loan or financing
59. Inquiry about a healthcare insurance coverage
60. Complaint about a breach of intellectual property rights
61. Letter to a friend about a recent vacation or trip
62. Thank you letter to a family member or friend
63. Letter to a teacher expressing gratitude
64. Invitation to a birthday party or celebration
65. Letter to a pen pal sharing personal news
66. Congratulations letter for a friend's achievement
67. Letter to a sibling reminiscing about childhood memories
68. Apology letter to a friend or family member
69. Letter to a favorite author expressing admiration
70. Get well soon letter to a sick friend
71. Letter to a neighbor inviting them for a barbecue
72. Thank you letter to a mentor or role model

73. Letter to a cousin sharing exciting news
74. Apology letter to a romantic partner
75. Letter to a grandparent sharing updates on life
76. Invitation to a movie night or game night
77. Letter to a best friend expressing appreciation
78. Letter to a teacher sharing progress and achievements
79. Invitation to a graduation party or ceremony
80. Letter to a childhood friend reconnecting after a long time
81. Thank you letter to a coach or sports teammate
82. Letter to a roommate discussing household matters
83. Invitation to a baby shower or gender reveal party
84. Letter to a sibling offering advice or support
85. Apology letter to a close friend for a disagreement
86. Letter to a colleague expressing congratulations on a promotion
87. Thank you letter to a boss or supervisor
88. Letter to a friend planning a surprise visit
89. Invitation to a housewarming party
90. Letter to a family member sharing exciting news
91. Apology letter to a neighbor for a noise disturbance
92. Letter to a friend planning a road trip together
93. Thank you letter to a wedding guest or I'm sorry, but it seems like the response got cut off. Here are some more informal letter topics:
94. Letter to a friend sharing a funny or interesting story
95. Invitation to a friend for a movie night at home
96. Letter to a sibling discussing future plans and goals
97. Thank you letter to a friend who helped you through a difficult time
98. Letter to a cousin reminiscing about childhood adventures
99. Invitation to a friend for a weekend getaway
100. Letter to a best friend expressing support and encouragement
101. Apology letter to a parent for a mistake or misunderstanding
102. Letter to a close friend discussing a favorite book or movie
103. Thank you letter to a friend for a thoughtful gift
104. Letter to a sibling sharing advice on a personal matter
105. Invitation to a friend to join a new hobby or activity
106. Letter to a friend discussing a shared interest or passion
107. Apology letter to a friend for being late or canceling plans
108. Letter to a cousin sharing recipes or cooking tips
109. Thank you letter to a friend for hosting you during a visit
110. Letter to a best friend recounting a memorable experience