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English B – Standard level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension
Anglais B – Niveau moyen – Épreuve 2 – Compréhension écrite
Inglés B – Nivel Medio – Prueba 2 – Comprensión de lectura

5 November 2024 / 5 novembre 2024 / 5 de noviembre de 2024

Zone A afternoon	Zone B afternoon	Zone C afternoon
Zone A après-midi	Zone B après-midi	Zone C après-midi
Zona A tarde	Zona B tarde	Zona C tarde

1 h

Text booklet – Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this booklet until instructed to do so.
- This booklet accompanies paper 2 reading comprehension.

Livret de textes – Instructions destinées aux candidats

- N'ouvrez pas ce livret avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Ce livret accompagne la partie de l'épreuve 2 portant sur la compréhension écrite.

Cuadernillo de textos – Instrucciones para los alumnos

- No abra este cuadernillo hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Este cuadernillo acompaña a la parte de comprensión de lectura de la prueba 2.

Text A

Valentine’s Day in America

1 Americans of all ages love to send and receive communication from loved ones on Valentine’s Day. Valentines are often heart-shaped, or have drawings of hearts or Cupid, the symbols of love, on them. In some schools, children bring or make valentines for their classmates and put them in a large, decorated box, similar to a mailbox. On February 14, the teacher opens the box and distributes the valentines to each student. After the students read their valentines, they have a small party with refreshments. Handmade valentines, often created by cutting hearts out of colored paper and decorating them with lace, ribbon, or other material, show that a lot of thought was put into making them personal.



2 People often write a short rhyme inside a homemade valentine, such as:

3 *Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
Sugar is sweet,
And so are you!*

4 For people of all ages, newspapers throughout the country have a Valentine’s Day offer. Anyone can send in a message destined for a would-be sweetheart, a good friend, a son or daughter, a parent, an acquaintance, or even a spouse of fifty years. For a small fee, the message is printed in a special section of the newspaper on February 14. Even if no one writes one for you, these messages are entertaining and heart-warming to read. They often include pet names such as “sugar lump”, “teddy bear”, “sweetie pie”, or “honey”. People sometimes abbreviate words such as writing “4-ever” for “forever”.

Text B

What do travel agents do?

Understanding the responsibilities undertaken by this role may help people begin their career and increase their chances of job success. In this article, we explain the role of a travel agent.



5 **[– 22 –]**

Despite the popularity of automated booking systems for vacations, travel agents are in demand for trips that require thoughtful planning and expertise. Travel agents ensure travel plans, such as activities and costs, receive a personalized touch while often providing clients with the best value for their money.

[– 23 –]

15 Travel agents help clients make travel arrangements or explore different travel package options. They may suggest accommodations or destinations, and they can help people arrange a travel itinerary. A travel agent can also book flights, hotels and make reservations. Before travel agents can make travel arrangements, it's essential for them to learn about their clients, including a budget, schedule, ideal vacation and preferred travel method. For example, a travel agent who learns a client is afraid of flying may suggest a cruise instead.

20 **[– 24 –]**

Additionally, travel agents may field complex questions regarding national and international travel. For example, they can help clients understand the health and safety protocols airlines or countries are currently adhering to for travel. This role can often act as a buffer between the consumer and travel suppliers.

25 **[– 25 –]**

A travel agent also has various duties that can change daily based on their client or agency work, but some typical responsibilities for this role include:

- negotiating hotel rates for clients
- helping clients plan trips
- 30 • developing alternative travel plans when schedules change or client events arise
- determining travel costs and helping the client save money
- advising clients on activities in the area they're visiting
- informing clients about required travel documents, like passports
- discussing essential information with clients, such as requirements for crossing borders.

Text C

Microchips and drones: Kenyan conservationists' high-tech fight against poachers

- 1** Kenyan wildlife officials are planning to implant microchips into the horns of every rhino in the country in order to combat poaching. It's hoped that the chips will not only allow the rhinos to be more effectively monitored, but that the ability to track horns individually will help crack down on illegal smuggling and provide evidence for prosecutors. "With poachers getting more sophisticated in their approach it is vital that conservation efforts embrace the use of more sophisticated technology to counter the killing of wildlife", said the Kenyan Wildlife Service (KWS).
- 2** The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has donated chips and five scanners for the project at a cost of 1.3 million Kenyan shillings, but tracking and fitting the devices in the country's 1,000 plus rhino population will cost much more than this.
- 3** Poaching in Kenya has increased significantly in recent years, with hunters targeting elephants as well as rhinos. Since the beginning of 2013 poachers have killed 34 rhinos, a 17 per cent increase from the whole of 2012 and in August this year a rhino was even killed in Nairobi's national park, one of the most guarded sites in the country.
- 4** The demand for rhino horns comes mainly from other countries where people believe the horn to be an effective medicine. Rhino horns are made from keratin, the same material as human fingernails and hair, and although the animals can survive having their horn chopped off, poachers often kill them to make the collection of the horn easier. The KWS has said that the project's success would not only safeguard Kenya's rhino population but help combat the groups of organized criminals that profit from the illegal trade and secure Kenya's economically vital tourism industry.
- 5** Other high-tech conservation efforts in Kenya include a project launched last year by Google and the WWF using drones to track endangered species including rhinos and elephants. A \$5 million grant from Google's Global Impact Award program is funding the operation, with conservationists controlling autonomous aircraft with tablet computers. Although the drones' intended use was to provide aerial coverage, it's been reported that they have a secondary use in herding elephants away from danger—be that poachers or areas where conflict with humans is possible. Wildlife researchers believe that the elephants confuse the buzzing noise produced by the drones for a swarm of bees, and run away whenever they hear the devices approaching.



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