

CLASS C

UNIT 6_ WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT HOME

Teacher: Jovanna Xenophontos

TASK 4

(10 marks)

Read the article about a second-generation refugee's return to his ancestral home and answer the questions that follow.

My 'pilgrimage' to Ayios Amvrosios

In May this year I went to Ayios Amvrosios for the second time. This time, without my mum... It was a personal pilgrimage to experience the village again and to exchange soil between my mum's grave and her home. I went with a close family cousin who knew the village inside out. Without him I would not have found half the things I wanted to see.



We took the mountain road from Nicosia up to Pentadactylos and stopped at the very top, right in front of the face of the mountain. This is the same mountain that for years I had only seen in the distance when driving from Larnaca to Nicosia. To have it suddenly in front of me gave me an intense feeling. For me, Pentadactylos is the backbone of the love of everything that lies behind it.

As we entered the village we went past the "kafenio" – the local coffee shop where old men would sit for hours drinking coffee, chatting, flicking worry beads and playing backgammon. The place was derelict but the red bougainvillea on the veranda, overgrown and unpruned was still there, defiant and beautiful.

The next stop was my mum's house. I remembered again the first time I went with her. Her eyes shone like the moon, full of anticipation. Looking back, I realise that she was actually experiencing an emotional overload: first there was relief when she saw her home again. And then there was obvious sadness as she tried to bring back the memories she had left behind, and finally frustration – the layout of the house had changed structurally, which made translating those memories directly into what she saw in front of her harder.

I had gone over in my head so many times how I wanted to approach the situation of speaking to the people living there now, explain to them my mum's recent passing and

that I wanted to exchange soil from her garden and her grave. Finally, I met the Turkish family living there and with zero understanding of English I was left to exchange the soil. I was disappointed that I couldn't explain to them how much my mum loved this house. They stood at the doorway watching me the whole time and it was obvious they wanted to keep their distance – deep down they knew that the foundation of the house was not theirs and it could never be, and they felt unsettled.

The next stop was the cemetery. The state of the graves was a sad sight, but I was determined to find the graves of my grandfather, grandmother, auntie, and uncle. I managed to find them, and it made me put myself in my mother's shoes and think how I would feel if suddenly I was unable to visit my mum's grave. I think that would be the hardest part of not being able to return home and made me realise how painful it must have been for my mum to have the most special things in her life taken away... her home and not being able to visit her family who had been laid to rest. Despite the sadness and grief though, the thought that my ancestors were buried there, in our land, guardians of our heritage, filled me with a sense of hope.

Finally, we went to the church. As we all know, the church is the epicentre of every village. I closed my eyes and tried to picture it all those years ago prior to 1974. Suddenly, the church yard was a frenzy of activity and deafening noise. I could see a sea of smiling faces and a wave of laughter filled the air. I opened my eyes and despite the emptiness, I felt that, eventually, everything would fall into place. I just had to be patient.

We entered the church and behind the partitioned wall we saw the original wooden frames that held all of the holy icons and there also was the *Ayia Trabeza* (holy altar). It was like a piece of history with countless stories trapped behind this wall, and I felt they were my stories. And even though the wooden frames were now empty, a wave of awe surged through me. Behind that partition was the history of my family, of my people ; it was alive, and nobody could take it away. I felt so privileged to see it. Which is weird really because how can you feel privileged to see something that actually belongs to you?

Soon it was dusk. As the sun dipped towards the horizon, I vowed to return to the village soon and absorb as much of it as I could. As the first generation of refugees become fewer, I believe it is even more important now for the second and third generation to learn and experience as much about their village as possible.

Adapted from: <https://lobbyforcyprus>

1. Why did the writer visit the occupied village of Ay. Amvrosios? Mention two details.

_____(2)

2. What does Pentadaktylos symbolise for the writer?

_____(1)

3. Why did the writer's mother find it difficult to remember experiences she had in her home?

_____(1)

4. When did the writer feel more empathy with his mum?

_____(1)

5. How does the writer make his writing more vivid? Give two details.

_____(2)

6. What evidence of optimism is there in the article? Give three details.

_____(3)

TASK 5

(5x1=5 marks)

Read the blog extracts in which house hunters (A-C) talk about their decision to move house. Then answer the questions that follow.



A. Franck and Tracy Louis-Marie, 52 and 57

The minute their nest emptied this year, the Louis-Maries decided to leave Los Angeles. "We literally wanted to blaze new trails, move to different surroundings" Tracy says. "And drive fewer freeways!" Franck adds. On the wish list: a city on a "human scale, definitely not sprawling," Franck says. Someplace, Tracy explains, "where people walk along a tree-lined Main Street, with public art and historic buildings and friendly mom-and-pop shops." Also, access to the great outdoors. And after years of mostly renting in L.A., they wanted to own a two, or three-bedroom home with a big yard. Tracy is a part-time adviser to companies on social-impact policies and Franck an art director for entertainment companies. They both work remotely so moving will not be a problem.

B. House hunter: Laura Campbell 36

Laura's 's active 80-something parents regularly rented a winter place in Florida, so she decided to move south from the family's Connecticut base and stay in Florida year-round. "It was important to me to be close to them," says Laura, who arrived in Delray Beach in October 2019. Then came COVID-19. "My parents decided they wanted to live out their whole lives in Connecticut, where they still had so many friends. I had a big decision to make." The answer came when rising fees priced her out of her Florida condo; she needed a housing solution she could cover with partial Social Security, part-time jobs, and limited savings. "Prices in Florida are exorbitant. I couldn't afford to live there anymore really," she says. She knew she had to get a smaller place, so she sold her two-bedroom apartment and moved to Connecticut where she bought a studio apartment near her parents' home.

C. House hunters Jeff and Mary Brown 39, 34

We found our 1840 sqft condo in Reno, NV in 2009, but in the ensuing decade the open space around us got swallowed up by one new development after another. Also, smoke from the California fires these past few summers turned into hazardous air quality in the Truckee meadows, and the stairs of our two-storey condo got to be too much risk. Fortunately, prices had risen enough for us to sell and move to Vallejo, a Bay Area gem where we found another condo on one floor. Our friends were horrified by our choice, saying life would be too dull compared to California and, to be honest, at first we did question our decision to move. We felt out of our depth and rather lonely. As time went by, though, we made some great friends and feel so lucky to be here – the people are amazing, the air is clean and the water view from our patio is breathtaking.

Adapted from: <https://www.aarp.org/home>

Who says that...?	
1. they moved because they couldn't make ends meet	_____
2. they are after small-town charm	_____
3. moving house turned out to be a blessing in disguise	_____
4. they felt it was time to downsize	_____
5. they need a change of scenery	_____

TASK 6

(5x2=10 marks)

Read the text and questions below. For each question, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

30-year-old man evicted from parents' home

A couple in New York got so fed up with their unemployed 30-year-old son's refusal to leave the nest that they finally sued to evict him — and won. Mark and Christina Rotondo were forced to the unprecedented parenting measure after giving their layabout millennial boy Michael cash for moving expenses, pleading with him to get on with his life and finally sending written legal notices demanding he grow up and move out.

Mark and Christina Rotondo were forced to pay off Michael's debts after his business hit rock bottom. They even begged him to start making money. "There are jobs available even for those with a poor work history like you. Get one — you have to work!" the Rotundo's said. But nothing moved Michael from his epic failure to launch — that is until an equally fed-up judge's ruling forced him to accept adulthood.

When Michael heard the judge's decision, he saw red. "It's outrageous," he said. "I really don't want to stay there anyway," he told *The Post* after his life-altering court loss. "I've been trying to leave there for a long time. They stopped feeding me, they cut me off the family phone plan." Asked if he thought mom and dad were merely trying some tough love, Michael, who turned 31 in July, sounded like a child who'd just been punished. "I don't think trying to destroy somebody is tough love," he complained, in a manner typical of his emotional immaturity.

Needless to say, Michael asked the court to dismiss the request. He claimed that for the past eight years he had never been expected to contribute to household expenses, or assisted with chores and the maintenance of the premises, and said that that was simply a component of his living agreement, according to filings obtained by CNN.

During the hearing, Michael represented himself, claiming his parents were legally required to give him six months to get out. Judge Donald Greenwood disagreed. Nonetheless, he applauded Michael for conducting a systematic investigation into the case – but blasted his demands for six more months as "outrageous."

Michael also claimed that his parents are forcing him out as "retaliation" for not allowing them to see his child before he lost custody himself last September. However, he said

he would comply with the judge's order so long as it doesn't force him out within the next 30 days. "I want three months. I think that's reasonable," he said.

When he was asked about his parents, reporters thought he would show some signs of remorse, but did not bat an eyelid. "The anger has subsided, but I don't really hope to reconcile. I really just want to get out of the situation. Right now, I'm just worried about what's best for me," he said. His parents couldn't be reached.

Michael has definitely embraced his sudden fame. In two days, he's appeared on CNN, and in major newspapers. He's hoping the media coverage will somehow allow him to see his son, of whom he's lost custody and visitation rights.

"Hopefully, by doing these interviews, people would start to support that I should be able to see my son again. I'm not a crazy person. I'm a little weird, or quirky or whatever. But I'm a great father," he said.

Adapted from: <https://nypost.com>

1. Michael's parents have made a (n) _____ decision regarding their son.

- A. unpredictable
- B. insensible
- C. extraordinary
- D. unjustified

2. Michael's *epic failure to launch*, refers to his _____.

- A. inability to become self-sufficient
- B. refusal to leave his parents' house
- C. disagreement with the judge's decision
- D. failure to set up a profitable business

3. Michael's response to the judge's ruling was _____.

- A. childlike
- B. childish
- C. spontaneous
- D. cheeky

4. When reporters asked him about his parents, Michael's reply conveyed _____.

- A. flexibility
- B. regret
- C. misery

D. indifference

5. What is the goal of the last paragraph?

- A. To reinforce what is said in the previous paragraph.
- B. To contradict what is said in the previous paragraph.
- C. To cast doubt about what is said in the previous paragraph.
- D. To list ideas about what is said in the previous paragraph.

TASK 7

(15 marks)

Read the following article about being organised. Write a summary about the advantages of being disorganised .

Your summary should be about 100 words long (and no more than 120 words long).

In her bestselling book *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, Marie Kondo makes the case that decluttering can “dramatically transform” your life.” Judging by the popularity of her message and method, Kondo’s philosophy is scratching an itch for a lot of people. And there’s more evidence, much of it predating the “KonMari” phenomenon, that the world has caught organisation fever.

Proponents of organisation say it can improve one’s productivity and time management. After all, some studies have shown that getting organised is an important factor in beating procrastination. The argument has become a bone of contention between researchers. In many ways, a lack of organisation or neatness has come to seem inherently bad – like a kind of personal or existential defect that will mentally drag one down. But the evidence backing the benefits of decluttering is mixed.

Take procrastination, for instance. Several studies have shown that disorganisation pushes people to delay decisions, which can work to their advantage. Unwittingly, disorganised people take time when considering many options, sometimes making wiser decisions. Being disorganised also provides freedom . For instance, it frees your time for more interesting pursuits and means you don’t spend all your time thinking about details and trying to keep everything organised.

And any idea that the super-organised have a fast-track to success could now be banished for good, after a recent study by the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research

found that being disorganized can make one more efficient, better at their job, whereas people who are more orderly will not have the same impact as messy people do. “

A 2013 study found that orderly spaces promote healthy choices but also “conventional” thinking, while working in a messy or disorganised space promotes creativity and new ideas. (Einstein, famously, had a disheveled desk and has been quoted as saying, “If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?”)

Another study links physical clutter to lower levels of life satisfaction. But the study has also revealed that if you try to be too organised it can actually be quite stressful trying to maintain such an outlook and situation. The crux of the matter is that if people spend less time worrying about their disorganised house, mind or life, they will feel far less stressed.

Michelle Newman, a professor of psychology and director of the Laboratory for Anxiety and Depression Research at Penn State University, says that life can be complicated and problems that arise can be minimized by dividing them into smaller, less abstract ideas. Apparently, being organised does assist in the breaking down of problems; by devising a reasonable plan, you can gain resolution one step at a time. However, in the process, one may focus too much on details and lose the joy of the original dream. If you find you can't curb your thoughts, you may start to overthink about problems and feel consumed or become enslaved.

Dr. Newman's advice is that personal preference is what's key to deciphering whether "clutter" or "neat freak" is more optimal for happiness. And for those who lean more toward disarray, worry not; clutter can add to your character, after all. In fact, the benefits of being disorganized reflect that clutter-happy individuals may have a kind of nutty genius energy.

Essentially, there's no reason to be ashamed if your space is filled with stuff—and stuff that's often in strange places. There's also nothing wrong if you thrive in organisation. What matters is that you decide early on what state of chaos you're personally most comfortable with.

TASK 8

(15 marks)

You recently entered a writing competition entitled “My favourite place” and won first prize. Write an email to an English-speaking friend to tell him/her about it. In your email, you should:

- describe the place
- explain why it is your favourite
- say how it makes you feel.



Your email should be between 150-200 words long.

TASK 9

(15 marks)

You recently had a class discussion about the right age to leave home. Your English teacher has asked you to write an essay in response to the following statement:

Some parents urge their adult children to move out of the parental home as soon as they reach 18, while others encourage them to stay with the family. Discuss both views and give your opinion.



Here are two comments from other students in your class, but you are free to use any ideas of your own.

Some parents refuse to let their children grow up.

Not all young people are mature enough to fend for themselves at 18.

Your essay should be between 200 – 250 words long.