

CLASS B' LYCEUM
OXFORD FUTURES 3
UNIT 2

What do places mean to us?

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PART II: READING AND WRITING

TASK 1: Questions 1-5

Passage 1

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



Welcome to Varosha, the Mediterranean's best kept secret.

Par. 1 Miles and miles of sand where it's just you and nature. There are dozens of hotels on the seafront which, at first sight, appear to be splendid. Just remember to pack your bolt cutters to make a hole in the fence and watch out for the Turkish army patrolling the area.

Par. 2 Before the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus which divided the island and forced its residents to flee, Varosha used to be a glamorously cosmopolitan and vibrant resort town teeming with tourists. The rich and famous were drawn by some of the best beaches on the island. Richard Burton and Brigitte Bardot all dropped by - the Argo Hotel on JFK Avenue was said to be Elizabeth Taylor's favourite.

Par. 3 In 2004, travel restrictions were eased for the first time, allowing Cypriots to cross the UN Buffer Zone, commonly known as the "Green Line". "The picture that I had in my mind was of a kind of paradise," Vasia Makrides , an American Greek- Cypriot says of the day when she returned to look across the wire at her ancestral home for the first time. "But I was so disappointed. What I saw was nightmarish. Nature has taken over. There are trees that have grown through living rooms. It's a ghost town." Signs warn tourists peering across the fence that "photos and movies are forbidden." Trespassers risk death.

The town's residents regularly pin letters and flowers to the barbed wire. "I've left my soul inside. Open up!" reads one, and you can't but feel the pain of the person who wrote it.

Par. 4 One day, 47 years later, like a bolt from the blue, the Makrides family received family photos and personal things from their hometown, Famagusta. These belongings are an inseparable part of their memories and essentially their whole life. They take them on a bittersweet journey back in time, to their life before the catastrophe, when Varosha was the place where they began to dream. 47 years on, they know their heart and soul will always belong to Famagusta.

Par. 5 Mrs. Makrides said: "My children have never lived in Famagusta so they will have no memories of our house there. They have never visited our house and do not remember the balcony brimming with lemon trees and sweet-smelling jasmine. The doors were painted a light blue and the floors were wooden. I left the food in the oven when we left". Her voice shakes. "My husband used to have the most beautiful collection of seashells. Now he has a strange dislike of seashells. Our house is still there. We can see it from afar. Trees have grown through it and Famagusta is a dream that only exists in our hearts. It will reopen one day. But in 20, 30, 50 years' time there will be no one to remember what really went on in Famagusta. We will die with our memories of beaches and shells and old happiness", she said.

1. According to the article, at first glance, hotels in Famagusta seem to be _____.

- A. depressing
- B. intimidating
- C. showy
- D. impressive.

2. All the following are true of pre-1974 Famagusta EXCEPT:

- A. It was a sophisticated city.
- B. It was visited by people from many different parts of the world.
- C. It was a calm place where the pace of life was slow.
- D. It was a bustling place crammed with tourists.

3. When Vasia Makrides visited Varosha for the first time in 2004, she was_____.

- A. disillusioned

- B. nostalgic
- C. annoyed
- D. disgusted

4. The Makrides family were _____ family photos and personal things from their hometown 47 years later.

- A. startled to receive
- B. confused about receiving
- C. relieved to receive
- D. enthusiastic about receiving

5. Which idiomatic expression best expresses the feelings conveyed in par. 5?

- A. The Makrides family “see no light at the end of the tunnel”.
- B. The Makrides family think that “Every cloud has a silver lining”.
- C. The Makrides family “see the glass as half full”.
- D. The Makrides family feel that “things have a way of working out for the best”.

TASK 2- Questions 6-10

Read the magazine article about three of the world’s creepiest ghost cities (A-C). Then answer questions 6-10.

Do you dare visit these ghost town?

Nothing quite raises one's adrenaline like the silent streets and abandoned buildings of a deserted town. While they remain frozen in time, each ghost town has its own unique story narrating its creation. Here are three ghost towns that will definitely give you goosebumps.



A. Epecuen, Argentina

Remember the glamorous city of Atlantis in the movie *Aquaman*? Well, this abandoned Argentinian city looks like an Atlantis that has resurfaced. Forty years ago, one of Argentina's most popular spa towns disappeared suddenly . Over a few short days, Epecuén was wiped off the map, engulfed by flood water from Lake Epecuén. The town remained submerged for 25 years before waters finally started to recede, revealing the scars of a ghost town in late 2009.

B. Herculaneum, Italy

Nearly 2000 years ago, Mount Vesuvius erupted burying the small but rich Roman seaside resort of Herculaneum under hot ash. Archaeological excavations have uncovered some fascinating structures and frescoes. One of the most unexpected discoveries at Herculaneum is the Papyri Palace, once home to Julius Caesar's father-

in-law and a grand mansion leading to the sea. Preservation works are on-going, giving archaeologists the opportunity to find out more about life in the Roman times.

C. Pripyat, Ukraine

Home to nearly 50,000 workers who were employed at the power plant, Pripyat was evacuated when Chernobyl went into meltdown. The locals left their non-essentials behind, and it is these items which tell you the story of the disaster. Drawing thousands after thousands each year, the once populated hospital, general stores, amusement parks and cinemas are left in ruins. Walk through the eerily empty halls of houses and sit in the abandoned classrooms of schools to capture the true essence of Pripyat. Interestingly, the city was used as James Bond's hiding places in *Skyfall*. Make sure you book your tour of this Chernobyl-affected town well in advance.

Which ghost town_____?	
6. resulted from a severe nuclear reactor accident	
7. vanished without a trace after a natural disaster	
8. was a filming location	
9. resembles a fictional island	
10. is a gateway to uncovering more about daily life in an ancient empire	

TASK 3: Questions 11-16

Read the article and answer the following questions.

Travel destinations, Tokyo, Japan

Tokyo is a huge, vibrant city of sharp contrasts. It brims with skyscrapers, packed trains, cutting-edge architecture, and futuristic technology. It's modern; yet it is also a city rooted in its traditions and in possession of a calm and efficient rhythm. And even though it's home to a 14 million population, the Japanese take their time management very seriously; they are never late, trains run on time, there is no public litter and street crime is nearly non-existent. In short, it works.



A key attraction in Tokyo is the mouthwatering food – from sushi to soba, and everything in between. Tokyo is a nirvana for foodies and has the world's highest volume of Michelin

stars in a city. Shopping is another highlight – it’s worth bringing an empty suitcase to fill with hard-to-resist gadgets, trendsetting clothes and treasures from craft and design stores.

If you are thinking of visiting, July and August can be boiling and very humid, while the first few months of the year are often bone-chillingly cold, despite crisp sunshine. The best times of year weather-wise are spring, especially late April and early May, when the cherry blossom bursts into flower, and autumn, between September and November , when there are many warm, blue-sky days, plus the autumn leaves are at their most beautiful (in November in particular).

Ideally avoid national holidays such as the first week of the New Year, when everything shuts down, and Golden Week, spanning from the end of April to early May, the busiest time for domestic travel.

Japanese values are rooted in all aspects of life in Tokyo, and will always impact family, work, and social interactions. You will find that most people do not cheat or steal. If you forget something on the subway, you will most likely find it at the lost-and-found office. If you get lost in the city, there is no need to panic; people will always try to help. Don’t be surprised if they even lead you to your final destination. And there’s always a *kouban*, or police box, nearby with detailed maps to help you find your way. It is also a common sight in Tokyo to see people bowing. In modern Japan, apart from greeting, thanking or apologizing to someone, bowing is also used to convey emotions such respect and appreciation .

It would take a lifetime to get to know every face of Tokyo, so large that it spreads as far as the eye can see. But look closely and you will find a city of exceptional charm and breathtaking efficiency that will sweep you off your feet.

11. Why does the writer say that Tokyo is a city of “sharp contrasts”? Give two details.

12. How many people live in Tokyo?

13. What are the key attractions in Tokyo? Give two details.

14. When is the best time to visit Tokyo? Give two (2) details.

outside, so read these first. And beware of the costs of some of the drinks as these can add up.

Paris is a big city, so it is not going to be pristine. There may be litter here and there. They do have many street cleaners out, but a city that large with so many tourists as well, will not always be clean.

Another thing to be concerned about is safety. There are many pick pocketers particularly in the metro, and in crowded tourist areas. Be aware of your surroundings, and ensure that your money, credit cards, etc. are well hidden (not in your pocket or backpack) and be particularly alert when in the metro and queues .

Accommodation is another issue when visiting Paris. The “City of Light” can be one of the most expensive cities in the world when it comes to hotels. Stay near the most famous sights and attractions, and your wallet will not thank you.

The question is whether Paris is overrated. In my opinion, it isn't. If you have to pick one - *only one* - place to visit in your lifetime, and you want to see something that will knock you off your feet, something that is so impeccably beautiful you can't believe it's not a postcard, then you should visit Paris.

TASK 5: Question 18

(15 marks)

You recently visited a place of historical or cultural significance. Write an email to a friend telling them about the experience.

In your email, you should:

- describe the place
- explain what you saw and did there
- say what you learnt from this experience



Your email should be between 150-200 words long.

TASK 6- Question 19

You have seen an advertisement in an international travel magazine inviting readers to send in articles about a town they have visited.

Write your article describing a town you have visited, including things to see and do there, explaining whether you would recommend it to other people.

Your article should be between 150-200 words long.

