

2. Intermediate Level: READING COMPREHENSION

PART 1. MULTIPLE CHOICE. You are going to read a text about Sydney. Choose the best option (a, b, c or d) to respond to the questions. The activity starts with an example (0).

Sydney Identity

Sydney has a population of just over four million people, out of Australia's total population of about 19 million. It's a multicultural city, although before World War II most Sydneysiders were predominantly of British and Irish descent. That changed dramatically in the postwar period, with particularly large migrations from Italy and Greece, and significant influxes from Yugoslavia, Lebanon and Turkey.

Asian migration to Australia began in the 1850s when Chinese migrants were attracted by gold, but there were also large influxes of Vietnamese after the Vietnam War. More recently, the majority of Sydney's immigrants have come from China and New Zealand, with others arriving from Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines.

Almost a quarter of the citizens of the state of New South Wales (NSW) were born overseas, and most of these recent arrivals live in Sydney.

A shrinking majority of people in Australia are at least nominally Christian. Most Protestant churches merged to form the Uniting Church, although the Anglican Church of Australia remains separate. The Catholic Church is popular due to a large population with Irish or Mediterranean heritage.

Non-Christian minorities abound, the main ones being Buddhist, Jewish and Muslim. Islam is the second-largest religion in Australia and Buddhism is one of the fastest growing. About 13% of Australians have no stated religion, although a valiant effort was made with the last census to have the religion of 'Jedi' recognized.

0. The population of Australia

- a. is from a multicultural background.
- b. amounts to about four million people.
- c. amounts to about nineteen million people.**

1. Most British and Irish immigrants went to Sydney

- a. after the Vietnam War.
- b. before World War II.
- c. because of World War II.

2. Most of the recent immigrants to Sydney are originally from

- a. Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines.
- b. New South Wales.
- c. China and New Zealand.

3. Most Australians are

- a. Anglican.
- b. Roman Catholic.
- c. Christian.

4. Which of these is true according to the text
- Some Australians have no official religion.
 - The "Jedi" community is expanding fast.
 - In Australia the Anglican Church is part of the Christian Church.

PART 2. MULTIPLE MATCHING. You will read a text about popular destinations in England. For questions 1-3 (There will be 8 questions in the actual exam), match the sentences with the places A-H. When two answers are required you can put them in any order. The activity starts with an example (0).

Destinations in England

A. BATH: Bath first came to prominence as 'Aquae Sulis' in Roman times. It was a fashionable spa resort nearly 2000 years ago, and rediscovered its ancient glories in the 18th century. Much of its beauty dates from the latter period, fine Georgian sandstone architecture dominating the modern cityscape. The original Roman Baths and Pump Rooms, though, remain open to visitors. Bath's 500-year-old Abbey, built on the site of a Saxon monastery, stands above the Heritage Vaults, which tell the story of 1600 years of Christianity in the area. Architectural highlights include a remarkable curving Georgian terrace, and Pulteney Bridge, lined with shops and built by Robert Adam in the late 18th century.

B. CAMBRIDGE. Home of England's second-oldest university, dating from the early 13th century. The individual colleges are the prime attractions of interest in the city, including the oldest, Peterhouse (1284), 16th-century Trinity College, and King's College, whose chapel is regarded as one of Europe's finest late-medieval structures. Other attractions include the Fitzwilliam Museum, the University's Museum of Archaeology and Museum of Zoology, and The Backs, an area of parkland along the River Cam behind the colleges, where punting is a popular activity. The Imperial War Museum Duxford aviation section lies a short way south of Cambridge. Also near Cambridge is Grantchester, home of World War I poet Rupert Brooke.

C. THE COTSWOLDS. Covering some 2000 sq km (800 sq miles), primarily in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire, this area is famed for its picturesque villages and beautiful rolling hills. Highlights among the villages include Broadway, Bourton-on-the-Water and Moreton-in-Marsh, part of whose attraction is the distinctive honey-colored local stone used in their construction. Attractions include England's second-largest parish church, Tewkesbury Abbey and Jacobean stately home Chastleton House. The Cotswold Wildlife Park at Burford, itself another very attractive town, is a popular family outing.

D. THE LAKE DISTRICT. England's best-known national park occupies a huge swathe of Cumbria and, as its name suggests, there are many large bodies of water. But mountains also feature in this spectacular landscape, among them England's highest, the 978m- (3208 ft-) tall Scafell Pike. Visitors flock to the lakes for walking and other outdoor activities, and to trace the roots of literary figures such as Beatrix Potter and William Wordsworth. Wordsworth's former home, Dove Cottage at Grasmere, is open to visitors – his tomb is in the nearby churchyard. A good starting point is the National Park Visitor Center at Brockhole, while the World of Beatrix Potter at Bowness-on-Windermere draws people from all over the world.

According to the text, find a place or places...

0. where you can visit ancient remains. ...A...

1. where a famous man of letters was buried.

2. where you can find buildings made of a special kind of rock. /.....

3. whose greatest charm is in its academic institutions.