



I. READING COMPREHENSION (12 marks)

Janine Payne and husband David, returned home after a year of travel to unemployment – but it changed their priorities for the better.

- (1) “When we both finished university, lots of our friends went travelling, while we went straight into jobs. Things moved fast, we bought our first flat aged 22, we married aged 26, and we thought we’d settle down in the UK and live the lifestyle we’d aspired to. I was a shopaholic, the kind of the girl who bought a dress every weekend. And I thought, with a mortgage, that travel was an opportunity missed. But when the chance came up to spend a year in Asia, with no guarantee I’d get my job back at the end of it, I jumped at it.
- (2) I was working in international sales for a company in Cardiff with offices in China, and that’s where I was sent. When David and I left, things were starting to turn really sour at home. Our friends were being made redundant, food costs were rising, and people were telling us we were so lucky. For us, every day was an adventure. Everything was so much cheaper, we would eat out every night, we’d travel and the lifestyle was hugely better than it had been at home.
- (3) After nine months, we took four months off work, which again was a risk – we were going to spend all our savings. But we went for it, cycling 3,000 miles around China, through Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.
- (4) We got back two weeks ago and we’re both out of work but we’re getting by. Now, I know there are so many things in life – material things – that you can do without. As long as you are happy and healthy, that’s the main thing. I’m 100% less materialistic now. We’ve learned that the world of work can wait but experiences won’t. My advice – never miss an opportunity.”

Adapted from: <http://www.walesonline.co.uk/>



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Tick (✓) the most suitable title to the text. (1 mark)

- a) Travel can make you redundant ☐
- b) Travel can change your life for ever ☐
- c) Travel and work are the best things life can offer ☐

2. For each of the following statements, pick out a detail showing that it is false. (3 marks)

- a) Once they graduated, Janine and David had no choice but find a job.
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- b) Janine was promised she would get her job back upon return from China.
.....
- c) When in China, Janine worked for a different company.
.....

3. Focus on paragraph 2 and pick out three advantages that working in China offered Janine and David. (3 marks)

- a)
- b)
- c)

4. Say what the underlined words refer to. (2 marks)

- a) 'it' (paragraph 1) refers to
- b) 'home' (paragraph 2) refers to

5. When she returned from China, Janine had different priorities in life. Circle the top two (2) priorities. (2 marks)

work

making money

happiness

health

6. Janine says that "the world of work can wait but experiences won't." Do you agree with her ? Give a personal and justified answer. (1 mark)

I because
.....
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