

EXAM WITH ANSWERS: A Different Guided Tour

ABAU Practice Examination (Galiza)

Read the text and the instructions to the questions very carefully. Answer all the questions in English.

Guided tours are not a new phenomenon. In every major tourist city, you can spot groups of sightseers following a guide, who carries a colourful umbrella or wears an easily visible hat to ensure that no one becomes lost. They see the highlights of the city, all happily taking the same photos and eating at the same restaurants. The only other customers are, like themselves, visitors from overseas, as locals know they can eat better food much more cheaply elsewhere.

Of course, such tours are popular because most people want to see the same iconic sights and take photographs of themselves there. However, a new type of tour company is springing up, since some people want to discover hidden secrets rather than famous landmarks. These new tours are often run by locals who talk about why they consider the city to be their home.

Here are two examples of the kinds of tours on offer. Most people who visit Iceland want to see the geysers, black sand beaches and waterfalls. As an alternative, one company is offering tours of the capital Reykjavik which focus on the economic crash in 2008 that led to all three of the country's main banks going bankrupt. It is a fascinating tour, not only for those with an interest in finance, but for anyone who wants to find out about the country and its people. The tour is free for children, but probably not very interesting for them.

In Prague, where the main square and Charles Bridge can become almost impassable in the summer owing to the large numbers of visitors, you can book a tour of some of the city's less visited spots, all of which are led by people who have, at one time or another, been homeless. As they guide their small groups around the city, they tell their own stories as well as point out interesting places unknown to most visitors.

While such tours are popular, they do not attract sufficient numbers of tourists to transform the areas they visit into overcrowded tourist sights. Instead, the visitors blend into the neighbourhoods they visit and perhaps receive a better and more realistic understanding of the city they are visiting.

Questions

1. **Write a summary of the text in English, including the most important points, using your own words.** (approximately 50 words; 1 point)

Answers will vary.

2. **Indicate whether the following sentences are true or false (T/F) according to the text.** Copy that part (and ONLY that part) of the text which justifies your answer. (1 point; 0.25 each)
 - a. For the majority of tourists, a traditional guided tour goes to the places they want to see.
T "... such tours are popular because most people want to see the same iconic sights and take photographs of themselves there." (paragraph 2)
 - b. The "crash tour" won't be relevant to people who are not interested in finance.
F "It is a fascinating tour, not only for those with an interest in finance ..." (paragraph 3)
 - c. If you take the tour in Prague, you can be sure that you will be guided by someone who is currently homeless.
F "... all of which are led by people who have, at one time or another, been homeless." (paragraph 4)
 - d. The writer is worried about the effect the new type of tours may have on the neighbourhoods they visit.
F "... they do not attract sufficient numbers of tourists to transform the areas they visit ..." (paragraph 5)
3. **Find words and phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here.** (1 point; 0.25 each)
 - a. see **spot (paragraph 1)**
 - b. main attractions **highlights (paragraph 1)**
 - c. available to buy or use **on offer (paragraph 3)**
 - d. direct someone's attention to **point out (paragraph 4)**
4. **Pronunciation.** (1 point; 0.25 each)
 - a. Which one of these words contains the sound /əʊ/ as in "no"?
most, popular, tour, country
 - b. Which word has the stress on the first syllable?
themselves, attract, around, **highlights**
 - c. Which of these words contains the sound /i:/ as in "see"?
great, where, instead, **beaches**

- d. Write the word whose underlined letters are pronounced differently from the others.
neighbourhood, places, main, **companies**
5. **Complete the second sentence in each pair so that it has the same meaning as the first one. You must use the words or expression in *italics*.**
(1.5 points; 0.5 points each)
- a. You can spot the guides in all major cities.
It's easy to spot the guides in all major cities.
- b. This tour tells visitors about the economic crash in 2008 during which all three of the country's main banks went bankrupt.
The economic crash of 2008 was a time when all three of the country's main banks went bankrupt.
- c. It is the tourists themselves, not the places they walk through, who are transformed.
Tourists are transformed by walking through the(se) places.
6. **What are the advantages and disadvantages of going on a guided group tour?** (Approximately 120 words; 3 points)
Answers will vary.