

PART A. Comprehension questions on the text. Read the text and answer all the questions. (0,5 points each)

Pompeii Archaeological Park Limits Daily Visitors To Curb Over-Tourism New measures will introduce personalized tickets and restrict access to protect the UNESCO site from excessive foot traffic.

Another Italian tourist site is stepping up to combat over-tourism, as the Pompeii archaeological park has announced plans to limit daily visitors to 20,000, starting next week. This move aims to protect the ancient ruins from the impact of excessive foot traffic and preserve the world heritage site for future generations.

This decision stems from record-breaking visitor numbers during the recent summer, when over 4 million people flocked to the site, which remains famously buried under ash and rock since the eruption of Mount Vesuvius nearly 2,000 years ago. The park's director, Gabriel Zuchtriegel, noted, "We are working on a series of projects to lift the human pressure on the site, which could pose risks both for visitors and the heritage (that is) so unique and fragile."

Starting November 15, the park will introduce personalized tickets, requiring visitors to provide their full names. Each day, only 20,000 tickets will be made available, spaced out across different time slots, particularly during peak summer months. The idea is to more effectively manage foot traffic and safety concerns, making sure visitors can enjoy the wonder of Pompeii without overwhelming this historically significant landmark.

Zuchtriegel emphasized the commitment to promoting slow and sustainable tourism. He stated, "We are aiming for slow, sustainable, pleasant and non-mass tourism and above all widespread throughout the territory around the UNESCO site, which is full of cultural jewels to discover." This approach includes enticing tourists to explore surrounding sites connected to Pompeii through free shuttle services, part of the "Greater Pompeii" initiative, which encompasses locations like Stabia, Torre Annunziata, and Boscoreale.

It's worth noting, the rise of post-pandemic travel has seen significant increases in the number of visitors at various famous tourist hotspots. This resurgence has often led to

concerns about the negative impacts of mass tourism, including disruptions to local communities, environmental degradation, and transportation issues.

The efforts taken at Pompeii echo actions being implemented at other tourist-heavy locations across Italy. For example, Venice recently warned of impending “irreversible damage” due to its massive annual number of visitors—approximately 30 million—and has adopted measures like the introduction of a day-trip entry fee and restrictions on large tour groups. Similar initiatives are underway at other prominent Italian sites, showing how the country is grappling with the challenge of balancing tourism with preservation.

Meanwhile, as Pompeii prepares for its new rules, visitors and locals alike are hopeful these measures will allow everyone to appreciate the ancient city's unique cultural offerings without the detrimental effects of over-tourism. The changes reflect broader sentiments within the tourism sector, calling for more responsible and sustainable practices as towns and cities strive to maintain their historic integrity.

A1. Find in the text one word that means the same (synonym) as “worries” (noun).

Concerns.

A2. Find in the text one word that means the opposite (antonym) of “recent” (adjective).

Ancient.

A3. Choose and write the correct answer.

1. What is the main reason Pompeii is limiting the number of visitors?

a) To increase ticket prices.

**b) To protect the site from over-tourism and excessive foot traffic.**

c) To promote mass tourism.

2. What is one initiative Pompeii is using to manage tourism?

a) Offering free entry on certain days.

**b) Introducing personalized tickets with specific time slots.**

c) Building more hotels near the site.

PART B. Use of English. Choose the correct answer. You must choose and answer only 4 out of the 6 questions below (0.5 points each).

3. \_\_\_\_\_ women live longer than \_\_\_\_\_ men.

a) The/the b) The/-- c) --/--

4. The local team \_\_\_\_\_ by the visiting team in an exciting match.

a) were beaten b) were beaten c) **was beaten**

5. The bad news made \_\_\_\_\_ desperately.

a) her to cry b) **her cry** c) cry her

6. I will lend you the money \_\_\_\_\_ you can pay your bills.

a) such that b) because c) **so that**

7. Chloe and Mike should be here already. They are late, \_\_\_\_\_?

a) are they? b) **aren't they?** c) don't they

8. Jim has read \_\_\_\_\_ book in the library.

a) **every** b) all c) many

PART C. Write an essay of 150-180 words on ONE of the following subjects (6 points):

A- Do you think that measures should be taken to fight over-tourism, or, on the contrary, do you believe that people should be allowed to access heritage sites with no restrictions? Discuss your preference in detail, stating its advantages and disadvantages.

Over-tourism has become a major problem for many famous heritage sites worldwide. I believe measures should definitely be taken to control the number of visitors and protect these places. One major advantage of limiting tourist access is that it helps preserve the site's historical and cultural value. For example, Pompeii's decision to limit visitors to 20,000 a day is aimed at reducing damage caused by excessive foot traffic. Without restrictions, the site could suffer irreversible harm, losing its unique features for future generations.

However, some people argue that restrictions might limit access and reduce the enjoyment of those who want to visit. It could also impact local businesses that depend on tourism. But in my opinion, sustainable tourism

benefits everyone in the long run by ensuring the site remains beautiful and safe.

In conclusion, while managing tourism may cause some inconvenience, the advantages of protecting cultural heritage far outweigh the disadvantages. Therefore, I support taking action against over-tourism.

B- Six months ago, you bought an expensive new smartphone that has stopped working properly. Write an email complaining to the customer service of the company. Provide as many details as possible: describe the problem, explain why you think that you are entitled to compensation, and state what you expect from the company.

Dear Customer Service,

I am writing to complain about a smartphone I purchased from your company six months ago (Model: XPhone 12, Order Number: 123456). Unfortunately, the phone has recently started to malfunction. The battery drains rapidly, the touchscreen freezes frequently, and the camera quality has significantly deteriorated.

I believe I am entitled to compensation because the phone is still under warranty, and these issues appeared well before the expected lifespan. I have taken good care of the device and have not caused any physical damage.

I kindly request a full repair or replacement of the smartphone as soon as possible. Additionally, I would appreciate information on how to proceed with the warranty claim and the estimated time for resolution.

Sincerely,