

# Exam-style questions and sample responses: directed writing

## Key skills

You will need to show the following skills in extended response to reading tasks:

- Select key points from a source text.
- Show that you understand explicit and implicit meanings in a text.
- Compare and contrast ideas from two texts.
- Synthesise and evaluate points.
- Choose an appropriate structure for your response.
- Write paragraphs to clearly convey your viewpoint.

## Your task

- 1 Read the task and the passage that follows it. Then write your response to the task in 250–350 words.

Write a speech to be given to students at your school about the effects of global tourism.

In your speech, you should:

- evaluate the views given in the text about the effects of tourism
- give your own views, based on what you have read, about tourism to beautiful or historical places, and how it should be dealt with.

Base your speech on what you have read in the text, but be careful to use your own words. Address both of the bullet points.

Begin your speech: 'Thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk about this important issue...'

## Text A

## Mass tourism is at a tipping point – but we're all part of the problem

By Martin Kettle

Nearly 30 years ago, [...] I interviewed the zoologist, Desmond Morris. During that interview, Morris said something that was hard to forget. "We have to recognise," he said, "that human beings may be becoming an infestation on the planet."

5 Those words came back to me as reports came in about the increasing reaction in many parts of Europe against the depredations of mass tourism. Last week I read a stress-inducing story in *The Times* about appalling passport-check delays at Milan airport; three days later, I walked through those selfsame passport gates with only a brief and courteous check.

10 Nevertheless, when places from the Mediterranean to the Isle of Skye all start complaining more or less simultaneously about the sheer pressure of tourist numbers in their streets and beauty spots, as has happened this August, it feels as if the always uneasy balance between the visited and the visitors has gone beyond a tipping point.

20 [...]

Predictably, Venice is one of the most agonisingly pressured of all. It embodies the increasingly irreconcilable forces of vernacular life, tourism and sustainability in historic parts of Europe. But that doesn't stop the millions arriving all the time – 28 million this year, in a city with a population of 55 000, many disembarking from monstrous cruise ships that dwarf the ancient city as they approach the Grand Canal. Each day in summer is a humiliation of most of the things the world treasures about Venice. Not surprisingly, 30 many locals have had enough.

But these are only the hot spots. The tourism problem runs far wider. Human beings across the world make more than a billion foreign trips a year, twice as many as 20 years ago. In Britain, statistics this week show we took 45 million 35 foreign holidays last year, a 68% increase on 1996. And foreign trips cut both ways. Many of those who were



interviewed in the media when the narrow road to Glen Brittle on Skye became jammed with traffic this week were European visitors, attracted not just by the scenery but by  
40 the advantageous exchange rate.

The problem shows itself in both supply and demand. There isn't enough room for the many to walk through the centre of Dubrovnik, or enough public [toilets] on Skye for the visitors. But the number of people wanting to visit such  
45 places is rising all the time, fed by greater global prosperity, cheaper air travel and increased overall provision of hotels worldwide. Tourism is now the largest employer on the planet. One in every 11 people relies on the industry for work. Unsurprisingly, few governments want to put a  
50 squeeze on such a source of wealth.

[...]

It would be wonderful if governments could find effective ways to at least mitigate the worst problems. Some, such as those of Thailand and Bhutan, have been bold, even  
55 though most restrictions hit hardest at the less well-off and are most easily circumvented by the rich. The role of government action to ensure adequate and appropriate infrastructure in tourist areas is indisputable.

In the end, though, I think we have to take greater  
60 individual responsibility too. [...]

We have to re-examine the idea that we enjoy an unfettered liberty to travel at will or for pleasure. We have to rethink the impulse that says that a holiday from work – or retirement from work – is an open sesame to exploring  
65 the world. We should learn [...] that one can travel as much – and develop as much as a human being – in one's own locality as in the far-flung and exotic corners of the globe. Travel broadens the mind, they say. But is the person whose air-conditioned tour bus whisks them to a distant glacier  
70 in Patagonia or to the Mona Lisa for a quick selfie before depositing them at a characterless international hotel richer in experience than the one who spends the same amount of time watching the birds or the butterflies in the back garden? I doubt it. We may not be an infestation yet. But we are a  
75 problem. Travel can narrow the mind too.

*From The Guardian*

# Exploring responses

Now read this example response to the task.

## Response 1

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk about this important issue. I can see that tourism is on the increase and it needs to be looked at.

It is really clear that lots more people are now travelling around the world. So, this means lots of delays at airports, plus more people going to beauty spots and famous places. Like Venice where there are these monstrous cruise ships which must be very ugly to look at.

But it isn't just famous places but also places like Skye in Britain which are being spoiled by traffic jams. It is awful when a place like this is ruined because of visitors.

Also, there are places like Dubrovnik where you can't even walk in the centre because there are too many people.

But people want to travel, and I want to travel when I'm older. It's so much cheaper now and hotels are much better. Plus tourism makes a lot of money for cities and countries so that mustn't stop. Lots of people work in tourism, about 1 in 11 people.

So we all need to think hard before we take a holiday to some lovely place like Venice or Thailand. Because the traffic and the number of people will make it a bit unreal, not like it's supposed to be. Perhaps we won't enjoy it as much as staying at home, because we must not forget that there is a lot to do and see in our own country.  
Thank you.

vocabulary is repetitive and limited

words taken directly from text

personal view but no real sense of audience

### Feedback

This response does deal with both sides of the issue at a basic level and sums up some of the key points made, but there is little attempt at synthesising them and drawing conclusions. There is also little sense that the speaker is trying to connect with the school audience.

- 2 Identify three further things in this response that could be improved. Use the 'Excellent progress points' on page 214 to help you.

Now read the second sample response.

## Response 2

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk about this important issue. The gift of being able to travel the world is one I'm sure we all look forward to as we get older, but we need to question its effect.

The fact is that global tourism has seen a huge increase and this has had a profound effect on the world's most popular destinations. Venice, for example, sees 28 million visitors a year, many arriving on ugly cruise ships. I ask you – is this the best backdrop for such an ancient city? The sheer weight of traffic is also a major problem, with roads like the ones to the pretty Isle of Skye getting clogged up, and so too is the fact that people are unable to walk through the centre of popular cities due to the staggering number of visitors.

What does this mean for us as young people? It is difficult because on the one hand I don't want to visit places that are so overwhelmed you cannot even see the sights, but I do want to expand my horizons. I also recognize that such tourism has benefits too: there is a good chance, for example, that one in every eleven of us in this room will end up with a job in tourism. And every government is pleased with the money tourism brings in.

Ultimately, I think the issue of what sort of travel we want is important. Will staying in a dull modern hotel and taking a few snaps on your phone as you battle the hordes really satisfy you? When we leave school, we have a choice – to blindly follow the crowd or do something different. As young people, we can blaze a trail for how we want travel to look in the coming years. For my part, I'm going to begin by getting to know my own country first – on foot or bicycle. I hope you do too.

develops the point and responds to it from a personal perspective

synthesises points from both texts

clear expression of viewpoint and intentions

### Feedback

This response covers the task in a logical way, addressing each of the bullet points and demonstrating a good understanding of audience and purpose. The writer successfully evaluates the points raised in the text and synthesises them to provide a clear, concise analysis in their own words.

# Check your progress

## Extended response to reading



### Good progress

- I can understand the main ideas and points from a source extract.
- I can express ideas clearly and in a straightforward way, although they may not be well developed.
- I can use some details and examples to back up my ideas.
- I can focus on some of the bullets in the task.
- I can use some conventions of a speech.
- I can include a basic 'voice' in my writing that sometimes evokes a sense of personality.
- I can sequence my writing well and choose a broadly effective structure.
- I often get spelling, punctuation and grammar right.



### Excellent progress

- I can look closely at a text and show my opinions about it.
- I can include well-developed and sustained ideas, using convincing and effective language to express these ideas.
- I can use examples and details to add power and purpose to my response.
- I can address all the bullet points listed in the task.
- I can use the conventions of a speech effectively.
- I can recreate a convincing voice that reflects someone's personality and sustain this throughout my writing.
- I can organise my ideas to have an effect on the audience.
- I almost always get spelling, punctuation and grammar right.

## Directed writing



### Good progress

- I can sometimes write using the conventions of a specified form.
- I can organise my response, sometimes choosing words that are powerful.
- I can sometimes use language appropriate to my audience.
- I can generally use accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.



### Excellent progress

- I can write in a variety of forms, using conventions appropriately.
- I can organise my ideas to influence the reader.
- I can choose words for their impact and effect.
- I can consistently use language to engage and influence my audience.
- I can use consistently accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.