

## N G L A I S

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Although mass tourism might seem to be an instrument for promoting peace and understanding among nations and friendship among people, its growth has been viewed in some circles with great concern. Many people feel that exposure to hordes of visitors is bound to alter popular attitudes and beliefs, that tourism changes mentalities and spreads new concepts relating to work, money and human relationships and destroys the ties that bind the people to their religions and ethics. In short, tourism is seen as a factor of acculturation in the worst sense of the term, and even of moral decay.

For Tunisia, tourism is something that has developed recently. Until independence, the Tunisian Hotel industry was insignificant. Nowadays, over a million and a half tourists visit the country each year. Naturally, certain regions tend to be more heavily invaded than others. On the island of Djerba every single person depends on tourism, either directly or indirectly, for his or her livelihood. In Hammamet, more than half the local families are engaged in it. As there is no tradition of tourism, as such, in these regions, the phenomenon tends to look like a more or less well-planned invasion [ ò ]

Tourism was introduced in Tunisia deliberately. Tunisians realized that vacation facilities, sun and sea, are as much consumer product as anything else and can be marketed. With the incentives given to the construction industry and through use of the plentiful supply of semi-skilled labor, the hotel industry very soon proved itself able to alleviate the serious problem of chronic underemployment. As it turns out, job creation in the tourism sector costs as little as one twentieth of the investments required in the traditional industrial sector.

But, little by little, we have been obliged to face up the impact that tourism has had on our attitudes, our beliefs and our outlook on life. According to the traditional concept of relations between people, the bonds of hospitality are sacred. Drinking and eating together creates mystic relationships; and hospitality is a communion from which grow lasting ties. However, our foreign visitors are guests of a different kind. They are no longer passers-by sent by providence. They are sent to us in mass by travel agencies . quantity dilutes quality. A close relationship between host and guest is no longer possible.

But there is something even more important. With the advent of tourism, the fundamental patterns of the consumer-society are infiltrating our own society. The tourists are Westerners on vacation who come here for a week of leisure to get away from the year's accumulation of fatigue and worry. The tourist is a worker who has escaped, after slaving all year, his life-style. One might say that tourism introduces the behavior of a wasteful society into the midst of a society of want. The rift between rich and poor societies here is no longer merely a theoretical scandal based on academic analysis. It is an everyday reality.

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Mass Tourism and cultural traditions  
By Abdelwahab Bouhdiba

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s)

A. 1. **Choose the most appropriate title for the text** (1 mark)

- a. Tourism and the bonds of hospitality
- b. The negative impact of tourism in Tunisia
- c. Tourism in Tunisia . pros and cons
- d. Mass tourism and friendship

B. **Fill in the gaps with words from the indicated paragraphs of the text.** (2 marks)

Tourism is undeniably a source of economic prosperity for Tunisia. It has (2)  .. (par.3) one of the key sectors in which profit margins have been sufficiently large to attract both national and (3)  .. (par. 4) capital. However tourism is increasingly seen today to have complex and sometimes unexpected cultural side effects on local populations as the contact with tourists eagerly in search of 4.  . (par. 5) and pleasure is thought to threaten their values and their (5).  (par. 3-4)

C. **Say whether the following statements are true or false. Justify with a specific quotation from the text. Circle T or F** (2 marks)

- 6. Tourism has always been developed in Tunisia.  
T/F
- 7. In the text, the author mainly deals with the inconvenience of tourism.  
T/F
- 8. Tunisians still have a close relationship with tourists.  
T/F
- 9. Tourism has hardly affected the population's mentalities and attitudes.  
T/F

D. **List two reasons why tourists leave their country to visit another country** (1 mark)

- 10.
- 11.

E. **Complete the following chart referring to the text** (2 marks)

Advantages	Drawbacks
12. <input type="text"/>	Change of mentalities, beliefs and attitudes
Development of hotel infrastructures	13. <input type="text"/>

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F. Two friends Ahma and Benbeda are discussing the advent of mass tourism in Tunisia. Complete their conversation accordingly (2.5 marks)

**Ahma** : There are many people in Tunisia who have taken bad habits from tourists. What a shame!

**Benbeda** : Sure! I wish they (14).

**Ahma** : Young people shouldn't copy the tourists' lifestyle, (15).

**Benbeda** : Yes, you're right. Our traditions are (16).

**Ahma** : But we must recognize that tourists contribute a lot to the local economy.

**Benbeda** : (17).

**Ahma** : In buying our local products and spending a lot of money on leisure activities.

**Benbeda** : However, they are accused of (18).

**Ahma** : That's quite true, we have the example of AIDS.

G. Write the correct form of the words in brackets to make a meaningful text (2 marks)

Tourism provides an opportunity for (19)  (friend) dialogue between people of different cultures. Therefore it should be more an encounter than a tour, (20)  . (particular) for tourists who set foot in a country for the first time. They do not always live up to our (21)  (expect) (22).  (bad) of all, they avoid contact with local people and criticize their traditions.

H. Complete this passage by using the verbs in brackets in the suitable form (1.5 marks)

Nowadays a lot of infrastructures (23)  (build) for the development of tourism. Some countries (24)  . (invest) a lot of money in this sector for years now (25);  . (attract) hordes of visitors is one of their top priorities.

III. WRITING

Choose ONE of the two topics and write about 150-200 words

Topic 1

It is generally said that tourism is a source of acculturation, moral decay and depravation. What do you think of this statement?

Topic 2 Letter writing

Nowadays, it is reported that the number of tourists is decreasing in Senegal. Write a letter to the Ministry of Tourism to tell them the causes of such a decrease and make some suggestions to boost up this sector.