



Part 1: Comprehension

Report

Read the text.

Venice

Venice, in north-east Italy, is a beautiful and unique city. Built on 118 small islands in a lagoon in the Adriatic Sea, it is the only major city with no roads, just a network of canals and pathways linked by over 400 bridges.

Places of interest

Among the many sights in Venice is the central square, St Mark's Square. On one side of the square stands St Mark's Basilica, a cathedral whose Campanile Bell Tower offers spectacular views of the city's red roofs from the top. Other iconic places include the Rialto Bridge over the Grand Canal, a thoroughfare lined with elegant palaces. The equally famous Bridge of Sighs once led to the state prison. It is believed that the bridge got its name because the 'sighs' were the prisoners' last breaths of freedom.

City under threat

Venice is at risk from flooding because of the rising water levels and subsidence of the land on which it is built. When high tides combine with winds from the south and east, the waters of the lagoon rise. This creates the 'aqua alta' (high water), flooding the city. Some people believe Venice is also threatened by the 20 million tourists flooding into the city every year. However, tourism is important for the city's economy. After years of conflict, in 2017, officials finally banned the giant cruise ships full of tourists that had streamed past St Mark's Square, spoiling the views.

Venice is a magical city, captured by many artists over the ages. It is hoped that it will be preserved for future generations.



A. Tick the correct answers.

1. Why is Venice a unique city?

- It is beautiful.
- It has a network of canals.
- It has no roads.
- It floods.

2. Which of these is NOT listed in the report as a place of interest?

- St Mark's Basilica
- Rialto Bridge
- Doge's Palace
- Bridge of Sighs

B. Answer the questions.

1. Why might people climb the Campanile Bell Tower?

2. How did the Bridge of Sighs get its name?

3. Explain what causes the floods in Venice.

4. Why does Venice need visitors?

5. Why did people disagree about banning the cruise ships, do you think?

a
b c

Part 2: Vocabulary

Tick the word nearest in meaning to the underlined word.

- The old house was in an isolated spot.
 - lonely
 - busy
 - pretty
 - scary
- We had a harrowing time when the house flooded.
 - easy
 - life-threatening
 - relaxing
 - upsetting
- The new machinery is functioning well.
 - creating
 - built
 - working
 - installed
- She stared at the hotel's antiquated furniture.
 - spacious
 - old-fashioned
 - modern
 - comfortable
- 'You constantly watch TV!' exclaimed Mum.
 - enjoy
 - never
 - always
 - all
- She is a competent musician.
 - capable
 - inexpert
 - conceited
 - famous
- Please keep your belongings secure on holiday.
 - visible
 - safe
 - hidden
 - together
- The tornado pulverised the island's buildings.
 - facilitated
 - destroyed
 - supported
 - hindered



Part 3: Word study and Phonics

A. Choose the correct prefixes to complete the words.

anti- trans- quad- sub-

- The _____marine sank deep into the ocean.
- The car needs _____freeze in winter.
- The man desperately needs a kidney _____plant.
- She needed _____biotics when she was ill.
- The cute _____ruplets all looked the same.

B. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- _____ is an antonym for 'grow'. (Shrink, Enlarge, Gain)
- 'The storm was a raging beast' is a _____. (simile, metaphor, alliteration)
- _____ is an example of onomatopoeia. (Whoosh, Went, Beautiful)

