



Prova d'accés a la Universitat (2006)

Selectivitat

Anglès

Model 3

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions in English. USE YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

Time allowed: 1 hour and 30 minutes. Total score: 10 points.

Saving the world in a weekend

For everyone who has ever wanted to volunteer abroad but never quite found the time comes a new type of holiday: the charity short-break. Traditionally, going away to do charity work has meant taking a sabbatical, renting out the house, and putting family life on hold. Now, a growing number of charities and travel companies are offering quick trips to do good works.

'There is a definite shift towards people wanting to help overseas, but also wanting to incorporate their trip into their annual leave,' says Sarah Horner, head of communications at i-to-i, a travel company specialising in volunteer programmes.

I-to-i has already offered some weekend volunteering trips and is currently looking into several more possibilities, including dolphin conservation in the Canaries and looking after baboons in Cape Town. Independent charities are also encouraging short-term volunteers. The Mona Foundation, a small chimpanzee sanctuary near Barcelona, has recognised the market and is inviting volunteers to come for just one long weekend. After two days spent cleaning and feeding the chimps, participants have a day free to visit Girona or Barcelona.

But are tourists just trying to appease their consciences? Liz Harris, a 25-year-old PA from Leeds, is convinced that her work was appreciated on an animal conservation project in South Africa. 'Knowing I was only there for a week really motivated me to give it my all,' she says. Moreover, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, says weekenders often end up getting hooked. 'Many people want to get a taste of volunteering over a weekend,' said a spokeswoman. 'But they may well then go on to do a whole week or fortnight another time.'

It looks as though 'How was your weekend?' conversations in the office are about to get a lot more interesting.

Adapted from 'The Guardian', February 26, 2006

Vocabulary: PA = abbreviation for 'personal assistant.'

1. Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Explain WHY using your own words OR finding evidence in the text. NO marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (1 point)

- The charity short-break involves taking a sabbatical to do good works.
- I-to-i is a high-technology industry which encourages volunteering over a weekend.
- Liz Harris, a short-term volunteer from Leeds, was really motivated to do her charity work.
- Many weekenders often want to repeat the experience and continue volunteering another time.

2. In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer the following questions. (2 points)

- What kind of work do volunteers do at The Mona Foundation?
- Why does the author think 'How was your weekend?' conversations in the office are about to get more interesting?

3. Find in the text words or phrases which mean the same as the following (1 point):

- 1) a change in position or direction 2) taking care of 3) to be addicted, obsessed 4) two weeks



4) Finish each sentence so that it means the same as the sentence before it. (2 points)

a) 'Unfortunately, they've just sold the last ticket.'

Unfortunately, the last ticket ...

b) 'I'm afraid he doesn't like flying very much.'

I'm afraid he's not very keen ...

c) 'I've never had such a busy day.'

I've never been ...

d) 'We won't go on holiday unless we have enough money.'

If ...

5. Choose ONLY ONE of the following options. (4 points)

Write a composition of 120-150 words on:

a) Describe the best holiday you have ever had. What made it so enjoyable? Explain.

b) What places in the world would you like to visit one day? Explain why you would like to go to each of them.