

Unit 1 *Living abroad* Progress Test

Name: _____

Part 1 Reading

Task 1

10 points

Read the article below about culture shock.

Are sentences 1-10 right or wrong?

If there is no information in the text to answer 'Right' or 'Wrong', choose 'Doesn't say'.

You are a young university graduate hoping to get your first work experience abroad. Or perhaps you have decided to make a lifestyle change later in life and take your skills and experience abroad. Maybe you have just found yourself transferred overseas as your company broadens its scope on the international stage. Whatever the circumstances, there are many professional, personal and social benefits to be gained by the experience of living and working abroad. You should also be aware, though, that you will probably suffer from culture shock at some point. There are different feelings associated with culture shock, and most people go through some or all of the stages described below, though not necessarily in the same order.

1 Fascination This is the exciting part of culture shock, when everything seems wonderful, exotic and exciting. When you first arrive your priority will, naturally, be to deal with practical considerations such as registering with a doctor and sorting out your new accommodation, but it's also important to take this opportunity to get out and enjoy the new culture in which you find yourself.

2 Frustration Once the initial thrill of being in a new culture has passed, even the simplest aspects of life abroad can feel difficult and annoying. Topping up your mobile phone, using your credit card, paying the domestic bills - all these things are often done slightly differently in other countries, and this can suddenly feel frustrating and difficult. You may find yourself thinking, 'Why don't they do it here the way we do it in my country?' This can affect your professional life too, if you find yourself feeling irritated by work habits and customs that are very different from those that you are used to.

3 Depression For some people, frustration can turn to depression. Stress, anxiety and even flu-like symptoms can make life very difficult, and may affect how well you perform your duties at work. This stage is the hardest to deal with, but fortunately not everyone who works abroad experiences it.

4 Adaptation It takes longer for some people than others, but at some point you will adapt to the new culture, and enjoy it on a deeper level than at the fascination stage. Most

people who adapt successfully are those who make the effort to learn at least some of the language, find out about local customs and social etiquette, and make friends with local people.

5 Re-adjustment If your work abroad is a temporary placement, there is one more stage to go through. Just as you have adapted to life abroad, it's time to return home. And at that point, you are faced with a different kind of culture shock – re-adjusting to life in your home country again.

1 University graduates often spend some time working abroad.

A Right **B** Wrong **C** Doesn't say

2 Culture shock affects all people in the same way.

A Right **B** Wrong **C** Doesn't say

3 More people are working abroad than in the past.

A Right **B** Wrong **C** Doesn't say

4 Working abroad can help you develop personally as well as professionally.

A Right **B** Wrong **C** Doesn't say

5 All foreign workers experience fascination, frustration and depression before they adapt to a new culture.

A Right **B** Wrong **C** Doesn't say

6 When moving to a new country, you should try to enjoy the excitement of the new culture as well as making practical arrangements.

A Right **B** Wrong **C** Doesn't say

7 Cultural differences in working practices can be frustrating for workers abroad.

A Right **B** Wrong **C** Doesn't say

8 If depression makes you feel ill when you live abroad you should visit a doctor.

A Right **B** Wrong **C** Doesn't say

9 Trying to learn even a few words of the local language can help you adapt.

A Right **B** Wrong **C** Doesn't say

10 Re-adjustment is the final stage of culture shock for everyone who goes to work in another country.

A Right **B** Wrong **C** Doesn't say

Task 2
10 points

Complete the text about looking for work abroad with words from the box.

ladder ° recruitment ° placement ° candidates ° process subject ° shortlisted ° cover ° attend ° foreign

‘When you graduate from university, many of you may feel that your degree (11) _____ hasn’t really prepared you to make the first step onto the career (12) _____. A work (13) _____ abroad can be a great solution, offering you the chance to combine hands-on work experience with the adventure of (14) _____ travel. A word of advice: once you’ve chosen where you want to look for work, it’s a good idea to find out about the application (15) _____. For example, you need to know whether to send a (16) _____ letter with your CV. It’s also good to know how many interviews you will be invited to (17) _____, if you are fortunate enough to be one of the (18) _____ to be (19) _____. Alternatively, you could use an international (20) _____ agency, who will help you with all these things as well as informing you what jobs are available internationally.’

Part 2 Writing

Task 1

5 points

Write an email based on the following brief. Write about 30-40 words.

You have received an email from Angela Gonzalez giving information about the International Medical Convention in Bogotá from October 14 to 19.

Write an email to Angela

- saying that you are going to attend the convention
- explaining that you cannot stay for all five days
- asking Angela to make a reservation at a hotel.

To: Angela Gonzalez
Cc:
Subject: International Medicine Conference
Dear Angela

Task 2
5 points

Join the question and answer to make one complete sentence, adding words and changing the grammar as necessary.

1 'What time do you generally start work?' '8.45 a.m.'

We _____.

2 'When do the managers usually have meetings?' 'The afternoon.'

The managers _____.

3 'When do you usually go on holiday?' 'June.'

He _____.

4 'When does the factory close?' 'Christmas Day.'

It _____.

5 'When do you relax?' 'The weekend.'

She _____.

Part 3 Listening

Task 1 / Recording 1.3

7 points

Listen to Jean Marc talking about his experience of working abroad. For each question 1-7, fill in the missing information with a word or a number.

Kind of work

Jean-Marc works abroad for ten months every year, giving medical help after natural

(1) _____ such as droughts and tsunamis. His work is very exciting as he

(2) _____ knows where he's going next.

Present work

He is working on a very small (3) _____ in Indonesia. The journey there takes

(4) _____ days by plane and boat. He is working in a medical centre, giving

treatment to (5) _____ people and teaching the children about the importance of

(6) _____ water.

Future plans

Jean-Marc plans to spend (7) _____ weeks travelling round Indonesia before he starts his next job.

Task 2 / Recording 1.23

8 points

Listen to Dana and Heidi from a global recruitment company talking about four candidates for a job, Tomas Visser (Dutch), Panayota Mitropoulos (Greek), Miroslav Kalata (Slovakian) and Francesca Di Ponti (Italian). Which candidate is each statement about? Write T, P, M or F on the line. You will hear the recording twice.

1 _____ worked well on his/her own.

2 _____ was a very good student.

3 _____ was very hardworking.

4 _____ is very creative.

5 _____ was popular with the other members of staff.

6 _____ has a lot of experience as a manager.

7 _____ produces some great things on his/her website.

8 _____ was really good at his/her job.

Part 4 Speaking

5 points

Prepare a *one-minute* presentation on *one* of these topics. You have *one minute* to prepare your talk.

A

What is important when applying for a job abroad?

- CV and cover letter format
- Interview style

B What is important when living abroad?

- Practical matters (bank, doctor, etc)
- Learning about the culture

C What is important when making small talk?

- What subjects to discuss
- How to begin and end the conversation