

**IELTS General Practice Paper**  
**IELTS General Reading Practice Paper**

*Read the information below and answer the questions*

**Self-Catering Holiday Cottages in the Lake District National Park**

At Lilliput Farm we have three cottages for rent as self-catering holiday accommodation. We have been awarded 4 stars in the Holiday Accommodation Accreditation Service for excellence in quality and service.

Dairymaid's Loft is situated above the barn under the eaves. It is the largest of the properties, having one double bedroom with en suite, a twin room and a single room. There is also a sofa-bed in the living room. There is a large kitchen, a living room, dining room and newly-fitted bathroom. Please note that, since the entire property is on the first floor, and the stairs are steep, the accommodation is not suitable for the elderly, the infirm, pets and very young children.

Shepherd's Rest is suitable for up to four occupants. There is a double bedroom and a twin room with bunk-beds. There is a small kitchen and a large living room. There is a shower room with separate WC. The accommodation is spread over two floors. Pets are allowed, but we request that they are kept downstairs.

Haymaker's Den is a one-bedroom cottage at ground floor level. There is also a sofa bed in the living room which can sleep two people. It has a large living area comprising a kitchen/diner and living space. There is a ramp leading up to the property, and the large bathroom is fitted so as to be suitable for wheelchair users and people who use walking aids. We ask that pets are not brought into this property.

All the properties have: a television, CD player and DVD player. Dairymaid's Loft and Haymaker's Den have Sky Television. Shepherd's Rest has wi-fi access. Cots can be provided to all properties, but please note that Dairymaid's Loft may be unsuitable for toddlers and crawling babies. All properties have a washing machine, fridge freezer and microwave. Dairymaid's Loft also has a dishwasher and a tumble drier.

The cottages share an outside area with swings, a patio and barbecue area. Outdoor furniture is available in the barn.

All cottages have electric power. None are fitted with gas. Electricity is paid via a meter. You will receive a £10 worth of electricity at the beginning of your stay with our compliments (£5 for short breaks). After that, you will need to add money to the meter. Shepherd's Rest also has a

wood-burning stove. Guests will receive one complimentary basket of wood. Subsequent baskets can be purchased for £2 each. Please help yourself to wood in the barn and put money in the honesty box.

Cottages can be booked by the week or for short breaks. Short breaks are either Fridays – Mondays (3 nights) or Mondays to Fridays (4 nights). Discounts are available in the low season (October to March). Couples staying in Dairymaid's Loft and Shepherd's Rest can also get a two-person discount. Week-long bookings are on a Saturday – Saturday basis. We regret that it is not possible to accommodate arrivals on Fridays. We ask that guests arrive after 3pm and vacate the property by 10.30 on their departure date, so allow us to clean and prepare the properties for the next guests.

To make a booking, you will need to make a deposit of fifty percent up front. The remainder is payable one month before your arrival. (If you make a booking less than a month in advance, you must pay the entire amount up front). If you need to cancel your stay, you will receive a complete refund if you contact us 30 days in advance of your booking. Cancellations made two weeks in advance will receive a 60% discount. We regret that we cannot give a discount for cancellations made less than two weeks in advance.

1. Which of the cottages is most suitable for the following guests?

An elderly couple, one of whom uses a walking frame?

2. A family of two adults and two children, the youngest being 3 years old?

3. A group of six young adults.

4. Someone who wants to use the internet during their stay.

5. Someone who doesn't want to wash up while on holiday.

6. A family with a dog.

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the passage?

**TRUE** - if the statement agrees with the information

**FALSE** - if the statement contradicts the information

**NOT GIVEN** - if there is no information on this

7. Guests have to pay extra for all the electricity they use.

8. Each property has its own garden.

9. Dairymaid's Loft costs less to rent if only two people stay there in December.

10. There are no electric heaters in Shepherd's Rest.

**Complete the spaces using *no more than three words or a number*.**

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- Guests staying for a weekend should arrive on a \_\_\_\_\_.

- Guests staying for a full week should arrive on a \_\_\_\_\_.
- If you book two weeks before your stay, you must pay \_\_\_\_\_% of the cost at once.
- To get all your money back, you must cancel your stay at least \_\_\_\_\_ in advance.

## **Border Regulations and Visa Applications**

If you wish to come to the United Kingdom, either as a visitor or a student, you may need to apply for a visa. Visas vary according to your age, the length of your stay and your level of English study.

The following visa types are available:

- A. Child Student
- B. Child Visitor
- C. Adult Student
- D. Student Visitor
- E. Prospective Student

The UK operates a points-based system which will decide whether or not you can apply for a visa. You need 40 points in order to apply for a visa. You will obtain 30 points if you have confirmation from the college, university or school that you have been accepted on a course. Your chosen place of studies must be registered on the UK Border Agency list of sponsors. You can obtain a list by clicking on the link below.

You will need to earn a further 10 by demonstrating that you cover the cost of your study fees and living costs. In doing so, you can rest assured that you will avoid financial difficulties while you are studying.

If you wish to extend your study experience in the UK, you will need to pass a further points-based assessment to ensure that you have been accepted on another course and that you can afford to pay the fees and living costs.

To make your UK study experience even richer, you may be eligible for a work and study visa. Getting a job while you are studying can improve your language skills and enhance your CV by showing that you are flexible, team-oriented and well-organised. You will also be able to get a reference from your employer which will help you gain employment in the future. Before accepting a job, you must find out whether your visa allows you to work in the UK, and the maximum number of hours you can work each week from the UK Border Agency. Most UK places of study have a career service which will help you to access job listings, write a CV or application form and prepare for a job interview.

To work in the UK you will need a National Insurance number. This number is used to deduct money from your earnings to fund benefits for the unemployed, incapacitated and retired. To obtain a national insurance number, you will need to attend an interview. You can make an appointment for an interview by calling 0845 600 0643 during usual office hours. You will need to take proof of identity, proof of your right to work in the UK and written proof of your job offer. You may start work before your number is issued as long as your employer deducts the appropriate national insurance contributions from your pay.

1.

*Each of the short paragraphs below gives information about the five types of visa A-E. Read each paragraph and choose which of the five links would contain this information. There is one paragraph that you do not need.*

**paragraph i.** If you have already completed a course of study in the UK and do not intend to study further, you can apply for this visa to extend your stay. This visa allows you to work in the UK for a further 6 months.

**paragraph ii.** If you are under the age of 17 and wish to study for less than six months, you can apply for this visa. If you wish to extend your course of study, you may not swap to a student visa while you are in the UK. You must return to your home country and do so there.

**paragraph iii.** Students in post-16 education can apply for this visa. This visa is suitable for students attending courses for over six months. Holders of this visa may be eligible to work in the UK.

**paragraph iv.** Students over the age of 18 who wish to study for up to six months can apply for this visa. This visa does not allow students to work in the UK. Students may only extend their visa or switch to a student visa by returning to their home country.

**paragraph v.** You can apply for this visa if you are between the ages of 4 and 15 and intend to attend a full-time, fee-paying independent school for a period of over six months or more. 16 and 17 year olds may attend part-time, fee-paying establishments.

**paragraph vi.** If you want to come to the UK before choosing your course of study, you can apply for this visa. You will need to start your course within 6 months of arrival. You may switch to an adult or child student visa while in the UK without returning to your home country.

1. A - Child Student
2. B - Child Visitor
3. C - Adult Student
4. D - Student Visitor
5. E - Prospective Student

**Choose the correct answer. (from drop-down menu)**

6. You can obtain 30 points towards your visa if \_\_\_\_\_
7. If you want to extend your study visa \_\_\_\_\_
8. You can work in the UK if \_\_\_\_\_
9. For advice on finding a job, the writer suggests that you contact \_\_\_\_\_
10. Your national insurance number will ensure that \_\_\_\_\_
11. You can start work \_\_\_\_\_

*Read the text and then answer questions 1-5.*

**Long-haul flights get longer**

Long-haul flights have just got longer, with a non-stop flight from Singapore to New York now in operation. But 18 hours in the air creates its own challenges. A lot of preparation goes into the ultra long haul flight. The aircraft is specifically designed for the journey with more space and extensive entertainment services. The flight crew are also specially trained.

The seasoned traveller is also more aware of the health risks associated with a flight that covers as much as 16,600-kilometers (10,310-miles) in distance. Exposure to lower oxygen levels for up to 18, maybe 20, hours is abnormal for the human body. With deep vein thrombosis (DVT) the problem really starts occurring after 12 hours (in-flight). This could lead to an increase in heart attacks.

Doctors believe prevention is better than cure when it comes to in-flight health. Passengers on ultra long range flights need to be provided with flight socks and, if necessary, tablets for thinning the blood. It is not just the health and vitality of the passenger that is at stake on a flight of this length, but also that of the flight crew. "They give us training on fatigue management and how to adjust to the local time in New York and to exercise, as well as take care our diet and eat lightly in-flight," says Linda Wu, a stewardess on Singapore Airlines.

However, passengers are trading in health concerns for convenience. An extra- long flight means passengers do not need to break up their journey and change planes. "They like to board once, de-plane once. It is saving time," says James Williams from Singapore Airlines.

"From Los Angeles to Singapore, passengers are saving two and a half hours. And to New York passengers are saving up to four hours in flying time." Thai Airways is also launching a non-stop service to New York from Bangkok next June to compete with Singapore Airlines. It is planning a similar service to Chicago. Cathay Pacific, Continental, Qantas and Emirates Airlines also offer flights that are more than 14 hours in duration. However, there is still a question of whether longer non-stop flights will become popular. "They will certainly have a role in the future of aviation, there is no doubt about it. People will prefer to fly non-stop if it is available," says Chris Johnson, an airline analyst. "But we are reaching the limits. These markets are at the very margin

of aviation. Most airlines still fly in the eight to 12-hour sector. This is still where the biggest volume in traffic is." Avery believes that geography will determine the demand for the ultra long-haul flight and that worldwide appeal for this type of flight is unlikely. "Asia is where the demand is for the ultra long-haul flight. They are connecting Asian cities to the U.S. East Coast, which is the big market," he explains. "The routes that connect most places that European business travellers go do not need a capacity and endurance to fly 18-hours -- this is the same for U.S. carriers."

### Questions 1 - 5

1. Why are longer flights potentially harmful to passengers and crew?

- a) Because there isn't as much oxygen in the air.
- b) People will get bored
- c) long periods of inactivity will damage their bones

2. What are flight socks?

- a) special socks to keep the plane free of harmful bacteria
- b) one of the preventive measures planned by airlines
- c) socks that stop your blood getting too thin

3. Which of the following methods of countering the health problems caused by long flights is NOT mentioned?

- a) how best to cope with jet lag
- b) advice on food consumption during a flight
- c) advice on drinking alcohol

4. What are the advantages of longer flights?

- a) There are less problems with jet lag
- b) passengers save time
- c) passengers get a good break between flights

5. Where is the market for longer flights expected to develop?

- a) between Europe and America
- b) between Asia and America
- c) between Asia and Europe