

Ibn Sina School T. Sonia Khammassi Ben Moussa	End-of-Term exam n°1	Name: Class: 4 th year
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Mark: / 30 // /20

Taking vacations seriously is exactly what we Americans seem to do. In the same way our kids' free time is now packed with activities, we **grownups** have turned vacations into "active leisure". Anytime you exhaust yourself trying to relax, that's active leisure. Our vacations come with an agenda, a purpose. We're visiting family, attending weddings, going camping, checking out that darn museum and making sure we ride that roller coaster- no matter how long the line is. We Americans are so active in our leisure that we commonly complain we need a vacation from our vacations. We leave home tired; we come back exhausted.

That's why many of us have decided not to go. Americans are allotted few vacation days (14 days, on average) compared with other industrialized countries, but ironically, we don't even use them. The average American will leave four vacation days on the table this year, which adds up to a whopping 574 million days of untaken vacation, collectively. Our relationship to relaxation seems contradictory. We spend more money than anyone else in the world on leisure (fully one-third of our income) and yet we are simultaneously n°1 in the world at not taking vacations.

One of the top reasons given for not taking a vacation is that it's too much extra work. We have to get ahead of our workload in order to leave, and then we have to catch up on our workload upon our return. The longer the vacation we take, the bigger the stumbling blocks appear. So only 14% of Americans will take a vacation two weeks or longer this summer. Bottom line: it's simply become too stressful to relax.

We Americans take our time off so seriously that you can now get a Ph.D in leisure studies. That's right- a doctorate, not just a bachelor's. It's just an up-and-coming field in academe that there's an actual shortage of qualified educators. We don't have enough people to teach leisure. There is no doubt that work has found its way into every hour of our day, thanks to beepers, cell phones and e-mail.

Time, June 26, 2006

(adapted)

I/ Reading comprehension

(12 marks)

A/ Tick the best alternative

(1 mk)

1/ A possible title can be

- a- Ordinary vacationers
- b- Weird vacationers
- c- Common Vacationers

B/ Complete the table with information about vacation days.

(3 mks)

Given days off	Taken days off	Total untaken days off

C/ Correct the following false statements with reference to the text.

(3 mks)

a- Americans enjoy lying lazily to relax.

b- Americans take all their vacation days.

c- Technological innovations help people to enjoy more vacation days.

D/ What does the underlined word refer to?

(1 m.)

grownups (§1):

E/ Read and find a word meaning

(1 mk)

a- an area of interest which is likely to achieve success soon:

F/ Read and complete the table.

(2 mks)

Cause	Effect
.....	Americans need a vacation from their vacations
Americans are workaholics

G/ Do you want to pack your spare time with activities? Why? Why not?(use your own words).

(1 m.)

II/ Language

(6 marks)

A/ Supply the correct form or/ and tense of the bracketed words. (3 mks)

When I was in High School, I was into the arts. I was a dancer in the [dramatic] club. One day, a civil-engineering professor [to arrive] to speak, to inform and to encourage, [to show] all these various new building materials. I [to fascinate] and extremely thrilled. Back home, I told my mother that I wanted to be a civil engineer. My mom said: "If you really want to do something, don't let anyone ever [to tell] you that it can't be done." [Obvious], instead of being an artist I am now a civil engineer.

B/ Fill in the blanks with 6 words from the following box. (3 mks)

performed – stage – birth – writer – evil – twins – time - life

At the age of eighteen Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway. She gave to their first child. Less than two years after that, the were born. Almost nothing is known about Shakespeare's between 1585 and the early 1590s. Shakespeare's plays are read and all over the world. Ben Jonson, a fellow of Shakespeare, said that he is not for any one century, but for all

III/ Writing

(12 marks)

A/ Use the notes below to develop a four-line paragraph about the International Festival of Douz. (4 mks)

- Date: every year – end of December – 4 days
- Founder: M'hammed Marzougui
- Purpose: making people like nomadic traditions
- Main events: poetry contests – camel races – other shows.

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