

ESL Placement Test

Reading and Writing 2/2+



Name: Date:

Campus: FN / W / StA

Read these three passages about people who have migrated to Australia. Then answer the questions:

A. The family arrived from Vietnam with only one spare set of clothes each and spent their first few months in hostels. Mr Le remembered the bus trip from the airport to Nunawading.

“I was looking out of the window and thinking it looked very pleasant. It was about 6 o’clock in the morning and all the brick houses were catching the sun. I thought they were very close together, but nice all the same. Then I realised that the houses were closed up. There were no open doors as there would have been at home. I thought that was very odd. What could the people be doing inside?”

Adapted from *Lifelines*

B. My name is Yuriko Sakai. I come from Japan. I’ve been staying with the Vellnagel family since January. They are all nice. I arrived in Australia on January 15th. Before I came here I didn’t know a lot about this country although I knew that Australia has a lot of kangaroos, koalas, and sheep. In Japan, Australia is famous for its nature and beaches, and also for beautiful cities like Sydney, with its Opera House on the bay.

Japan is very different from Australia. Australians know about big Japanese companies like Honda, Toyota, and Sony, but they don’t really know how Japanese people live. We have many different customs. For example, we take off our shoes when we enter the house. Our houses are usually small and people often sleep on ‘futons’ on the floor. We have different ways of cooking our food and we like eating raw fish and seaweed. We don’t go to barbecues on the weekend, as Australians do.

In Japan, students study very hard and go to school from Monday to Saturday. On Saturday we are in school only half a day.

Adapted from *English in Transit*

C. Our house was open, as most houses in Sylhet are. It was made of earth and bamboo, but it was beautiful. A straw thatch covered the main part and then there were verandahs and a courtyard. On moonlit nights, we, the women, used to sit there and talk or sing and prepare food.

The busiest time of the year was the rice harvest. There used to be a lot of work. The women, other girls and I would work in the fields, or sometimes we'd carry tobacco and food for my brothers-in-law and cousins who were working there. Occasionally we'd harvest the lighter crops like sweet potatoes or chillies. Sometimes at night, the music of boatmen would come floating up, blown by the waves and wind, a flute playing the music of the river. My home now is Australia and it is very different from the home I left behind.

Adapted from *Contrasts*

1. Circle whether the following statements are **True** or **False**.
If you circle **False** for a statement, then write the correct answer below.

a. Mr Le's family caught a taxi from the airport. **True/ False**

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b. Yuriko Sakai knew a lot about Australia before he arrived. **True/ False**

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c. The woman from Sylhet is talking about what her life used to be like.
True/ False

.....

Write answers to these questions about the three pieces of text:

2. Where did Mr Le's family stay when they first arrived?
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3. What surprised Mr Le on the trip from the airport?
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4. How many days do students go to school in Japan?
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