



PART I: ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS (60 points)

Read the article below and answer questions 1–5.

MODERN SINGAPOREANS RETURN TO NATURE

The island of Singapore, one of Asia's richest and most modern countries, contains numerous shopping malls and other recreational centers, like any other developed country. Yet lately, urban Singaporeans have begun spending their free time in a different type of setting — the countryside.

5 In the past, there used to be many farms in Singapore, but after it won its independence in 1965, the government set out to turn the state into a modern, industrialized country. The development plans called for the building of hundreds of thousands of houses, factories, and shops, and as a result,

10 agricultural land began to disappear rapidly. Today, most of Singapore consists of cement, brick, and concrete cities, and its remaining 277 farms occupy only a little more than one percent of the country's lands. It's no wonder



SAMPLE UNIT — NOT PHOTOCOPIABLE !

15 Fortunately, that situation is changing. Farms are taking advantage of the fact that Singapore's citizens have become dissatisfied with modern entertainment, and now promote themselves as the ultimate place to go for relaxation and quiet recreation. What they offer is even more attractive than fancy restaurants or designer clothes — they promise a slower, more peaceful way of life.

20 Moreover, they provide the natural beauty of Singapore's countryside, which contrasts strongly with its ultra-modern urban areas. Visitors to the farms can enjoy lovely and undisturbed views, with not even one skyscraper in the background. Animals, flowers, and trees abound.

This newly-introduced concept of returning to nature has met with an

25 overwhelmingly positive response by Singaporeans bored by life in the city. As a matter of fact, the farms have been so successful in promoting

themselves as vacation spots that even the Singapore Tourism Board has taken notice. It plans to encourage foreign tourism to the local farming area. While this may be financially beneficial to the farms, it will probably also put
30 an end to the peace and quiet there, which would be a real pity.

QUESTIONS (60 points)

Answer questions 1–5 in English as instructed, according to the article.

1. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE. (lines 1–4)

City dwellers in Singapore _____
instead of _____.

(2x6=12 points)

3. Give TWO reasons that Singaporeans would want to visit farms. (lines 15–23)

i) _____

ii) _____

SAMPLE UNIT — NOT PHOTOCOPIABLE !

2 points)

5. i) The writer of the article (supports / doesn't support**) the visits of
(**Singaporeans / foreigners**) to Singapore's farms.**

(3 points)

ii) Copy ONE phrase or sentence which justifies your answer.

(3 points)

SEE REST OF QUESTIONS IN SUMMER BAGRUT PRACTICE 5!

PART II: READING TIPS AND STRATEGIES (15 points)

Read the following reading tips and strategies, and answer questions 6–7.

While an article can be written in a totally objective tone, it can also be written with a slant, where the writer states the facts, but also expresses his or her opinion of these facts. When there is a slant, it may be very subtle, which means that only one or two words or phrases reveal how the writer feels. Therefore, when you need to find the writer's attitude in a text, you must pay attention to the small details. Otherwise, you might miss that one word or sentence which provides you with the answer.

For example, in question 5 on page 7, you are asked whether the writer does or doesn't support the visits of Singaporeans or foreigners to Singapore's farms. There are two correct answers:

- 1) The writer **supports** the visits of **Singaporeans**. The sentence which justifies it is: "Fortunately, that situation is changing."
- 2) The writer **doesn't support** the visits of **foreigners**. The phrase which justifies it is: "it will probably also put an end to the peace and quiet there, which

As you can see, only one sentence or phrase which supports each of the above answers.

In conclusion, a factual article can contain the writer's opinion of the subject. If you need to find the writer's opinion or attitude, you must read through the entire article very carefully, since most of the article may not contain any indication of what that opinion or attitude is. Remember that sometimes only one word or phrase will reveal the answer. Good luck!

SEE READING TIPS AND STRATEGIES IN HEBREW AND ARABIC IN
SUMMER BAGRUT PRACTICE 5!



Answer questions 6–7 in English, according to the reading tips and strategies on pages 8–9, and according to the passage below.

5 Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver has managed to launch a virtual revolution in the foods British schoolchildren eat. Oliver, who rightfully considers the typical lunches served by schools to be entirely lacking in nutrition, began a campaign called "Feed Me Better." In his campaign, he urged parents to speak to their children's schools and convince them to improve their menus.

10 At the same time, Oliver also took over the job of preparing lunch for 1,400 students in one of London's schools every day. Cynics will no doubt say that this was no selfless act, since this job is the subject of a new cooking show called, "Jamie's School Dinners." However, they would do well to recall the fact that cooking school meals is not quite as glamorous as the exotic dishes Oliver featured in his previous cooking show. In any case, no one can argue with the results of his campaign: Many schools have banned processed foods from their menus, and the

15 Education Minister plans to get involved in the issue, as well.

6. i) The writer believes that Oliver's campaign is a waste of time. **SAMPLE UNIT — NOT PHOTOCOPIABLE !** (3 points)

ii) Copy a word or phrase which justifies your answer.

(3 points)

7. i) The writer believes that Oliver's main purpose in taking the job of preparing school lunches was to further his career. (lines 7–15) YES / NO (4 points)

ii) Copy a phrase or sentence which justifies your answer.

(5 points)

PART III: VOCABULARY PRACTICE (25 points)

Translate the words and phrases, and answer questions 8–9. (The words are all from the article on pages 5–6.)

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. contain | 5. independence | 9. rapidly | 13. (the) majority |
| 2. numerous | 6. set out | 10. consist (of) | 14. contact (<i>n</i>) |
| 3. setting (<i>n</i>) | 7. development | 11. occupy | 15. promote |
| 4. countryside | 8. agricultural | 12. decade | 16. recreation |

8. MATCH THE WORDS TO THEIR OPPOSITES.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| ___ i) slowly | a) recreation |
| ___ ii) slavery | b) countryside |
| ___ iii) city | c) rapidly |
| ___ iv) work | d) numerous |
| ___ v) | SAMPLE UNIT — NOT PHOTOCOPIABLE ! |

(5x2=10 points)

9. COMPLETE EACH SENTENCE WITH ONE WORD OR PHRASE.

- i) In a democratic country, decisions are made according to _____.
- ii) Water doesn't _____ any calories.
- iii) A new _____ in the world of technology is a robot that can run.
- iv) So many things have happened to her in the last _____. She moved to a different city, found a new job, got married, and had two children.
- v) I don't know what he does nowadays. I haven't had _____ with him in many years.

(5x3=15 points)