

A Culture Shock

- 1 As soon as she landed in Boston, Tamara Blackmore could feel the tension in the air. She was about to taste a lifestyle far more hectic than the one she left. "Driving in Boston is crazy," says Blackmore. "It took me a while to get used to the roads and the driving style here. I was always afraid someone was going to hit me. It was particularly tricky since the steering wheel was on the wrong side of the car. In Australia, it's on the right side." Beyond the cars and traffic jams, Blackmore said it took a while to get used to so many people in one place, all of whom seemed like they were moving at high speed.
- 2 "There are only 18 million people in Australia spread out over an entire country," she says, "compared to more than six million people in the state of Massachusetts alone. We don't have the kind of congestion you have in Boston. There is a whole different perception of space."
- 3 The pressing problem for Blackmore was making a quick adjustment to the American lifestyle which she felt as if it was run by a stopwatch. For this easy going Australian, Americans seemed like perpetual-motion machines. "Americans are very time-oriented," Blackmore says. "Everything is done according to a schedule. They are always busy, which made me feel guilty about wanting to just hang around and occasionally watch television."
- 4 It didn't take Blackmore long to adjust to the American rhythm. "I felt the pressure to work harder and do more because everyone was running around doing so much," she says. When BC students weren't huddled over books, Blackmore found it weird that they were compulsively jogging, running, biking, or doing aerobics in order to be thin.
- 5 But it's Boston College's relaxed and friendly learning environment that sets it apart from her Melbourne college experience. "Generally speaking, learning facilities are a lot better in Boston," she says. "In Australia, students and teachers have little contact outside the classroom. It's a formal and depersonalized relationship." It's just the opposite at BC, according to Blackmore. "BC and faculty students are like one big happy family," she says. "There is a real sense of team spirit." Another pleasant shock was the close and open relationship American students enjoy with their teachers. It's a sharp contrast to Australia, where college students keep a discreet but respectful distance from their tutors.

By **Bob Weinstein**
From **The Boston Globe**

I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS) {BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

A Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY. (3 pts)

- 1 Melbourne is less crowded than Boston.

-
-
- 2 Americans have a better-organized life than Australians.
-
-
- 3 Blackmore never studied at university in Australia.
-
-

B Answer the following questions. (4 pts)

- 1 Why did Blackmore think that driving in Boston was crazy?
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-
- 2 List two of the things which make studying in America different from Australia. (2 pts)
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-
- 3 What did Blackmore do to get used to living in Boston?
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C Find in the text words that mean much the same as the following. (3 pts)

- 1 very busy and full of activity (paragraph 1)
- 2 spontaneously (paragraph 4)
- 3 prudent and careful (paragraph 5)

D What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2 pts)

- 1 it (paragraph 1)
- 2 They (paragraph 3)

E Complete the following sentences with information from the text. (3 pts)

- 1 Driving was particularly tricky in Boston because of
- 2 BC students were compulsively jogging, running, biking, or doing aerobics so that
- 3 In Australia, the relationship between students and teachers is not only formal, but

II LANGUAGE (15 pts)

A Fill in the blanks with the right word from the list. (2 pts)

charity disharmony repudiation censorship sanctions

- 1 In truly democratic countries, anyone who violates the rules is subject to
- 2 A civil war is expected in the region because of the obvious between members of the population.

B Give the correct form of the words between brackets. (2 pts)

- 1 According to the (legal), the use of the seatbelt is compulsory while driving.
- 2 She always expressed her (hate) towards racist people.

C Put the verbs between brackets in the correct tense and form. (2 pts)

- 1 "No one was killed because meteorologists (to warn) the authorities long before the disaster took place," the reporter said.
- 2 At the moment, some foreign NGOs (to prepare) a huge project for human development in rural areas in developing countries.

D Rewrite the following sentences as suggested. (4 pts)

- 1 Leila didn't apologize to her father for what she did. That was a mistake I think.
Leila should
- 2 Many employers are still recruiting children.
Children
- 3 "Did you need a lot of money for the project?" some villagers asked the president of the NGO.
Some villagers asked the president of the NGO
- 4 "Please forgive me. I didn't remember our appointment," Mr. Black said to his client.
Mr. Black apologized

E Fill in the gaps with the right linking word from the list. (3 pts)

although as well so as to due to despite whereas

- 1 Many other immigrants forget their origins Ahmed sticks to his identity and native traditions.
- 2 Physical exercise helps you keep fit. It can make you feel relaxed
- 3 The wedding party was put off financial problems.

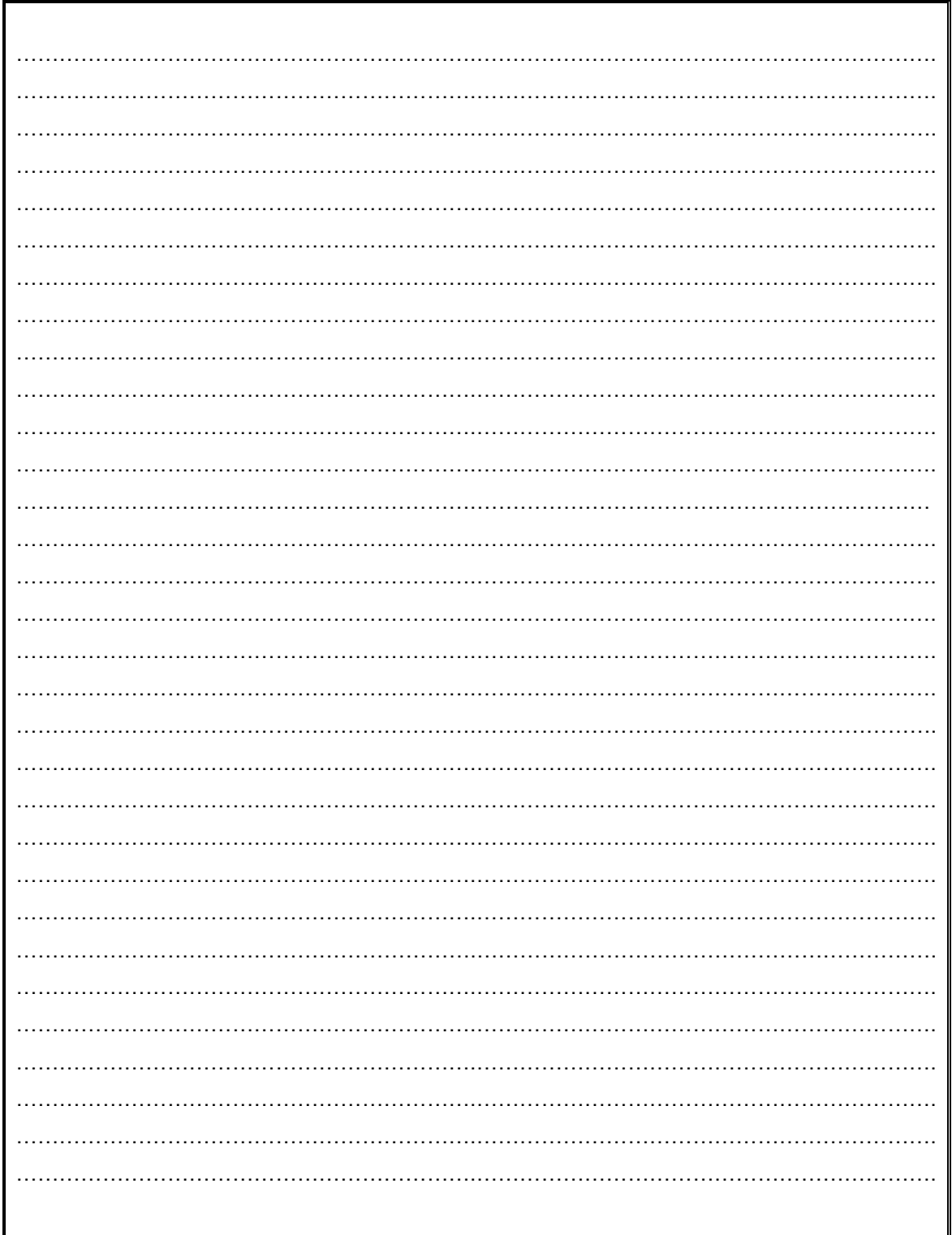
F What would you say in the following situations? (2 pts)

- 1 You want to improve your writing skills but you do not know how. Ask your teacher for advice.
.....?
- 2 Your friend told you that she didn't get the job she had applied for. Respond to this bad news.
.....

III WRITING (10 POINTS)

A large number of Moroccan people have immigrated to Europe and have come across serious problems of culture shock in the host countries.

Write a three paragraph essay about the possible problems Moroccans face when they leave their home country to live abroad. (250 words)

A large rectangular box with a solid black border, containing 25 horizontal dotted lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the box, providing a guide for the student's handwriting.