

Examen écrit- Session 1 - Semestre 1 2020-2021

Langue : Anglais	Niveau : 3	Date : janvier 2021	Durée : 1h30
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'Escaping the madness': steep rise in Londoners moving to northern England

Robert Booth and Lucy Campbell, Fri 14 Feb 2020, *The Guardian*

Sheffield, Leeds and Newcastle see fastest increases in people seeking better quality of life.

Patrick Cox's patience with London snapped when he was charged £3.50 for a cup of tea. For Amy Everett, it was the overcrowded commutes on trains that broke down so often she regularly worried she might never get home.

The pair are part of a rising tide of Londoners moving out of the capital, revealed in new figures suggesting the popularity of settling in or returning to northern England has more than doubled since 2014. While in 2009 only 1% of people leaving London bought or rented homes in the north, in 2019 that figure reached 13%, data from the Countrywide network of estate and lettings agents shows.

Sheffield, Leeds and Newcastle upon Tyne are experiencing the fastest rises among northern cities in the number of escapees arriving from the capital. Dramatically cheaper housing – the ratio between house prices and income is 5.8 in Sheffield and Newcastle but 12.9 in London – is a key factor. But the lure of a slower, less work-focused and healthier lifestyle is also driving decisions to “escape the London madness”, as one leaver put it.

The figures are another sign of Britain's shifting human geography, which could be accelerated by this week's green light for the £100bn HS2 high-speed rail line cutting travel times to northern cities and bringing Leeds, for example, just 81 minutes from the capital.

Amy Everett, 30, moved to Sheffield from London in 2018. In the capital, her typical day involved two hours commuting on overcrowded trains, arriving home at about 8pm, eating a takeaway and starting work again on her laptop before crashing into bed. “There was a sense of always having to be everywhere as quick as possible,” she said. “People were almost running. It was expected that if you are in London you are there for work and don't have any interests outside of work; an always-on kind of attitude. I felt like I was burning out or on the verge of burning out very often.”

“There is a healthier balance in Sheffield,” she said. “People prioritise things outside of work. Once it hits 5.30pm or 6pm, it's time to get on with the rest of your life.” Simple things like the

time to do a large weekly supermarket shop, the time to cook and to watch early evening TV quiz shows have increased her happiness, she said.

Young Lee, a Londoner who moved to Sheffield after going through rehab, said the Yorkshire city had “thawed my frostiness”. He had a stereotyped vision of the north as “an area of the country where it snows in summer, stuck in some sort of 1960s Ken Loach nightmare”, but he is a convert.

“People in Sheffield don’t appear to be as stressed or in such a rush,” he said. “When I pass people on the street they’re missing that manic, anxious wide-eyed stare I got so used to. In my new neighbourhood, people often say ‘good morning’ right out of the blue. Complete strangers have approached me in the park and started a conversation, which was strange at first.

“If Sheffield were an online media platform, I’d share, like and retweet it. I’d stick a huge heart icon where everyone could see.”

Comprehension - Read the text and answer the following questions. (4 PTS)

1. In your own words, give 2 reasons why some people choose to leave London and move North. (40-70 words)
2. Read the following statements. Are they TRUE or FALSE? Give the right answer, and justify your choice by giving the line numbers of the sentence(s) in the text that helped you decide.
 - a) The high-speed rail line running between London and Leeds is already in use.
 - b) Young Lee thinks that the weather is too cold in Sheffield, and that life there is like a nightmare.

Grammar (6 PTS)

1. Preterit or present perfect? Conjugate each verb in the appropriate tense.
 - a) I _____ (go) to the theatre last night to see *Romeo and Juliet*.
 - b) I’m a bit worried. Miranda _____ (not answer) her phone since yesterday morning.
 - c) When I was 8, I still _____ (think) that Santa Claus was real.
 - d) _____ (you / call) Grandma for her birthday last week?

2. Fill in the blank with the appropriate superlative form.

- a) My hometown can get very hot in July. We have _____ (hot) summers in the whole country.
- b) Jimmy is _____ (bad) player on the team.
- c) This was _____ (expensive) cup of coffee she had ever drunk.
- d) What is _____ (sunny) city in England?

Writing (10 PTS)

Choose one of the following topics (200-250 words).

- 1. *Essay*: Do you think that living in a big city makes people unhappy?

Give your opinion in a well-structured essay and illustrate your ideas with precise examples.

- 2. *Creative writing*: You just moved from a big city to a small village. Write a letter to your best friend to tell him/her about the joys and challenges of your new life.

Respect the conventions of letter writing and use your own imagination.