

## Overtourism in the UK: the Example of Cornwall

### I- INTRODUCTION

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#### A/ What is overtourism?

1. Use the photos to try and define the term “overtourism”.



Photographs: Harry Borden/The Guardian

2. Read the following quote and answer the questions.

**“ THE PROBLEM NOW IS THAT IT HAS BEEN SHARPENED UP FOR THE TOURISTS. IT’S TOO CLEAN. IT’S LIKE AN OLD PERSON WITH BOTOX. YOU DON’T GET THE SAME SENSE OF THE PAST. IT’S TOO CLEAN, TOO SHARP ”**  
– Ken Loach on his home city, Bath

- Who is Ken Loach?
- Reformulate what he says about his home city, Bath.
- What aspect / impact of tourism does he denounce? Explain.

3. You may have heard or read about the impact of / reaction to tourism in European cities over the summer. Answer the following questions. Then browse some of the references page 2 to find out more.

- Which places are most affected?
- What happened there? What did the locals do and why?

4. List various causes and impacts of overtourism. Complete your answers by exploring the references below the table.

causes	impacts

>> Use the following references to complete your answers to questions 3 and 4 above.

[Anti-tourism protests across Spain continue despite economic growth | BBC News](#)

[Protests over mass tourism could spread beyond Spain, says Unesco official](#)

### B/ Learn more about Cornwall

1. a) Observe the maps below and describe Cornwall's location in the UK.



Sources: Encyclopaedia Britannica / Cornwall County Council



b) Look at [Pictures of Cornwall](#).

c) Use the maps and photos, and take into account Cornwall's geographic location to make assumptions about the structure of its economy, its relationships with the rest of England, the Cornish people, the landscape, etc.

**2. Now read the following texts to check your assumptions. What else have you learnt?  
Look up the words you don't know [in a dictionary](#).**

a) Excerpt from *Undercurrent*, by Natasha Carthew, 2023 (page 74)

We Cornish people are known for our resilience. We live remotely from our English cousins, and we have always had to endure a lack of resources, long miles and harsh sou'-westerly storms to survive. It is no wonder we have always looked to nature to survive : one moor in which to mine, two oceans in which to fish, and a million fields to farm.

We are not a modern people. Our culture is Celt and our heads are full of folklore and tradition. We are superstitious to the point that nothing is done without complete thought, circular discussion, but our hearts are always full of love. There is an old saying that 'Nobody loves the Cornish more than the Cornish,' and this is true: I love our strength in conviction, our rebellious nature and our pride, and most of all I love our ability to turn every story back around to be about ourselves.

b) Entry for "Cornwall" in the Encyclopedia Britannica (abridged and adapted).

Cornwall is the most remote of English counties. Its eastern boundary is some 200 miles (320 km) distant from London. Cornwall's westernmost town, Penzance, lies another 80 miles (130 km) farther from London and close by Land's End, the traditional southwestern extreme of Great Britain.

The main upland areas inland are a series of granitic intrusions that form distinctive moorlands<sup>1</sup>. It has an attractive coastal landscape that is subject to increasing pressures by the demands of recreation and tourism. Long stretches<sup>2</sup> of the coast are now owned by the National Trust<sup>3</sup> or are otherwise protected from commercial development.

The climate of Cornwall is closely affected by the proximity of the sea. High winds and sea mists are common; rainfall is frequent and heavy. Temperatures are warm in summer and relatively mild in winter. As a result, the vegetation is luxuriant, especially in sheltered coastal areas.

Metal ores, especially tin<sup>4</sup>, attracted prehistoric settlers to the metalliferous zones around the granitic intrusions of Cornwall, and there is a wealth of stone relics such as megalithic dolmens, monoliths, and circles. Subsequent Roman and Saxon settlement in England caused an associated migration of Celtic Christians to Cornwall, where they resisted the Saxon advance for 500 years, acknowledging Saxon overlordship only in the 10th century. The county's isolation aided the survival of the Celtic language known as Cornish, although it has not been spoken as a living language since the 18th century.

Rural resources provide the bases of the economy. The valleys afford excellent pasture for dairy cattle<sup>5</sup>, and the moorland has large areas for rough grazing<sup>6</sup>. Tourism, capitalizing on the attractive physical environment, now provides the major source of income, especially along the coast, where many small fishing ports—such as St. Ives, Newquay, and Polperro—are busy resorts<sup>7</sup>. Cornwall is a favourite county for second homes and retirement, which, together, are causing basic changes in the social structure of rural areas. Many coastal towns—notably Falmouth, Penzance, and Fowey—are active ports.

Tin was mined in Cornwall for at least 3,000 years. Despite periodic depressions in the industry, Cornish tin mining continued profitably until the 20th century. The last few tin mines in Cornwall were closed in the 1980s and in 2006 the copper<sup>8</sup> and tin mines in Cornwall were designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

1. *lande* - 2. *portions, étendues* - 3. *The National Trust is a heritage and nature conservation charity in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* - 4. *l'étain* - 5. *les vaches laitières* - 6. *la pâture* - 7. *stations balnéaires* - 8. *le cuivre*

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Cornwall-unitary-authority-England>

## II- CORNWALL, THEN AND NOW

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### A/ Read the texts pages 5-7 and do the following activities.

#### 1. Match the words / expressions in bold type with their synonyms or definitions below.

Pay attention to the context as some of the words may have various meanings.

- a) a trainee who works with an expert to learn a trade: \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
b) dying: \_\_\_\_\_ ; c) to appear suddenly: \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
d) to deal with: \_\_\_\_\_ ; e) problems, concerns: \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
f) to keep for future use (to book): \_\_\_\_\_ ; g) to ask for employment: \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
h) completely filled with (tourists): \_\_\_\_\_ ; i) strangeness: \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
j) identical to the one before: \_\_\_\_\_ ; k) abandoned: \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
l) in a situation where things suddenly become much worse: \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
m) measures: \_\_\_\_\_ ; n) to reduce: \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
o) attributed to: \_\_\_\_\_ ; p) to decline: \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
q) about to experience something negative: \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
r) rented out with furniture\*: \_\_\_\_\_ ; s) attraction: \_\_\_\_\_  
t) property that is rented out to holidaymakers: (2 words) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
u) to be unable to buy a home because the asking price is too high: (2 expressions) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ; v) really, in fact: \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
w) impressive: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*furniture: items such as tables, chairs, beds etc. that are used in a home*

#### 2. After reading both texts, answer the following questions.

- a) What changes are explored in the two texts? What has caused them?  
b) How do the people interviewed compare the past and the present in the towns where they live?  
How do they regard the evolution of their towns and how do they feel about it?  
c) Compare the impact of tourism in Cornwall and in the European places mentioned in the resources  
page 2. What are the similarities and differences?

## TEXT 1

*This is an excerpt from an article written by Tanya Gold for The Guardian in which the author visits St Ives, Cornwall, and interviews the locals. In this passage, she talks to long-time resident Phyllis Rashley.*

St Ives is a seasonal town. [...] In winter, [it] is empty and in summer, **overwhelmed**: a town that has lost its balance. Holiday cottages and Airbnbs fill the town with carnival, or absence, depending on the season, and locals **are priced out**. This dynamic plays out nationally – in Wales, Kent, Norfolk – but it has a brittle poignancy<sup>1</sup> here. St Ives is, from its hill, the prettiest town in Britain and, as if  
5 cursed for it, it is also the patient zero of overtourism. I moved to west Cornwall seven years ago, to Newlyn, on the other side of the peninsula, but St Ives has a powerful **lure** on my imagination. I spent much of the last year driving across the moor<sup>2</sup>, speaking to locals and visitors, trying to understand its agony, and magic.

I knock on an open door in the old town, which locals call Downalong. It is answered by Phyllis  
10 Rashleigh, who moved here from Lancashire when she was five. Her husband was born in this house, and she says she will tell me how St Ives used to be. Her parents had a hotel in Fore Street in the 1950s, over what is now a Mountain Warehouse shop, a bright, pale house with 13 bedrooms. “And it was hard work,” she says, “but everybody did that.” Richer people bought Victorian terrace houses on the hill for B&B, and fishermen’s wives rented out the best bedroom. “They had a family who stayed  
15 with them, and that same family would come down every year. Then the visitors were mostly working-class people. Each season would be a **carbon copy** of the one before, because before those people went home, they said, ‘**Save** me the same week next year.’

“I know people who are in their 90s,” she says. “They still come and say, ‘Oh, we’ve been coming to St Ives for the last 70 years. Oh, we used to stay with Mrs So-and-so in such a street, but she died, and  
20 then we stayed with so-and-so.’” But it’s not like that now, she says. “It’s impersonal, and the holiday **lets** are usually owned by people who’ve bought them especially for that purpose, who don’t live here. They’ve hired it out through an agency. Nobody knows who **actually** owns it.

“Nobody lives here any more out of season,” Rashleigh adds. “If you go uptown now you won’t see many people. I’ve just walked down from Tesco<sup>3</sup> and I don’t think I’ve met four. We’ve got a parking  
25 space at the Sloop Inn and most of the people there will be tradesmen, because this time of year scaffolding<sup>4</sup> goes up like a forest because everybody wants their work done before Easter.

It’s just changed completely,” she says. “We’ve lost all our banks, all of them. We’ve lost all our post offices, except one at the back of the toy shop. Most shops are boarded up<sup>5</sup> except in the summer. Most of the cafes have shut down for the winter.”

1. Fr= *c’est particulièrement poignant* - 2. Fr= *la lande* - 3. name of a supermarket chain - 4. Fr= *des échafaudages* - 5. have their windows and doors covered with wooden planks

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/aug/10/its-just-a-rich-mans-playground-now-how-st-ives-became-patient-zero-of-british-overtourism>

## TEXT 2

### **‘We’re on a cliff edge’: Cornish village where 52% of houses are not first homes**

Jamie Grierson, 6 March 2024, The Guardian (edited)

The C Toms & Son boatyard in Polruan is a busy hub of activity in an otherwise ghostly harbourside. Its owners, father and son Allen and Paul Toms, put the **eeriness** in the picturesque Cornish village down to one thing: **holiday lets** and second homes.

5 On Wednesday, the chancellor<sup>1</sup>, Jeremy Hunt, announced plans to **curtail tax breaks**<sup>2</sup> given to landlords of holiday lets in an effort to boost the supply of long-term rentals in places such as Polruan – but Allen and Paul are not convinced it will work.

10 The **furnished** holiday letting (FHL) regime allows the owners of about 127,000 properties to deduct the full cost of their mortgage<sup>3</sup> interest payments from their rental income and, potentially at least, pay lower capital gains tax when they sell. This FHL scheme has now been **scrapped**, meaning a holiday let landlord who earns £30,000 in rent will have to pay about £4,000 a year extra in income tax. The theory is that it will encourage landlords to consider long-term rentals, boosting this housing stock and reducing prices for local people.

Recent research by the Lanteglos by Fowey parish council found that a **staggering** 52% of the houses in Polruan are second homes or holiday rentals.

15 Allen, 79, who now lives over the harbour in Fowey, and Paul, 51, who has lived in Polruan his whole life, have seen the area change significantly.

20 “Years ago, Polruan had a rowing team, football team, youth club. We as a business, if we advertised for an **apprentice** we would have youngsters **applying**, now we have nothing. Can’t get them. This is **down to** second homes, which create a situation where younger workers and their families **cannot afford to** live in Polruan,” Allen says.

On the measures in the budget, he says: “If they can afford a second home, they can afford to pay more tax. But it’s not going to do anything.”

25 Allen took the unusual step of buying a property in the village to accommodate men interested in working for the boatyard. His son, Paul, has a child at the local primary school, which has seen its numbers **dwindle** from 75 in 2013 to 23 now. “Every winter it gets quieter,” Paul says. “Because obviously the older generation are **passing** and youngsters **can’t afford** to live here.”

Paul’s son is working as an apprentice in the boatyard but he fears his son will not be able to afford to live in Polruan. Paul is not convinced the chancellor’s **steps** will make an impact.

30 Gini Ainley, who moved to Polruan four years ago from Winchester, is a parish councillor in the village. The council’s survey of the village established that of the 572 properties in Polruan, 166 are permanent homes or social housing and 12 are long-term rentals.

35 “The people that are second home owners come down regularly, and they really are part of the local community,” she says. “And obviously rentals are important because they do bring in revenue to our beautiful village. Having said that, we probably are **on a bit of a cliff edge** now with that sort of proportion. Some of the **issues** have been that we’ve lost about 28% of our social housing. We’re definitely at a stage where we think as a council we should do something about particularly the Airbnb-type **rentals**, the ones that just suddenly **spring up**, she says.”

40 Graham Morris, 55, took over Polruan Village Store five months ago after moving from Callington, a Cornish town farther east. The shop was **on the brink of** closure before Morris took over and many residents are grateful to him for saving the business. Morris has his own ideas for **tackling** the impact that the second homes and holiday **lets** have on the local economy.

“I believe there should be some form of contribution to local businesses. If that was then evenly distributed throughout the businesses during the winter months and the difficult months, that would allow them to pay themselves and their staff,” he says.

45 Many in the village describe it as a “ghost town” in winter. Most understand the seasonal cycle is the model they signed up to, but it is getting harder.

“This is our first winter. We were told it’s going to be quiet in the village, and the village has been very supportive of us so we know we’re going to be OK – but I haven’t paid myself [for] five months.”

1. *ministre des Finances* - 2. *réductions d’impôts* - 3. *emprunt immobilier*

**B/ GRAMMAR FOCUS (1): TALKING ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT**

1. Read the following passages taken from the texts above. Observe **the verbs in bold type** and the time expressions. When you are ready, answer questions a-e below.

*Phyllis Rashleigh [...] says she will tell me how St Ives **used to be**. Her parents **had** a hotel in Fore Street in the 1950s (...) “And it **was** hard work,” she says, “but everybody **did** that.” Richer people **bought** Victorian terrace houses on the hill for B&B, and fishermen’s wives **rented** out the best bedroom. “They **had** a family who **stayed** with them, and that same family **would come** down every year. Then the visitors **were** mostly working-class people. Each season **would be** a carbon copy of the one before (...). **Nobody** lives here **any more** out of season,” Rashleigh adds. “If you go uptown now you won’t see many people.” (text 1, lines 11-23)*

*“We as a business, if we **advertised** for an apprentice we **would have** youngsters applying, now we have nothing.” (Allen, text 2, lines 17-18)*

- a) In these passages, Phyllis and Allen \_\_\_\_\_ the present and the past.
- b) To talk about the past, they use \_\_\_\_\_ tense.
- c) Pick out the time expressions they use to refer to ...

the past:	
the present:	

d) To talk about things /actions which are no longer true today and past habits, they use:

Structure	Examples from the excerpts above
_____ + verb	
_____ + verb	

e) What other structure does Phyllis use to say that something is no longer the case today?

\_\_\_\_\_

Learn more by [reading this lesson from the British Council about past habits](#) and [this one from Cambridge Grammar](#). Do the related exercises on the British Council page.

Also learn about how to use [NOT ANY MORE here](#) ; and [NO LONGER / NOT ANY LONGER](#) .

### III- VISITING CORNWALL: HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE TOURIST

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#### A/ READING COMPREHENSION

##### 1. Pre-reading activity

- |   |
|---|
| a) Explain in your own words what you think being a <b>responsible tourist</b> means. |
| b) List a few things people can do to be “responsible tourists”.                      |

##### 2. Read the following passage from [www.responsibletravel.com](http://www.responsibletravel.com)\* and answer the questions.

England is one of the most visited countries in the world, but most travellers head to a **handful of** well-known destinations, which then suffer from large crowds while other destinations struggle. Of the top 20 in England, around 50 percent are in London, while several others, such as Bath, Stonehenge and the Bodleian Library are easily reached on day trips from the capital. Of the remainder, only a handful such as lake cruises in Bowness and the Eden Project, are not found in an urban environment.

We believe that for English tourism to be **sustainable**, it requires responsible management of popular destinations to ensure they are not **overwhelmed** by visitors.

In Cornwall, a not-entirely complimentary term for the holidaymakers that **flood** the region’s beaches and towns every summer is ‘grockles’. Outside of London, Cornwall is one of the most over-visited parts of England, with a **dramatic** coastline, golden sandy beaches, good weather and waves that draw surfers like moths to a flame. In recent years the ‘*Poldark effect*’ has brought a new influx of visitors seeking the locations of the BBC’s Sunday night bodice-ripper<sup>1</sup>, just as *Game of Thrones* transformed tourism in Dubrovnik and Iceland, and *Lord of the Rings* New Zealand.

Cornwall is a perfect example of an English ‘**honeypot**’ destination that has been over-promoted for years at the expense of others. In key locations such as Falmouth, Newquay and St. Ives, as well as popular beaches, local people are massively **outnumbered** by tourists in July and August with a corresponding detrimental effect on their communities and the environment. Meanwhile, many of England’s lesser-known coastal communities have been left to **fade away**.

Many parts of England, particularly seaside towns and other coastal areas, are heavily dependent on tourism, an industry renowned for seasonal, low-paid employment. They’re steadily being hollowed out<sup>2</sup> as young people seek opportunities elsewhere, leading to deprivation which in turn affects tourism numbers. In countries such as England where the main tourist season is quite short, earning a **sustainable** income year-round can prove difficult. Resorts including Hunstanton, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Skegness and Scarborough retain plenty of historic charm, but underfunding and inaccessibility, combined with a shift<sup>3</sup> of focus to destinations elsewhere, has allowed them to fade.

1. a sexually explicit romantic film with a historical setting. - 2. emptied - 3. change

a) **VOCABULARY**. What is the correct meaning (a or b) of the words in bold type? Use the context to help you decide.

a handful of	a) a lot	b) a small number of
sustainable	a) causing no damage to the environment, etc.	b) profitable, that generates money
overwhelmed	a) offended	b) submerged
flood	a) avoid, flee	b) inundate



dramatic	a) spectacular	b) terrible
honeypot	a) a place known for its production of honey	b) a place which attracts people in great numbers
outnumbered	a) local people are less numerous than tourists	b) local people are more numerous than tourists
to fade away	a) to lose their attractiveness	b) to shine again

\*a responsible holiday company, founded in 2000.

- b) What reasons are given to explain why Cornwall is popular with tourists?
- c) Why are other seaside resorts and coastal towns fading, by comparison? What impact does that have on them?
- d) Apart from the tourists themselves, who is responsible?

**3. Now, read another passage adapted from the same source. And fill the gaps with words from the box below. What is this passage about?**

countryside – attractive – community – busy – crowds – produce – employment –  
hotspots – footprints – faceless – low – domestic

**How can you help?**

Simply put: don't follow the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup>. Avoid the city breaks and England's crowded tourism \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup>, instead looking to idyllic, isolated accommodations in the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup>.

If you do really want to see the Tower of London, or the beaches of Cornwall, then consider visiting outside the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> summer months instead when you'll have a more pleasant experience, and tourism businesses will benefit from income in \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> season. And next time you fancy a visit to the seaside, remember there are many other \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> resorts around the English coast that aren't Brighton and Falmouth.

Wherever you go, try to spend local. Much of the English tourism industry is small-scale, making it quite easy to inject money into the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> economy. You'll get a warmer welcome from a locally owned bed and breakfast than you will from a \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> international hotel chain. You'll eat fresher (and better) dishes with local \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup>, and also dramatically reduce your holiday's carbon \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup>. And the money you spend will stay for longer in the local area, boosting the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>11</sup> and providing \_\_\_\_\_<sup>12</sup> prospects for local people.

> Look up the words you don't know [in a dictionary](#), choosing carefully the meaning that is correct in this context.

**4. In the following passage taken from “Welcome to Cornwall! Please don’t ruin it for us local people”, a piece written by Natasha Carthew for The Guardian, the author also gives recommendations to tourists who plan to visit Cornwall.**

- a) What new recommendations does she offer?
- b) What tone does she use?

5 So what can those visiting Cornwall do to counteract this? You could start by visiting beaches that don’t feature in the usual guidebooks. Get exploring and discover your own private paradise; there are many coves<sup>1</sup> that remain quiet throughout the year. Visitors can also protect the nature around them and contribute to its restoration by getting involved in nature-based activities and conservation: join a Surfers Against Sewage beach clean; discover Cornish Wildlife Trust events like woodland and cliff path conservation; visit RSPB<sup>2</sup> reserves; rent beach equipment; leave the car behind to enjoy top cycle routes.

10 Despite what you may have read, we Cornish do welcome visitors and are happy to share our love of our land with you. But it might help if you do a bit of research – Cornwall is fiercely independent and has a proud and unique history and heritage. It’s worth finding out a bit more about our Celtic nation and the Cornish language (...). And try not to be rude to local people. If you’ve been asked to not drink from a glass bottle on the beach, there is a reason for that. Don’t forget to tip waiting staff<sup>3</sup>. They are probably on minimum wage, and tipping is an easy way to support the local economy.

15 When taking to the coastal path, please don’t run or cycle; it speeds up erosion and is also incredibly dangerous. Don’t forget to take your rubbish away with you: many beaches, especially secluded<sup>4</sup> ones, don’t have bins, so that bag full of waste (...) will end up in the sea, harming wildlife.

20 Please don’t buy a second home! If you do, and leave it empty for most of the year, you’re likely to get angry local people making their feelings known. And don’t do a mass Airbnb booking: there’s a housing crisis in Cornwall, and the unregulated accommodation option is putting pressure on housing and pricing local people out of the market. You could always book caravans in holiday parks or rooms in hotels. Many of them are five-star rated – not what you remember from your childhood.

25 [...] It’s ridiculous and unhelpful that tourism only happens in the spring, on May bank holiday weekends and in the summer months. Cornwall doesn’t stop being beautiful on the last day of August; it is incredibly beautiful all year round. Our winters are milder than the rest of the country and fewer people visit then, so holidaying then would definitely be less manic (...).

1. Fr= *criques* - 2. The RSPB is a charity for the conservation of birds and nature. - 3. Fr= *laisser un pourboire aux serveur-euses* - 4. isolated

**B/ GRAMMAR FOCUS (2): DOS AND DON'TS / RECOMMENDATIONS**

There are different structures / phrases we can use to give instructions, recommendations or simply make suggestions. Depending on which ones we choose, the degree of command is more or less forceful.

- We use the IMPERATIVE MOOD to make commands, give instructions and advice. To make affirmative imperatives, we simply use the **base form** of the verb. We make negative imperatives with auxiliary verb **do + not (or don't )** + the **base form** of the verb.

Complete these examples from the texts:

Affirmative	Negative
_____ <i>the car behind to enjoy top cycle routes.</i>	<i>Please _____ run or cycle.</i>
<b>Try to buy local.</b>	_____ <i>rude to local people.</i>

>> [Read this lesson on the imperative mood.](#)

- We also use MODALS to give recommendations: should, can, could, might + the base form of the verb. Find the 4 examples used in Natasha Carthew's text (page 10).


- We can use other structures to give recommendations or make suggestions, such as the one Carthew uses line 10:

\_\_\_\_\_ *out a bit more about our Celtic nation and the Cornish language.*

- Learn more structures and phrases by exploring the following resources:

[5 phrases to give recommendations](#)

[Suggestions, Cambridge Grammar](#)

#### IV- WRITING TASKS

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1. Think of a touristic hotspot and write a short text to explain how overtourism affects the place and the locals there. What should visitors do to be more responsible tourists? Use the vocabulary and structures you have studied in this dossier.

2. Read the following comment by Fiona McGowan, a writer who lives in Cornwall.

"Whenever I hear Cornish people moaning\*, I always ask: "But what can be done?" I have come to realise that the answer is nothing. When a region or city builds its entire economy around tourists, we have to accept the damage to our environment; our resentment\*\*; and our livelihoods being dependent on the gig economy. Would we have it any other way?"

*\*complaining \*\*indignation, anger*

Explain what Fiona McGowan means and what questions she raises. To what extent do you agree with her? Give strong arguments and pertinent examples to support your views in a coherent essay.

>> **Read the document "Rédiger un essai argumentatif" in the methodology section of the EPI level 4 to help you structure your ideas.**

## IV- ANSWER KEYS

### PAGE 4

#### 1. Match the words / expressions in bold type with their synonyms or definitions below.

Pay attention to the context as some of the words may have different meanings in other contexts.

- a) a trainee who works with an expert to learn a trade: AN APPRENTICE ;  
 b) dying: PASSING ; c) to appear suddenly: SPRING UP ;  
 d) to deal with: TO TACKLE ; e) problems, concerns: ISSUES ;  
 f) to keep for future use (here, book): TO SAVE ; g) to ask for employment: TO APPLY ;  
 h) completely filled with (tourists): OVERWHELMED ; i) strangeness: EERINESS ;  
 j) identical to the one before: CARBON COPY ; k) abandoned: SCRAPPED ;  
 l) in a situation where things suddenly become much worse: ON A CLIFF EDGE ;  
 m) measures: STEPS ; n) to reduce: TO CURTAIL ;  
 o) attributed to: DOWN TO ; p) to decline: TO DWINDLE ;  
 q) about to experience something negative: ON THE BRINK OF ;  
 r) rented out with furniture\*: FURNISHED ; s) attraction: LURE ;  
 t) property that is rented out to holidaymakers: (2 words) (HOLIDAY) LET / RENTAL ;  
 u) to be unable to buy a home because the asking price is too high: (2 expressions) TO BE PRICED OUT / CAN'T or CANNOT AFFORD TO ; v) really, in fact: ACTUALLY ;  
 w) impressive: STAGGERING

### PAGE 7

#### B/ GRAMMAR FOCUS (1) : TALKING ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

1. Read the following passages taken from the texts above and observe **the verbs in bold type** and the time expressions. When you are ready, answer questions a-e below.

- a) In these passages, Phyllis and Allen COMPARE the present and the past.  
 b) To talk about the past, they use THE SIMPLE PAST tense.  
 c) Pick out the time expressions they use to refer to ...

the past:	IN THE 1950s / THEN
the present:	NOW

d) To talk about things /actions which are no longer true today and past habits, they use:

Structure	Examples from the excerpts above
<u>USED TO</u> + verb	(...) how St Ives <b>used to be</b> -
<u>WOULD</u> + verb	(...) that same family <b>would come</b> down every year. if we <b>advertised</b> for an apprentice we <b>would have</b> youngsters applying

e) What other structure does Phyllis use to say that something is no longer the case today?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Nobody** lives here **any more** out of season. \_\_\_\_\_

### PAGES 8-9

a) What is the correct meaning (a or b) of the words in bold type? Use the context to help you chose as they may have a different meaning in other contexts.

a handful of	a) a lot	<b>b) a small number of</b>
sustainable	<b>a) causing no damage to the environment, etc.</b>	b) profitable, that generates money
overwhelmed	a) offended	<b>b) submerged</b>
to flood	a) avoid, flee	<b>b) inundate</b>
dramatic	<b>a) spectacular</b>	b) terrible
honeypot	a) a place known for its production of honey	<b>b) a place which attracts people in great numbers</b>
outnumbered	<b>a) local people are less numerous than tourists</b>	b) local people are more numerous than tourists
to fade away	<b>a) to lose their attractiveness</b>	b) to shine again

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#### How can you help?

Simply put: don't follow the \_\_CROWDS\_\_<sup>1</sup>. Avoid the city breaks and England's crowded tourism \_\_HOTSPOTS\_\_<sup>2</sup>, instead looking to idyllic, isolated accommodations in the \_\_COUNTRYSIDE\_\_<sup>3</sup>.

If you do really want to see the Tower of London, or the beaches of Cornwall, then consider visiting outside the \_\_BUSY\_\_<sup>4</sup> summer months instead when you'll have a more pleasant experience, and tourism businesses will benefit from income in \_\_LOW\_\_<sup>5</sup> season. And next time you fancy a visit to the seaside, remember there are many other \_\_ATTRACTIVE\_\_<sup>6</sup> resorts around the English coast that aren't Brighton and Falmouth.

Wherever you go, try to spend local. Much of the English tourism industry is small-scale, making it quite easy to inject money into the \_\_DOMESTIC\_\_<sup>7</sup> economy. You'll get a warmer welcome from a locally owned bed and breakfast than you will from a \_\_FACELESS\_\_<sup>8</sup> international hotel chain. You'll eat fresher (and better) dishes with local \_\_PRODUCE\_\_<sup>9</sup>, and also dramatically reduce your holiday's carbon \_\_FOOTPRINTS\_\_<sup>10</sup>. And the money you spend will stay for longer in the local area, boosting the \_\_COMMUNITY\_\_<sup>11</sup> and providing EMPLOYMENT<sup>12</sup> prospects for local people.

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**B/ GRAMMAR FOCUS (2): DOS AND DON'TS / RECOMMENDATIONS**

Examples from the texts:

Affirmative	Negative
<i>_LEAVE_ the car behind to enjoy top cycle routes.</i>	<i>Please _DON'T_ run or cycle.</i>
<i><b>Try</b> to buy local.</i>	<i>_TRY NOT TO BE_ rude to local people.</i>

- We also use MODALS to give recommendations: should, can, could, might + base form of the verb. Find the 4 examples used in text 3.

You <b>COULD START</b> by visiting beaches that don't feature in the usual guidebooks. (l.1-2)
Visitors <b>CAN ALSO PROTECT</b> the nature around them. (l.3-4)
But it <b>MIGHT HELP</b> if you do a bit of research. (l.9)
You <b>COULD ALWAYS BOOK</b> caravans in holiday parks or rooms in hotels. (l.20-21)

- We can use other structures to give recommendations or make suggestions, such as the one Carthew uses in line 10:

*\_ IT'S WORTH FINDING \_ out a bit more about our Celtic nation and the Cornish language.*

