

TEXTO A

Why is Bangkok the Most Visited City in the World?

In my more than decade of global wanderings, Bangkok is the one place that always comes to mind first when I decide I need a culturally interesting place to work remotely for a few months. Apart from digital nomads and low cost of living, it's a city with great food markets and thousands of temples.

Bangkok is a city with an estimated population of 10 million as of 2020. It is one of the most popular cities in the world - it's even been officially named the most-visited city, beating out Paris, NYC, London, and others. But it begs the question: Why is Bangkok so perennially popular? And what makes the city so interesting? Let's dive right into a few of the things that make this city top the charts for travelers and visitors from all over the world.

Sure, Bangkok doesn't come close to the cleanliness of sparkling new cities like Dubai or Singapore, but you'll be hard pressed to find much litter in the city. Locals sweep the streets by hand every day, and in many cases vendors and business owners wash their portion of the sidewalks with buckets of water. Street vendors in particular have an incentive to keep their place of business clean.

Thailand might not have the lowest cost of living in the world, but compared to North America, Europe, Australia or Japan, Thailand is downright cheap. Thailand has issues with corruption, but it's far from the worst place in the region. As a traveler, Bangkok is safe: outside of the pickpockets and scams that you can find in any major city, Bangkok boasts a very low crime rate which means that travellers of all ages and backgrounds feel good about starting their Southeast Asia travels in this regional hub.

Adapted from "Why is Bangkok the Most Visited City in the World?" Everything Everywhere, December 12, 2019.
<<https://everything-everywhere.com/why-bangkok/>>

QUESTIONS

A.1.- Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

a) Bangkok is the writer's favourite destination to go on vacation.

FALSE: "In my more than decade of global wanderings, there is one place that always comes to mind first when I decide I need a culturally interesting place to work remotely for a few months."

b) Thailand is the cheapest country in the world.

FALSE: "Thailand might not have the lowest cost of living in the world, but compared to North America, Europe, Australia or Japan, Thailand is downright cheap."

A.2.- In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

a) How do locals contribute to Bangkok's cleanliness?

Locals in Bangkok keep the city clean by sweeping the streets daily and vendors wash their portion of the pavement with water.

b) Why do tourists decide to start their trips in South East Asia from Bangkok?

Tourists choose to start their Southeast Asia trips in Bangkok because, besides the typical criminal cases that happen in any important city, it is considered relatively safe.

A.3.- Find the words in the text that mean: (Puntuación máxima: 1 punto)

a) approximate (paragraph 2) **estimated**

b) around (paragraph 2) **over**

c) waste (paragraph 3) **litter**

d) problems (paragraph 4) **issues**

A.4.- Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

- a) Finding **accommodation** (accommodate) in a big city requires **booking** (book) months in advance.
- b) Your Thailand costs will vary **greatly** (great) depending **on** the kind of traveler you want to be.
- c) If you **had chosen** (choose) a different airline last year, your trip **wouldn't have been/ wouldn't be** (not / be) so expensive.
- d) You probably already know how **to say** (say) “hello” in Japanese, but in case you don't, this is one of **the easiest** (easy) words you can learn.

A.5.- Write about 150 to 200 words on the following topic. (Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos)

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of travelling to exotic destinations.

Travelling to exotic destinations is a popular trend for most western travellers. While it can be a rewarding and enriching experience, it can also pose some challenges and risks.

One of the main advantages of travelling to exotic destinations is that you can explore new cultures, landscapes, and wildlife that you may not encounter in your own country. You can learn about different history, traditions, languages, and cuisines, and broaden your perspective and understanding of the world. You can also enjoy the beauty and diversity of nature, and see some of the wonders of the world that you may have only seen in pictures or documentaries.

However, travelling to exotic destinations also has some disadvantages that you should be aware of. One of them is that travelling can be costly, especially, if you have to pay for flights, visas, accommodation, transportation, and other expenses. You may also have to deal with some inconveniences, such as jet lag, language barriers, cultural differences, and unfamiliar food. Moreover, you may face some dangers, such as health issues, crime, political instability, or natural disasters, that could ruin your trip or even put your life at risk.

In conclusion, travelling to exotic destinations has both advantages and disadvantages that you should consider before you go. Travelling can be a wonderful way to discover new places and experiences, but it can also be a challenging and risky endeavour that requires careful planning and preparation.

TEXTO B

Sports in America

Youth is synonymous with energy – mental and physical. Organized and informal sports offer teens the opportunity to **exp**end some of that energy and, more importantly, to learn the value of fair practice, to accomplish objectives, and to just have fun.

In 2003, 58% of boys and 51% of girls in American high schools played on a sports team. The most commonly chosen sports by boys are American football, basketball, **trac**k and field, baseball, and soccer (international football). But for girls, the most prevalent are basketball, track and field athletics, volleyball, softball, and soccer. As a result of a U.S. law that encourages women to take part in athletics, girls' participation in high school athletics has risen by 800% over the past 30 years. Other organized high school sports often include gymnastics, wrestling, swimming, tennis, and golf.

Away from school, teenagers participate year-round in community-sponsored sports leagues. Besides, particularly in the summer, young people participate informally in one sport or another in the streets and parks of their neighborhoods. A high percentage of high school seniors reported taking part in music and performing arts activities, academic clubs, student council, and the school newspaper.

Sports also play a crucial role in the everyday social scene at American colleges and universities. There are university sports programs at the intercollegiate (organized competition) and internal (club-like, less competitive) levels. **Gr**ants are offered at the intercollegiate level to students who are both academically qualified and skilled in a sport. Athletic scholarships are awarded for everything from archery to wrestling, with an eye on gender equality to achieve a balance between men's and women's scholarships. These scholarships are administered directly by each academic institution on a percentage basis and universities have strict limits on the total amount they can award each year.

Adapted from "Sports in America>School & College Sports," U.S. Diplomatic Mission to Germany, November 23, 2021. <<https://usa.usembassy.de/sports-youth.htm>>

QUESTIONS

B.1.- Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

a) Female participation in school sports is now higher than three decades ago.

TRUE: "As a result of a U.S. law that encourages women to take part in athletics, girls' participation in high school athletics has risen by 800% over the past 30 years."

b) Being good at a sport is the only requirement to get a grant.

FALSE: “Grants are offered at the intercollegiate level to students who are both academically qualified and skilled in a sport.”

B.2.- In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions.

Do not copy from the text. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

a) What benefits do teenagers get from playing sports? Mention two.

Teenagers benefit from playing sports in two main ways: physical fitness and personal development. In terms of personal development, sports teach them important life skills like discipline and goal-setting.

b) According to the text, is the number of scholarships different for boys and girls? Why?

The text does not specify if the number of scholarships is different for boys and girls. However, there is a focus on achieving gender equality in awarding scholarships, aiming for a balance between men's and women's scholarships.

B.3.- Find the words in the text that mean: (Puntuación máxima: 1 punto)

a) chance (paragraph 1) **opportunity**

b) significant (paragraph 2) **prevalent**

c) comprise (paragraph 2) **include**

d) key (paragraph 4) **crucial**

B.4.- Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

a) Young players, **who** frequently play school sports, acquire values by **competing** (compete) while in school.

b) Every year, outdoor sports **are played** (play) all through the academic course **regardless** (regard) of the weather conditions.

- c) Failing **to meet** (meet) the graduation requirements may prevent you **from** getting into university.
- d) Complete the following sentence to report what was said.

“Who won the Australia Open tournament three years ago?”

My son asked me **who won/ had won the Australia Open Tournament three years before/earlier.**

B.5.- Write about 150 to 200 words on the following topic.(Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos)

Do you consider that practicing sports is absolutely necessary for a healthy life? Explain.

Engaging in sports and physical activities undoubtedly plays a crucial role in leading a healthy life. While it may not be an absolute necessity, it offers numerous benefits that contribute to overall well-being.

Firstly, participating in sports helps maintain physical fitness. Regular exercise improves cardiovascular health, builds strength and endurance, and enhances flexibility. It helps to control weight, reduce the risk of chronic diseases, and boost the immune system. Moreover, sports promote better mental health by reducing stress, anxiety, and depression through the release of endorphins.

Secondly, sports foster social interaction and teamwork. Participating in team sports cultivates important skills such as communication, cooperation, and leadership. It provides an opportunity to build friendships, develop a sense of camaraderie, and learn how to work collectively towards a common goal.

Additionally, sports inculcate discipline and time management. To excel in sports, individuals must commit to regular training schedules, adhere to rules and regulations, and maintain a healthy lifestyle. This discipline can be transmitted to other aspects of life, such as academics or professional pursuits.

In conclusion, while practicing sports may not be an absolute necessity, it offers invaluable benefits for a healthy life. From physical fitness to mental well-being, social interaction, and personal development, sports provide a holistic approach to overall well-being that is difficult to replicate through other means.