



IB Diploma Program – English – External Candidates

READING COMPREHENSION – SAMPLE

Read the following text carefully and complete the tasks that follow.

Syrian teenager who fled the Jungle to find his sister: 'It feels good to feel safe at last'

Adnan can barely believe he has made it. The Syrian orphan arrived in London via Eurostar on Wednesday to be reunited with his sister, four years after she fled the civil war engulfing their homeland.

He is the seventh unaccompanied minor the government has allowed to enter England under EU {European Union} regulations that let child refugees be reunited with their families, and is the first to agree to talk about his new life. "I am very, very pleased to be here, it feels good to feel safe at last," said Adnan, who has just turned 17.

He spent seven months enduring life in the "Jungle", the sprawling makeshift migrants' camp near Calais, {French port} and describes the conditions there as 'too difficult' for children on their own, a reminder that at least 143 more unaccompanied youngsters there are entitled to claim asylum in the UK.

... Adnan appreciates his good fortune, grinning broadly as he sits cross-legged on the living-room floor of his sister's terrace home in Dollis Hill, north London. He cannot wait to eat pizza and chips, watch the English Premier League – although he currently prefers Spain's La Liga – and start absorbing London's sights, particularly Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament.

... Adnan has no doubt about the best thing about England. "My sister, Amira. It is really great to see her again, be with her finally, and her children," he says. His 24-year-old sister and her three sons – all aged under four – smile constantly back across the living room at Adnan. "We are very happy he has made it," she beams.

Adnan and Amira's parents died five years ago from cancer, around the time that Syria was sliding into civil war.

His first impression of his adopted country is how "very different" the suburban streets of north London are to the "more undeveloped" neighbourhoods of his home town Al-Harah..., whose lanes, he says, were crammed with stalls selling quinoa, lentils and chicken.

The streets were also dangerous. Al-Harah was an early flashpoint in the Syrian uprising, with tanks under the command of the president, Bashar al-Assad, shelling its streets.

But Adnan said the real threat was from above. "The war was terrible, many bombs kept falling from so many airplanes. I know many, many people who were killed, so many that I have lost count."

The family fled al-Harah for the small city of Jasim five miles away. Still the bombs fell. In Jasim, Adnan saw two of his cousins die in a rocket attack. In the same salvo, his older brother Tariq was seriously injured.

... Adnan is excited by the prospect of a fresh start in England and wants to enrol in school as soon as possible. He is, he says, happy to do any job. "But if Syria improves, then I plan to return straight away. It will take a very long time to get back to normal."

Adnan will also take a while to recover. His escape from the Syrian conflict and ordeal in the Jungle, where he says he witnessed police beatings and brutality towards migrants, has left him weary. Adnan estimates that he made 50 attempts to reach Britain by jumping on lorries heading for the ferry terminal in Calais, each one "very dangerous".

Adapted from:

Townsend, Mark. "Syrian Teenager Who Fled the Jungle to Find His Sister." *The Guardian*. N.p., 02 Apr. 2016. Web. 03 Apr. 2016.

Glossary:

makeshift: acting as a temporary measure

salvo: a number of weapons released from one or more aircraft in quick succession.

TASKS:

A. VOCABULARY

1. Find two words in the text that mean very young people/children. (2 points)
2. Explain *the highlighted words* by giving synonyms or a brief (between 5 and 10 words) explanation. (12 points)

B. COMPREHENSION

Answer the following questions in complete sentences and in your own words. Be brief.

1. What is it about Adnan's situation that has made it possible for him to enter England legally? (4 points)
2. What excites him about his new country? (4 points)
3. What were the first two differences that Adnan noticed between London and his hometown, Al-Harah? (4 points)
4. What does Adnan intend to do in the near and far future? (6 points)
5. The refugee camp in Calais, is called the 'Jungle'. Why do you think it was given that name? (8 points)

C. SUMMARY

Adnan has experienced a lot of hardships in his life so far. In a text of 40 words summarize these hardships. (20 points)

Total: 60 points