



Word Choice Practice.

QUESTIONS

N5 RUAЕ

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Word Choice Practice

Read the passage carefully and then answer the questions which follow.

Travelling around Scotland

Scotland is often described as a small country, yet anyone who has attempted to travel its length will know how misleading that description can be. From the crowded pavements of Glasgow to the silent, stretching moors of Sutherland, the landscape constantly shifts, forcing travellers to adjust their expectations as they go. This sense of variety is not merely visual; it affects how Scotland feels, sounds and even smells, making every journey unpredictable.

In the cities, travel is fast-paced and relentless. Trains thunder into stations, buses groan under the weight of commuters, and tourists hurry through streets clutching maps and phones. There is an urgency to urban Scotland that can be both exhilarating and exhausting, as if the cities themselves are impatient, urging visitors to keep moving.

Beyond the cities, however, Scotland seems to slow its breathing. Roads narrow, phone signals falter, and the land begins to dominate the traveller's attention. Mountains loom without warning, while lochs lie dark and watchful beside the road. The journey becomes less about reaching a destination and more about enduring the long, winding miles.

For many travellers, the Highlands represent the “real” Scotland, a place shaped by isolation and endurance. Croft houses cling stubbornly to hillsides, battered by weather that appears almost hostile. The land feels ancient and unforgiving, yet it also rewards patience, offering moments of striking beauty to those willing to wait.

Scotland's islands add another layer of challenge to travel. Ferries are ruled by tides and tempers, not timetables, and a cancelled crossing can



strand visitors for days. This uncertainty can be frustrating, but it also encourages a slower, more reflective way of travelling, where plans are flexible rather than fixed.

The weather, of course, plays a constant role in shaping any Scottish journey. Sunshine can vanish within minutes, replaced by sheets of rain that blur the landscape. Travellers quickly learn to accept this unpredictability, packing layers and adjusting their ambitions to match the mood of the sky.

Despite these difficulties, travelling in Scotland is deeply rewarding. Encounters with locals, whether in a village shop or a roadside café, often reveal warmth and humour beneath a reserved exterior. These brief interactions can become as memorable as any famous landmark.

Ultimately, travelling around Scotland demands patience, resilience and curiosity. Those who rush through it may leave disappointed, but those who take their time are often surprised by how much the country gives back. Scotland does not reveal itself easily, but for the determined traveller, it leaves a lasting impression.



Questions

1. Referring to paragraph 1, show how the writer's word choice emphasises the variety of travelling in Scotland. (4)
2. Referring to paragraph 2, analyse how the writer's use of language conveys the pressure and intensity of city travel. (4)
3. Referring to paragraph 3, show how the writer's word choice creates a sense of remoteness and slowness. (4)
4. Referring to paragraph 4, analyse how the writer's use of language suggests the harshness of the Highland environment. (4)
5. Referring to paragraph 5, show how the writer's use of language highlights the uncertainty of island travel. (4)
6. Referring to paragraph 6, analyse how the writer's word choice conveys the unpredictability of Scottish weather . (4)
7. Referring to paragraph 7, show how the writer's word choice reveals positive experiences of meeting local people. (4)



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MARK SCHEME

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Marking Instructions

Award 1 mark for a relevant quotation. Award 1 mark for a clear, specific comment on the connotations/effect of that word. Candidates must provide two separate examples for full marks. Maximum of 2 marks per example (1 for quote, 1 for comment). Accept any other valid quotation with appropriate analytical comment.

Do not award marks for vague comments such as “this makes it sound good/bad”.

Comment must relate directly to the focus of the question.

Question 1 – Variety of travelling (Paragraph 1)

- “misleading” – suggests the description of Scotland as small is inaccurate or deceptive, highlighting unexpected variety.
- “constantly shifts” – implies continual change, emphasising diversity in landscape.
- “forcing” – suggests travellers must actively respond to change, reinforcing variety.
- “adjust” – shows travellers must adapt to different conditions.
- “variety” – directly highlights difference and range.
- “unpredictable” – suggests journeys are uncertain and varied.
- “stretching” – conveys vastness and contrast to city pavements.
- “silent” – contrasts with urban noise, reinforcing difference.

Question 2 – Pressure and intensity of city travel (Paragraph 2)

- “fast-paced” – suggests quick movement and lack of rest.
- “relentless” – implies no pause or escape from activity
- “thunder” – conveys loud, powerful noise creating intensity.
- “groan” – suggests strain and overcrowding.



- “clutching” – implies anxiety or urgency.
- “urgency” – directly conveys pressure.
- “impatient” – personifies the city as demanding speed.



Question 3 – Remoteness and slowness (Paragraph 3)

- “slow its breathing” – personification suggesting calm and reduced pace.
- “narrow” – implies restriction and rural isolation.
- “falter” – suggests weakening phone signals, emphasising remoteness.
- “dominate” – shows landscape overpowering human presence.
- “loom” – suggests threatening or imposing mountains.
- “dark” – creates a sense of isolation or mystery.
- “watchful” – personifies lochs as silent observers, enhancing remoteness.
- “winding” – suggests long, slow, twisting roads.

Question 4 – Harshness of the Highlands (Paragraph 4)

- “isolation” – suggests loneliness and separation.
- “endurance” – implies survival through hardship.
- “cling” – suggests difficulty and struggle to survive.
- “stubbornly” – implies resistance against harsh conditions.
- “battered” – suggests repeated physical attack by weather.
- “hostile” – conveys aggression and unwelcoming conditions.
- “ancient” – implies harshness lasting over time.
- “unforgiving” – suggests no mercy from the landscape.

Question 5 – Uncertainty of island travel (Paragraph 5)

- “ruled” – suggests travellers have no control
- “tempers” – implies unpredictability of people or conditions.
- “cancelled” – shows disruption of plans.
- “strand” – suggests abandonment or being stuck.
- “uncertainty” – directly highlights unpredictability.
- “frustrating” – conveys emotional impact.
- “slower” – implies enforced change of pace.
- “flexible” – suggests plans must adapt.





Question 6 – Unpredictability of weather (Paragraph 6)

- “vanish” – suggests sudden disappearance of sunshine.
- “sheets” – implies heavy, overwhelming rain.
- “blur” – suggests obscured vision and unclear landscape.
- “constant” – emphasises ongoing influence of weather.
- “unpredictability” – directly states lack of certainty.
- “accept” – suggests resignation to changing conditions.
- “adjusting” – implies continuous adaptation.
- “mood” – personifies the sky as changeable.

Question 7 – Positive experienced with locals (Paragraph 7)

- “warmth” – suggests friendliness and kindness
- “humour” – implies enjoyable personality.
- “beneath” – suggests hidden depth beyond first impressions.
- “reserved” – indicates initial distance that contrasts with warmth.
- “brief” – shows even short interactions are meaningful.
- “memorable” – suggests lasting positive impact.
- “encounters” – implies personal and meaningful meetings.
- “reveal” – suggests discovering something positive.





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