

Question B - Comprehension | Sample answer

Write a feature article, for inclusion in a series of newspaper articles entitled: Must-see attractions for tourists, in which you identify one place or public building in Ireland that, in your opinion, tourists should visit and explain your choice. (2013)

Discovering the culture of Ireland when you visit County Clare in the heart of the west coast of Ireland is an experience that is not to be missed. With the glorious UNESCO World Heritage Burren, the cliffs of Moher, historic towns of Bunratty and Ennistymon and splendid beaches and alcoves dispersed along the coast, County Clare provides an infinite array of sights, activities and attractions to keep everyone entertained. It's a place for clifftop walks, island-hopping, traditional pubs and remarkable views. Rugged nature and the timeless ocean meet at the spectacular Cliffs of Moher. Eroded away by the sheer force of the Atlantic Ocean, the cliffs stand an astonishing 120 m above the currents below.

Sun, rain or snow you'll be met with extraordinary panoramic views of the ever-changing coastline. Watch out for colonies of puffins on the sea stacks below or schools of dolphins swimming by. After a windswept walk along the safety guarded trail, why not relax in the unique visitors centre. Built into the side of a hill it offers food, drink and souvenirs from your time at one of Europe's tallest cliff faces, including a memento of your very own piece of scree from the cliffs themselves.

Then there is the otherworldly Burren - an ancient region of stone and vistas stretches down the coast right out to the Aran Islands. A vast limestone pavement rich with rare flora and fauna offers something for everyone. Whether you just want a casual stroll around this unique karst landscape or want to try something more adventurous like explore the underground caves, the multiple hiking trails, playgrounds and adventure centres keep everyone entertained.

Nearby, the Spanish point has developed into a bustling seaside resort. During the summer months expect to find seaside fun and endless beach activities. Spend the day surfing along one

of the West's best surfing spots. Or if surfing's not for you, visit the nearby small town of Bunratty, whose best feature and spectacle is undoubtedly the great Bunratty Castle overlooking a river of the same name. This Stone Age antiquity is steeped in traditional Irish music and culture which flourish here.

Unwind in the evening by sampling fresh seafood caught by local fisherman only hours before in one of many local restaurants. No visit to Spanish Point is complete without a trip to JJ's pub where Guinness and local beers flow once the sun sets and free country music, with traditional Irish bands on Sunday evenings, attract a lively crowd. The open-stove coal fire warms up the atmosphere too – dancing often spills out on to the streets in summer, just be careful you don't fall into the water.

Your trip to Ireland would not be complete without a visit to the heart of the West coast. Clare combines the stunning natural beauty of its long meandering coastline with unique windswept landscapes and clusters of traditional Irish culture. It is a place not to be missed.