

SECTION B: Reading and Writing

Answer the question in this section.

You should spend 1 hour on this section.

Use ideas from both Text One and Text Two in the Extracts Booklet.

- 8 A friend of yours is going abroad for the first time.

Write a letter to your friend explaining what it might be like.

You should include:

- what might be seen or experienced
- what might be enjoyable
- what might be disappointing.

Think carefully about the purpose of your letter and the audience for whom it is intended.

(30)

To:

For From:

Dear John,

How are you? Fine, I hope? I am doing well but a little bit under the weather. Nothing too serious.

Listen, I heard you plan to go abroad this year. I understand that it can be a bit difficult for you (even nerve-racking for that matter) but its

nothing, really, to be afraid of. We were all 'first-timers' ^{once} in our life ~~once~~ and, honestly, most of us were too distracted enjoying ourselves to be actually afraid of it! Think of it like your first time going to school. The ~~minute~~ fear stops gnawing within you the ~~minute~~ ^{moment} you start making friends.

Anyway, if you're still scared, here's a few tips and tricks I picked up during a few of my 'foreign endeavours':

1. Try to steer clear from ~~be~~ a back seat. More often than not, you'll end up being the last to leave which can easily translate to a few more hours waiting at the immigration hall. Do yourself, and your legs, a huge favour.
2. Most airports have their own taxi terminals. Use these instead of shady cabbies that might offer cheaper rates. It's always better to be safe than sorry.
3. Try to avoid sleeping—succumbing to the jet lag. Chances are, if you're able to adjust early on, you can enjoy the nightlife of your destination.

while still ^{being able to get} ~~getting~~ a good night's sleep.

Anyway, other than this, try to visit the tourist destinations of your country when you can. Take a break the following day (so as to not exert yourself too much) before resuming your adventures once more. Oh, and don't fret too much about the language barrier. I have ~~that~~ often found that a puzzled look, followed by a warm smile, can often do wonders in this world!

Your Friend,

