



A Culture Shock

- 1 As soon as she landed in Boston, Tamara Blackmore could feel the tension in the air. She was about to taste a lifestyle far more hectic than the one she left. "Driving in Boston is crazy," says Blackmore. "It took me a while to get used to the roads and the driving style here. I was always afraid someone was going to hit me. It was particularly tricky since the steering wheel was on the wrong side of the car. In Australia, it's on the right side." Beyond the cars and traffic jams, Blackmore said it took a while to get used to so many people in one place, all of whom seemed like they were moving at high speed.
- 2 "There are only 18 million people in Australia spread out over an entire country," she says, "compared to more than six million people in the state of Massachusetts alone. We don't have the kind of congestion you have in Boston. There is a whole different perception of space."
- 3 The pressing problem for Blackmore was making a quick adjustment to the American lifestyle which she felt as if it was run by a stopwatch. For this easy going Australian, Americans seemed like perpetual-motion machines. "Americans are very time-oriented," Blackmore says. "Everything is done according to a schedule. They are always busy, which made me feel guilty about wanting to just hang around and occasionally watch television."
- 4 It didn't take Blackmore long to adjust to the American rhythm. "I felt the pressure to work harder and do more because everyone was running around doing so much," she says. When BC students weren't huddled over books, Blackmore found it weird that they were compulsively jogging, running, biking, or doing aerobics in order to be thin.
- 5 But it's Boston College's relaxed and friendly learning environment that sets it apart from her Melbourne college experience. "Generally speaking, learning facilities are a lot better in Boston," she says. "In Australia, students and teachers have little contact outside the classroom. It's a formal and depersonalized relationship." It's just the opposite at BC, according to Blackmore. "BC and faculty students are like one big happy family," she says. "There is a real sense of team spirit." Another pleasant shock was the close and open relationship American students enjoy with their teachers. It's a sharp contrast to Australia, where college students keep a discreet but respectful distance from their tutors.

By **Bob Weinstein**
From **The Boston Globe**

I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS) {BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

A Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY. (3 pts)

- 1 Melbourne is less crowded than Boston.
- 2 Americans have a better-organized life than Australians.
- 3 Blackmore never studied at university in Australia.

B Answer the following questions. (4 pts)

- 1 Why did Blackmore think that driving in Boston was crazy?
- 2 List two of the things which make studying in America different from Australia. (2 pts)

3 What did Blackmore do to get used to living in Boston?

C Find in the text words that mean much the same as the following. (3 pts)

- 1 very busy and full of activity (paragraph 1)
- 2 spontaneously (paragraph 4)
- 3 prudent and cautious (paragraph 5)

D What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2 pts)

- 1 it (paragraph 1)
- 2 They (paragraph 3)
- 2 everyone (paragraph 4)

E Complete the following sentences with information from the text. (3 pts)

- 1 It was particularly tricky owing
- 2 They were compulsively jogging, running, biking, or doing aerobics so that
- 3 It's not only a formal relationship, but

II LANGUAGE (15 POINTS)

A Fill in the blanks with the correct phrasal verb in the right tense. (2 pts)

apply for run into take off fill in

- 1 Could you this form, please.
- 2 When I was in Agadir, I an old friend of mine on the beach.

B Rewrite the sentences beginning with the words given. (4 pts)

- 1 Someone has written a report about the incident.
A report
- 2 Although Jane is gifted in art, she has never won a prize.
Despite
- 3 "Tom will certainly have an accident because he drives too fast."
Alex said
- 4 It wasn't necessary for you to hurry. You had plenty of time.
You needn't

C Put the verbs between brackets in the correct form. (4 pts)

- 1 Two days ago the teacher (ask) the students if they (finish) their projects yet.
- 2 Peter had a rest in the evening because he (work) all day long.
- 3 By the end of next week, Sarah (know) about the results of her medical check-up.

D Give the correct form of the words between brackets. (3 pts)

- 1 The children were very (enthusiasm) about going to the zoo.
- 2 Nowadays a lot of companies are fighting for the (dominate) of the software market.
- 3 Remove dead leaves to encourage new (grow)

E Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word from the list. (2 pts)

sustainable feminism gender human

- 1 The government's policy is against any form of discrimination.
- 2 development is the development that meets the needs of the present and future generations.

III WRITING (10 POINTS)

Taking drugs is dangerous. Write a short article to your school magazine about the causes consequences of drug-taking on youths' health and education. Try to suggest some solutions to this phenomenon.
(Approximately 150 words)

These questions may help you:

- Why do you think young people take drugs?
- What effects do these drugs have on their health and education?
- What solutions do you suggest for them?

A series of horizontal dotted lines providing space for writing the article.