

A. Reading comprehension

Read the following text and then answer the questions:

Working abroad – Your path to career success

At the age of 45, computer specialist Roland Müller had had enough of waiting for his boss to leave so that he could be promoted. But instead of looking for a new employer, Müller looked for a new country.

That was four years ago, and even though he has experienced some ups and downs, it's a decision Müller hasn't regretted. Born and raised in Germany, he now lives in Austin, Texas and is president of a computer security company.

Müller is one of many who **leave** home each year to try their luck abroad. Most people decide to move abroad in their 20s or 30s. However, Müller doesn't see his age as a problem. 'I had the impression that my career was at a dead end, and wanted to do something new,' he said.

If, like Roland Müller, you want to work abroad, the first thing you need before booking your flight is to find a job. If you're lucky, you can move abroad with your **current** employer. If not, you need to start working on your own international job-search strategy.

In today's global market, the importance of international experience cannot be overestimated. Many employers these days find it important for their workers to have intercultural competence. It is seen as a big **advantage** for those who can move back and forth between two languages and two cultures and remain flexible.

Getting a proper visa before moving abroad is important. Although most job-placement agencies recommend that you have a job before moving abroad, not everyone follows this advice. One example is Silvia Raninger, 36, who lives and works as lecturer at a private college in Cape Town, South Africa.

'I first came to South Africa at the end of 1990. My **motives** were a hunger for life, excitement, a love of travelling and the desire to go out there and conquer the world,' she explains. 'I stayed for two and a half years, then went back home and started studying media and communication at University. I decided to write my thesis about South Africa. So I went to South Africa to do my research and met my husband, who is South African. We got married and stayed in South Africa.'

If moving so far away and dealing with complicated visa questions seems too **difficult**, you can also get international work experience within the European Union. This is what Helen Byrne, 22, is doing.

Byrne, who was born in Austria, has been living in Blackrock County Dublin, Ireland, for a year. Her Irish husband encouraged her move, but Byrne says the booming Irish economy was also a reason for the couple to live there.

'I really **enjoy** living with the Irish,' says Byrne. 'I find them **funny** and relaxed, and it's easy to deal with them. I also love the country and the **fresh** air. But I wouldn't spend the rest of my life here. I think the main reason for this is the weather.'

1. Answer the following questions in complete sentences (do not copy from the text) (10 points)

1.1 Why do people decide to go abroad? Give four reasons (4)

1.2 Why is it so important to have international experience? Give two reasons. (2)

1.3 What is the most common age to move abroad? (1)

1.4 Why did Silvia Raninger return to South Africa and then stay there? (2)

1.5 Explain this sentence from line 10 'I had the impression that my career was at a dead end' in your own words? (1)

2. True or false? (3 points)

- a. Roland Müller feels sorry that he moved to the United States. **True/False**
- b. You need to have a job before you move abroad. **True/False**
- c. Silvia Rainiger moved back to South Africa because she got married. **True/False**

B. Vocabulary

1. What are the opposites (=Gegenteil) of these words (4 points)

advantage

enjoy

funny

fresh

2. Explain the following words in English using a synonym or giving an example: (4 points)

leave

current

motives

difficult

C. Grammar

1. Complete the following sentences. Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple (e.g. I did). (6 points)

Mary lived in Paris for a while. She _____ (drive) her car to work every day but she _____ (ride) her bike on Sundays.

Mary _____ (eat) crêpes every day.(eat). But she _____ (not eat) escargo. Mary

Her best friend Anette lived in the countryside. When they _____ (meet), they _____ (tell) each other a lot of funny stories.

2. Complete the following sentences using past simple (e.g. I did) or past continuous (e.g. I was doing). (11 points)

I (buy) new computers when I
(see) an elderly lady stealing something. She (pick up) an
expensive-looking watch a number of times. When she (think)
that nobody (look) she (drop) it into a bag
that she (carry). Before I (have) a chance
to tell a shop assistant she (notice) that I
..... (watch) her and (hurry) out.

3. Complete the following sentences using present simple (e.g. I do) or present continuous (e.g. I am doing). (6 points)

Harold Black's a famous pianist. He _____ (give) two or three concert
every week. He _____ (travel) a lot and this week he is in New
York. He _____ (stay) at an expensive hotel. He is at his hotel
now. He _____ (have) his breakfast in the dining-room. He
sometimes _____ (get) dressed too quickly and this morning he
_____ (wear) one blue sock and one red one!

4. Make these positive sentences negative and the negative sentences positive. Use the correct tense. (4 points)

4.1 Roland Müller doesn't enjoy his new job.

4.2 Silvia Raininger found a job in Germany.

4.3 Helen Byrne was born in Ireland.

4.4 She didn't feel comfortable back home.

5. Make questions for these sentences. Ask for the information which is underlined. (5 points)

5.1 Roland Müller was 45 when he moved to the United States.

_____ ?

5.2 He went to live in Texas.

_____ ?

5.3 He spent about 5000 Euros to move there.

_____ ?

5.4 Silvia Raininger did some research when she met her husband.

_____ ?

5.5 Helen Byrne lives in Ireland because her husband is from Ireland.

_____ ?

D. Text production

What do you think? Choose one of the following topics and write a few sentences about it. (about 80-100 words) (10 points)

1. Working abroad (Could you imagine working for some time in another country)
2. English- an international language one has to know
3. Give your opinion on the following statement from the text. 'In today's global market, the importance of international experience cannot be overestimated'