

SPECIAL REPORT

SCHOOL may be out for summer, but has COVID-19 made foreign holidays out of the question this year?

Things are complicated and confusing right now, for children and adults. And with people slowly starting to emerge from lockdown, we all have concerns and questions.

What's allowed? What's safe? Who can I see now? Where can I go on holiday? Can I go on holiday? That's a question you and your family are probably asking yourselves, so here's everything you need to know.



● **Have any Brits been allowed to travel during lockdown?**

Yes, but hardly any have done so. Foreign travel was never completely shut down during the lockdown, but the Government did advise that Brits only travel abroad if the journey was absolutely essential (e.g. for work), to slow down the spread of the virus in the UK. This meant that fewer and fewer of us were travelling, which led to airlines being forced to cancel a huge number of flights.

Those Brits who have travelled over the last few months have been required by law to self-isolate (not leave their homes) for 14 days upon their return to the UK. But things have just changed, which could mean good news for your summer holidays!

● **The big question: has coronavirus cancelled summer?**

The short answer is no. Naturally, months of lockdown have left plenty of us wondering whether our annual summer holiday plans are cancelled for good this year. Things were looking pretty bleak, but on Friday 3 July, after weeks of guessing (and a lot of confusion), the Government confirmed a list of more than 50 countries that those living in England can travel to and from without having to spend 14 days in quarantine.

Countries on the list include France, Spain, Greece, Belgium and Turkey. The Government has spent the last few weeks making special arrangements with these countries. It's important to bear in mind, however, that these travel agreements can change at any time.



THE NEW SUMMER HOLIDAYS

What you and your family need to know about travelling abroad this summer.

● **So people living in England can travel to and from other countries again?**

Yes, some – but there are rules. From 10 July, anyone living in England will be allowed to travel to any country that has a 'travel corridor exemption'. The travel corridors are the result of travel agreements between the UK and other countries affected by the pandemic. In theory, this should make travelling abroad feel fairly normal(ish).

● **I've heard something about a traffic light system.**

The Government talked about using this to let Brits know which countries were safe to travel to, decided by the specific coronavirus threat in that country. Green was going to mean it was fine to travel, amber would be allowed, but red would mean you couldn't travel to that country.

Although the traffic light system has been binned, if you travel to (or pass through) any country not on the travel corridor exemption list, e.g. the USA, you'll have to self-isolate in the UK for 14 days on your return. You'll also have to bear in mind any local travel restrictions in each country.

● **What about those of us living in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?**

The new English rules don't apply to the rest of the UK. The Government says that travel information for all three countries will be published in the near future.

● **But coronavirus is still a big problem in the UK, isn't it? Do other countries actually want British tourists right now?**

Most countries are being careful to ensure the pandemic doesn't get any worse on their own soil, but a lot of countries – such as Spain and Greece – rely

on tourism for their economy.

On 15 June, the EU lifted travel restrictions, leaving it up to individual countries to decide whether they are ready for tourists, and which countries they would accept travellers from.

The Government has been talking to the 50 countries on the list to ensure travel is safe for everyone, but will keep a close eye on the situation.

You'll notice changes at airports to keep coronavirus at bay, but if you are experiencing any kind of coronavirus symptoms, you shouldn't travel.

● **Will we need to do anything differently while travelling?**

Yes. You will need to wear a face mask or a face covering on a plane (and in the terminal) or ferry; just like on any other form of public transport right now.

● **My family and I are thinking about going somewhere outside of Europe? Can we?**

Yes! There are plenty of countries on the Government's travel corridor exemption list that are outside of Europe, including Hong Kong, Australia, Barbados and Japan.

Bear in mind that some countries are still not welcoming tourists at all, in a bid to keep the virus away. The Government is still advising against all but essential travel to any country not on the list. It's also important to note that, just because a country is on the list, there may be restrictions when you get there. Some, such as New Zealand, aren't accepting any visitors.

QUICK TRAVEL TIPS

- Check before you travel! Is your holiday destination on the Government's list? Check for yourself at www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors
- Check your temperature before you travel!
- Pack face masks in hand luggage!
- You and your family will have to comply with coronavirus requirements in the country you travel to. Check Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) coronavirus advice for the country you are travelling to
- Keep socially distancing!



GLOSSARY

exemption – Special permission not to have to obey a rule



Questions on: Special report: 'The new summer holidays'

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Identify which of the following statements are true and which are false.

Statement	True or false?
Foreign travel was completely shut down during lockdown.	
Airlines were forced to cancel a huge number of flights.	
Those Brits who have travelled abroad over the last few months have been required to self-isolate for 14 days upon their return to the UK.	
The Government continues to advise that Brits should only travel abroad if the journey is essential.	

A2. What is a 'travel corridor exemption'?

A3. Use the words in the box to complete the following paragraph about travelling this summer.

On Friday _____ July, the Government confirmed a list of more than _____ countries that those in England can travel to and from without having to spend _____ days in quarantine. Countries on the list include France, Spain, _____ and Turkey. There are also plenty of countries on the Government's travel corridor exemption list that are outside of Europe, including Hong Kong, _____, Barbados and Japan. However, the new English rules don't apply to those people living in Scotland, _____ and Northern Ireland.

14	Australia	Greece	3	50	Wales
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A4. What is the advice regarding travel to a country not on the list?

A5. Number the following 'Quick travel tips' 1-5 to reflect the order in which they appear in the report.

Pack face masks in hand luggage!	
Keep socially distancing!	
Check whether your holiday destination is on the Government's list by going to: www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-	
Check Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) advice for the country you are travelling to.	
Check your temperature before you travel.	

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. How will travelling abroad seem different?

B2. Why is it significant that the travel agreements between countries could change at any time?

B3. Explain why some other countries are allowing entry to tourists from England, even though the coronavirus is still a big problem in the UK.

B4. If you do travel abroad then "you and your family will have to comply with coronavirus requirements in the country you travel to." What does this mean?

B5. If people are being allowed to holiday in countries abroad again, why is the headline for this report: 'The new summer holidays'?

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. Comment on the use of questions in the opening section of this report.

C2. Suggest why the majority of this report is written in a question and answer format.

Part D: Discussion task

"It is 'absurd' that Portugal has been omitted from the list of 'travel corridors' with the UK."

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? (Do some research to help you to justify your view.)

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Questions on: Special report: 'The new summer holidays'

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Identify which of the following statements are true and which are false.

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Those Brits who have travelled abroad over the last few months have been required to self-isolate for 14 days upon their return to the UK.	
The Government continues to advise that Brits should only travel abroad if the journey is essential.	

A2. What is a 'travel corridor exemption'?

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A3. Use the words in the box to complete the following paragraph about travelling this summer.

On Friday _____ July, the Government confirmed a list of more than _____ countries that those in England can travel to and from without having to spend _____ days in quarantine. Countries on the list include France, Spain, _____ and Turkey. There are also plenty of countries on the Government's travel corridor exemption list that are outside of Europe, including Hong Kong, _____, Barbados and Japan. However, the new English rules don't apply to those people living in Scotland, _____ and Northern Ireland.

- 14
- Australia
- Greece
- 3
- 50
- Wales

A4. What is the advice regarding travel to a country not on the list?

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Questions on: Special report: 'The new summer holidays'

A5. Number the following 'Quick travel tips' 1-5 to reflect the order in which they appear in the report.

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Check whether your holiday destination is on the Government's list by going to: www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors	
Check Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) advice for the country you are travelling to.	
Check your temperature before you travel.	

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. How will travelling abroad seem different?

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B2. Why is it significant that the travel agreements between countries could change at any time?

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Teacher Answers

AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS: News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE: The teacher answers are intended to provide a guide to the reading skill each question is practising. Suggestions are given for a starting point for responses that students would be expected to give at the start of KS3. Further suggestions then give fuller, more developed responses that students will work towards by the end of KS3, in preparation for the non-fiction elements of GCSE English language.

Part A: Finding the facts

A1. Identify which of the following statements are true and which are false.

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

Expected response

Statement	True or false?
Foreign travel was completely shut down during lockdown.	False
Airlines were forced to cancel a huge number of flights.	True
Those Brits who have travelled abroad over the last few months have been required to self-isolate for 14 days upon their return to the UK.	True
The Government continues to advise that Brits should only travel abroad if the journey is essential.	False

A2. What is a 'travel corridor exemption'?

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- A travel corridor exemption is the term used to describe the agreement between countries that there can be travel between them without quarantine at either end.

Development

- The travel corridors are the result of special arrangements made by the UK and other countries affected by the pandemic. It should make travelling abroad feel fairly normal(ish).

A3. Use the words in the box to complete the following paragraph about travelling this summer.

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point – some information correctly identified

Developed response – information correctly identified

On Friday 3 July, the Government confirmed a list of more than 50 countries that those in England can travel to and from without having to spend 14 days in quarantine. Countries on the list include France, Spain, Greece and Turkey. There are also plenty of countries on the Government's travel corridor exemption list that are outside of Europe, including Hong Kong, Australia, Barbados and Japan. However, the new English rules don't apply to those people living in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

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A4. What is the advice regarding travel to a country not on the list?

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- The Government is still advising against all but essential travel to any country not on the list.

Development

- Furthermore, even if you only pass through a country not on the travel corridor exemption list on your way to another destination, you'll still have to self-isolate in the UK for 14 days on your return.

A5. Number the following ‘Quick travel tips’ 1-5 to reflect the order in which they appear in the report.

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

Pack face masks in hand luggage!	3
Keep socially distancing!	5
Check whether your holiday destination is on the Government’s list by going to: www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors	1
Check Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) advice for the country you are travelling to.	4
Check your temperature before you travel.	2

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. How will travelling abroad seem different?

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer

Starting point

- Travelling abroad will seem different because there will be changes at airports to keep COVID-19 at bay. As with all public transport at the moment, you will also be required to wear a face covering in the airport terminal, on a plane or on the ferry.

Development

- When you get to your destination, there may also be coronavirus requirements that you are not used to. For example, in some countries such as Spain, the wearing of face masks in public spaces is mandatory.

B2. Why is it significant that the travel agreements between countries could change at any time?

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer

Starting point

- It is significant that the travel agreements between countries could change at any time because it shows that the pandemic is not over. If a second wave of infections occurs in a given country, then it may not be considered low risk any more and the travel corridor agreements could be withdrawn.

Development

- People need to take this into consideration before deciding to travel abroad. In extreme circumstances the rules may change very suddenly and they may be required to quarantine on their return from holiday, or there may be fresh restrictions on travel to their chosen location.

B3. Explain why some countries are allowing entry to tourists from England, even though the coronavirus is still a big problem in the UK.

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer

Starting point

- Some countries are allowing entry to tourists from England, even though coronavirus is still a big problem in the UK, because they rely so heavily on the money that they get from tourism.

Development

- Countries such as Spain and Greece are usually very popular with tourists, but quarantine rules would be off-putting for many as it causes problems for those needing to return to work or school. The economies of countries such as Spain and Greece would be severely impacted if tourists avoided these areas over the summer months.
- Although the public health risk from coronavirus has to be taken into consideration, a failing economy can also affect people’s health. If people lose their jobs and there is an increase in poverty then this can have a negative impact on people’s physical and mental health. This is likely to be why many countries have agreed on a travel corridor with England despite the high number of people who have died from the coronavirus there. (At the time of going to press, the rest of the UK is still to confirm what their rules will be.)

B4. If you do travel abroad then “you and your family will have to comply with coronavirus requirements in the country you travel to.” What does this mean?

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer

Starting point

- This means that the rules regarding social distancing, the wearing of face masks and local travel vary from country to country.

Development

- Some countries require you to stay at a distance of two metres from anyone not in your household, whereas in other countries it is 1.5 metres. In some countries you have to wear a face covering in all public spaces, whereas in others it is only required on public transport and in hospitals. The rules regarding the age from which you must wear a face covering also vary. You will be required to abide by the rules of the country that you are visiting.

B5. If people are being allowed to holiday in countries abroad again, why is the headline for this report: ‘The new summer holidays’?

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer

Starting point

- The headline is ‘The new summer holidays’ because although people are being allowed to holiday in countries abroad, it won’t be exactly the same as usual.

Development

- For a start, there are many countries that the Government is still advising people not to visit. Travelling to your destination will be different because increased hygiene procedures will be in place. Then even when you arrive at your destination it is likely that it will be a different experience because there will be limits on the amount of people allowed in bars, restaurants and on the beaches.

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. Comment on the use of questions in the opening section of this report.

READING SKILL — Identify benefits of text organisation and presentation

Possible answer

Starting point

- In the opening section of this report, a series of five questions are asked one after the other.

Development

- The questions are used to show that there is a lot of confusion about travelling abroad this summer. This is especially the case because the rules have recently changed. By highlighting so many questions, the writer shows that there is a need for this report.

C2. Suggest why the majority of this report is written in a question and answer format.

READING SKILL — Identify benefits of text organisation and presentation

Possible answer

Starting point

- The majority of this report is written in a question and answer format because there is a lot of information for the reader to process, so it is a good way of breaking the text into smaller sections to make it easier to understand.

Development

- The questions also pre-empt what the reader is likely to need to know. This is reassuring for the reader and makes it likely that they will find the report of interest and want to read it.

Part D: Writing task

“It is ‘absurd’ that Portugal has been omitted from the list of ‘travel corridors’ with the UK.”

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? (Do some research to help you to justify your view.)

READING SKILL — Develop opinions and provide justifications for view points

Possible answer

AGREE	DISAGREE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK has reported far more deaths from the coronavirus than Portugal, and Portugal’s overall cases are relatively low compared to neighbouring Spain. Yet Spain is on the travel corridor exemption list. • The rise in coronavirus cases in Portugal is in Lisbon. In England, Leicester has had to go back into lockdown too. Surely a localised surge shouldn’t mean that Portugal has to be excluded from the list? • Portugal is a very popular holiday destination, so the impact on our tour operators will be huge. There will be considerable unemployment because of this decision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK and the other countries are seeing a decline in deaths and infection rates due to COVID-19. It is the rising case numbers in Portugal that are a cause for concern, and there should be no travel corridors with the country until this is under control. • Having travel corridor agreements with more than 50 other countries must improve the situation for tour operators. We should see how the current arrangements work before adding more countries, which may be higher risk.