



*Ministero dell' Istruzione, dell' Università e della Ricerca*  
**1028 – ESAME DI STATO DI ISTRUZIONE SECONDARIA SUPERIORE**

**Indirizzi:** IT04 – TURISMO, EA07 – ESABAC, EA27 – ESABAC TECHNO

**Tema di:** LINGUA INGLESE

***PART 1: Reading Comprehension***

**The rise of 'bleisure trips'**

The rise of "bleisure" – where travellers mix their business trips with leisure time - is allowing workers to save money and transform what can be an inconvenient trip away into a pleasurable stay.

A recent report for Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT) showed that younger travellers are most likely to blur their business and leisure trips, with 15 per cent of those aged 20 to 25 adding a Saturday night stay at one end or the other of a business trip.

Las Vegas, Nice and Barcelona were some of the most popular places for such trips.

"These travellers tend to take one or two bleisure trips each year, regardless of demographic segment or travel frequency," said Catalin Ciobanu, of CWT. "The longer the flight, the higher the likelihood for bleisure."

So how can business travellers enjoy their downtime while getting the most from the business opportunities on their trip? Carolyn Pearson, founder of Maiden Voyage, recommends picking the right part of the city when you are booking, particularly if your trip runs over a weekend. "It's important to research the area you are going to," she says. "Business districts in some cities can be really quiet over weekends, and everything can be shut."

David Chapple, event director at the Business Travel Show, suggests serviced apartments as a good way to enjoy a bleisure trip. "They are often in residential areas, so you can experience a new city like a local and, possibly, more cost-effectively," he says.

This is true of Staybridge Suites, which offer a home-from-home for guests with on-site laundry and exercise facilities, as well as a kitchen in each apartment. Additionally, unlike some apartment rentals, Staybridge business travellers can enjoy hotel-style comforts such as housekeeping and use of a business centre.

The Carlson study showed that people are most likely to tack their bleisure trips on the end of their holidays, to enjoy their leisure time after business has been concluded, but Ms Pearson says she often likes to add the weekend before her business trips to her travels, so that she can be over the jetlag by the time she is in business meetings. "I book spa treatments in advance as well," she says. "I also like to schedule in a shopping trip at my destination – it's great to find unusual things that I can't buy anywhere else, and shopping is an activity best enjoyed on my own."

Giovanni Valentini, general manager of Staybridge Suites in Vauxhall, London, agrees: "It's a good idea to plan ahead so that you can use your time wisely or book tickets to a show or event in advance to avoid disappointment. Get in touch with your hotel or host and find out what is happening while you are in town.

He says that Staybridge guests also like to take advantage of the complimentary social evenings with free nibbles and drinks which are held three nights a week. "When you travel on business it's a good idea to network with people along the way," says Mr Valentini.



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35 “Our social evenings help our long-stay guests to mingle with their neighbours over a game of ping  
pong or a drink. They can also get to know our staff, many of whom are local and can recommend a  
good restaurant or fun venue.” If you’re bleisureing alone, says Ms Pearson, you need to pick  
40 restaurants carefully for their ambience, to avoid awkwardness. “When I’m dining alone I want to  
enjoy the experience and the flavours,” she says. “However, I once went to a restaurant in Paris that  
was very romantic. I ordered a crème brûlée and there was a whole ceremony with music and  
switching the lights off. It was meant to be romantic, but I was on my own and everyone was looking  
at me.”

Not everyone chooses to spend their bleisure trips alone. Mr Chapple suggests checking your loyalty  
points to see if you can bring someone else. “Use your air miles to bring your family and friends to  
45 join you and make the most of it,” he says. Staybridge Suites also offer hotel loyalty points through  
IHG Rewards Club which can also be used towards your additional days. By booking directly through  
IHG Rewards Club you’re also guaranteed the lowest rate.

Deborah Zanke, the spouse of a frequent business traveller, runs a blog called Tagalong Traveller,  
which includes tips to make the most of bleisure time. She says that bleisure trips, where she’s  
50 accompanied her husband, have made their marriage stronger.

“My husband travels about two week travels out of the month and before I started tagging along  
regularly, I sometimes felt resentful,” she says. “I envisioned that his business travel was like a  
vacation full of swish dinners and opulent living. In reality, it's long days, hard work, and evenings  
in a hotel room responding to emails and catching up on work from the home office. Tagging along  
55 has eased his work stress and improved our relationship. Good places for bleisure travel will depend  
upon your interests.”

[835 words]

Rosie Murray-West, *The Telegraph* 19 December

Available online: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/connect/small-business/business-travel/rise-of-bleisure-trips/>

Accessed on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2018

**Refer to the text to answer the following questions. Use complete sentences and your own words.**

1. How can you explain the term “bleisure”?
2. What travel market segment does this new trend cater for?
3. What is a good way to make the most out of a business travel experience which possibly runs over weekends?
4. What kind of accommodation solutions do hotel brands now offer to business travellers?
5. What, according to the article, has become a widespread travel habit among business travellers and what benefit will this bring to them?



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6. What is recommendable for business travellers in order to make the most of their time on a bleisure trip?
7. What added value do complimentary social events bring to the business travel experience?
8. What, according to Carolyn Pearson, founder of Maiden Voyage is important for business lone diners to avoid?
9. What is a good system for business travellers to offset travel costs and bring family members on their bleisure trips?
10. 'Bleisure' travel has steadily been on the rise over the past few years. What are the reasons for this rise in the business travel market?

***PART 2: Writing***

***Choose either A or B. Clearly mark your choice on your exam paper by writing "A" or "B"***

**A.** The tourism industry is experiencing more segmented markets and new groups of consumers. How important is it for tour operators and activity providers, to keep up with emerging trends and what, in your opinion, could be innovative solutions to reach new customers who like to combine responsible travel with authentic and inspirational experiences? Write an article for a travel magazine of about 300 words.

**Or**

**B.** You are working for a tour operator providing customers with personalised travel offers based on their travel needs. A group of business travellers have asked you to finalise their travel programme so that they can add some leisure time onto their business trip and offset some of their personal travel costs. Design an itinerary with a destination of your choice based around an important business hub, one where these travellers can spend some leisure time and even stay an extra day over a weekend.