

Nom: _____ Grup: _____

COMPRESIÓ TEXTOS ESCRITS MULTIPLE CHOICE

Read the following text and for questions 1 - 8 choose the answer A, B, C or D which you think fits best according to the text.

A major drawback was that nobody spoke English. As I was later to learn, you need only ten words of their language and the Italians will gladly help you with the rest, but at that stage I had only three words and a punctuation mark: 'Autostrada del Sole?'. I was looking for the Highway of the Sun. When I said this phrase with an interrogative inflection while doing my gestural imitation of a six-lane highway, people crossed themselves. Some of them crossed the street.

But a few brave souls pointed the way, so that after about two hours of doing my frog-man walk through the killing midday heat I had reached the highway at a spot where it looked like I might get a lift, if one of the hurtling cars would only stop. After another two hours one did. It had an English driver: a Unilever accountant who said he could take me as far as Piacenza. While I drank two bottles of orangeade out of a six-pack and the entire contents of a flask of mineral water, he explained that it wasn't just the beard which kept me rooted to the hard shoulder, it was also that hitchhiking was forbidden. Dimly I remembered Françoise telling me that in her last letter. Receiving advice, ignoring it, and then finding out the hard way how good it was, has been the story of my life. One of these days the Good Samaritan might fail to materialise, or might not have any orangeade with him when he does.

Just outside the Piacenza exit my saviour set me off at a point where I might conceivably pick up another lift south, but he warned me not to bank on it. After an hour and a half of watching Fiats, Lancias and Alfas go by both ways like an exchange of bullets, I got the point and started walking towards town. It was a long way and I was grateful when a three-ton lorry heading in that direction slowed down and stopped just ahead. The old hooked thumb had worked at last.

When the driver leaned out, he doubled my relief by speaking English.

'You want a lift?' 'Yes, actually.' 'Yes, actually. You from England?' 'Australia.' 'Australia. I hear your accent now. I was in Australia, at the Snowy River Project. I do not feel comfortable with Australians. Here in Italy we do not like the beard. I drive into town, get some of my friends, we come back and fix you good.'

On the other side of the roadside ditch there were cabbages growing among which I hid, but after about another hour it started looking probable that he would not come back, so I began walking again, this =me without the extended thumb.

Having to turn my feet sideways even to limp successfully, I had a terrific pain in the ankle; so by the time I got to Piacenza railway station I had barely enough strength to get my wallet out. Spending all my money on a ticket to Florence was rendered needlessly complicated by the fact that none of the ticket-sellers had ever heard of the place. At last their supervisor showed up and set them straight by informing them that the city they had always referred to as 'Firenze' was in reality called Florence. It took a long =me to sort out and I missed a train while it was happening, but the next train had a name –accelerato– that sounded fast enough to make up the difference.

1. The writer was at a disadvantage while trying to find the highway because

- A he hadn't learnt enough Italian
- B he didn't know where he wanted to go
- C people were frightened by his appearance.
- D the locals weren't very friendly.

2 What problem did the writer encounter while trying to catch a lift?

- A There were few cars on the road.
- B Most drivers were unwilling to pick him up.
- C Drivers were going too fast to see him.
- D He wasn't standing in a good spot.

3 In the third paragraph, what does the writer tell us about advice he is given?

- A He gives it careful consideration.
- B He doesn't usually follow it
- C He is very grateful for it.
- D He thinks it often helps him.

4 What did the English driver mean when he warned the writer 'not to bank on it'?(4th paragraph)?

- A don't expect to be picked up
- B don't wait for too long
- C don't stand where you can't be seen
- D don't try to walk along the road.

5 What pleased the writer about the second driver?

- A He introduced him to his friends
- B He was from Britain

C He had worked in Australia

D he could communicate with him

6 Why did the writer eventually walk to Piacenza?

A The lorry driver wasn't going that way

B The lorry driver threatened to harm him

C He decided it was safer to walk than to hitch a ride

D He had been waiting for the truck driver's friends to pick him up but they never came.

7 What impression does the writer give of Piacenza railway station?

A The trains are never on me

B There is no one in charge

C The ticket-sellers are poorly trained

D it doesn't serve many foreigners

8 What is the writer's purpose in writing the passage?

A to warn people about hitchhiking in Italy

B to describe some of his travelling experiences

C to encourage people to learn Italian before going to Italy

D to put people off going on a trip to Italy

ANSWER KEY . Multiple choice. 1 A 2B 3B 4A 5D 6C 7D 8B