

**Exercise 2**

Read sections (A–D) of an article about hiking and climbing in South Korea. Then answer Questions 7(a)–(i).

Hiking and climbing in South Korea

By travel writer Eeva Lungren

A

Hiking has always been a popular recreation for young people in South Korea, and if you have never tried hiking before, South Korea could be a good place to start. There is a wide range of trails to choose from, some of which are harder than others, so it is important to find one that you can manage. If you are not capable of a challenging hike, choose an easier trail that allows you to enjoy nature and see interesting historical buildings. If you are new to hiking or lack confidence reading a map, then don't worry, there are opportunities to go with a leader and up to twelve other people on certain routes. Like many, you may believe that hiking is a daytime activity. But some trails are open all day and night, and some say that the Inwangsan Mountain Trail, for example, is even more beautiful in the dark. With so many options available, you are sure to find a hike that you will enjoy.

B

People often think of hiking as an activity done only in the countryside, and are astonished to learn that some of the best trails South Korea has to offer have starting points in busy neighbourhoods. This allows you to set off from an urban environment. You may also be happy to discover that while hiking typically requires special boots and walking poles, for some of these trails, a pair of trainers is enough. One important thing to consider is that not all trails are open the whole day so it's important to check that when you are planning. Also, be aware that some routes are busier than others so if you prefer walking by yourself, check with a tourist guide to see which days are least popular.

C

You may be surprised to know that South Korea has not always been a popular tourist destination for international hikers, but this has changed significantly and now many people enjoy exploring the country on foot. South Korea is exciting and certainly has a lot to offer hikers – after all, how many places can you think of where you can hike to the top of a volcano? That's exactly what you can do on the Seongpanak Trail. If you do want to attempt this trail, bear in mind that you will have to buy or rent specialist climbing equipment as it involves a tough climb in places. This route is popular with visitors, so it's a great opportunity for you to mix with the international community.

D

My final piece of advice is to examine trail maps or speak to local people before you choose a trail to ensure that you will enjoy your hike. For example, the Daedongmun Trail is the least demanding and most suitable for beginners. On the other hand, if you would like to test yourself, Baegundae Peak Trail gets very steep, particularly in the final sections, and challenges even the most experienced climbers. Hikers choosing this trail would be advised to wear appropriate clothing and carry equipment such as ropes and hooks. Although you may like to avoid the crowds when you're hiking, it is best not to be alone on the mountain in case you have an accident and need help. I usually choose to go on a day when there are a few other climbers on the trail.



Question 7

Which section ...

- (a) suggests that there are few other countries with a similar trail? [1]
- (b) tells you that you can hike 24 hours a day? [1]
- (c) suggests that the popularity of hiking in South Korea has increased in recent years? [1]
- (d) tells you which trail is the easiest? [1]
- (e) states that you need limited equipment to hike along some trails? [1]
- (f) mentions that you can join a guided group hike on some trails? [1]
- (g) states that one trail becomes more difficult towards the end? [1]
- (h) tells you that people are surprised to find that some trails start in the city? [1]
- (i) suggests that you do not need to be physically fit? [1]

[Total: 9]

