



**EXAMEN D'ENTRÉE EN 2<sup>ème</sup> ANNÉE  
AU CAMPUS DE CAEN**

**ÉPREUVE D'ANGLAIS**

**Mercredi 12 juin 2024**

**16h00 à 17h00**

**coeff. 1.5**

*The Guardian*, June 3, 2024

## Locals need a better deal

by the Editorial Board

*Across Europe, saturation tourism has had an environmental and social impact that needs to be addressed*

In 2021, as the easing of Covid restrictions prompted a tentative recovery in Europe's shell-shocked tourist industry, Spain's Balearic Islands welcomed back holidaymakers with enthusiasm and relief. During the pandemic, overall numbers of visitors dropped by around 80%, laying waste to the local economy. Three years on, however, Mallorca and Ibiza are on the frontline of a different crisis – one that is less dramatic in scale, but growing in profile.

To mark the beginning of this year's summer holiday season, an estimated 10,000 locals marched through Mallorca's capital, Palma, last week, protesting against the **saturation tourism** that they say has rendered their city unliveable. (...) Since British tourists flock to the Balearics in greater numbers than any other nationality bar the Germans, sections of the UK media have predictably responded to the protests with righteous indignation. But the message they send deserves a more sympathetic reception.

Across the archipelago, the list of grievances is the same: sky-high rents and often illegal Airbnb-style letting are steadily driving poorer residents out of their own communities. Congestion and overcrowding are at unmanageable levels in peak periods, and scarce environmental resources such as water are being overused. Antisocial behaviour, fuelled by a 24-hour party culture, is too common. **Residents in other destinations where the number of visitors has long exceeded "carrying capacity" will nod in sympathy.**

The protests are another sign that as tourism in Europe surpasses its pre-pandemic peak (with further rises expected as the spending power of the global middle class increases), a sustainability overhaul is needed. The industry is an indispensable driver of growth in regions not blessed with many other options, and the advent of mass travel has enhanced lives and deepened cultural connections. But from Bruges to Barcelona, its environmental and social impact now poses dilemmas that public authorities, rightly, are beginning to confront. (...)

In Mallorca, the average monthly rent for an apartment has risen far beyond the means of many who work in the island's tourist industry. The gradual emergence of **an overpopulated two-tier summer economy**, in which some locals feel driven to the side of their own everyday lives, is a depressing development in one of the most beautiful corners of Europe. One of the banners at a recent demonstration read: "Tourism, but not like this." In the Balearics and elsewhere, the sentiments behind that message should be respected and acted upon.

## I. Reading comprehension (6pts)

In your own words, provide a concise answer to the comprehension questions below.

- 1) According to the article, what is “*saturation tourism*” (paragraph 2)? (1pt)
- 2) What are the consequences of “saturation tourism” on the local population in Mallorca? (1 pt)
- 3) What does the article suggest when it says “*Residents in other destinations where the number of visitors has long exceeded “carrying capacity” will nod in sympathy.*” (paragraph 3) ? (1 pt)
- 4) Is the problem of saturation tourism getting better or worse? Justify your answer. (1 pt)
- 5) Does the Guardian’s editorial board advocate putting an end to tourism in the Balearic Islands? Justify your answer. (1 pt)
- 6) Explain the reference to a “**two-tier summer economy**” in paragraph 5. (1 pt)

## II. Writing (14 pts)

Write an essay on the topic below (300 words, +/- 10%). Feel free to use examples from other countries or time periods.

*Should public authorities try to mitigate the impact of tourism? If yes, how so? If not, why not?*