

TEST 3

A UK
 Tex ZE3

When I was a child I used to spend the summer holidays every year at my grandparents' house on the Costa Brava. In those days, some thirty years ago there were no tourists and the place was still a fishing village. I loved to go to the fishing market with my grandmother. She knew all the fishermen and used to bargain with their wives over the night's catch. In the afternoons, the fishermen used to sit outside their houses mending their nets. As we went by, they would smile and greet us, and if I was with my grandfather we would stop and talk and they would tell stories of the difficulties they had to face in the fierce storms that are common on the coast in the autumn.

When I grew up I no longer went to the village for my holidays but we still visited my grandparents from time to time until the both died, within a few months from each other, and my father sold the house. Some years later, however, just after I got married, I took my husband to see the village where I had been so happy as a child. I noticed then that everything was changing. The long beach that ran from the village to my grandparents' house had been almost deserted fifteen years before, but now there were hundreds of people there everyday, most of them from two big hotels that had been built for tourists. When I was a child, the only entertainment was a cinema that opened twice a week and at weekends. Once, when I went with my grandfather for an afternoon showing there were only five people in the queue, and the proprietor, said "not enough" and shut the door in our faces. But now there were already five bars and a disco with neon lights.

I have only been back to Costa Brava once since then. Last month my husband and I were driving down the coast one day and we decided to make a detour to see if it had changed. When we reached my grandparents' old house, I hardly recognized it. At one time, it stood alone, but now it is sandwiched between two hotels. The fields have disappeared; in their place, some companies are building apartment blocks, with swimming pools and tennis courts, and they are going to construct two supermarkets and an amusement park.

There were no fishermen outside their houses in the main street anymore but I saw the daughter of one of them, standing in the doorway of her shop, encouraging tourists to come in and buy souvenirs. No doubt she and her family will have a less arduous life than their grandparents, but I am sorry that the village I knew has gone forever.

A. Choose the best answer.

1. The fishermen wereto the writer's family.
 a) aggressive b) suspicious c) very friendly d) strange
2. The writer's grandparents died
 a) at the same time b) during the same year c) when their house was sold
3. The cinema proprietor shut the door because
 a) the cinema was full b) there was a power failure
 c) he did not think a showing would be profitable.
4. The writer
 a) regrets the changes that have taken place
 b) feels sorry for the fishermen's families
 c) feels happy with the changes that have taken place