

INGLÉS - B1 – TRANSCRIPCIONES COMTO – COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ORALES

TASK 1 - LIVING IN PORTUGAL - 5 MARKS

One thing that is important for me, because I work from home a lot, is the, the winters in Portugal are actually quite cold and damp, especially if you're inside. Portugal, the Algarve has more than 300 days of sunshine, and Lisbon has, you know, a similar amount of it. But in the winter, the, inside the houses, it can be really really cold. And there's no central heating in most of the houses, and they're just designed for the summertime, basically. The further north you go in Portugal, the climate changes, so I would say Porto in the north of Portugal can be a lot more like somewhere like Ireland in the winter. It's foggy, it's damp, it's grey for many many months.

I think another thing to think of, just before you move is to think about what you should buy before you move out here, and what you should buy when you get here. Some things in Portugal are very very expensive in comparison, particularly electronics, televisions and computers for example, even furniture as well is usually a lot more expensive here. And there really isn't the same second-hand market for furniture that people, particularly from the UK or maybe Germany are used to having. And that can make things a lot more expensive and you find you don't get the same quality, or your money doesn't go as far. Second-hand cars here are very very expensive, and you will pay a lot more here and get a lot less quality for your car. So people will spend maybe a thousand pounds on a car in somewhere like the UK, and that same car might cost them like three thousand euros here.

My Portuguese is OK. I grew up actually speaking Portuguese. I went to school, in, to primary school in Portugal, so I don't know, I had, I think, I had to relearn a lot of it, because growing up in Ireland I never ever used it. But I think I probably did have a slight advantage there in that there, you know, there is some familiarity to the language. You have to find ways to immerse yourself. It's something that can be quite difficult to do before you move to Portugal as well, you can get plenty of lessons here, but outside of Portugal there aren't many people that teach the language, and it can be quite hard to find sort of evening classes or anything in it.

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TASK 2 - AGATHA CHRISTIE'S LEGACY - 7 MARKS

INTERVIEWER: Agatha Christie is the world's best-selling author in English, except for the Bible and Shakespeare. That is pretty impressive, something like 79 novels, 19 plays, 22 short story collections, 6 romantic novels, and she left with her a lot of just travel, mystique and intrigue, and we're joined by Mathew Prichard, and Mathew is Agatha Christie's only grandson, and now he's sort of in charge of making sure the whole Agatha Christie legacy lives on and he joins us now to talk about Agatha Christie, his grandmother, and travels in England. Mathew, thanks for joining us.

MATHEW PRICHARD: You're very welcome.

INTERVIEWER: So, what is your role now with the heritage of Agatha Christie?

MATHEW: What takes up most of my time is the sort of commercial managing of the property, the worldwide film and TV rights, publishing rights and all the modern things that emanate from them. That is so to speak, the business side, but in some ways the most intriguing side is the sort of heritage and the legacy. At home I have a coach house, behind my house which contains all her notebooks and all sorts of photographs all the way through her life. Amongst other things, apart from being an author, she was a very accomplished photographer. So, we have lots of photographs. Many of them taken by herself. My life is spent dealing with a person who, I think, was almost unique in the 20th century, not only being, as you've said, a best-selling author, but having so many accomplishments as well. One of which, incidentally, was being a very charming, accommodating and loving grandmother.

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TASK 3 - BEST PLACES TO LIVE AND RETIRE - 8 MARKS

Spain

Spain is one of the most popular European countries for those looking to live and retire overseas. Beaches, mountains, fabulous cities, colourful festivals and sunshine almost everywhere are just a few of the perks of living in Spain. One of the biggest factors attracting people here is Spain's cost of living. A couple should be able to live comfortably on about \$2,000 a month or less. Many fruits and vegetables sell for 1 euro a kilo or less, and the quality is a perk. Even in larger cities with more tourist traffic such as Madrid or Barcelona, the cost of living is pennies on the dollar compared to other major European and United States cities. If you're buying Spanish property, the average property price per square metre in Barcelona is around 4,500 to 6,000 euros.

Thailand

This diverse country has it all. Some of the world's most beautiful beaches are located in the southern part of the country. From the bustling seaside resorts to the more tranquil islands, there is something for everyone who dreams of retirement in the tropics. You can live here comfortably on around \$500 a month. It all depends on which part of the country you want to live in and what kind of lifestyle you prefer. There are many places where you can dine well and still leave the table with change from \$5 per meal. A full check-up by a western-trained doctor in a modern hospital will cost you less than \$40.

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