**TEST ASSIGNMENT – NICE**

**PART 1**

**Introduction (126)**

A holiday in Nice is the perfect solution whatever your tastes. This cosmopolitan city offers year round sunshine, bustling nightlife, historic buildings and an ever-evolving art scene. Visit the many museums dedicated to art, or stroll along the promenade des Anglais and admire the sparkling Mediterranean shoreline. The markets bustle with life, colour and aroma. The very best Mediterranean food can be enjoyed at the many restaurants and cafes whilst marvelling at the magical quality of the light. The diverse landscape from the snow-capped peaks of the Alps, through flower-filled countryside to the sea-front offers a variety of activities from the genteel to the extreme. So create some wonderful memories and book your holiday on the French Riviera. A holiday in Nice, something you’ll treasure forever.

**Teaser (24)**

A holiday in Nice is totally awe-inspiring. Stroll the promenades, take in the stunning sunsets and enjoy the best the Riviera has to offer!

**Epilogue (113)**

The architecture provides a stunning backdrop to the bustle of this cosmopolitan city. Historic churches, the old Jewish ghetto and the beautiful parks all contribute to diversity of the city. From busy market places to the serenity of the panoramic view atop a 92metre rock, Nice has something to offer everyone.

Nice hosts a huge number of museums dedicated to art, the majority of which are free to enter. Renowned for its boutique shops, humming nightlife and array of activities from diving to ballooning to a pleasant stroll, Nice offers all of this and more. And to top it all the mild climate and distinctive light make Nice a memorable place to visit.

**PART 2**

**General Info (350 not including temp and rainfall charts)**

Rising from the seafront, through gentle hills to the surrounding mountains of the Ligurian Alps, Nice can be found on the eastern part of France’s Côte d’Azur. Fifteen minutes from the pebbled beaches are lavender-filled fields, vineyards bearing roses and forests climbing the slopes of Massif des Maures. Nice and the surrounding area have a lot to offer.

Nice’s long history makes it today’s exciting city. The area around Nice is thought to have been home to some of Europe’s earliest inhabitants occupying the coastline around 90,000BCE. Greek colonisers (c.600BCE) created trading posts at what are now Nice, Marseille and St-Tropez. They brought with them the olives and vines that are integral to Provence’s cuisine today. The Romans assisted Marseille against invasion and named the area Provincia Gallia Transalpina; now known as Provence. Nice was a political pawn in the Middle Ages and was incorporated into the House of Savoy in 1388. In 1860 Nice was returned to French possession due to an agreement between Napoleon III and the House of Savoy. It was around this time that the wealthy and royals of Europe, along with artists and writers started to visit the South of France turning little fishing ports into exclusive resorts. The Hotel Negresco built in 1912, stands on the promenade des Anglais which stretches from the airport to the port. Both are examples of the nineteenth and twentieth century expansion of Nice. The 1920s and 1930s saw Nice become the centre of innovative art and literature which continues today. The Old Town (Vieux Nice) with its baroque buildings and winding alleyways harks back to an earlier age.

Nice offers a mild winter climate and all-year round sun. If hot, sun-drenched days and sultry evenings are desired then the summer months are the time to visit. Extreme weather conditions in the form of sudden, violent thunderstorms can be found in the mountains and the hot southern plains particularly in August and September. The Mistral wind is evident all year round. The spring and autumn months provide a more comfortable warmth ideal for those wishing a little less heat!

Average temperatures (°C)

Average Rainfall (mm)

(Average temps and rainfall sourced at <http://www.eurometeo.com/english/climate/city_LFMN/meteo_Nice>)

**Culture (308)**

Provence’s regional identity is no longer clear cut. Though there are bi-lingual signs in French and prouvènçau (the local dialect) there are few remaining speakers of the dialect. The locals to Nice are known as Niçois and have a love for good life and food!

Food is seasonal and so very fresh. One of the most famous local dishes is the salade niçoise; socca, a chickpea flour battered omelette and farcis, vegetables stuffed with unique fillings, are amongst others to try. The local rose wine, Côte de Provence Rosé is often taken as an aperitif (apéro) as well as Pastis. Many local dishes can be found at budget priced cafes and restaurants such as **Chez René Socca** (2 rue Miralhéti; 9am – 9pm Tues – Sun; closed in November) where dishes start from €2. **Nissa Socca** (7 rue Ste-Réparate; lunch and dinner Tues – Sat) is also good for authentic niçoise cuisine with mains starting from €8. The Old Town is a mixture of genuinely good value eateries and tourist traps. For high class, **Chantecler,** a Michelin starred restaurant in the Hotel Negresco (04 93 16 64 00; 37 promenade des Anglais; lunch and dinner Wednesday – Sunday, Feb-Dec) is definitely the place to go. Eating in its regency dining room is exquisite and costs between €45-130.

French law requires a service charge to be added to the bill of between 10% and 15% so it is not necessary to tip though many do.

Be aware, many restaurants are closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Nice holds three excellent annual festivals:

 Carnaval de Nice ([www.nicecarnaval.com](http://www.nicecarnaval.com)) known for the thousands of flowers thrown from floats into the crowds;

Nice Jazz Festival ([www.nicejazzfestival.fr](http://www.nicejazzfestival.fr)) a week long jazz festival amongst the Roman ruins

Les Nuits Musicales de Nice, moonlit classical music concerts held over three weeks in late July/early August at Cloître du Monastère de Cimiez.

**Amusement (311 – includes table of holidays)**

Nice has a superb nightlife from nightclubs such as **Happy Bar** ([www.hi-hotel.net](http://www.hi-hotel.net)) which has performances from the world’s top DJs and pubs and bars such as **Ma Nolans** Irish bar (2 rue St François de Paule) with televised sport, quiz nights and live music. The place to be seen, whatever your age, is **La Civette du Cours** (1 cours Saleya) – this is one cool bar! There are no dress codes for these places but check before going to a casino where a suit and tie is usually required for the men.

For those who like to shop Nice has an array of choices from designer boutiques, flower and food markets, wine cellars and souvenirs. **Nice Étoile shopping mall** (avenue Jean Médecin) spans an entire city block and there is more general shopping to be found at rue de France and rue Masséna. The designer boutiques splendidly line the rue Paradis, av. de Suède, rue Alphonse Karr and rue du Maréchal Joffre. For the colour and ambience of fresh **flowers and food markets** visit the cours Saleya in Vieux Nice where from Tuesday to Sunday you can experience the magic of the two combining. On a Monday the whole of the **cours Saleya** is taken over by an antiques market. If a souvenir is desired then go to Vieux Nice where numerous shops sell them. There really is something for everybody.

Public Holidays are the same as the rest of France when banks, government buildings, shops and many business and tourist attractions will be closed.(see table below)

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| Date | Celebration |
| 1st January | New Year’s Day |
| March/April | Easter Sunday and Monday |
| 1st May | May Day |
| 8th May | Victoire 1945 |
| 40th day after Easter | Ascension Thursday |
| 7th Sunday after Easter | Whit Sunday and Monday |
| 14th July | Bastille Day |
| 15th August | Assumption Day |
| 1st November | All Saints Day |
| 11th November | Armistice Day |
| 25th December | Christmas Day |

**Basic Information (249)**

Nice Côte d’Azur is the second international airport in France. In the summer over 30 countries link directly to Nice airport.

The motorway systems link the Riviera to the rest of Europe. Distances from Nice (km) are: Paris – 950, Milan – 320, Barcelona – 670.

High speed and Express trains (TGV and Train Corail) connect Nice to all regions in France and major European cities. Direct trains from Paris take 5 ½ hours.

There are two car-ferry companies that sail to Corsica – SNCM ([www.sncm.fr](http://www.sncm.fr)) and Corsica Ferries ([www.corsicaferries.com](http://www.corsicaferries.com)).

Once in Nice there are many ways to get around. Tickets for the tram-line can be bought anywhere that the ‘Ligne d’Azur’ logo is shown and cost €1. The local buses and trains provide an excellent service along the coast to Antibes, Cannes, Monaco and Menton.

Arrive in style in Monaco by helicopter! Average prices are €99 per person one-way for the 7 minute flight. ([www.heliairmonaco.com](http://www.heliairmonaco.com))

Nice is a safe place to visit but there are pickpockets. Keep your cash and cards on your person not in a bag and if you’re in a car, keep your windows rolled up at traffic lights.

No vaccinations are needed and if you carry an EHIC card you are covered for free emergency healthcare or in case of an accident. It is advisable to have additional insurance.

Credit cards are accepted in most shops and restaurants but there are cash-points on nearly every street corner. Banks and exchange bureaux will handle currency transactions and travellers cheques.

**PART 3**

**POI - Cannes Film Festival**

**Teaser (21)**

Feel like a star for 12 days in May! Mix with the great and the good at the Cannes Film Festival!

**Detailed description (149)**

Over 30,000 actors, distributors, and directors descend upon the Palais des Festivals for 12 days in May. Since its inception in 1939, the festival has been a promotional vehicle for the film industry. The first festival was brought to an abrupt end by Hitler’s invasion of Poland; restarted in 1946 it continues to this day.

The festival is split between ‘in competition’ and ‘out of competition’ films and the pinnacle of achievement for those ‘in competition’ is the Palme d’Or. The trophy is awarded to the film that best ‘serves the evolution of cinematic art’. Previous winners have been ‘Apocalypse Now’ and ‘Pulp Fiction’.

The ‘out of competition’ films see nearly a $1billion of business negotiated in distribution deals. This mixture of business and Hollywood glamour sets Cannes Film Festival apart. Be part of the festival by seeing films ‘out of the competition’; check at La Malmaison for details.