

# The Summer of '63

Read the following story about a trip to France. Answer the questions either by writing a few words or by marking the best alternative: A, B, C or D. Base your answers on information in the text.

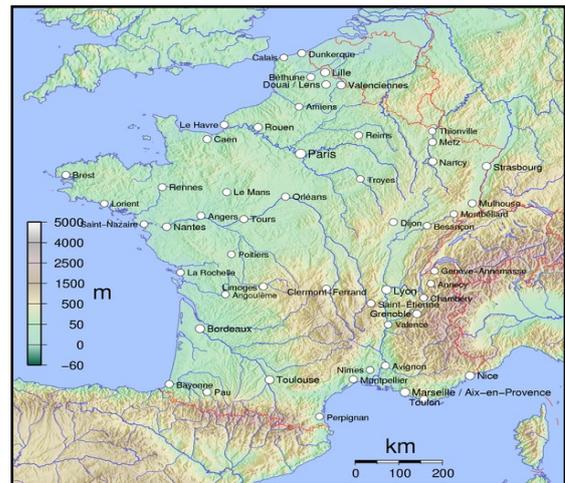
## Part 1

Bill looks back to the summer of 1963 when he and Jim, both aged 17, decided to hitch-hike from England to the French Riviera.

My parents were resigned to the fact that their teenage son would have to flap his wings sooner or later. But Jim had parents who wanted to *know* things. I was summoned to his house and his rich father started by asking me what I wanted to be. This was not a topic which had entered my mind since I was a seven-year-old with sights set on being a train driver. I gritted my teeth, assumed a solemn expression and said “lawyer”. I found it really hard not to wonder if Jim was really a girl and I’d gone to “her” house to ask for her hand in marriage! “What about your route?” he went on. Jim talked vaguely about keeping to the motorways. And we’d do everything as cheaply as possible.

**FRANCE!** and the discovery that learning the language for five years was inadequate preparation for daily survival; the first time I needed to go to a toilet, I was shown into a shower cubicle. My French was up to asking directions, but the replies would be delivered at such speed that I was never the wiser. Then there was the

frantic body language. Why speak when you can use hands, eyes ... the whole body? And the smell of freshly baked bread wafting down cobbled streets and the different loaves on display eliminating the need to talk.



We made good progress on our long trek south to the Riviera, managing to get lifts. But often we’d be dropped off in the middle of some town and then have to walk miles to find a spot where we would have a better chance of getting a lift. It was then I felt so naive. The further south we went, the hotter it became, and the suitcase was getting heavier. What possessed me to take a full suitcase when I should have been travelling as light as possible?

1 Concerning the boys’ trip, Bill’s parents were...

- A anxious to find out more about it
- B starting to worry about his future
- C planning for his leaving home
- D ready to accept his independence

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2 Bill’s answer to one of Jim’s dad’s questions suggests that Bill...

- A was determined to become a good lawyer
- B saw little reason to impress Jim’s father
- C was not quite serious when he answered
- D thought it would not be fun to be a lawyer

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3 What did Jim's father do that made it seem as if Bill was seeking permission to marry?

\_\_\_\_\_

4 When talking to his father about their travel plans, it seems that Jim was not...

- A hopeful
- B prepared
- C respectful
- D pleased

5 Bill was sometimes misunderstood in France. Give **one** example which shows that.

\_\_\_\_\_

6 Bill had problems understanding French-speaking people because they...

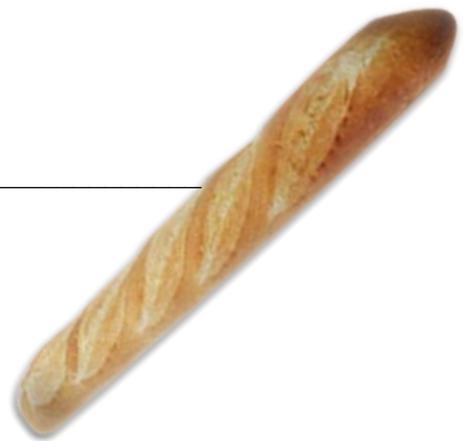
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7 Why did Bill not have to talk when buying bread?

\_\_\_\_\_

8 What is said about being dropped off in a town centre?

- A It was difficult to get a new lift from there
- B There were many cars passing through
- C They didn't have to travel very far
- D The heat felt more intense there



9 What showed that Bill was an inexperienced traveller?

\_\_\_\_\_



*The French Riviera.*  
Photo: Berthold Werner

## Part 2

But there were some good things about the trip, for example finding a small roadside hotel, somewhere in the middle of France, which was owned by Jim's pen-friend so we had a free night in comfortable beds. The owner had a younger brother who was an artist and he showed me many of his paintings which were all abstract and very colourful. I particularly liked one of them which, to me, suggested an aerial view of quilted landscape. Jacques Brunet (what a wonderful name) said, without hesitation, that it was mine to keep, and for nothing. I could not take it with me on the road, but he promised to keep it for me to pick up whenever. Some hope!

The stay at the hotel was to be the beginning of a downward spiral because now Jim gets it in his mind that he likes the comforts and therefore it will be hotels from now on.

I went along with this at first to keep the peace, but things soon came to a head. My snoring irritated him and, for me, the realisation that my money was beginning to run out while Jim had loads of it. In the end, we had a stand-up confrontation in the middle of Marseille and separated; Jim, no doubt, to check in at a five-star hotel and me to find a camp site! Problem. For some reason, we'd divided things up between us earlier in the trip, and one thing not in my possession was my passport!!

**SURVIVAL!** I found a camp site. The next step was to find the British Consulate to plead for money and a passport. No money at all and the passport would take a few days. So I returned to the camp site with barely enough money to cover a loaf of bread. The bottom of the spiral had been reached so there was only one way to go!

A French family camping nearby took pity on a starving Englishman. Was it the look on my face as I watched their dog being fed? Anyway, they fed me. When the passport came, I roamed the camp site looking for signs of someone with a car packing up and preparing to leave. I found a car with an English registration plate!! Yes, a young couple were leaving and yes, I could go with them if I didn't mind sitting on top of their luggage, and YES, they were going back to England and NO, I didn't mind staying to keep an eye on their tent while they explored Paris. And would you believe they made a small detour en route to collect the painting? And, if that weren't enough, they drove me to their home in Coventry, insisted I stayed the night, and drove me to the station next morning where they bought me a ticket to Liverpool.

Jim and I later **put it all down to stubbornness and immaturity**, "qualities" which we had both possessed in abundance in that summer of '63.

*Colin Park*  
*Published by permission.*

10 What good things does Bill mention about staying at the roadside hotel?  
Give **two** examples.

•

\_\_\_\_\_

•

\_\_\_\_\_ (2 pts)

11 Why did Bill and Jim part company in Marseille?

- A Bill realized he had run out of cash
- B Jim had deliberately taken Bill's passport
- C Jim refused to lend any more money to Bill
- D Bill could not accept Jim's holiday plans


12 The British Consulate...

- A provided new documents right away
- B provided no financial assistance
- C could not help without payment
- D could recommend camping sites


13 What did Bill think had made the French family feel sorry for him?

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14 What "conditions" did the English couple lay down if Bill was to get a ride home?  
Give **two** examples.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2 pts)

15 What did the English couple do on the way to Paris, which surprised Bill?

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*After reading the whole text:*

16 The author says that they **put it all down to stubbornness and immaturity**.  
What does "**it**" refer to?

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17 What would be a suitable alternative title for this text?

- A Friendship in Paris
- B Like Father, Like Son
- C A Learning Experience
- D An Artistic Adventure


**Points**  
  
19

# Bedömningsanvisning

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## The Summer of '63 (19 points)

1  D

2  C

3 He asked about his future (not about his trip to France); He asked what he wanted to be; He wanted to find out all/everything about him  
*Acc:* He asked a lot of things/questions

4  B

5 (When) he wanted to find/go to a toilet (but was shown a shower cubicle); (When) he didn't find the toilet; (When) he asked for directions

6 talked/spoke (so/too) fast/ quickly

7 He could (just) point at the loaves/bread; The loaves were on display; He could use his hands/body language  
*0 poäng:* He could smell the bread

8  A

9 He was carrying/had a heavy suitcase; He had too much luggage; He was not travelling light

10 *2 poäng – 1 poäng för varje rätt delsvår*  
*Två av följande:*

- they had a free night/stayed for free
- the beds were comfortable; he/they had/got/slept in comfortable beds
- he got a painting (for nothing/free); he met an artist

11  D

12  B

13 That he was hungry/starving/looked starving; The way he looked at their dog (being fed); That he had no food; The look on his face

14 *2 poäng – 1 poäng för varje rätt delsvår:*

- (That) he would sit/didn't mind sitting on top of their luggage
- (That) he kept an eye on/looked after their tent (while they explored Paris)

15 They collected the painting; They made a (small) detour to collect the painting

16 *Svaret ska uttrycka att Bill och Jim inte kunde fullfölja sin resa tillsammans*  
(The fact that) Bill and Jim/they could not finish their trip together/had to part ways/split up  
*0 poäng:* The trip was bad; He didn't have any money; Bill/he had to go home

17  C