

Volunteer abroad: what about China?

Volunteering abroad is the opportunity of a lifetime, and our flexible short-term programs let you design your ideal experience overseas. Volunteer from 1 week to 3 months in China, in meaningful projects that will let you work side-by-side with local people and experience the Chinese culture like never before. As an international volunteer with an organization, you're making a positive contribution, by sharing in the goals of a local community that warmly welcomes you. You'll gain new perspectives and insight into China's culture and yourself. It's an exciting and personally inspiring experience, and you'll develop memories that will stay with you forever. As a volunteer in China, you will get a rare inside view of one of the world's largest and most ancient cultures. China has a vivid and distinct history, artistic tradition, cuisine, and social structure.

One of the volunteer programs in China is located in Xi'an, the crossroads of Western and Eastern China, and the starting point of the Silk Road. Home to the famous Terra Cotta Army, Xi'an was once the imperial capital of China. Today, with a population of approximately 8 million in the greater urban area, this modern city still reflects its rich history and culture.

Volunteers working in China may be at local schools or orphanages, English language camps, centers for people with disabilities, and community-based health organizations. Specialized placements in the health field are available for medical professionals only. Volunteers in China are involved with different types of programs, such as caring for infants and children, teaching children, teaching English, assisting teachers, sharing their professional skills/experience, caring for people with disabilities, assisting teachers of special education, etc. This experience also includes cultural and learning activities so that you can learn about the local culture. These include an in-depth orientation, language training, guest speakers and more. Volunteers also have plenty of free time to relax, reflect, or explore the community and country.

1. Comprehension exercises (2 points)

1.a. According to the text (0.5 points)

- a. Volunteering abroad is a lifetime experience.
- b. Your contribution will help a local community.**
- c. You will take part of China's distinct history, artistic tradition, cuisine, and social structure.

1.b. According to the text (0.5 points)

- a. Volunteer teachers don't help Chinese teachers.
- b. Volunteers don't receive language training.
- c. It's in Xi'an where the famous Terra Cotta Army is found.**

1.c. Volunteering in China will provide you with unforgettable memories.

(Answer 'True' or 'False' AND write the sentence supporting this idea) (0.5 points)

- TRUE - you'll develop memories that will stay with you forever.

1.d. Teachers may have specialized placements in the health field.

(Answer 'True' or 'False' AND write the sentence supporting this idea) (0.5 points)

- FALSE - Specialized placements in the health field are available for medical professionals only.

2. Do the following grammar exercises according to the instructions given (2 points)

2.a. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one (0.5 points)

- You should learn English instead of French.
- You'd **better learn English than French.**

2.b. Turn the two sentences into a clause containing 'providing' (0.5 points)

- You can use my mobile. But please give it back to me when you finish.
- **You can use my mobile providing you give it back to me when you finish.**

2.c. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one (0.5 points)

- Don't spend money on betting.
- She asked **me not to spend money on betting.**

2.d. Write the appropriate verb form of the verb in brackets (0.5 points)

- I am used to **watching TV** (to watch TV) only an hour a day.

3. Identify ONLY FOUR words from their definitions (1 point)

- included someone or something in something, or made them take part in or feel part of it. (**involved**)
- useful, serious or important. (**meaningful**)
- done carefully and in great detail, or discovering the real reasons which cause something. (**in-depth**)
- the conditions of being unable to perform as a consequence of physical or mental unfitness. (**disabilities**)
- homes for children whose parents are dead or unable to care for them. (**orphanages**)
- (the ability to have) a clear, deep and sometimes sudden understanding of a complicated problem or situation. (**insight**)

4. Write a summary of the text of about 30 – 45 words using your own words (2 points)

5. Write a composition of about 100 – 150 words on ONLY ONE of the following topics (3 points)

5.a. Would you like being a volunteer?

5.b. Travelling abroad: an unforgettable experience.