

LÍNGUA INGLESA - Grupo F - Gabarito

Read the text and answer the questions in English using about 20 words for each answer.

In Philip Roth's novel Exit Ghost, the narrator, Nathan Zuckerman, a famous writer, comes back to New York, the city he left eleven years before. Alone on his New England Mountain, Zuckerman had devoted his time exclusively to being a writer. Below is an extract from the novel.

What surprised me most my first few days walking around the city? The most obvious thing—the cell phones. We had no reception as yet up on my mountain, and down in Athena, where they do have it, I'd rarely see people striding the streets talking uninhibitedly into their phones. I remembered a New York when the only people walking up Broadway seemingly talking to themselves were
5 crazy. What had happened in these ten years for there suddenly to be so much to say—so much so pressing that it couldn't wait to be said? Everywhere I walked, somebody was approaching me talking on a phone and someone was behind me talking on a phone. Inside the cars, the drivers were on the phone. When I took a taxi, the cabbie was on the phone. For one who frequently went without talking to anyone for days at a time, I had to wonder what that had previously held them up
10 had collapsed in people to make incessant talking into a telephone preferable to walking about under no one's surveillance, momentarily solitary, assimilating the streets through one's animal senses and thinking the myriad thoughts that the activities of a city inspire. For me it made the streets appear comic and the people ridiculous. And yet it seemed like a real tragedy, too. [...] I was impressed by the conspicuousness of it all and found myself entertaining the idea for a story in
15 which Manhattan has turned into a sinister collectivity where everyone is spying on everyone else, everyone being tracked by the person at the other end of his or her phone, even though, incessantly dialing one another from wherever they like in the great out of doors, the telephoners believe themselves to be experiencing the maximum freedom. I knew that merely by thinking up such a scenario I was at one with all the cranks who imagined, from the beginnings of industrialization, that
20 the machine was the enemy of life. Still, I could not help it: I did not see how anyone could believe he was continuing to live a human existence by walking about talking into a phone for half his waking life. No, those gadgets did not promise to be a boon to promoting reflection among the general public.

(From ROTH, Philip, *Exit Ghost*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2007)

Glossary

striding (line 3) = walking with long steps
cabbie (line 8) = taxi-driver
held [them] up (line 9) = delayed
surveillance (line 11) = close observation
myriad (line 12) = a great number
conspicuousness (line 14) = the quality of being visible
cranks (line 19) = eccentric people
gadgets (line 22) = electronic devices
boon (line 22) = something helpful

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Sugestões de respostas:

1st QUESTION: (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

Modern life has turned cell phones into a device hardly nobody can do without. Nathan Zuckerman's feelings toward cell phones, however, are quite different. Comment.

Suggested answer:

- 1a. For Nathan Zuckerman cell phones “[...] made the streets appear comic and the people ridiculous.” (lines 12-13)
- 1b. Nathan Zuckerman was surprised that out of a sudden there was so much to say that could not wait to be said.
- 1c. Cell phones aim to increase your freedom while actually they steal it.

2nd QUESTION: (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

“I remembered a New York when the only people walking up Broadway seemingly talking to themselves were crazy.” (lines 3-5)

According to Nathan Zuckerman, how does this attitude compare to the behavior of New Yorkers nowadays?

Suggested answer:

It compares in the sense that nowadays people walking and talking on the phone are not necessarily crazy.

3rd QUESTION: (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

The statement “For one who frequently went without talking to anyone for days at a time [...]” (lines 8-9) reveals one aspect of Nathan Zuckerman's personality. Comment.

Suggested answer:

Nathan Zuckerman is a recluse / a solitary writer. He comes back to New York after having lived on the mountains as a writer for 11 years. From the text, the reader may conclude that he enjoyed being a writer alone on the mountains.

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4th QUESTION: (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

What does Nathan Zuckerman mean by “Still, I could not help it” (line 20)?

Suggested answer:

4A - Like the cranks from the beginning of industrialization he could not avoid thinking the machine to be an enemy of life.

4B - He could not stop thinking how people could believe that they lived a human existence by walking and talking on the phone most of their lives.

4C - He could not avoid thinking that walking and talking into a phone half a person’s waking life meant a human existence.

5th QUESTION: (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

The connector yet is used differently on lines 2 and 13 in the text. Explain these different uses.

Suggested answer:

The first use (line 2) expresses a relationship of time. The second use (line 13) is one of contrast.