



You have been employed by the government to travel to a newly discovered planet and write a report about it. Some key points to remember:

- You don't yet know why the government is interested in the planet.
- There are creatures living on the planet which are similar to humans.
- They have their own language.
- There has already been one short expedition to the planet, and the inhabitants were apparently welcoming and friendly.

### Preparation for the journey

1. You first need to make some notes for your report. Give **short answers** to these questions.
  - What is your name? (You can invent a character for yourself.)
  - What are the names of the two people who are going with you?
  - What is the name of your expedition? (e.g. Apollo 52.)
  - What is the name of the planet you are going to visit?
  - What is the name of your spacecraft?
2. You are allowed to take a rucksack with you, containing personal items that you will need during the trip.

These items do not include your clothes, which are given storage space elsewhere on the ship.

Make a list of **ten things** you will take in your rucksack, (your mobile phone will unfortunately not work in space!)

3. When you arrive on the planet, make initial notes and sketches about **the humanoid inhabitants**. Choose ten of the following and make notes and sketches from what you observe:

- climate
- flora and fauna
- food and drink
- public buildings
- domestic dwellings
- transport
- clothes/hair/piercings/jewellery
- sports/games
- animals/reptiles/insects
- rituals/celebrations
- sacred places
- music/dances
- art/literature/statues
- communication devices.

### How their society is organised

You are now ready to find out a bit more about the lives of the humanoid beings on the planet. Fortunately, you have a translation device which will enable you to communicate with the inhabitants.

Answer as many of these questions as you can, using brief notes. You will need to use some of your notes later.

**a. How do the humanoids on the planet live?**

In families with adults and their own offspring?

In a traditional extended family with grandparents?

Alone?

In some kind of community-based group?

Do all inhabitants have a gender, or are some gender-fluid or non-binary?

**b. How are newborn members of the society socialised?**

Are newborn members socialised by their biological parents?

Do the young inhabitants go to school to be educated?

**c. What are the three most important laws/rules on the planet?**

Who makes the rules?

How are the decision-makers chosen?

What happens to individuals who break the rules?

How is minor conflict dealt with on the planet?

**d. Are the inhabitants in contact with any other planets apart from Earth?**

Has the planet ever been involved in a war?

Have they invaded any other planet, or been invaded themselves?

**e. How is information passed around in the society?**

Is there any form of print media or social media? Word of mouth?

**f. Who is respected in this society?**

Are all inhabitants, including the youngest, equally respected?

**g. Do the inhabitants of your planet use any form of currency?**

Do they use money or do they barter cooperatively?

Are the inhabitants paid? If so, how is this organised?

Is there a minimum wage?

How are inhabitants supported if they can't work or earn money?

Is there any sort of pension/reward for the oldest inhabitants?

**h. Who does the essential work on the planet?**

For example, who organises the food supply and the disposal of waste?

**i. Are there any religions on the planet?**

What do the inhabitants believe happens to them when they die?

Is anything on the planet sacred?

Is there a holy book?

**j. Are there illnesses on the planet?**

If so, how are the inhabitants healed or cared for?

Who takes care of the oldest inhabitants?

What is the life expectancy on the planet?

**k. Do the inhabitants have any magical powers?**

For example, can they travel through time?

**l. Are all the inhabitants from the same tribe/ethnic group?**

If not, how do the different groups distinguish themselves?

Is one tribe seen as superior to the others, or are they all equal?

**m. Are there ever any visitors from other planets?**

Do the inhabitants seem welcoming and friendly to you?

**n. What are the most interesting and beautiful things to see on the planet?**

### Writing your report for the government

You have received a letter from the **Secretary of State for Space Exploration** asking for a brief report on the new planet. She is hoping that the UK will be able to build a tourism link with the new planet so that UK citizens will be able to take holidays there, and the inhabitants of the planet will be able to make trips to the UK. If your report is positive, the Secretary of State will arrange a further mission to explore the planet further.

Your report should be a summary and contain no more than 400 words.

- a. Give your report a title: e.g. ***Report on Planet Quelda by Nina Smith.***
- b. Choose sub-headings which will give the Secretary of State the information she needs: e.g. Inhabitants, Customs, Climate, Food and drink, Healthy and Safety, Accommodation, Possible tourist attractions, etc.
- c. Start a new paragraph for each sub-heading.
- d. Your final paragraph should be a conclusion: would this planet be a good place to develop a tourism link?
- e. Keep your language **formal**. This is a government report!



### The accident

You have spent a week making a reconnaissance of the planet, and you have now finished your first report to the government.

Shortly after finishing your report, you go on one last excursion on the planet, and have a dreadful accident.

A group of inhabitants from the planet intervenes to save your life. You know you will be indebted to them forever. And there is one particular inhabitant who you will never forget.

### Task 1

What exactly happened? Start by making notes, for example:

- walking back to spaceship
- explosion
- knocked to the ground
- couldn't breathe.

### Task 2

Briefly describe the inhabitant who helped you most after the accident.

### Task 3

When you get back to the spaceship, you write a diary entry describing the accident, and the help you were given by your new friend. Include your thoughts and feelings.