



*Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca*  
**SI96 – ESAME DI STATO DI ISTRUZIONE SECONDARIA SUPERIORE**

**Indirizzo:** IT04, EA07 – TURISMO

**Tema di:** LINGUA INGLESE

**PART 1: Reading Comprehension**

**Dorset's cultural landscape: Hardy country and Broadchurch breaks**

*With a new Hollywood take on 'Far from the Madding Crowd' about to show the world its charms, now is the time to escape to this stunning coastal county, says Lucy Gillmore*

The postcard-pretty county of Dorset, for years in the shadow of bolder, blowsier summer hotspots Devon and Cornwall, is currently basking in the spotlight. And it's largely down to a television show. Those in the know, of course, have been summering here for years, but for others, cult crime drama Broadchurch – set on the Dorset coast – was an eye-opener.

- 5 Now, keeping the momentum going, is a new film adaptation of Thomas Hardy's novel, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, which hits cinema screens next Friday. Starring Carey Mulligan and with a script by David Nicholls (of *One Day* fame), it highlights the county's bucolic interior.

- Hardy, Dorset's most renowned writer, showcases his home county's charms in many of his novels. However, he chooses to disguise place names, or in some cases use ancient nomenclature: Dorset becomes Wessex, while Casterbridge is a thinly disguised Dorchester. In 1913, he worked on a  
10 Hardy's Wessex guidebook, which revealed the real sites on which the locations in his novels are based.

- The Dorset tourist board ([visit-dorset.com](http://visit-dorset.com)) has helpfully jumped on the bandwagons of both Broadchurch and *Far from the Madding Crowd*. To tie in with the film release, it has updated the  
15 Hardy Trail leaflet ([bit.ly/HardyDorset](http://bit.ly/HardyDorset)). It features picturesque Sherborne in the north-west, with its clutch of medieval buildings and abbey, and the glorious Elizabethan manor, Mapperton House (01308 862 645; [mapperton.com](http://mapperton.com); entry £6) near Beaminster – where Carey Mulligan and Tom Sturridge spent time filming.

- There is also a downloadable Broadchurch Trail leaflet ([bit.ly/BroadchurchTrail](http://bit.ly/BroadchurchTrail)), which will direct  
20 you to filming locations around the county's spectacular coastline – in particular West Bay, with its soaring cliffs.

In February, when Series 2 aired, Parkdean Holidays (0344 335 3450; [parkdeanholidays.co.uk](http://parkdeanholidays.co.uk)) experienced a 45 per cent rise in bookings for its West Bay Holiday Park in Bridport, which features in the programme – the "Broadchurch effect" in action.

- 25 Of course, Dorset has far more to offer than sights based on works of fiction. Sprawling across an area of 946 square miles, it's cradled by Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire and Hampshire, with the English Channel to the south. Three quarters of Dorset's coastline is a Unesco World Heritage Site – the Jurassic Coast – while more than half of the county is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



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30 Towns sprinkled along the shore include the traditional seaside resort Weymouth, Regency gem Lyme Regis (for film buffs forever synonymous with *The French Lieutenant's Woman*), and the little market town of Bridport.

Inland the clutch of historic towns includes Dorchester (the county town), Wimborne and Shaftesbury, while the pretty village of Corfe Castle is home to fascinating medieval ruins of the same name (nationaltrust.org.uk/corfe-castle; admission from £7.72).

35 Dorset's rolling countryside is threaded with walking trails across chalky downs and through lush river valleys and ancient woodland. The 630-mile South West Coast Path (southwest coastpath.com) starts from Poole harbour, while the Rodwell Trail, a two-mile yomp along the old Weymouth to Portland Railway, is a good option for families.

40 Gourmets should be sure to visit the area during May, when the Christchurch Food and Wine Festival (christchurchfoodfest.co.uk) takes place. Throughout the whole month, many of the town's cafés, pubs, bars and hotels will be offering special menus, deals and events, while on 9-10 May there will be food stalls and cooking demonstrations by Levi Roots among others. And from 11-12 July, the Pommery Dorset Seafood Festival (dorsetseafood.co.uk) takes place in Weymouth's historic harbour.

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**Getting there**

Dorset is a motorway-free zone, criss-crossed by A-roads. If you're travelling by car, the main M3/A303 route between London and Devon skirts the top of Dorset.

50 The closest thing to a "Trans-Dorset Railway" is the Heart of Wessex line (heartofwessex.org.uk), which runs from Bristol Temple Meads and Bath to Weymouth, calling at the historic villages of Yetminster and Maiden Newton as well as the county town, Dorchester.

The main rail link from London is the South West Trains (0870 906 6649; southwesttrains.co.uk) service from Waterloo to Bournemouth, Dorchester and Weymouth; the Waterloo to Exeter train stops at Sherborne and Axminster (for Lyme Regis). Cross Country Trains (0844 811 0126; crosscountrytrains.co.uk) runs from Birmingham and various other cities to Bournemouth, via Reading.

55 Flybe (0871 700 2000; flybe.com) flies to Bournemouth from Glasgow, Jersey and Manchester. (738 words)

Lucy Gillmore, *The Independent*, Friday, 24 April 2015

<http://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/dorsets-cultural-landscape-hardy-country-and-broadchurch-breaks-10200623.html> downloaded on 24 April 2015



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*Answer the following questions using your own words.*

1. Why is Dorset receiving much attention as a tourist destination?
2. How has “*Broadchurch*” helped Dorset?
3. How is Dorset related to “*Far from the Madding Crowd*”?
4. What has the Dorset Tourist Board done?
5. What is meant by the “*Broadchurch* effect in action”?
6. What is the “Jurassic Coast”?
7. What is Lyme Regis famous for?
8. What can tourists do in Dorset?
9. Who are “gourmets” and why are they recommended to visit Dorset in May?
10. How can tourists get to Dorset?

**PART 2: Writing**

Choose **one** of the following questions.

Number your answer clearly to show which question you have attempted.

*Either*

1. Think of the setting of an Italian book/film you like and write an itinerary to be published in a travel brochure.

*Or*

2. Have you ever visited a tourist attraction because of its links with a literary work or film? Write about such experience in a review for a travel blog.