

READING COMPREHENSIVE
FORM 7-A
II TERM

A GREAT MOMENT IN HISTORY

Word list:

1. to belong – належати;
2. politically – політично;
3. quality – якість;
4. government – уряд;
5. notorious – сумнозвісний, загальновідомий;
6. intention – намір, мета;
7. to exist – існувати;
8. illegally – незаконно;
9. influence – вплив, впливати;
10. announcement – оголошення;
11. iconic – знаковий;
12. to refer to – належати до, відноситися до.
13. suitable – відповідний.

A Today Germany is one country. However, after the Second World War it was divided into two different countries, West Germany and East Germany. West Germany was part of the Western bloc and East Germany belonged to the Soviet or Communist bloc. Berlin, the old capital, was in a difficult situation. Geographically, it was in the middle of East Germany, but politically half of the city, the west side, belonged to West Germany.

B Millions of East Germans began to cross from East to West Berlin because they wanted to have a better quality of life in the West. The East German government was not happy about this situation, so in 1961 they built a wall in the middle of the city, the notorious Berlin Wall. The real intention of the Wall was clear: to stop people emigrating to the West. Officially, however, it was called an ‘Anti-Fascist Protection Barrier’.

C The Wall existed for almost thirty years. During that time, around 5,000 East Germans tried to cross it illegally, and around 200 lost their lives. Then in 1989, the Soviet Union began to lose its influence in Eastern Europe. On November 9, 1989, the East German government made the historic announcement that the Wall was open. Thousands of Berliners came to the Wall to celebrate, and people from all around the world saw the scenes on television. This was one of the iconic moments in the history of the twentieth century.

I. Read the first paragraph only. Are the statements true (T) or false (F)?

1. Germany changed a lot after the Second World War.
2. Berlin was the capital of German before the Second World War.
3. Berlin’s political and geographical situation was different after the Second World War.

II. Read the rest of the text. What do these numbers refer to?

1. 1,000,000s

2. 1961

3. 5,000

4. 09.11.1989

III. Choose the best title for each paragraph.

- A Berlin: a divided city / Germany after the Second World War
- B The reasons for the Wall / East Germans leave the country
- C A big celebration / Tragedy and freedom

IV. Read the text. Put these sentences in the correct place in the text.

- A Thousands of Berliners came to the Wall to celebrate.
- B Millions of East Germans began to cross from East to West Berlin.
- C Today Germany is one country.
- D The Wall existed for almost thirty years.

V. Answer the questions in your own words.

1. How is Germany different now from 60 years ago?

2. Why did East Germany build the Wall?

VI. Complete the sentences with one suitable word.

- 1. West and East Germany belonged to political blocs.
- 2. The situation in Berlin wasn't
- 3. The East German government gave the wall a special
- 4. From 1961 to 1989, it was to try to cross the Wall.
- 5. People in Berlin were very when the Wall opened.