Authorities: customs and police

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each authority word.

Word | Process | Person | Document | Action

1 interrogate [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 detainee [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 visa [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 confiscate [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 screening [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 undercover agent [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 warrant [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 smuggling [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 Police interrogate to the suspect. _____
2 The detainee was hold overnight. _____
3 She applied for visa. _____
4 Officers confiscate of the goods. _____
5 We went through security of screening. _____
6 He worked as undercover agent. _____
7 They needed warrant to search. _____
8 He was caught smuggling of goods. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For officially questioning a suspect: interrogate / chat casually.
2 For a person held by police or authorities: detainee / visitor.
3 For a document allowing entry to a country: visa / receipt.
4 For taking away illegal or restricted items: confiscate / return.
5 For checking passengers before travel: screening / ignoring.
6 For illegally moving goods across a border: smuggling / declaring.

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4 Complete the reports with words from the box.

confiscated | detainee | interrogated | screening | smuggling | undercover | visa | warrant

Report A: Police 1 _____ the suspect for several hours before releasing him without charge. The 2 _____ later spoke to a lawyer.
Report B: Customs officers 3 _____ several illegal items found during routine 4 _____ at the airport.
Report C: An 5 _____ officer helped uncover a large 6 _____ operation involving stolen goods.
Report D: She was refused entry because her 7 _____ had expired. Officers needed a 8 _____ before they could search the vehicle.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Balancing security and rights

Customs and police authorities operate under a constant tension between maintaining security and respecting individual rights. Screening procedures at borders have become increasingly thorough, reflecting growing concern about smuggling and other cross-border crime, yet civil liberties advocates warn that excessive surveillance can undermine public trust if applied unevenly or without adequate oversight. Legal frameworks generally require a warrant before officers can search private property, though border zones often operate under different, more permissive rules. Striking the right balance, experts argue, requires transparent accountability alongside effective enforcement.

1 What constant tension do customs and police authorities operate under? _____

2 Why have screening procedures become increasingly thorough? _____

3 What do civil liberties advocates warn about excessive surveillance? _____

4 What do legal frameworks generally require before a property search? _____

5 How do border zones often differ from other areas legally? _____

6 What does striking the right balance require, according to experts? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 Police questioned the suspect formally. INTERROGATED _____

2 Officers took away the illegal goods. CONFISCATED _____

3 She was checked carefully before boarding. SCREENING _____

4 He was caught moving goods illegally across the border. SMUGGLING _____

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OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account of how authorities balance security with individual rights at a border or in policing. Include specific examples.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Process 2 Person 3 Document 4 Action 5 Process 6 Person 7 Document 8 Action

2 Corrections

1 interrogate the suspect 2 held overnight 3 applied for a visa 4 confiscated the goods
5 security screening 6 worked as an undercover agent 7 needed a warrant to search
8 caught smuggling goods

3 Suitable descriptions

1 interrogate 2 detainee 3 visa 4 confiscate 5 screening 6 smuggling

4 Reports

1 interrogated 2 detainee 3 confiscated 4 screening 5 undercover 6 smuggling 7 visa 8 warrant

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 A constant tension between maintaining security and respecting individual rights.
2 Reflecting growing concern about smuggling and other cross-border crime.
3 That it can undermine public trust if applied unevenly or without adequate oversight.
4 A warrant.
5 They often operate under different, more permissive rules.
6 Transparent accountability alongside effective enforcement.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 Police interrogated the suspect. 2 Officers confiscated the goods.
3 She underwent screening. 4 He was caught smuggling goods.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.