

ON THE WAY TO ZNO. EXAM PREPARATION TIPS 4

Reading Comprehension questions can make or break your **exam** score.

IT CAN BE the most difficult to prepare for the Reading Test. Doing well on the Reading Test is not a matter of having tricks up your sleeve. When you come to a question that asks about a passage's main point, you can't rely on some handy main-point trick to figure out the answer - either you know it or you don't.

You can use a general strategy to improve your performance on the test. We like to think of this general strategy as a macro approach to the entire Subject Test, rather than micro tips to get you from question to question. The crux of the strategy is your ability to read well—that is, with speed and without sacrificing comprehension.

General Strategies:

1. Leave a question if you can't answer. To spend a long time on one answer is disastrous. Go back later if you have time and guess if you have to.
2. Don't panic if you don't know anything about the passage. All the answers are in the passage and you don't need any specialist knowledge.
3. Before the exam read as widely as possible, e.g.: Newspapers, magazines, journals. Don't limit yourself to one type of text and read articles with an academic style where possible.
4. Look at ways paragraphs are organized.
5. Try and predict content of paragraph from the opening sentence.
6. Give a paragraph you read an imaginary heading.
7. Don't concentrate on words you don't know. It is fatal and wastes valuable time.
8. Careless mistakes cost many marks. Copy the answer correctly if it is in the passage.
9. Check spelling.

10. Give only one answer if that is all that's needed.

11. Be careful with singular/plural.

За програмою ЗНО ця частина тесту складається з завдань, серед яких: завдання на встановлення відповідності, завдання з вибором однієї правильної відповіді і завдання на заповнення пропусків.

1. Завдання на встановлення відповідності (№1–5, 11–16). У завданнях пропонується підібрати заголовки до текстів/частин текстів із поданих варіантів; твердження/ситуації до оголошень/текстів; запитання до відповідей або відповіді до запитань. Завдання вважається виконаним, якщо абітурієнт встановив правильну відповідність і позначив правильний варіант відповіді у бланку відповідей *A*.

2. Завдання з вибором однієї правильної відповіді (№6–10). До кожного завдання подано чотири варіанти відповіді, з яких лише один правильний. Завдання вважається виконаним, якщо абітурієнт вибрав і позначив правильну відповідь у бланку відповідей *A*.

3. Завдання на заповнення пропусків у тексті (№17–42). У завданнях пропонується доповнити абзаци/речення в тексті реченнями/частинами речень, словосполученнями/словами із поданих варіантів. Завдання вважається виконаним, якщо абітурієнт обрав і позначив правильний варіант відповіді у бланку відповідей *A*.

*Пропоную Вашій увазі **приклад** тестових завдань та рекомендації щодо їх виконання з методичних рекомендацій для учителів іноземних мов щодо підготовки учнів до зовнішнього незалежного оцінювання у 2011 році доктора філологічних наук, професора, методиста науково-методичного відділу*

*Харківського регіонального центру оцінювання якості освіти **Мартинюк А.П.***

1. Завдання із ЗНО з англійської на встановлення відповідності.

У завданнях пропонується підібрати заголовки до текстів /частин текстів із поданих варіантів; твердження/ ситуації до оголошень/ текстів; запитання до відповідей або відповіді до запитань.

Завдання на встановлення відповідності на основі загального розуміння прочитаного належить до категорії легких. Воно містить п'ять коротких текстів/ абзаців одного тексту, об'єднаних спільною темою, та вісім заголовків/ запитань до них, три з яких є зайвими. Кожен текст репрезентує окрему ідею. Для виконання завдання (підбору заголовку або співвіднесення запитання з текстом, у якому міститься відповідь на нього) необхідно зрозуміти основну ідею кожного тексту.

Коли виконуєте завдання із ЗНО з англійської цього типу, спочатку вивчіть надані підзаголовки і лише після цього приступайте до читання тексту. Пам'ятайте, що підзаголовків буде більше, ніж абзаців, тому Вам потрібно буде бути дуже уважними.

Для успішного виконання завдання дотримуйтеся таких рекомендацій:

- ознайомтесь із загальним заголовком;
- прогляньте тексти, встановіть їх тематику;
- ознайомтесь із пропонованими заголовками (запитаннями);
- поверніться до текстів, уважно прочитайте кожний; намагайтесь знайти ключовий мовний вираз (слово, групу слів), який розкриває основну ідею тексту;
- співвіднесіть кожний заголовок (запитання) з відповідним текстом;
- відкиньте три зайвих заголовка (запитання).

Наприклад:

Read the text below. Match choices (A-H) to (1-5). There are three choices you don't need to use. Write your answers on answer sheet A.

Choosing a university can look like a daunting process, but there are lots of resources to help make it easier. Before you start filling out those university application forms, consider the many variables that affect the “fit” of a university to your unique personality and educational goals. Take a look at the following factors.

- 1 _____
Make sure the university offers **the program** you want – you can check program listings in this directory, or online www.aucc.ca/can_uni/search/index_e.html. Remember that your first year is often a time to try **a variety of courses**, and then choose the area in which you want to specialize. You could try new fields of study that aren't available in high school – courses like astronomy, philosophy or international studies.
 - 2 _____
Have a look at the university calendars and read the individual **course outlines**. You can also compare how individual programs are designed by different universities (such as **course components**), **the structure of courses** (is it group work or exam-based?) and the flexibility offered each year in terms of what students can choose to study.
 - 3 _____
Do you want a **small university**, where most of the students are undergraduates and live on campus? Alternatively, would you prefer a **larger university**, with access to a greater range of facilities and programs?
 - 4 _____
A University's reputation continues to be a major factor in how students choose where to study. That said, choosing a university should not be done solely on reputation. Be aware that reputations are sometimes out of date or overstated, so **first-hand experience** is often beneficial. Prospective students can visit the campuses of their top university choices and spend some time talking with current students and getting a feel for the campus. Try to get a sense of how you'd see yourself living in that particular place for three or four years.
 - 5 _____
The costs associated with attending university go well beyond **tuition fees** to include housing, food, books, supplies, and personal living expenses. These **costs** are different depending upon the type of program, type of university and the size and location of the school.
- A Start with studying your admission requirements.
- B Find out about the course content.
- C Try to get your own impression of the university you choose.

- D** Make sure you can afford it.
- E** Learn how far away from home it is.
- F** See if you'll be satisfied with the housing condition.

- G** Consider the size of the university.
- H** Check on the curriculum.

Презентований цикл текстів присвячений проблемі вибору університету.

Заголовок *A Start with studying your admission requirements* (Почніть з ознайомлення з умовами вступу) є зайвим, оскільки в жодному тексті не йдеться про те, що починати потрібно з ознайомлення з умовами вступу.

Заголовок *B Find out about the course content* (Дізнайтеся про зміст курсу) співвідноситься з текстом 2. Ключовими тут є словосполучення *course outlines; course components; the structure of courses*, що є синонімічними *course content*.

Заголовок *C Inquire about good and bad sides of the university* (Дізнайтеся про переваги та недоліки університету) відповідає тексту 4. Ключовими тут є словосполучення *first-hand experience, visit the campuses, spend some time talking with current students* (власне враження, візити на територію університетів, бесіди зі студентами, що в них навчаються).

Заголовок *D Make sure you can afford it* (Переконайтеся, що Вам це по кишені) репрезентує текст 5. Ключовими є вирази *costs* та *tuition fees* (плата за навчання)

Рекомендації *E* та *F* є зайвими.

Рекомендація *G Consider the size of the university* (Прийміть до уваги розмір університету) відповідає тексту 3. Ключовими є вирази *small university* та *larger university*.

Рекомендація *H Check on the curriculum* (Дізнайтеся про учбові програми) відповідає тексту 1. Ключовими є слова *the program, curriculum* (програма) та *variety of courses* (різноманіття курсів).

2. **Завдання на встановлення відповідності на основі вибіркового розуміння прочитаного** містить п'ять коротких текстів й вісім запитань, які передбачають знаходження у текстах конкретної інформації. Три запитання є зайвими.

Для успішного виконання завдання дотримуйтесь таких рекомендацій:

- прогляньте тексти, встановіть їх тематику;
- ознайомтесь із запитаннями до текстів;
- поверніться до текстів, ще раз прогляньте їх й знайдіть інформацію, про яку запитується; намагайтесь встановити ключовий мовний вираз (слово, групу слів або речення), яке містить потрібну інформацію;
- співвіднесіть кожне запитання з текстом, що містить відповідь на нього;
- відкиньте два зайвих запитання.

Наприклад:

Read the texts below. Match choices (A-H) to (11-15). There are three choices you don't need to use. Write your answers on answer sheet A.

11

R A G O
GREAT ESTATES AUCTION
Saturday, December 6 – 12 noon

Furnishing, Americana, Asian, Rugs
Fine and Decorative Art

Sunday, December 7 – 12 noon

Gold, Silver, Objects de Vertu
Unmounted Gemstones/Diamonds

PREVIEWS BEGIN NOVEMBER 29
CATALOGUE ONLINE RAGOARTS.COM
333 North Main Street, Lambertville, NJ 08530

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S W A N N
Autographs, Books/ Manuscripts, Maps/Atlases,
Photographs, Posters, Works of Art on Paper,
Natural History and Historical Prints

AT AUCTION

Dec 4, 10:30am & 2:30pm, 6th fl

13

Sotheby's
Auctions & Exhibitions

American Paintings, Drawings & Sculpture
EXHIBITION 29 NOVEMBER – 2 DECEMBER

AUCTION 3 DECEMBER 10 AM

The Sporting Sale

Equestrian, Wildlife & Maritime Art

EXHIBITION 29 NOVEMBER – 4 DECEMBER

AUCTION 5 DECEMBER 10 AM

Finest & Rarest Wines

AUCTION 6 DECEMBER 10 AM

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SOTHEBYS.COM

14

Classic photographs, books, posters,
collectibles, commemorative reprints

and more at The New York Times

online store

nytimes.com/store

15

WILTON HOLIDAY ANTIQUES SHOW

Sunday, December 7, 10-5

Admission \$10, \$9 with ad - To benefit the John Corr Memorial

EARLY BUYING, 9 – 10 AM, \$20 PER PERSON

*Antiques & Art of the 18th, 19th,
and 20th Centuries*

**The source for fine antiques,
handsomely presented, at fair prices.**

Wilton High School Field House

Route 7, Wilton, Connecticut

Only 50 miles from New York City

10 Chicken Street, Wilton, Connecticut

Where can you

- A** buy things via the Internet?
- B** Go if you take an interest in ivory miniature?
- C** Go every year?
- D** Get financial support?
- E** Get acquainted with Latin American art?
- F** buy jewelry items?
- G** Go if you're interested in geography?
- H** take part in charitable activities?

Презентований цикл текстів включає рекламні оголошення про виставки та аукціони різноманітних предметів розкоші.

Запитання А передбачає знаходження інформації про те, де можна придбати речі через Інтернет (*Where can you buy things via the Internet?*). Ця інформація надається в оголошенні 14. Вона репрезентована графічно – електронною адресою (*nytimes.com/store*) і лексично – словосполученням *on line store* (Інтернет-магазин).

У пункті В запитується, де можна знайти мініатюри зі слонової кістки. Ця інформація не міститься у жодному тексті. Відтак, запитання В є зайвим.

У запитанні С йдеться про те, який захід можна відвідувати щорічно. Ця інформація не міститься у жодному тексті. Відтак, запитання С є зайвим.

Пункт D є запитом інформації про джерела фінансової допомоги. Відповідь знаходиться у тексті 13. Ключовим є слово *loans* (кредити).

У пункті E запитується, де можна ознайомитися з мистецтвом Латинської Америки. Такої інформації немає у жодному тексті. Запитання E є зайвим.

Запитання F передбачає пошук інформації про те, де можна купити коштовності. Ця інформація міститься у тексті 11. Вона репрезентована низкою слів: *gold, silver, objects de Vertu, gemstones, dimonds* (золото, срібло, вироби Верту, самоцвіти, діаманти). Проте, для знаходження правильної відповіді достатньо помітити навіть одне з них.

Пункт G містить запитання про те, куди піти людині, яка захоплюється географією. Відповідь на запитання надана у тексті 12. Ключовими є слова *maps/atlases* (карти/атласи).

Нарешті, у пункті H запитується, який захід надає можливості для благодійності. Відповідь знаходиться у тексті 15. Ключовим є вираз *To benefit the John Corr Memorial* (На користь Меморіалу Джона Корра).

Here are some training exercises. I placed them into three categories: *elementary, intermediate, upper-intermediate*.

Elementary Level:

Match the title to the paragraph:

Київський університет імені Бориса Грінченка, 2012

1. Britney Spears' wax figure will be put at Madame Tussaud's museum in central London. The wax figure will be modelled from one of the singer's videos in which she dances around a pole.

2. Tim Duncan carried the San Antonio Spurs to their second league title with an 88—77 victory over the New Jersey Nets in Game 6 of the NBA Finals Sunday night. With 21 points, 20 rebounds, 10 assists and eight blocked shots, he easily captured his second finals MVP prize.

3. Stocks ended lower on Friday. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 79.43 points, or 0.86 percent, to 9,117.12 on Friday. The broader Standard & Poor's 500 Index dropped 9.90 points, or 0.99 percent, to 988.61. The technology-laced Nasdaq Composite Index ended down 27.1 points, or 1.64 percent, at 1,626.49.

4. Heavy rains in northern Bangladesh made nearly 150,000 people stranded in their flooded homes, officials said Sunday. No deaths were reported.

5. Germany opened the annual meeting of the deeply divided International Whaling Commission (IWC) Monday, it advised to adopt a motion, ecology groups say, will help preserve whales and dolphins for future generations.

- A. Science
- B. Crime news
- C. Sport
- D. Business
- E. Catastrophes
- F. Culture

1. Into every Wimbledon a little rain must fall. Poor weather halted the women's quarter-finals just after they began Tuesday, sending Venus Williams, Lindsay Davenport, Kim Clijsters and Silvia Farina Elia off the court after less than 15 minutes of play. Action has now resumed. Williams had taken a 2—0 lead over Davenport, while Clijsters and Farina Elia had split the first four games of their match when the rain came.

2. Tropical Storm Bill blew right past the National Weather Service's new five-day forecast, hitting Louisiana less than a day and a half after the first storm advisory was issued.

3. Herbie Mann, the versatile jazz flutist who combined a variety of musical styles and deeply influenced genres such as world music and fusion, has died. He was 73.

4. An Australian Christian school has banned the new best-selling adventure of teenage wizard Harry Potter, saying the book promotes evil witchcraft and magic.

5. Jefferson City police on Wednesday were investigating why a Missouri plant employee shot and killed three co-workers and wounded five others late Tuesday night before apparently fatally shooting himself.

- A. Science
- B. Crime
- C. Sport
- D. Weather
- E. Education

1	2	3	4	5
F	C	D	E	A

1	2	3	4	5
C	D	F	E	B

F. The Commission for Protective Measures in Foreign Trade will consider proposed changes to import tariffs on sugar and sunflower oil at a meeting Friday.

2. Slice the baguette crosswise into thin rounds. Spread a bread slice generously with mayonnaise, top with an onion slice, sprinkle with salt and pepper and place on a baking tray. Serve hot.

3. In "Kindergarten Cop," Arnold Schwarzenegger stars as John Kimble, a detective from Los Angeles. In order to protect a child and catch a killer, he goes undercover as a kindergarten teacher. Directed by Ivan Reitman.

4. Second seed Lindsay Davenport and fifth seed Serena Williams limped out of the quarterfinals of the Ericsson Open with injuries Wednesday, allowing Australian Open champion Jennifer Capriati and Russian Yelena Dementieva easy wins.

5. To find comfortable and affordable long-term accommodations in the world's most exciting city, give us a call. We have complete listings of apartments in all of Moscow's most desirable regions.

1	2	3	4	5
D	C	A	B	F

A. TV GUIDE

B. SPORTS

C. COOK'S CORNER

D. ECONOMIC NEWS

E. POLITICAL NEWS

F. REAL ESTATE

In which place can tourists...

1. travel by boat?
2. ride a camel through the Sahara?
3. see 9 metres long crocodiles?
4. see the lost City of the Incas?
5. see enormous flocks of parrots?

-A-

ALGERIA

Trek through the Sahara wilderness on a camel accompanied by blue-robed guides deep into the heart of nowhere. You will discover a world of silent beauty and infinite horizons. Holidays on the beach will never be the same again.

-B-

AUSTRALIA

On walk about safaris in the Kakadu National Park you can learn how the Aborigines live off the land and see their 20,000-year-old rock paintings. Even more famously, Kakadu is the place to see crocodiles, some of which grow up to 9 metres long.

-C-

BORNEO

Travel through the jungles of Borneo by boat and visit the gigantic Mulu caves. Then put on your boots for a two-day climb up Mount Kinabalu, followed by a train ride through mountainous forests, then relax at the coast with some excellent snorkelling.

-D-

BRAZIL

The 150,000 square miles of the Pantanal swampland is the world's largest wetland sanctuary, home to 600 species of birds including enormous flocks of parrots. It is the best place in the Americas for a safari.

-E-

GREENLAND

For a tough and exciting challenge, try hiking along the mountainous east coast of Greenland. Most people walk in one direction, following tracks across the tundra and staying overnight in huts, then flying back by helicopter.

-F-

PERU

In Peru you can encounter almost every climate in the world. It has a desert coastline and fertile valleys. As well as this, there are glaciers and snowy mountain peaks that rise to over 6,700 metres. Despite this wealth of natural beauty, the country is best known for a man-made sight: Machu Picchu, the 'Lost City of the Incas'.

1	2	3	4	5
C	A	B	F	D

Where can tourists...

1. admire famous Leaning Tower?
2. enjoy a cup of exotic coffee?
3. find a mixture of eastern and western traditions?
4. see the building of the Council of Europe?
5. enjoy slow and peaceful life?

-A-

BARBADOS

Have you ever been to Barbados? Life on Barbados is slow and peaceful. People there seem to spend all their time eating and relaxing. The temperature seldom falls below 20°C.

-B-

VIENNA

Coffee houses are a speciality of Viennese life. Each one serves a huge selection of exotic coffees, so you should consult the menu. The most popular coffee is Brauner, which is similar to espresso.

-C-

ALSACE

The region of Alsace in north-eastern France is like a country in itself. A major Alsatian city is Strasbourg, the European capital because the Council of Europe is located there. This body, representing more 26 nations, deals mainly with issues of culture and human body rights.

-D-

CHINA

Two centuries ago China was seen as a combination of mystery and wasteland. A mixture of the West and the East is now found in modern businesses. The production of weapons and the growth of its army have made China a world power.

-E-

TUSCANY

Tuscany has much to offer the visitor as it has both beautiful countryside and a number of historic towns. One of its most famous cities is Pisa, famous for its Leaning Tower. That is not the only attraction worth seeing in Pisa, as there is also an eleventh-century cathedral.

-F-

BRITAIN

January is when the sales take place, and in London, which is the most expensive city in Britain, the bargains are the best. All British politeness is been forgotten. In January, the shops are trying to get rid of extra Christmas stock and the most shops offer huge discounts.

1	2	3	4	5
E	B	D	C	A

Intermediate Level:

Match the title to the paragraph:

- A. Studying from Home**
- B. Personal Development Is Important**
- C. Modern Tools for Studying**
- D. Finding the Right Activity for You**
- E. Studying and Living at School**
- F. Specialized Schools**
- G. Assessing Academic Progress**
- H. High-Tech School**

1. In the earliest days of computers, the only computer education was about computers. We, and computers, have come a long way since those days. Now computers have invaded every aspect of modern life. Education is no exception. Students can use word processors for writing, spreadsheets for mathematics and science, and databases for organizing information. Lately, the Internet has become a recognized way of getting information.

2. There are many advantages to distance learning. For homeschoolers, it's a great way to safely get a head start on college before completing high school. In addition, many students don't have the ability to leave home for maybe family or work obligations. Another huge advantage is the cost savings. Through distance learning, you avoid room and board fees that will have to be paid by a traditional student.

3. In Great Britain many children go to boarding schools. A good boarding school can be an excellent placement for an orphaned child, because everyone is treated equally and fairly there. Many parents with non-traditional careers or those undergoing difficult transitions like divorce find boarding schools excellent alternatives. Boarding school can help children grow in independence, and friendships formed in boarding school often last a lifetime.

4. Considered by many to be a diamond in the rough of the Parkside area, the school boasts a curriculum that encourages technological literacy. The 170 local 9th grade students

don't carry any books or pencils. The school supplies every student with their own laptop. They create multimedia presentations with Microsoft PowerPoint, receive assignments via e-mail, and conduct research online. So far, the unique program has had positive results.

5. Chorister's schools are educational establishments which have a special emphasis on religious choir singing. These schools are usually attached to a cathedral, church or chapel, where the school choir sings. Choir schools do not exclusively educate choristers: about 15,000 pupils are taught at chorister schools in the UK, but only around 1,000 of those are choristers. Tony Blair, for example, attended The Chorister School but was not himself a chorister.

6. For the majority of college and university students, involvement in extracurricular activities plays an essential role in the collegiate experience. Students become involved in extracurricular activities not only for entertainment, social, and enjoyment purposes, but most importantly, to gain and improve skills. A wide and diversified range of extracurricular activities exists on US campuses, meeting a variety of student interests.

7. The test is an important benchmark in ensuring that students will be successful in meeting the challenges they will face either in college or the workplace. If they are not able to meet the standards of the exam, how can we expect them to be successful in life? Examinations can be traumatic for both students and their teachers. But just because nobody really enjoys them, we should not disregard them as a necessary part of the education process.

CAEHFBG

A. Hazardous Waste

B. Invisible Threat

C. Primary Reason

D. Possible Solutions

E. Global Destruction

F. Disastrous Growth

G. Water Shortage

H. Quick Change

1. Acid rain moves easily, affecting locations far beyond those that let out the pollution. As a result, this global pollution issue causes great debates between countries that fight over polluting each other's environments. The problem is that acid rain, one of the most important environmental problems of all, cannot be seen. Some scientists think that human production is primarily responsible, while others cite natural causes as well.

2. Air pollution has many disastrous effects that need to be curbed. In order to accomplish this, governments, scientists and environmentalists are using or testing a variety of methods aimed at reducing pollution. There are two main types of pollution control. Input controls are usually more effective than output controls. Output controls are also more expensive, making them less desirable to tax payers and polluting industries.

3. Global warming is called the greenhouse effect because the gases that are gathering above the earth make the planet comparable to a greenhouse. By trapping heat, the greenhouse effect is warming the planet and threatening the environment. Current fears stem largely from the fact that global warming is occurring at such a rapid pace. Models are predicting that over the next century, the global temperature will rise by several degrees.

4. Individuals often throw out goods without realizing that they could be dangerous for the environment. No matter where people put these materials, there is always a chance that they could find their way into the ground, and eventually into our bodies. Special research is necessary to provide data on the effects of every chemical as well as to learn how combinations of these chemicals affect human health.

5. Only a few factors combine to create the problem of ozone layer depletion. The production and emission of CFCs, chlorofluorocarbons, is by far the leading cause. Many countries have called for the end of CFC production.

However, those industries that do use CFCs do not want to discontinue usage of this highly valuable industrial chemical. So it's important to make people realize the disaster CFCs cause in the stratosphere.

6. Unlike some environmental issues, rainforest depletion has fortunately received significant public and media attention. According to some estimates, 50 million acres of rain forest are cut down every year. Every year, Brazil chops down an area of forest the size of the state of Nebraska. In Indonesia, Zaire, Papua-New Guinea, Malaysia, Burma, the Philippines, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, and Venezuela, rain forests that were once great have been lost.

7. The world's population has been booming for years. The population is now threatening to reach the stage where there are simply too many people for the planet to support. Greater populations pollute and consume more, ruining the environment and creating or intensifying a variety of problems. Also, with the food supply limited, the increase in population will make shortages in many parts of the world even worse.

BDHACEF

Where can tourists...

1. watch street actors and musicians?
2. see the houses of some famous film stars?
3. watch bullfights?
4. visit Roman baths?
5. do all kinds of watersports?

-A-

Baden Baden

The famous Black Forest and the picturesque town of Baden Baden are in southwestern Germany. The town is surrounded by tall mountains. There are plenty of interesting places to visit including the town's delightful 15th century palace and Roman baths.

-C-

Madrid

Madrid is a fabulous place for a holiday. The weather is mostly sunny in summer. There are a lot of sightseeing here. You can visit the Prado Museum, the Plaza Monumental, a huge stadium where bullfights take place, and try paella at an open-air restaurant.

-E-

Los Angeles

Los Angeles is very exciting and has some very famous attractions. The nearby beaches are long and sandy and there are high mountains outside the city. You can also visit Hollywood and see the houses of some famous film stars.

-B-

San Diego

San Diego in California is a city of sun, sand, sea and all kinds of watersports. You can also visit the San Diego Zoo which is one of the world's largest zoos.

-D-

Hawaii

Hawaii is a paradise! Enjoy golden beaches with green palm trees and watch amazing red sunsets, you can also see colourful fish at Sea Life Park and enjoy traditional Polinesia dances at lovely clubs and bars in the evenings.

-F-

San Francisco

San Francisco, Northern California, is famous for its cable cars — and it certainly needs them because San Francisco is very hilly and has some very steep roads. You can enjoy watching the street actors and musicians while eating delicious fresh fish at numerous fish restaurants.

1	2	3	4	5
F	E	C	A	B

In which place tourists can...

1. meet the most materialistic societies on the planet?
2. learn about traditional way of life of aboriginal people?
3. experience tropical climate?
4. enjoy beaches and music of countless reggae superstars?
5. enjoy the most popular cool season?

-A-

INDIA

Many first-time visitors are surprised to encounter one of the most materialistic societies on the planet. But for all its India remains an utterly compelling destination. Its distinctive patina casts a spell that few forget from the moment they step off a plane.

-C-

JAPAN

Japan is never going to be a cheap place to travel, but there's no reason why it should be wildly expensive either. Some of the most atmospheric and traditionally Japanese places to stay and eat are often those that are the best value.

-E-

BRUNEI

Brunei's climate is hot and humid, with average temperatures in the high twenties throughout the year. Lying 440km north of the equator, Brunei has a tropical weather system, so even if you visit outside the official wet season there's every chance that you'll see some rain.

-B-

THAILAND

The climate of most of Thailand is governed by three seasons: rainy (roughly June to October), caused by the southwest monsoon; cool (November to February); and hot (March to May). The cool season is the pleasantest time to visit and the most popular.

-D-

AUSTRALIA

Many Aboriginal people — especially in central Australia — have managed to maintain their traditional way of life, speaking their own languages and living according to their law. Conversely, most Aboriginal people, supported by dole cheques and other subsidies, often fall prey to a destructive cycle of poverty, ill-health and alcoholism.

-F-

JAMAICA

Famous for its beaches and music, brash Jamaica is much more besides. The island boasts vibrant towns and cities such as Kingston, which inspired the music of Bob Marley and countless other reggae superstars.

1	2	3	4	5
A	D	E	C	B

Match the title to the paragraph:

WILL THE REAL MONA LISA PLEASE STAND UP?

- A A dishonest craftsman**
- B Would *Mona Lisa* pass a scientific test?**
- C A mysterious theft**
- D A successful conspiracy - a fake *Mona Lisa*?**
- E Are all the da Vincis by da Vinci?**
- F An international conspiracy**
- G The *Mona Lisa* comes home**

1 The paintings of renaissance scientist, inventor and musician Leonardo da Vinci have always attracted controversy. Only 14 works have ever been attributed to him and experts have questioned the authenticity of several. Not even such a famous painting as the *Mona Lisa* is above suspicion. It is neither signed nor dated and no record of subsequent payment to Leonardo has been found.

2 The painting, believed to be a portrait of the wife of a Florentine merchant, is dated at about 1502. It has been on public display in the Louvre since 1804. Now housed in a bullet-proof glass case, it has always been surrounded by tight security. Even so, on 24 August 1911, it was stolen. Initial leads came to nothing and no clues to the thief's motives or the whereabouts of the picture materialized for fifteen months. At one point Picasso, then relatively unknown, came under suspicion, but there was no evidence to suggest that he did anything more serious than 'borrow' some neglected tribal pieces from the museum.

3 In November 1913, Florentine art dealer Alfredo Geri received a letter from someone claiming they had the *Mona Lisa*. The writer of the letter was prepared to sell it back to Italy for 500,000 lire. Geri contacted the director of the Uffizi museum in Florence, who arranged a meeting with the person turned out to be an Italian carpenter, Vincenzo Peruggia, who had been commissioned by the Louvre to make the painting's protective wooden box. He had been able to steal the famous work of art because he knew the museum's routine so well. The *Mona Lisa* he produced was proclaimed genuine by the Uffizi and sent back to Paris. The big question was why did Peruggia wait so long before trying to sell the painting?

4 One explanation is that he was an accomplice of the international criminal Marques de Valfierno, who had copies made of the *Mona Lisa* while it was still in the Louvre. Once the theft was announced, Valfierno went to America where he sold 'the original *Mona Lisa**' six times over to wealthy collectors for two million dollars. Peruggia was left with the original painting and realizing that Valfierno was never going to contact him again, attempted to make some money by selling it. As for the American collectors, they couldn't complain for fear of revealing their involvement in the crime. Intriguingly a number of 'original *Mona Lisas*' have since turned up in America.

5 But there is another theory. Shortly after the theft, Parisian art dealer Eduard Jonas claimed he was in possession of the original *Mona Lisa*. He subsequently changed his story under threat of being charged with its theft and declared it a fake. Later, however, a British conman, Jack Dean, insisted that he had helped Peruggia steal the painting, but substituted a copy for the original before Peruggia took it to Italy. Dean claimed to have sold the original to a Paris art dealer. If Dean's story is true, and the Jonas incident gives it some support, then the painting now in the Louvre, surrounded by impregnable security systems and seen by thousands of visitors a day, is a forgery.

6 So, is there any way of knowing for certain? It would seem that there is. A method known as 'neutron activation analysis' has been used on a number of occasions to establish the authenticity of works of art. It involves bombarding the painting with neutrons so as to identify chemical elements in the paint. It can be used to determine exactly when a painting was produced since chemical elements in even tiny traces of paint vary according to the period of painting. If the directors of the Louvre chose to, they could put the painting's neutrons to the test and perhaps the real *Mona Lisa* would at least stand up.

E C A F D B

MOLES HAPPY AS HOMES GO UNDERGROUND

A Simulating a natural environment

B Demands on space and energy are reduced

C The plans for future homes

D Worldwide examples of underground living accommodation

E Some buildings do not require natural light

F Developing underground services around the world

G Homes sold before completion

H An underground home is discovered

- 1 The first anybody knew about Dutchman Franck Siegmund and his family was when workmen tramping through a field found a narrow steel chimney protruding from the glass. Closer inspection revealed a chink of sky-light window among the thistles, and when amazed investigators moved down the side of the hill they came across a pine door complete with leaded diamond glass and a brass knocker set into an underground building. The Siegmund had managed to live undetected for six years outside the border-town of Breda, in Holland. There are the latest in a clutch of individualistic homemakers who have burrowed underground in search of tranquillity.
- 2 Most have been forced to dismantle their individualistic homes and return to more conventional lifestyles. But a Dutch-style houses are about to become respectable and chic. The foundations had yet to be dug, but customers queued up to buy the unusual part-submerged houses, whose back wall consists of a grassy mound and whose front is a long grass gallery.
- 3 The Dutch are not the only would-be moles. Growing numbers of Europeans are burrowing below ground to create houses, offices, discos and shopping malls. It is already proving a way of life in extreme climates; in winter months in Montreal, Canada, for instance, citizens can escape the cold in an underground complex complete with shops and even health clinics. In Tokyo builders are planning a massive underground city to be begun in the next decade, and underground shopping malls are already common in Japan, where 90 percent of the population is squeezed into 20 percent of the landscape.
- 4 Building big commercial buildings underground can be a way to avoid threatening a beautiful and 'environmentally sensitive' landscape. Indeed many of the buildings which consume most land – such as cinemas, supermarkets, theatres, warehouses or libraries – have no need to be on the surface since they do not need windows.
- 5 There are big advantages too, when it comes to private homes. A development of 194 houses which would take up 14 hectares of land above ground would occupy 2,7 hectares below it, while the number of roads would be halved. Under several metres of earth, noise is minimal and insulation is excellent.
- 6 In the US, where energy-efficient homes became popular after oil crisis of 1973, 10,000 underground houses have been built. A terrace of five homes, Britain's first subterranean development, is under way in Nottinghamshire. Italy's outstanding example of subterranean architecture is the Olivetti residential centre in Ivrea. Commissioned by Roberto Olivetti in 1969, it comprises 82 one-bedroomed apartments and 12 maisonettes and forms a house-hotel for Olivetti employees. It is built into a hill and little can be seen from outside except a glass façade. Patricia Vallecchi, a resident since 1992, says it is little different from living in a conventional apartment.
- 7 Not everyone adapts so well, and in Japan scientists at the Shimuzu Corporation have developed 'space creation' systems which mix light, sounds, breezes and scents to stimulate people who spend long periods below ground. Underground offices in Japan are being equipped with 'virtual' windows and mirrors, while underground departments in the University of Minnesota have periscopes to reflect views and light.

**H
G
F
E
B
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A**