**Assessment Task for Reading**

**Topic: Eco-cars**

This assessment task focuses on developing senior secondary students’ reading skills.

This set of materials contains the following:

* **The reading texts**
* **A set of questions**
* **Suggested answers**

**Reading Texts**

**Text 1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The world is warming up. In the last decade, the annual temperature was above average every year but our world leaders do *nothing* to stop it. They fiddle while Rome burns! Catastrophic climate change is almost inevitable. We know that climate change is caused by burning fossil fuels but in the years between 1972 and 2005, the global consumption of fuel almost *doubled*. The technology that could dramatically reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, for example, renewable energy, hybrid cars, efficient buildings, already exists. We can cut emissions *now* if we start using this technology *today*. Our generation must stop this global catastrophe but time is running out. We must destroy the insane car culture that is killing us. We must come together and fight! | 5  10 |

**Text 2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The fact**   * We like cars and they are here to stay.   **The problems**   * We like our cars too much. * Traffic causes congestion, noise and air pollution.   **The solutions**  ***Personal***   * Drive less, car pool with family, friends and neighbours, use public transport as much as possible. * Use a fuel efficient car if you have to drive.   ***Commercial***   * Car manufacturers can help by using new technology to produce more efficient cars. Hybrid cars produce less pollution because they use part-petrol and part-electric engines. Also, more fuel efficient cars cost less to run so you’ll be saving money.   ***Political***   * Governments should use tax incentives to encourage people to drive greener cars. | 5  10  15 |

**Text 3**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The internal combustion engine that drives our cars allows people to travel more for work, leisure and pleasure than they have ever done in history. However, so many cars, buses and vans on the roads of the world’s towns and cities mean that many roads are so overcrowded that the traffic moves at a glacial pace. For example, the average speed of a car in London is slower than a horse and carriage in the 19th century.  So what are we going to do? Are we going to wait for the world’s oil to run dry or the roads to come to a complete standstill, or will we plan for the future?  One expert says, ‘Transport has never been more freely available and we all want to use it. We’ve let the genie out of the bottle so there is no going back to the days when people were born, lived and died in the same place. The question is what we do about it. Do we sleepwalk into disaster or do we plan? Current predictions are that the demand for cars in the rapidly growing economies of China and India will grow even more rapidly than the demand in the USA. If the people of China are to catch up with the level of car ownership in the USA, the world’s oil production will need to increase by 25%. We need to find solutions which allow people to travel but save the world’s resources at the same time.  Another expert suggests that we will rent publicly owned single person cars. These ‘pods’ would be controlled by a cognitive transport system. ‘Most car journeys are made by one person so it makes sense to design transport that fits that pattern: vehicles which carry just one person. These vehicles would be smaller and lighter so would use less fuel and produce less pollution. The cars would do the driving for us – they would be controlled by computer and will be able to make decisions. This isn’t sci-fi fantasy: the technology is already with us in the form of parking sensors, cruise control and automatic braking systems.’  Can you imagine living in a world with an intelligent transport system like the one the expert predicts? You would leave your home in the morning and get into the nearest one-person car. You would then tell the system where you were going and the car would take you there by the quickest route. While you were on your journey, you could relax, put on a virtual reality helmet or goggles and communicate with friends, family or colleagues anywhere in the world. You would arrive at your destination feeling relaxed after a stress-free journey. For most motorists in busy cities, this sounds like a dream come true.  It’s impossible to say exactly what will happen in the future but the experts agree that we must be willing to embrace new technology and to change our relationship with the car. | 5  10  15  20  25  30  35 |

**END OF READING TEXTS**

**Questions**

**Refer to Text 1 and answer Question 1-8.**

1a. The writer’s purpose of writing the text is to …

1. entertain the reader.
2. urge people to help fight global warming.
3. promote hybrid cars.
4. stop the government from using fossil fuels.

1b. Justify your answer to Question 1a with evidence from Text 1.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Refer to Text 2 and answer Questions 2 – 3.

1. The writer believes that …
   1. the problems are far too complicated to solve.
   2. the problems aren’t insoluble.
   3. only governments can improve the problems.
   4. hybrid cars will consume more fuel.

3. What is the writer’s purpose of writing the text?

A. To protest against an issue

B. To make suggestions

C. To entertain

D. To complain about a problem

Refer to Text 3 and answer Question 4.

4. What is the writer’s purpose of writing the text?

A. To urge people to stop using cars

B. To suggest the use of new technology to help solve traffic problems

C. To promote the sale of computer-controlled cars

D. To condemn the government for not doing enough to control fuel consumption

**Refer to Texts 1 – 3 and answer Questions 5 – 8.**

5. Look at how the phrases/expressions below are used. Decide which of the options provided is closest in meaning to them.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Text (Line)** | **Phrase / Expression** | **Meaning** |
| Text 1  (Lines 2 – 3) | They fiddle while Rome burns! | A. ignoring fires in cities  B. not tackling the problem  C. taking the problem seriously |
| Text 3  (Line 4) | at a glacial pace | A. at a full speed  B. at a very low speed  C. at a normal speed |
| Text 3  (Line 10) | let the genie out of the bottle | A. we are used to having free transport  B. we won’t spend all our lives in the same area  C. we’ve done something that we can’t reverse |

6. Read the statements and decide which writer(s) would probably agree with them. Tick 1, 2, 3, all or none.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Writer1** | **Writer 2** | **Writer 3** | **All** | **None** |
| A | Public ownership will solve our transport problems. |  |  |  |  |  |
| B | Even though we do nothing about the number of cars, the problem will solve itself. |  |  |  |  |  |
| C | The future is extremely depressing. |  |  |  |  |  |
| D | We can reduce pollution by making small changes to our lives. |  |  |  |  |  |
| E | We need to find ways of reducing the consumption of fossil fuels. |  |  |  |  |  |
| F | Human creativity will find a way round the problems. |  |  |  |  |  |

7. Match the texts with the following writing styles and support your choice with evidence from the texts.

* concise (brief and to the point)
* journalistic
* polemical (a strongly worded argument)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Text** | **Writing style** | **Evidence** |
| Text 1 |  |  |
| Text 2 |  |  |
| Text 3 |  |  |

1. The theme of the three texts is …
   1. our relationship with cars.
   2. global fuel consumption.
   3. our fear of global warming.
   4. the destruction of the atmosphere.

**END OF QUESTIONS**

Suggested Answers

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| 1a. | B |
| 1b. | - The world leaders are doing nothing to stop the problem of global warming.  - Time is running out and we must work together to stop the global catastrophe *now*! |
| 2. | B |
| 3. | B |
| 4. | B |
| 5. | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Phrase / Expression** | **Meaning** |  |  | | They fiddle while Rome burns! | B |  |  | | at a glacial pace | B |  |  | | We’ve let the genie out of the bottle | C |  |  | |
| 6. | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **Writer1** | **Writer 2** | **Writer 3** | **All** | **None** | | a |  |  | ✓ |  |  | | b |  |  |  |  | ✓ | | c | ✓ |  |  |  |  | | d |  | ✓ |  |  |  | | e |  |  |  | ✓ |  | | f |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  | |
| 7. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Text** | **Writing style** | **Evidence** | | Text 1 | *polemical* | *The use of strong language and italics for emphasis, for example:*   * *our world leaders do nothing* * *Catastrophic climate change is almost inevitable.* * *We must destroy the insane car culture that is killing us.* | | Text 2 | *concise* | *use of headings, points and imperatives rather than paragraphs, for example:*   * *The fact, The problems, The solutions.* * *congestion, noise and air pollution* * *Drive less, Use a fuel efficient car* | | Text 3 | *journalistic* | *It is informative, uses references to external sources of information, addresses the reader directly, for example*   * *information about the background and technological developments* * *One expert says, ...* * *Can you imagine ...* | |
| 8. | A |

**END OF SUGGESTED ANSWERS**