

Practice Test 6 • Reading and Use of English

Part 1

For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Example:

0 A raised B lifted C risen D added

0	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>
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Listening to books

Audio books are recordings of books read aloud. In recent years, their sales have 0 _____ rapidly, with many more books becoming available on CD, MP3, or through streaming services. In fact, many of these titles often appear online at the same time as the printed books are 1 _____.



There are various reasons for their 2 _____ popularity. Firstly, it is possible to listen to an audio book while relaxing or doing household tasks like washing and cleaning, when travelling to school or work, and doing exercise or sport while you are 3 _____.

For those who have vision difficulties, especially older people, audio books are a wonderful 4 _____. They can give people with weakened eyesight the 5 _____ to enjoy books again, perhaps for the first time in many years.

Many people, of course, would like to read more, but 6 _____ do not have enough time; here, too, audio books can 7 _____ a huge difference. Whenever somebody has a few moments to 8 _____, they can switch on their relevant device and settle down to listen to the next chapter of their favourite book.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 A published | B spread | C constructed | D manufactured |
| 2 A improving | B growing | C deepening | D extending |
| 3 A single | B lonely | C individual | D alone |
| 4 A composition | B formation | C invention | D production |
| 5 A occasion | B likelihood | C advantage | D opportunity |
| 6 A flatly | B purely | C simply | D exactly |
| 7 A do | B make | C have | D cause |
| 8 A spare | B keep | C save | D hold |

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Part 2

For questions 9–16, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet.

Example: 0 T H A T

The International Space Station



In November 2000, two astronauts arrived at the International Space Station as it circled the Earth, and from 0 _____ moment there has been a continuous human presence in space.

The first section of the Space Station 9 _____, in fact, been put in place by the Russians two years earlier, with other parts added before the arrival of the first two members of the crew. Work on the Space Station, 10 _____ on completion will weigh nearly half a million kilos, is expected to go on 11 _____ several more years, as everything has to be sent from Earth, at great expense.

The enormous cost of the project is one reason that so 12 _____ different countries, including the US, Russia, Japan, Canada, Brazil and those participating in the European Space Agency, are involved. Although the first crew members were all either from the Russian or US space agencies, 13 _____ have since been visits to the Space Station by people of fourteen nationalities.

The main aim of the Station is to provide scientists with a place 14 _____ they can carry out experiments under conditions that do not exist 15 _____ Earth. Areas of study include astronomy, physics and biology, and 16 _____ particular, further research into the effects on the human body of spending long periods of time in space.

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Part 3

For questions 17–24, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

Example: 0 T U R N I N G

WHERE DESERT MEETS OCEAN

Travelling north in Chile towards the regional capital Antofagasta, you come to the town of Chañaral. Here there is a 0 _____ off the main road into one of Chile's most 17 _____ national parks: the Pan de Azúcar. Along the 18 _____ of this stretch of coast is some of the best 19 _____ in South America. This is where the hot Atacama Desert, with the lowest 20 _____ in the world, meets the cold water of the Pacific Ocean.

The result is an 21 _____ contrast between the golden sand dotted with giant cacti, and the deep blue water where, 22 _____, large numbers of penguins live. The cliffs above the brilliant white beaches rise to a 23 _____ of 700 metres. Sights well worth the small 24 _____ fee.

TURN
IMPRESS
LONG
SCENE
RAIN

ORDINARY
INCREDIBLE

HIGH
ENTER

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Part 4

For questions 25–30, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. **Do not change the word given.** You must use between **two** and **five** words, including the word given. Here is an example (0).

Example:

0 It isn't always necessary to show your passport here.

HAVE

You _____ show your passport here.

The gap can be filled with the words 'don't always have to', so you write:

Example: 0 DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO

Write **only** the missing words **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

25 The number of serious accidents went down last year.

FALL

Last year _____ the number of serious accidents.

26 For a long time I had been keen to meet Jane.

LOOKING

I had _____ Jane for a long time.

27 When it became darker, I had difficulty seeing anything at all.

HARDLY

I _____ anything at all when it became darker.

28 'What time did you get home?' I asked my sister.

SHE

I asked my sister _____ home.

29 Do you know if this is Karen's book?

BELONGS

Do you know _____ Karen?

30 It's possible that their car broke down on the way.

MAY

Their car _____ on the way.

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Part 5

You are going to read an article about an unusual plant. For questions 31–36, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

The most hideous plant on Earth

I'm walking across the dunes of Namibia's Skeleton Coast, hunting the world's ugliest plant. And I'm hoping I'm not too late, because welwitschia is fast disappearing from the great Namib Desert of southern Africa. If you've never heard of welwitschia, you're probably not alone. It gets relatively little attention from conservationists, and the reason is obvious. When it comes to species facing extinction, it tends to be the more glamorous of the world's threatened natural wonders that enjoy all the fuss. The giant panda, the Siberian tiger, mountain gorillas: these are the celebrities of the ecological cause. But what happens when an ugly and hard-to-love plant is under similar threat? There is silence. Which is a shame, because welwitschia is a truly remarkable species.

The whole plant can be twenty feet wide and six feet tall, with roots going down another six feet. It is also poisonous to most animals, except for the black rhino. Uniquely in the plant kingdom, it produces just two leaves – but each one can be up to eighty yards long, resembling a cactus-like projection. These coil out and around each other like dragons' tongues, their ends burned by the sun and torn by the wind. But most astonishing of all is welwitschia's longevity. It can survive for more than 2,000 years, making it one of the oldest living things on Earth.

Welwitschia was discovered by the Austrian physician Friedrich Welwitsch, who was walking across the Namib Desert in 1859. He had a sample of his discovery delivered to Sir Joseph Hooker, Director of Kew Gardens in London. Hooker gave it its official Latin name: *welwitschia mirabilis*. The first part was obviously in honour of Dr Welwitsch. Naming it was relatively easy, but it also had to be classified. Because it seemed so different from other plants, welwitschia was placed in its own family, like an unwanted orphan. In fact, it does have something in common with two other plant families, but the connections between them are distant.

These days, welwitschia is thought to be a living fossil, a relic from the Jurassic era many millions of years ago, when such species dominated the Earth. Apparently, most of those plants died out or evolved into other species, but welwitschia adapted



to its harsh desert setting, where there is now little competition. In an arid landscape, which has grown even more hostile down the centuries, less determined plants simply gave up or moved on. By contrast, leathery old welwitschia has refused to admit defeat. The Skeleton Coast is the seaward strip of the Namib Desert – one of the oldest and driest deserts in the world. Whole years can pass without a single shower. And when it gets warm, ground temperatures of sixty-five degrees centigrade are not unknown – making life impossible, you might think, even for the toughest plants.

So how does welwitschia manage to exist in this severe environment? The answer lies in the fogs that constantly envelop the region. Although the Namib Desert is exceptionally hot and dry, the coast here is cold because of the Benguela sea current, which brings a stream of cool water from the Antarctic. The collision of desert heat and ocean chill produces vast, damp mists. This is the water that supplies welwitschia. Those hideous leaves might seem repellent to us, but they serve the purpose of sucking moisture out of the fog.

Up close, welwitschia looks like something alien. Lying across the sand, it has an air of shy sadness. The funny thing is, the more I stare at the mess of sunburnt leaves in front of me, the fonder I become of it. In one of the most inhospitable places on Earth, it has survived and adapted. And, perhaps above all, it is a powerful argument against a world that prizes beauty above all things.

31 Why is there so little concern about what happens to welwitschia?

- A It is not an endangered species.
- B It is an unattractive plant.
- C It is only found in Africa.
- D It is unknown to conservationists.

31

32 What surprises the writer more than anything else?

- A how big the plant is.
- B how long the plant can live.
- C how dangerous the plant is to animals.
- D how much the plant has changed over 2,000 years.

32

33 Why was it difficult to classify welwitschia?

- A It was named after the person who discovered it.
- B It seemed more like an animal than a plant.
- C It did not appear to fit into any obvious category.
- D It is not related to any other kind of plant.

33

34 Welwitschia has survived in the desert because

- A it is similar to plants that lived a long time ago.
- B it lives in only one part of the region.
- C it has changed the way it lives.
- D conditions have become less extreme.

34

35 Welwitschia can survive without rain because it takes water from

- A the sea.
- B the air.
- C the ground.
- D the river.

35

36 How does the writer's attitude to welwitschia change at the end of the text?

- A It makes him feel increasingly sad.
- B He has more positive feelings towards it.
- C It makes him want to laugh.
- D He decides that it is in fact quite beautiful.

36

Practice Test 6 • Reading and Use of English

Part 6

You are going to read an article about a British town which has decided to ban plastic bags from its shops. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap (37–42). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

The town that banned the plastic bag

Sandra Beard didn't stand a chance. People looked through their windows. Shoppers turned to stare. The holidaymaker had walked only fifty yards down Modbury high street before Helen Pickles came out of her shop. 'Madam,' the joint owner of R & H Pickles hardware asked Mrs Beard, 'is that a plastic bag you're carrying?'

Two weeks after becoming the first town in Europe to ban plastic bags from its shops, an extraordinary change has taken place in the south Devon community. Carrying a plastic bag has become antisocial behaviour. Baskets, rucksacks and reusable bags of every shape and size swing from the arms of shoppers in the busy town of 1,500 people. 37 _____

'I had to rescue one lady because she was walking down the road with a plastic bag and her friends were saying "you can't be seen in Modbury with a plastic bag",' said Rebecca Hosking, thirty-three, a wildlife camerawoman who came up with the idea in a local pub one evening. 'I ran out of my flat and said, "it's OK, she's reusing it, she's allowed to bring it into the town".' From the butcher's to the Co-op supermarket, none of the town's forty-three traders uses plastic bags. 38 _____ And the 2,000 special edition Modbury bags made from fair-trade recycled cotton are already a collector's item.

Their plastic bag ban was not the result of years of campaigning. Ms Hosking suggested it one evening in March soon after filming a television documentary about the terrible effect of plastic bags on sea life in Hawaii.

39 _____ Four weeks of hard work

studying alternatives for local shopkeepers followed, and plastic bag-free status began on 1 May.

40 _____ For instance, more than sixty villages in the UK, including fifteen in Devon and Cornwall, have approached her for help. The international media have been all over the place; several celebrities desperate to 'endorse' Modbury's action have been politely rejected.

Shopkeeper Julie Davies used to hand out 200 plastic bags every day. 41 _____ 'I don't think I'll get through all my environmentally friendly bags before the end of the year, she said. 'You have a couple of awkward people who say "it's a load of rubbish", but you explain what it's about and they congratulate you.'

The Modbury scheme received no funding or council intervention, and was originally intended to be just a six-month experiment.

42 _____ They have been helped by the fact that their town has a large number of independent traders. Only the Co-op supermarket is part of a chain, and it has been an enthusiastic supporter. But Ms Hosking reckons it is still possible for towns with big chain stores to ban the bag. 'The supermarkets have two options: they can come with you and all the town looks good, or they look bad when the whole town bans bags and they don't.'

It remains to be seen whether other towns will follow Modbury's lead, but the signs so far are encouraging.

- A She then showed it to the town's traders.
- B This means that seventeen billion plastic bags are given to shoppers every year.
- C The local residents and shop owners, however, are determined there will be no turning back.
- D But if you're spotted with a plastic one, you risk getting into trouble.
- E Since then, she has taken thousands of calls from shoppers, traders and towns across the world wanting to follow Modbury's lead.
- F Her food store is busier than ever now, but she barely sells two reusable bags a day.
- G Instead, stores sell 5p shopping bags made of materials that do not harm the environment.

Practice Test 6 • Reading and Use of English

Part 7

You are going to read an article about four inventions that made a difference to many people's lives. For questions 43–52, choose from the people (A–D). The people may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Which invention

- originally often went wrong? 43
- quickly became much cheaper? 44
- has become the most common household appliance in the US? 45
- was originally used at sea, amongst other places? 46
- became very popular with shoppers? 47
- was designed a long time before it was constructed? 48
- used to be too big for domestic use? 49
- could use one of two energy sources? 50
- had to be adapted because of a natural phenomenon? 51
- was discovered by chance? 52

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

A The microwave oven

One day in 1945, the engineer Percy Spencer was working in his laboratory on a radar system used to detect aeroplanes, when he suddenly noticed that a bar of chocolate in his pocket had melted. The radar waves, he realized, had done it.

Spencer did further experiments, discovering that microwave heating raised the temperature of food much more quickly than an ordinary oven could, and he went on to develop the microwave oven.

These early microwaves, however, took up so much space that they were hardly practicable for the average home. This meant that their use was limited to places where there was a need to cook large amounts of food in a short time, such as hospitals, the restaurants on board ocean liners and long-distance trains.

The first domestic microwave ovens appeared in the late 1960s, and although the earliest models were considered luxury items, prices soon fell to a level that many families could afford. Nowadays, in countries such as the US, almost every household has one, and there are over 200 million in use around the world.

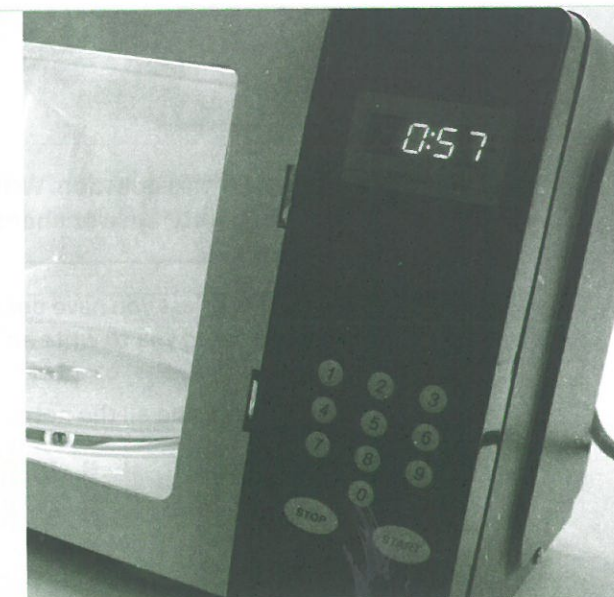
B Air conditioning

The first air conditioning units were not designed to keep homes or cars cool, but to create a stable environment for manufacturing processes. This was particularly important in the paper, textile and tobacco industries, where production was greatly assisted by the introduction of air conditioning at the beginning of the last century.

Non-industrial cooling did not begin until 1924. At first, systems blew air through holes in the floor, but as cold air is denser, or 'heavier' than warmer air, it tended not to mix with the air above, staying close to the floor where it froze people's feet. The design was modified so that the cool air entered via the ceiling.

Another problem was the widespread use of ammonia in the cooling system. This created respiratory problems if inhaled and was also potentially explosive when mixed with other gases. It was replaced in the 1920s and 1930s by refrigerating gases called *Freons*, still used today.

Although much has been written about the boom in cinema-going in the New York of the 1920s as a result of the new cooling system, it was the department stores which first attracted large numbers of people eager to escape the sticky heat of the city in summer.



C The washing machine

For many centuries, people had done their laundry by pounding dirty clothes on rocks or, when at sea, by putting it all in a strong cloth bag, throwing it overboard and dragging it through the water, and early washing machines tended to be based on similar principles. The first electrical machine, in 1906, consisted of a wooden tub that was turned by a motor, but unfortunately the water tended to leak out onto the motor, causing it to short-circuit and break down.

In later models, the motor was covered and cooled using a fan, and metal tubs became standard. Other improvements were made in the 1920s, such as the introduction of a built-in water heater that used either gas or electricity. In the following decades, clock timers enabled the user to set a specific time for the washing period, and by the 1950s many machines also had a spin dryer, making them a complete self-contained unit.

D The refrigerator

Refrigeration involves turning gas into a liquid which absorbs heat, and as it does so it becomes gas again. The first refrigerating machine was designed in 1805 by Oliver Evans, but several decades would pass before one was actually built. This was developed in the US with the aim of treating patients suffering from yellow fever, by making ice to cool the air.

Demand for refrigerators suddenly increased at the end of the 1880s, when two consecutive mild winters led to a shortage of the natural ice needed for preserving meat and fish. Home fridges appeared in 1911, with ice cube makers and freezers coming onto the market in the 1920s and 1930s, but it wasn't until after 1945 that fridges began to sell in large numbers. Nowadays, more American homes have them than any other electrical item.

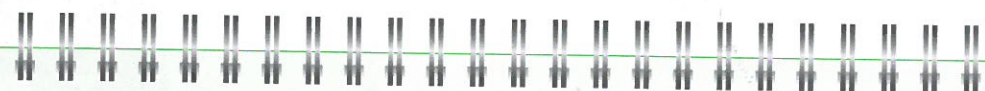
Practice Test 6 • Writing

Part 1

You **must** answer this question. Write your answer in **140–190** words in an appropriate style **on the separate answer sheet**.

- 1 In your English class you have been talking about the effects of TV on society. Now your teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.



Do you think that people should get rid of their televisions?

Notes

Write about:

1. important events which have been shown on TV
2. some of the problems associated with TV
3. _____ (your own idea)

Practice Test 6 • Writing

Part 2

Write an answer to **one** of the questions **2–5** in this part. Write your answer in **140–190** words in an appropriate style **on the separate answer sheet**. Put the question number in the box at the top of the answer sheet.

- 2 Your English teacher has asked you to write a story for the college newspaper. Your story must begin with the following words:
As soon as Carol arrived at her new school, she knew there was something strange about the place and some of the people.
- Write your story.
- 3 Your English-speaking penfriend has written a letter asking you about your school. Write a letter back to him/her, describing your school, your lessons and what the other students are like. Do not write any postal addresses.

Write your letter.

- 4 You have seen this notice on an English-language website.

REVIEWS WANTED: FILMS

We are looking for reviews of a favourite film. Tell us what the film is about, and why you liked it. Would you recommend it to other people?
The best reviews will be published next month.

Write your review.

- 5 Answer the following question based on your set book.
In your English class you have been discussing your set book. Now your teacher has asked you to write an article for the school magazine.
Decide which character in the book you find most interesting. Describe this person and explain why you find them interesting.

Write your article.

Practice Test 6 • Listening

Part 1

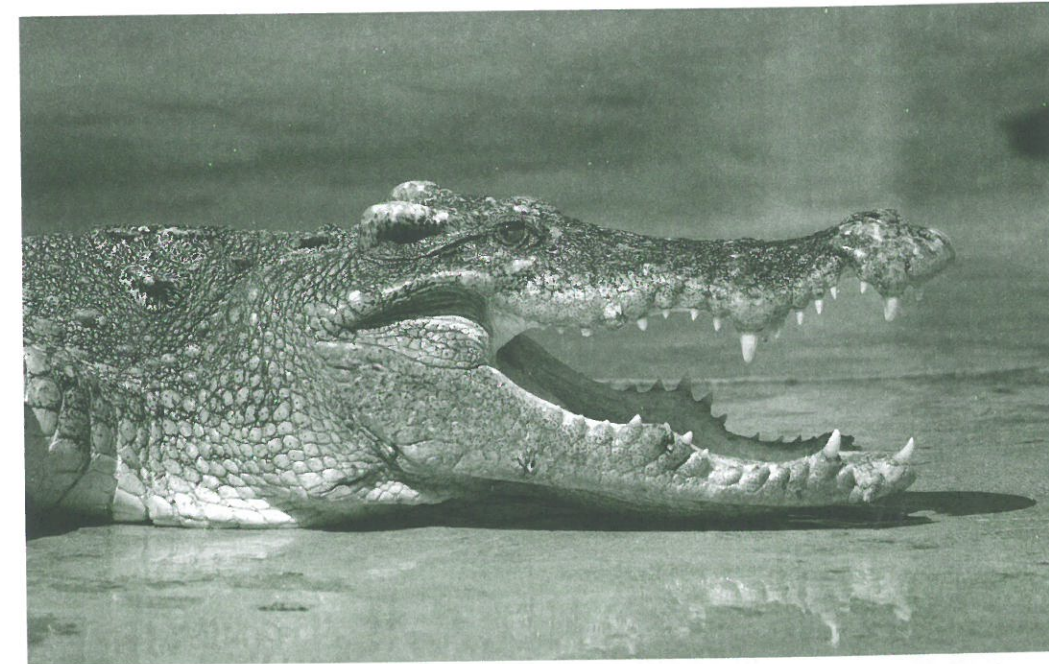
▶ 2.12 You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

- 1 You hear someone talking about a river.
What can happen after heavy rain?
A The water sinks boats.
B The water floods all nearby land.
C The water covers an island. 1
- 2 You hear a woman talking to her son.
What is wrong with the trousers he is wearing?
A They're too short.
B They're too dirty.
C They're too tight. 2
- 3 You hear someone talking about his favourite sport.
Why did he take up boxing?
A to do the same as his friends
B to learn how to defend himself
C to become fitter 3
- 4 You hear a woman speaking on her mobile phone.
What is the woman doing?
A asking the other person to do something
B agreeing with the other person
C criticizing the other person 4
- 5 You hear a conversation about walking in the mountains.
What is the man worried about?
A getting lost
B having an accident
C feeling cold 5
- 6 You hear a woman talking to a friend about her car.
What is she doing?
A asking for some advice
B apologizing for something she did
C making a suggestion for the future 6
- 7 You hear a man talking about his new home.
What does he like best about it?
A the number of rooms
B the amount of sun
C the kind of furniture 7
- 8 You hear a hotel receptionist talking.
Who is she speaking to?
A her boss
B a cleaner
C a guest 8

Practice Test 6 • Listening

Part 2

▶ 2.13 You will hear a radio interview with an expert in crocodile behaviour. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.



CROCODILES

- Dan once saw a crocodile that was 9 _____ long.
- People need to be particularly careful from September to 10 _____.
- Crocodiles can be very aggressive when they are looking after their 11 _____.
- When people are near a river, they should keep away from the 12 _____.
- Dan's advice to people who go sailing is to keep their 13 _____ inside the boat.
- Attacks sometimes happen because people take no notice of the 14 _____.
- Dan found a crocodile's 15 _____ very close to his tent.
- It is particularly important not to leave any bits of 16 _____ around the campsite.
- Dan says crocodiles in Australia often target 17 _____ as they drink.
- On average, the crocodiles that Dan studies eat 18 _____ a week.

Practice Test 6 • Listening

Part 3

2.14 You will hear five people talking about difficulties they had while learning something. For questions 19–23, choose from the list (A–H) the type of difficulty each speaker had. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.



- A following written instructions
- B remembering what to do next
- C getting help from someone
- D understanding the teacher
- E finding the money to pay for lessons
- F changing to a different system
- G making time to have lessons
- H getting enough practice

Speaker 1 19

Speaker 2 20

Speaker 3 21

Speaker 4 22

Speaker 5 23

Practice Test 6 • Listening

Part 4

2.15 You will hear part of an interview with a reporter about a city's bicycle rental scheme. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

24 Who can take part in the bicycle rental scheme?

- A anybody who pays for a full year
- B anybody who has an access card
- C anybody who lives in the city

24

25 What does the cost of each bike hire depend on?

- A the kind of bicycle you hire
- B the part of the city where you ride it
- C the number of hours you keep it

25

26 What is Kate's opinion of the £100 deposit?

- A It's too much money to pay.
- B The system can be unfair.
- C There's no need for it.

26

27 Kate says the bicycles have become popular among

- A tourists visiting the city.
- B local people using them instead of public transport.
- C children going to school.

27

28 She says there are not enough bicycles at

- A the bottom of hills.
- B the railway stations.
- C city centre car parks.

28

29 According to Kate, most of the cyclists used to go into the city

- A on foot.
- B by car.
- C on public transport.

29

30 What does Kate believe will happen as a result of the scheme?

- A Cars will be banned from the city centre.
- B Traffic in the city will remain the same.
- C There will be a lot more cycle lanes.

30