

PAPER 1 - READING
PART 1

5

You are going to read a newspaper article about the Mini. Choose the most suitable heading from the list A-I for each part 1-7 of the article. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- A Room for a new small car.
- B What do Mini lovers like about the Mini?
- C How was more space made?
- D Cheap and cheerful.
- E A hit with everyone.
- F A birthday party.
- G Big enough for everyone.
- H Amazing sales figures.
- I Uncertain start.

PART 2

You are going to read an extract from a novel. For questions 8-15, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Pesca's face and manner, on the evening when we met each other at my mother's gate, were more than enough to inform me that something extraordinary had happened. However, it was useless to ask him for an immediate explanation. I could only guess, while he was pulling me inside by both hands, that (knowing my habits) he had come to the house to make sure of meeting me that night, and that he had some news to tell me that was particularly good.

We both bounced into the lounge in a very rude and undignified manner. My mother sat by the open window laughing. Pesca was one of her especial favourites, and his strangest behaviour was always forgivable in her eyes. Poor dear woman! From the first moment when she found out that the little Professor was deeply and gratefully attached to her son, she opened her heart to him, and took all his puzzling foreign peculiarities for granted, without even trying to understand them.

My sister Sarah, with all the advantages of youth, was, strangely enough, less tolerant. She admitted that Pesca had a good heart; but she could not accept him, as my mother accepted him, for my sake. Her narrow ideas about what was "proper" contrasted sharply with Pesca's natural lack of respect for appearances; and she was always openly astonished at her mother's familiarity with the eccentric little foreigner. I have noticed, not only in my sister's case, but in others as well, that we of the younger generation are not nearly so cheerful and so impulsive as some of our elders. I often see old people get wide-eyed and excited at the promise of some anticipated pleasure which totally fails to upset the calm of their grandchildren. Are we, I wonder, such genuine boys and girls as our seniors were when they were young? Have we been, in these modern days, just a little too well brought up?

Without trying to answer these questions, I can at least say that I never saw my mother and my sister in the company of Pesca, without finding my mother much the younger woman of the two. On this occasion, for example, while the old lady was laughing at the boyish way we stumbled into the room, Sarah was anxiously picking up the broken pieces of a teacup which the Professor had knocked off when running to meet me at the door.

Happy Birthday! UK's Mini 35 this Year!

The Mini, a symbol of the swinging sixties and a Monte Carlo racing success, is celebrating 35 years as one of the world's top sellers, just as manufacturers are turning back to small cars.

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About 5.3 million Minis have been sold since its launch in 1959 as one of the most compact cars ever made, marking a design and engineering revolution.

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But around 100,000 enthusiasts in 500 Mini clubs world-wide appreciate the car for simpler reasons: "It's a cutie. It has no square bits on it; it's round and cuddly," enthused Joanna Bridges, 25, who has owned three Minis over a period of eight years.

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She will join around 4,000 other Mini enthusiasts this weekend at the Silverstone racing circuit in Britain to celebrate the car's 35th birthday.

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The Mini, the brainchild of designer Sir Alec Issigonis, was originally launched by British Motor Corporation to compete with German "bubble cars" and hopefully push them out of the market,

but it soon found its own individual position.

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The main design advance was having enough space to fit four adults and luggage in a shell 10 feet (3.05 metres) long, 4 feet (1.2 metres) high and 4 feet (1.2 metres) wide. "That was Issigonis' key objective - to make a family car that was effectively bigger on the inside than it was on the outside," said Denis Chick, product public relations manager for Rover cars, now part of German manufacturer Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW), which still makes Minis.

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To create the room needed, Issigonis hit on the new idea of moving the engine into a sideways position and fixing the gear transmission to the front of the car, at a time when most vehicles had rear-wheel drive. This meant that there was no transmission apparatus under the car, giving the extra space that he needed. Another first was the size of the tyres, which had to be a lot smaller (to fit a 10 inch-24.4 cm-diameter rim) than the normal tyre size which was then 14 to 15 inches (36 to 38 cm).

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Initially, at its launch, people were sceptical about the car's innovations. However, opinions changed and the Mini soon became a "cool" car.

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It was adopted as a fashion accessory of the Swinging Sixties, bought by stars of films and pop music, and was as much a part of the "trendy" atmosphere as mini-skirts and long hair. "Peter Sellers had one. The Beatles had one. Mary Quant had one. I suppose it suited the kind of cheeky, fun atmosphere of the times," said Nigel Fryatt, executive editor of "Mini World", a monthly magazine for Mini lovers with sales of around 35,000.

8 How did the author know that he was going to receive good news?

- A His friend had come to meet him.
- B His friend told him immediately.
- C It was obvious by the way his friend held his hands.
- D The way his friend looked and acted made it clear.

9 Pesca knew the author would be at his mother's house that night because

- A he knew the author's routine.
- B the author's mother had told him.
- C the author went there every night.
- D they had arranged to meet at the gate.

10 How did the two boys enter the lounge?

- A Calmly and discreetly.
- B Unhappily.
- C Loudly and clumsily.
- D In a calm and stately manner.

11 For what reason did the author's mother like Pesca so much?

- A His behaviour was very strange.
- B He liked her son.
- C He was foreign.
- D She found him amusing.

12 Why does the author call his mother a "poor dear woman"?

- A He thinks she is kind but naive.
- B She doesn't have much money.
- C He thinks she is easily deceived.
- D She likes all foreigners without thinking.

13 The fact that Sarah was of the younger generation meant that she

- A could not tolerate Pesca.
- B had an advantage over Pesca.
- C didn't like Pesca as much as her mother did.
- D thought Pesca lacked respect.

14 What surprised Sarah about her mother's attitude to Pesca?

- A How informal she was with him.
- B How little respect she showed him.
- C The way she always laughed at him.
- D How eccentrically she behaved with him.

15 What has the author noticed about the difference between the generations?

- A That young people are more relaxed than old people.
- B That old people are calmer than young people.
- C That young people are better brought up than old people.
- D That old people are more youthful than young people.