

TEST 1

READING

PART 3

You are going to read a magazine article about house prices and transport connections. Eight paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs A-I the one which fits each gap (14-20). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Property and the Tube

Over the years, living "south of the river" has become a sort of social put-down in London, heard most often among the middle classes in higher status areas like Fulham and Camden.

0 E

However, things could soon change. There are plans for public transport improvements, notably the extension of the Jubilee Line, and people may soon start moving south of the river, causing a rise in house prices.

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The last time a Tube Line reached a previously run-down area was when the Victoria Line opened in 1968. This had an immediate effect on prices in Brixton, Pimlico and Islington where prices went sky-high as house buyers fought over the best flats.

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The Jubilee Line extension will, like the Victoria Line, connect fairly isolated areas to the West End. Some areas will have their first station of any kind, meaning residents will be able to speed to Green Park in 10 minutes.

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In one such area, Shad Thames, 2-bedroom flats already sell for more than £100,000. This area is only 10 minutes from London Bridge station, which will become a main junction of the Jubilee Line extension.

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Not only do these less expensive areas boast houses and flats, but they also have many closed-down factories and industrial buildings which could be converted into stylish homes.

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Lewisham Council are also developing Deptford, a typically neglected inner city area which is well positioned to benefit from the Jubilee Line extension.

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On the other hand Peckham is similar to Hackney and could possibly become a lot smarter. A new station is planned at the southern end of the East London Line and will link it to the Tube system.

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Professional investors have started to take an interest and there are areas south of the river which could become quite fashionable when the Tube arrives.

- A Further south of the London Bridge area the cheapest property prices can be found in Lewisham. Moreover, there are fine Victorian houses in places like New Cross.
- B Whether all the planned transport changes will actually take place remains to be seen, but house hunters should start doing some detective work now.
- C Soon after the announcement of this extension, estate agents are already feeling optimistic. For example, one Londonwide agent, Winkworth, says the new Jubilee Line station at Surrey Quays will boost values by about 10 per cent.
- D In South Kensington, for example, which is one of London's most exclusive areas, house and flat prices have dropped dramatically in recent years, and this drop is directly linked to the availability of public transport.
- E Since the area has never had a Tube connection, house prices have always been lower than those elsewhere in the capital. A house in, say, Islington, north of the river, with good Tube connections, may be twice as expensive as a similar house in Southwark, which has no railway link.
- F Just beyond these expensive flats, it's possible to buy a whole house for just £30,000 and towards where the new Jubilee Line entrance will be, small Victorian houses can be bought for £80,000.
- G There were, however, some interesting observations. The beneficial effect of the new Victoria Tube Link disappeared beyond a 10 minute walk from the station.
- H Greenwich, Blackheath and Dulwich are already expensive for reasons unconnected with the availability of public transport (they are green areas with fine architecture and good schools) and therefore prices are unlikely to go higher.
- I According to estate agent Duncan Allen, houses with such rapid and easy access to London will be the best investment, as they are just the properties city people are looking for.

PART 4

You are going to read some information about clocks. For questions 21-35, choose from the clocks (A-H). Some of the clocks may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Which clock(s) or watch(es) would you recommend for:

- someone who always forgets to put their clocks forward in summer? 0 G
- a curious and active child? 21
- a person who is always misplacing their keys? 22
- someone who likes to wear an accurate watch while swimming? 23
- someone who wants a clock which will look attractive in a sitting room? 24
- someone who likes clocks which have unusual moving parts or moving displays for measuring time? 25 26
- someone who wants a battery operated clock which comes with all the parts included? 27 28
- a Junghans-lover who does not want a watch? 29 30
- someone who wants to know the time according to the Caesium Clock? 31 32
- someone who has a poor memory and very poor eyesight? 33
- someone who wants to be reminded of an old-fashioned time-keeper? 34
- someone who is fascinated by flying? 35

Clocks

- Junghans Mega Star A Ball Clock E

This watch is extraordinarily accurate because it includes a radio receiver which "listens" to the radio signal sent from Frankfurt's Caesium Clock. The Caesium Clock, housed in Frankfurt, Germany, sets European Standard time, and is accurate to one second over a million years. At the push of a button, the watch self-adjusts from European Standard Time to local time. The watch is guaranteed to be fully waterproof to a depth of 30 metres. It is black with a geometric design in white, red and green.

- Sandtimer Clock B

Do you remember egg timers? They were glass containers which were wide at the top and bottom and narrow in the middle with sand inside. If you wanted to time how long you should boil an egg, you turned the egg timer upside down so that the sand, now in the top half, trickled slowly through the small gap in the middle into the bottom half. When all the sand had fallen through, the egg was ready! Well, technology has now replaced the traditional sand-filled container with an electronic "digital sand" display! Turn the Sandtimer over and it's ready. The "sand" trickles through grain by grain until time's up (you can use it for anything, not only eggs). Meanwhile the LCD clock always shows itself the right way up. When not timing, the "sand" falls and spits as a continuous display. It's six inches high and uses two button cell batteries which are included in the price.

- Travel World Timer C

If you are a fan of vintage aeroplanes, this unique travel alarm clock is for you. Inside the tough, aluminium-fronted case there is a treasure trove of replicas of dials from authentic aeroplane cockpits. It features an analogue clock, a separate compass and thermometer plus a world map with a time zone indicator set into the lid of the case. The Travel World is powered by a single UM3 battery (not supplied).

- Making Time D

Have you got a young family? If so, why not introduce your children to the different ways of measuring time? They start by constructing two sundials (card components, glue and coloured pencils included). Next, there are simple instructions for making several other basic timepieces. Finally, they can build a real working electric clock. (The kit includes all the parts except an HP7 battery). Suitable for children aged 8 upwards.

This is a very different new clock which is already in great demand. It's unusual in that it's a clock with no face and no hands. The extraordinary Ball Clock tells the time in a fascinating way. Electrically powered, the mechanism lifts one steel ball every minute onto its top track; every five minutes the track tilts, sending the balls down to the next track to record the minutes. It comes in a simple build-your-own form with a protective case.

- Time Traveller F

The Time Traveller is a talking alarm clock and a keyfinder! A talking pocket alarm clock is attached to a keyring. At the touch of a button, it speaks the time with its "human" voice. Lost your keys? Simply call out or clap your hands and it "answers" repeatedly from anywhere in the room, helping you to find your keys immediately. Other features include a keyfinder manual override, alarm function and a visual time display. It's only about as big as your front door key so it will fit easily into your pocket. It uses two button batteries which are supplied.

- Junghans Mantel Clock G

The Mantel Clock has an internal radio receiver which picks up a radio signal from the National Physical Laboratory in Rugby, England. This signal gives the precise time in Britain, which is Greenwich Mean Time in winter, changing automatically to British Summer Time in summer. It's 7½ inches high in modern, plain black with white to mark the hands and show the time. An attractive addition to any room. It runs on an LR14 battery (not included).

- Junghans Alarm Clock H

Like the Junghans Mega Star watch, the digital alarm clock is astoundingly accurate because it, too, is controlled by the radio signal from Frankfurt's Caesium Clock. Additional benefits include a perpetual calendar, snooze button - you press it to turn off the alarm but the alarm comes on again at regular intervals of, say, five minutes - and a built-in light. It's small and handy to carry. It's ultra-modern in black, with a digital display and three small light blue buttons. An LR6 battery is necessary but not included.

