

Mini-texts 2

Read the texts below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the best alternative – A, B, C or D. Write your answers in the boxes.

1 Air Quality

All new petrol and diesel cars and vans will have their exhaust emissions cut by half in 18 months in an attempt to improve city air quality following a new European directive on the quality of petrol and diesel fuels.

The news is that ...

- A in 18 months, European cities must cut pollution by half
- B the number of cars and vans in European cities will be reduced
- C in future, European city dwellers will hopefully breathe cleaner air
- D an EU directive has led to cleaner air in the cities

2 Outlook

Despite figures showing a drop in the number of people unemployed and claiming benefit, evidence from industry suggests a lot of problems in the pipeline.

We are told that ...

- A the economy is not as good as it may seem
- B oil pipelines are causing a lot of trouble
- C the unemployed are demanding more money
- D we can look forward to economic growth

3 Time is Money

Crossing the North Pole will become as routine as crossing the Atlantic when Russia opens its Arctic airspace to foreign flights, resulting in dramatic savings in time and money for travellers from Europe and North America to Asia.

The news is about ...

- A new Russian flights between Europe, North America and Asia
- B dramatic flights across the North Pole
- C regular inexpensive air traffic across the Atlantic
- D new routes for international air travellers

4 Legal Dispute

After five years, legal bills of £110,000 and a lot of acrimony, a row between millionaire neighbours over ownership of a bramble patch worth a few hundred pounds has been settled in court. Even the judge delivering his decision yesterday confessed that it was difficult to understand why two men with extensive estates should get involved in such a dispute “considering the nature of the land involved”.

We understand from the text that the two millionaires have been arguing about ...

- A an area of farmland
- B a small piece of land
- C a large house
- D paying court fees

5 Air Safety

The average airline passenger travelling in the United States is nearly 10 kilograms heavier than eight years ago, a survey by the US aviation watchdog has found. The findings prompted the US Federal Aviation Administration to order all US-based airlines to add extra kilograms for each traveller to passenger weight standards, plus an extra kilogram for heavier luggage.

It seems evident that in the US ...

- A certain weight standards have now been raised
- B air passengers are heavier than in other countries
- C travellers and luggage must now be weighed
- D airports might be more overcrowded

6 Not to be Sniffed at

In spring, most people are filled with joy at the knowledge that the summer months stretch before us, but some face the prospect of endless suffering due to hay fever. A new study offers hope in the form of a herbal extract which seems to be as effective as the drugs containing antihistamines, but does not have any sedative effects.

The study claims that ...

- A most people suffer from allergies in spring
- B the extract is an excellent cure for sleeplessness
- C a plant substance might solve a medical problem
- D the common treatments for allergies have little effect

7 Miró's Art

Miró approached painting with a bard's sensibility. His tableaux consisted of simple symbols and shapes on earthy backgrounds. *The Gendarme*, for instance, depicts an abstract policeman with a thin moustache and scarlet mitt on a tea-colored canvas, his white horse rearing up next to him. Miró sought to return painting to prehistoric cave art. The result was a spare graphism that he dubbed "painting-poems."

We understand that Miró's paintings ...

- A bear a close resemblance to reality
- B have few connections with older art forms
- C do not show people in a realistic way
- D portray military officers and their symbols