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FINAL EXAM

ADULTS 5 – MISS NOELIA

READING SECTION

1. Read the text and choose the answer (A, B, C, or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Megacities

In 1800, only 3% of the world's population lived in cities, a figure that had multiplied almost sixteen-fold to 47% by the end of the twentieth century. In 1950, there were 83 cities with populations exceeding one million; by 2007, this number had risen to 468. The term 'megacity' was first used as far back as the early 1960s by French geographer Jean Gottman to describe the north-eastern United States. The term is used more widely now and is defined as an urban area with more than 10 million people living closely together. A megacity can be a single area, or several areas that **merge** to make one huge area known as a megalopolis. As of March 2013, there were 28 megacities in the world.

Megacities are the result of the process of urbanization. When cities started to become crowded, people who could afford to, moved out into the suburbs at the edge of the city. Then, when the suburbs started attracting too many people, people moved further out into villages and the countryside. It was important that they were still close enough to the city to be able to **commute** comfortably every day, though. For this reason, the countryside was growing in popularity for the first time since industrialization in the nineteenth century. London, for example, lost 15% of its population between 1950 and 1970, and Detroit in the USA lost 47%.

However, movement away from cities does not mean the end of the city. Far from it, in fact. The city continues to spread, and from the old city develops a greater metropolitan area. And with the passing of time these grow into megacities with millions of people. Currently, the world's six greatest megacities are all to be found in Asia. The largest of these is the Tokyo-Yokohama area, home to 37 million people, followed by, in order, the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, Seoul-Incheon, Delhi, Shanghai, and Manila in the Philippines.

In the ancient world, Rome with its one million inhabitants was a megacity. And today, London could be considered one. Although the capital of the UK was one of the world's first modern cities of a million people, it is not on the list of megacities. In fact, the only western urban areas among the world's biggest megacities are now Moscow, Los Angeles, and Paris. The fastest-growing cities in the last decade have all been in the developing world and this trend looks likely to continue. It is expected that by the year 2030, 60% of the world's population will be living in megacities.

Megacities have several things in common, mainly the problems they all experience. Among these are high traffic levels resulting in bad pollution, housing problems, and various social problems such as unemployment. Often the huge division of wealth in such cities means that the only affordable housing is unplanned and **illegal**. However, large population numbers alone do not create these problems: city problems are thought to be caused mostly by weak and **ineffective** city governments. Despite the fact that megacities are increasingly more common in the developing world, the developed world needs to

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pay attention to them. What happens in the megacities of the developing world may shape the rest of the world. And that's something for us all to think about.

Example: In the late 1990s, ____% of the world's population lived in cities.

- A 3
- B 16
- C 20
- D 47

1 The word 'megacity' was initially used...

- A to describe several crowded cities in the world.
- B to describe places of fewer than ten million people.
- C by a European to describe somewhere in the United States.
- D by an American to describe a European city made up of smaller cities.

2 More people began living in the suburbs because...

- A cities had too many people.
- B villages were too expensive.
- C industry there improved greatly.
- D the countryside had too few people.

3 The writer says that...

- A Jakarta is the world's third-biggest megacity.
- B the world's smaller cities are not growing at a fast rate.
- C the world's top megacities are on the same continent.
- D Tokyo has only recently become the world's biggest megacity.

4 According to the writer, the megacities of the future...

- A will probably include London.
- B will no longer include Rome.
- C will be home to most of the world's people.
- D will be in both the developed and developing world.

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5 What does the writer say is the reason for most problems in megacities?

- A rich people
- B bad management
- C unplanned housing
- D unemployed people

2. Match the **highlighted** words (1-5) with their meanings (A-F). There is one extra meaning you do not need to use.

1 merge _____

2 commute _____

3 illegal _____

4 ineffective _____

5 shape _____

A not allowed

B join

C not nice

D affect

E travel to work

F not working well