

1. What does the word *Metro* mean?
2. Which metro is the oldest one in the world?
3. When did the Metro appear in Moscow?
4. How many people use the Moscow Metro annually?
5. What does the depth of the Metro depend on?
6. What additional facilities does the Moscow Metro offer to its passengers?
7. Why do Muscovites prefer the Metro to other means of transport?



- A. Constructing an underground transportation system is an extremely challenging project. The engineers need to take into consideration a great number of factors to make the tunnels safe. One of them is the geology of the area. Below Moscow there are different geological layers — sand, limestone, clay, gravel and others. Clay is the best layer for construction and it goes rather deep. The Moscow Metro is the deepest in Russia with a maximum depth of 97 metres.
- B. The Moscow Metro is considered to be the most beautiful in the world. It was a very ambitious architectural art project. The idea of an efficient transportation system in Moscow dates back to the time of the Russian Empire. However, it was not developed into a construction plan due to World War I and the Civil War. Then the project was relaunched and, in 1935, The Moscow Metro accepted its first passengers. The whole city celebrated the event.
- C. Apart from the people who live in Moscow permanently, there are lots of those who come on business or for a holiday. There are millions of transit passengers too. The traffic is so heavy time. The Moscow Metro is very punctual and the interval between the trains is very short. It is also faster than buses or cars as it never gets stuck in traffic jams.
- D. For people living in big cities, commuting is an everyday challenge. Fortunately, there is a transportation system, reliable and efficient, that can make a commuter's life a bit easier. It may be called the Subway, the Underground, the Tube, or the Metro, which is short for the Metropolitan Railway, the first underground railway. Whatever the name is, it refers to the underground system that transports passengers through urban and suburban areas.
- E. When the underground system was opened, not all Londoners approved of it. They did not like locomotives spitting out smoke and fumes. In spite of that, in the first year of its existence, the London tube carried nearly 10 million passengers. Since then the number of passengers has grown worldwide. Nowadays, only the Moscow Metro has more than 236 stations. In a year, it transports about 2.5 billion passengers and its capacity is constantly growing.
- F. If there was no underground transport, it would be impossible to avoid traffic standstills in big cities. That is why underground transport exists in most countries. The first metropolitan railway was opened in London in January 1863. It was only 6 kilometres long. Of course, the traffic of that time had nothing like its current intensity, and not all of the citizens of the British capital realized the importance of the new means of transport.

	A	B	C	D	E	F