

Read the text below and then answer questions 1–7.

## THE BUSINESS OF LOST LUGGAGE

I Every year, more than a billion passengers fly in and out of American airports. They assume that their luggage will arrive with them at their destination. However, that is not always the case. In the USA, around 2 million suitcases are sent to the wrong place annually! Sadly, around 65 percent of these suitcases never return to their owners.

5 II What happens to all that lost luggage? Most of it—as well as bags lost on buses, trains, boats, and taxis—ends up in an enormous store in Scottsboro, Alabama. The Unclaimed<sup>1</sup> Baggage Center is the only store in the USA that buys unclaimed suitcases from airlines and other travel companies in order to sell their contents. It sends trucks around the country to collect those suitcases.

10 III Since trucks are constantly arriving with new shipments of lost luggage, there is always plenty to do at the Unclaimed Baggage Center. First, the workers open up each bag and examine its contents. They must decide what to do with each item: sell it, throw it away, or give it



to charity. Then they must assess the value of the items they are selling so they can set prices.

15 IV Approximately 7,000 new items are added to the store every day. There's a huge variety of clothes, electronic devices, jewelry, and more, usually at a discount of 20 to 80 percent from their normal price. Some lucky shoppers have found even better deals. For example, one customer paid \$60 for a painting and later discovered that it was worth over \$20,000! Finding such a terrific bargain is pretty rare, though, as the store's workers have a  
20 lot of experience spotting valuables.

V So, if you're passing through Scottsboro, don't miss the opportunity to visit and explore the Unclaimed Baggage Center. In addition to providing a unique shopping experience, the store has a fantastic display of some of the strangest things that its staff has found in suitcases. It's no surprise that it's one of Alabama's top tourist attractions, with around one million  
25 visitors a year.

1. Unclaimed = غير اللازمة/المطلوبة, לא נדרש

**1. What do we learn in paragraph I?**

- i) How many Americans fly annually.
- ii) Why suitcases are sent to the wrong airport.
- iii) How many suitcases get lost in American airports.
- iv) Which country has the most lost luggage.

**2. What do we know about the Unclaimed Baggage Center from paragraph II?**

**PUT A ✓ BY THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.**

- i) What is special about it.
- ii) When it first opened.
- iii) How it gets the products it sells.
- iv) Why it is located in Alabama.
- v) How many suitcases it buys annually.
- vi) Who works there.

**3. What happens when workers at the Unclaimed Baggage Center find an item that they don't want to sell?**

- A. They send it back to the owner.
- B. They throw it away or give it to charity.
- C. They keep it in the store.
- D. They put it in a suitcase again.

**4. "Approximately 7,000 new items are added to the store every day." (line 15) What do workers at the Unclaimed Baggage Center do before they add those new items? (paragraph III)**

- A. They wash all the bags.
- B. They sell the bags without opening them.
- C. They assess the value of the items and set prices.
- D. They send the items to the airport.

5. Lines 17-19 describe a bargain that one customer at the Unclaimed Baggage Center found. Why is it unusual to find such a terrific deal there?

- A. Because the store is very expensive.
- B. Because the workers have a lot of experience spotting valuable items.
- C. Because customers usually buy everything quickly.
- D. Because the store has very few items.

6. Why people might choose to visit the Unclaimed Baggage Center. paragraph IV and V.

PUT A ✓ BY THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.

- A. They can find many items at discount prices.
- C. They can meet the original owners of the lost bags.
- D. They can see a display of strange things found in suitcases.
- D. It is one of Alabama's top tourist attractions.

7. What can we understand from paragraph V?

The writer thinks that (—).

- i) it's worth coming from far to visit the Unclaimed Baggage Center
- ii) the Unclaimed Baggage Center is too crowded
- iii) shoppers can find everything they need at the Unclaimed Baggage Center
- iv) people should go to the Unclaimed Baggage Center if they're in the area

