NMT Task 4 practice (5)

Read the text below. Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each space (1-6). There two choices you don't need.

ARE SKATEBOARDS HISTORY?

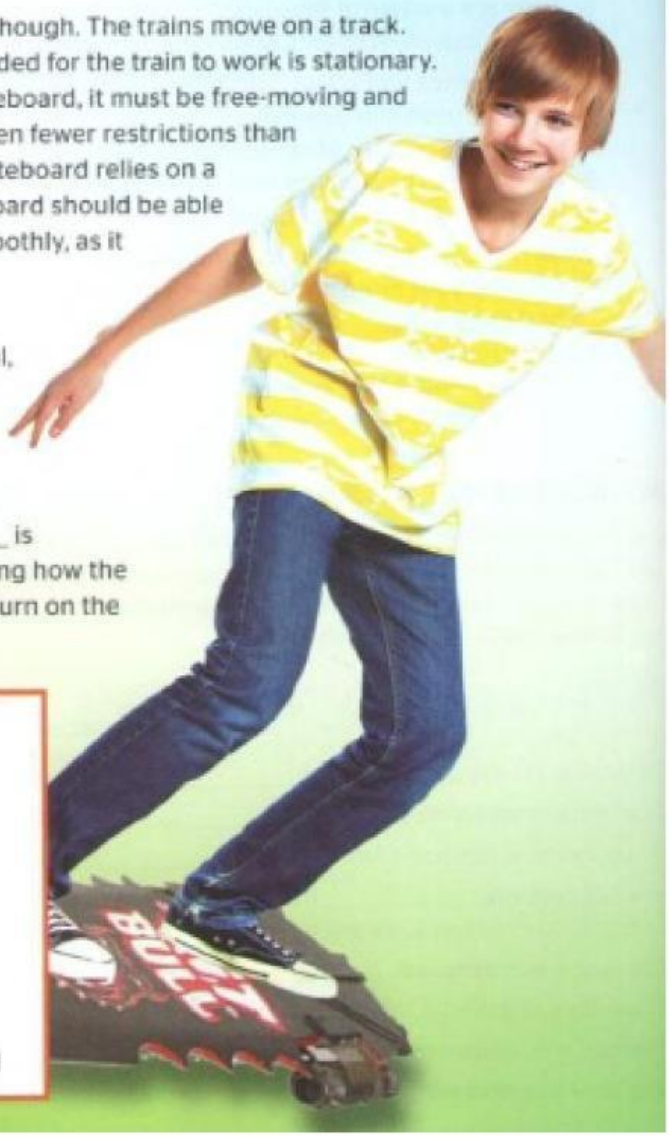
The dreams of millions of boys and girls are going to come true in the very near future. After decades on the drawing board, engineers in the US have finally come good and developed the world's first hoverboard. Essentially, it is a floating skateboard that promises (1) _____.

We, in the technological community, often get excited about the words 'new', 'breakthrough' and 'discovery' and rightly so. Innovation is what drives us. However, what makes the hoverboard project so exciting is not new technology but the ingenuity in using existing technology in a new way.

So, (2) _____? The hoverboard uses the same premise as the powerful magnetic trains seen in Japan, China and South Korea. Magnetic fields are used by these trains to levitate them and propel them forward. Now, the hoverboard engineers have downsized this technology and fit four hover engines into their board. These engines produce a magnetic field (3) _____ and the person standing on it. The use of four engines over one or two is a matter of balance. It is easier to control an object with a four-point base than one with a single-point base. Just think how difficult it is to stay on a unicycle rather than a skateboard.

There is, of course, a glaring problem to be overcome though. The trains move on a track. They follow a set path, (4) _____. All the equipment needed for the train to work is stationary. If a hoverboard is to be used in the same way as a skateboard, it must be free-moving and self-contained. In theory, a hoverboard should have even fewer restrictions than a skateboard concerning where it could be used. A skateboard relies on a smooth surface to move effectively, whereas a hoverboard should be able to move over rough surfaces just as efficiently and smoothly, as it makes no contact with the ground.

So, (5) _____? Well, at the moment they haven't. The hoverboard is only able to operate over sheets of metal, where the magnetic fields generated by the hover engines have something to repel. Although far from the finished article, the hoverboard project already has a plethora of triumphs. If nothing else, shrinking a piece of technology used to levitate trains and (6) _____ is a piece of engineering genius. We look forward to seeing how the project develops and, it goes without saying, taking a turn on the skateboard of the future.



A. how does it work
B. to be the next generation of extreme sports equipment
C. which is predetermined and purpose-built
D. resembling a skateboard but without wheels
E. putting it in something the size of a skateboard
F. which is strong enough to lift the board
G. how did the engineers solve this problem
H. to travel everywhere with the use of a hoverboard