A READING PASSAGE ABOUT THE WORLD'S 'SMARTEST CITIES'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read the following passage about the world's 3 most popular smart cities.
2. **Tick (√) the correct answer for the questions below.**
3. **Look at the example below: It is marked as (Q0).**
4. ***Practice the given reading strategies from previous lessons.***
5. You have 2 attempts and 15 minutes for completion.
6. Once you finish, write your first and last name and submit this worksheet.
7. PASS= 8/10

What's it like to live in the world's 'smartest cities'?

By Lindsey Galloway With global temperatures rising and environmental changes putting pressure on every country, cities are facing new challenges in their plans for a sustainable future. Some, however, have moved aggressively to implement smart solutions that aim to build a higher long-term quality of life, providing guidance for the rest of the world to follow.

According to the **Smart Cities Index 2024**, the world's ten smartest cities are:

1 **Zurich** 2 **Oslo** 3 **Canberra** 4 **Geneva** 5 **Singapore** 6 **Copenhagen** 7 **Lausanne** 8 **London** 9 **Helsinki** 10 **Abu Dhabi**

To better understand what exactly made these cities feel 'smart', we spoke to residents in three of the top-ranked places to understand which features are making the most impact on their lives.

Singapore jumped two places in the rankings, thanks to high scores in safety (enabled by CCTV), high connectivity that makes it easier to monitor traffic, and the ability to submit information and process documents online, which makes dealing with government bureaucracy much smoother. Kirk Westaway, executive chef at a Michelin-starred restaurant, points to the small touches that make a big difference in day-to-day life, especially in public transportation. '[Quick] contactless payments and real-time data mean you're not left waiting wondering if you'll get to your destination on time,' he said. In addition, Westaway highlights Singapore's focus on sustainability. 'Urban farming is becoming a way of life here,' he said. The Aquaponics Farm at Swissôtel The Stamford, which optimizes growing space without soil and minimises water usage for fresh produce, provides one example of how smart cities can integrate innovative solutions for food production in urban environments.

London continues to rank well for its ease of online services, including booking transportation and easy-to-access wi-fi. 'With great transportation, both with the Tube, buses, boats, and active travel schemes such as bikes and scooters, London is a fun place to be, with lots going on every day of the week, including restaurants, pubs, night life, concerts and more,' said Emma Orr of Winning Business UK Ltd. 'London is committed to becoming a clean city in terms of both EV infrastructure but also the commitment to green space and active travel plans. Transport for London has targets that 80% of journeys should be completed by Active Travel [walking, cycling and public transport] by 2041.' The city's commitment to sustainability is also evident in its push for electric vehicle infrastructure. 'EV infrastructure is a huge technological change, which we see more so in London than any other UK city,' Orr said, adding that this initiative is closely tied to the city's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) policy, which makes it less expensive to drive EVs than gas-emitting cars (which must pay a fee to drive through).'

Abu Dhabi moved up three places in the ratings this year. The city scored extremely well for its ease of transportation and online booking, high sanitation even in the poorest areas of the city, digital skills taught well in schools and as a multicultural place where people of different ethnicities feel welcome. For residents, the smart features of the city's transportation system are unmatched. 'The city's integration of vehicle charging infrastructures and autonomous driving solutions has made commuting smooth and efficient,' said resident Dhanvin Sriram. He also points to the newly planned neighbourhood, Masdar City, as a model for sustainable urban development. '[Its] design blends traditional Arab architecture with modern technology, providing a naturally cool environment even during the scorching summer months,' he said. 'The extensive use of solar panels on rooftops harnesses the sun's energy, making it one of the largest photovoltaic installations in the Middle East.' The buildings have all been designed to reduce energy and water consumption by at least 40%. 'Abu Dhabi is a place where technology and sustainability come together, making life easier and more enjoyable for residents like me,' said Sriram.

Adapted from BBC Studios

Example:

Q0. What is the main purpose of the article?

A. To explain why some cities have become more expensive to live in. ☐
B. To describe how technology and sustainability improve urban life. ☑
C. To compare the economic development of three major cities. ☐
D. To encourage people to move to the world's highest-ranked cities. ☐

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Q1. What does Kirk Westaway suggest about Singapore's transport system?

A. It has become more affordable because fewer people use private cars.
B. It relies mainly on innovative farming to reduce environmental problems.
C. It improves daily life by making journeys more predictable and convenient.
D. It allows residents to avoid using online government services.

Q2. What does the article suggest about London's approach to sustainability?

A. The city prioritises electric vehicles over all other forms of transport.
B. Its environmental policies are designed mainly to attract international tourists.
C. It has already achieved its target for journeys made by walking and cycling.
D. It combines several initiatives to encourage cleaner and more active transport.

Q3. What is the purpose of mentioning the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in London?

A. To show how a policy can encourage drivers to choose less-polluting vehicles.
B. To explain why electric vehicles are becoming less popular among Londoners.
C. To demonstrate that public transport is more expensive than driving.
D. To highlight the difficulties of introducing new transport technologies.

Q4. What makes Masdar City an example of sustainable urban development?

A. It has replaced modern technology with traditional architectural methods.
B. It focuses on reducing traffic by encouraging residents to work from home.
C. It combines traditional design, modern technology and energy-saving measures.
D. It produces all its food locally using aquaponics and urban farming.

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