

E8 UNIT 2: READING COMPREHENSION

I. Read the text carefully, then choose the correct answers.

For 3,000 years, Mongolians have lived in the rural areas, adopting a pastoral way of life, moving in the search of new pastures. They depend largely on their livestock for a living and sustain themselves with what they can get from the land. Today, approximately half of Mongolia's population is still roaming the vast plains living in the ger and moving their campings several times a year. Nomadic life thrives in summer and survives in winter. When temperatures are warm, they work hard on their farms to get milk and make *airag*, consuming meat from their sheep and goats. Once winter comes, temperatures dip extremely low and they stay indoors and survive on horse meat.

With the rise of technology, changes in the Mongolian nomadic lifestyle are almost inevitable. While they still lead their lifestyle as pastoral herders, many use motorbikes to herd cattle and horses. To move their homes, trucks have taken the place of ox carts. Solar panels are also becoming an addition to the ger, giving them access to electricity without being confined to one place. The nomads use solar energy to power television sets and mobile phones.

1. Mongolians regularly move from place to place in order to _____.
 - a. look for food for their family
 - b. find pastures for their livestock
 - c. herd their cattle and horses
 - d. sell their animals and farm products
2. How many Mongolians still live a traditional nomadic life?
 - a. Close to 40 percent
 - b. More than 50 percent
 - c. About 50 percent
 - d. Approximately 60 percent
3. What is a ger?
 - a. A portable, round tent
 - b. A thatched house
 - c. A circular house made of snow
 - d. A wooden hut
4. What is the Mongolian's main food in winter?
 - a. *airag*
 - b. goat meat
 - c. sheep meat
 - d. horse meat
5. Today, Mongolian nomads _____.
 - a. don't lead their lifestyle as herders any more
 - b. use ox carts to move their homes
 - c. use solar energy to power electronic devices
 - d. have the advantage of urban life

6. Which of the followings is NOT true about Mongolian nomads?

- a. They live in the countryside.
- b. They live by and for their livestock.
- c. They work hard in winter when the temperature dip very low.
- d. They are now taking advantage of technology.

II. Choose the item among A, B, C or D that best answers the question about the passage.

Living in the countryside is something that people from the city often dream about.

However, in reality, it has both advantages and disadvantages.

There are certainly many advantages of living in the country. First, you can enjoy peace and quietness. Moreover, people tend to be friendlier. A further advantage is that there is less traffic, so it is safer for young children.

However, there are certain disadvantages or drawbacks to life outside the city. First, because there are fewer people, you are likely to have few friends. In addition, entertainment is difficult to find, particularly in the evening. Furthermore, the fact that there are fewer shops and services so it is quite hard to find jobs. As a result, you may have to travel a long way to work, which can be extremely expensive.

In conclusion, it can be seen that the country is more suitable for some people than others. On the whole, it is often the best place for those who are retired or who have young children. In contrast, young or single people who have a career are better provided for in the city.

1. According to the passage, living in the country has ____.

- A. both good and bad points
- B. only bad points
- C. only good points
- D. no disadvantages

2. How many advantages does living in the country have?

- A. Two
- B. Four
- C. Three
- D. No

3. Living in the country is safer for young children because ____.

- A. there are few shops
- B. there is less traffic
- C. there are fewer people
- D. there are few services

4. Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the passage?

- A. The country is only suitable for retired people.
- B. It's hard to find entertainment in the country.
- C. There are fewer shops and services in the country.
- D. People in the country tend to be friendlier than people in the city.

5. Having few friends is_____.

- A. one of drawbacks to life in the country
- B. the only disadvantage of living in the country
- C. one of certain advantages to life outside the city
- D. one of certain drawbacks to life outside the city

