Reading

I. Read an article about driving in Beijing. Five sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap. There are two extra sentences.

Driving in the capital of China Beijing, the capital of China, is one of the most polluted cities in the world, with the main contaminant believed to be gases emitted from transportation. (1) ..... With a rapidly increasing population that led to more and more drivers taking to the road, in 2006, the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau began to think of the future and the different ways it could deal with this grave environmental problem. Before 2006, the city was constantly covered by a thick brown cloud. The cause was pollution emitted from public transport, private vehicles and also by the city's numerous factories and power plants. Nitrogen dioxide, the main pollutant from these sources, was not only above the ground covering the heads of inhabitants but also on the ground in the form of dense smog. (2) ..... The effects of traffic pollution were

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everywhere. Those particularly affected were babies and young children, the elderly, and asthmatics who often suffered respiratory problems as a direct consequence. A solution needed to be implemented. With the justification of the Beijing Olympic Games looming in the future and the desperate need to act, the government set up some controls to reduce the quantity of pollution and to improve the quality of air in the city. In November 2006, an experiment was carried out in which the use of government and commercial vehicles was prohibited in the city and, in addition, the use of private vehicles was limited. The experiment took place between 4th and 5th of November. (3) ..... In view of the need to further increase the air quality in the city, for its inhabitants and for the Olympic Games, the model was enforced permanently, but with some changes. During the Olympics even tighter measures were adopted. The government brought in an even-odd licence plate system where only cars with a specific number plate were allowed to use the streets in the city on any specific day.

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(4) ……. The Beijing Traffic Management Bureau again reported, during this period, a substantial drop in traffic congestion, and the levels of pollution within the city diminished. Many wonder how such a large and complex ban can be enforced, and the answer is simple. The city now has thousands of number plate recognition cameras set up around the city. If cars that should not be on the streets are filmed, the driver receives a 100 Yuan (£7.30) fine. This is a deterrent which to date has worked effectively. Today, the prohibition of vehicles in the city still exists, with, on average, a fifth of 3.6 million private vehicles being banned from the roads each week day. (5) ……. Beijing is by no means free of its pollution problem, but it can be said that the city is now becoming cleaner. The cloud that used to loom above the city has now been lifted, and its inhabitants can see the real colour of their sky.

A) The high quantity of nitrogen dioxide emitted by public and private vehicles meant there was a high number of

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patients being admitted to hospitals throughout the city every week.

B) The results of the ban are positive and a daily reduction of approximately 275 tonnes of emissions has been recorded.

C) When rain descended upon the city, dirty smog turned to acid rain, which inevitably caused serious damage to cars, buildings and the city's water supply.

D) It recorded a 30% decrease in the number of vehicles in the city and, most importantly, a substantial reduction in nitrogen dioxide levels.

E) On average, 3.6 million private vehicles are driven through the capital every day.

F) Inevitably this enraged many of the city's inhabitants who felt their civil rights were being violated as they were forced to use buses or trains to get to their destinations.

G) When the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau saw it working they decided to increase the level of the fines.

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II. Read the article again. Are these statements True (T), False (F) or is the information Not Mentioned (NM)?

1 The Beijing Traffic Management believed that traffic pollution was only going to get worse in the future. T/F/NM

2 Those who suffered most were babies and young children. T/F/NM

3 It is dirty smog turning into acid rain that caused damage to the city. T/F/NM

4 The experiment in November 2006 was carried out after the Olympic Games. T/F/NM

5 In the even-odd licence plate system, only cars with the last number being 7 can drive on Monday. T/F/NM

6 The system can only be really successful when combined with the use of speed cameras. T/F/NM

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III. Read the article again and find a word or phrase in the text that means the following:

1 serious (paragraph 1) .....

2 many (paragraph 2) .....

3 something unpleasant about to happen (paragraph 3)

.....

4 stricter controls (paragraph 4) .....

5 prohibited (paragraph 6) .....

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