Reading

B. Read the text on page 75 and decide whether the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Mentioned (NM).

1. The Airbus A380 had to be redesigned so that it could land at some airports. ☐
2. Emirates, Qantas and Singapore Airlines all own an Airbus A380. ☐
3. The number of seats in first class, business class and economy class is the same. ☐
4. Only passengers in business class can enjoy more space. ☐
5. Singapore Airline's twelve first-class suites all come with a double bed. ☐
6. Travelling on an Airbus A380 is less tiring than travelling on any other plane. ☐
7. It is cheaper to travel on an Airbus A380 than on any other plane. ☐
8. There are plans to build more Airbus A380 planes. ☐

A state-of-the-art aircraft

The new Airbus A380 is the largest passenger jet that has ever been built. It can hold more passengers and cargo than any other commercial aeroplane, and most airports actually have to be redesigned in order to provide room for it. Even though the first designs of this giant aeroplane appeared back in 1994, it did not make its first commercial flight until October of 2007, from Singapore to Sydney, Australia, with Singapore Airlines. This long design period allowed the new Airbus jet aeroplane to be perfected technologically as well as practically. It has since been bought by Emirates Airlines as well as Qantas Airlines, and more and more airlines are expressing interest.

The Airbus A380 is nearly 240 feet long and 260 feet wide, from wing to wing. Because of its incredible size, it can seat up to 840 passengers. However, since the seating is divided into first class, business class and economy class, and each class has different seating arrangements, a total of 555 passengers can be seated. In general, more space means broader seats, more personal storage and better head room in all three classes. There are two floors on the Airbus A380, the upper including business and economy class, and the lower including more economy seats as well as first-class seats. Singapore Airlines offers twelve private first-class suites on its A380, each with one full and one secondary seat, a full-sized bed, desk and personal storage space. Four of these suites are in the form of two 'double' suites featuring a double bed. Qantas Airways' first-class seats feature a long flat bed that converts from the seat but does not have privacy doors. Emirates Airline's fourteen first-class private suites have shared access to two 'shower spas'. First and business class passengers have shared access to a snack bar and lounge with two sofas, in addition to a first-class-only private lounge.

The Airbus A380 is designed to make travelling more comfortable for the passenger. The aeroplane includes more air filters, which refresh the air in the cabin every three minutes helping passengers feel fresher both during and after the flight. Also, the noise in the cabin is lower than any other existing aircraft, which helps reduce tiredness and fatigue.

The Airbus A380 is also environmentally friendly. Its engine emissions are well below international limits, contributing to improved air quality around the airports it serves. It also produces less than 75 grams of carbon dioxide per passenger kilometre contributing to less greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The A380 also consumes less fuel than most jet aeroplanes, making it not only a bigger, but in many ways, a better aeroplane.

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