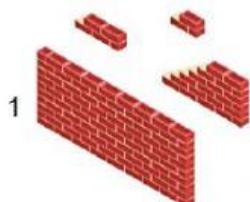


## C. READING:

Exercise 1: You will read a text called 'Cities of the future'. In the text, there are some opinions given about problems our societies may face.

Match the topics with the correct pictures.

*population pollution building materials new technology traffic jam*



Exercise 2: Read the text "Cities of the future" and choose the correct answers.

### CITIES OF THE FUTURE

#### Paragraph A

Researchers recently gave 1,000 people a questionnaire about 'Cities of The Future'. To answer the questions, the people had to imagine and describe what they thought our cities might look like in the year 2050. Interestingly, a large number of people were anxious that they would become 'dark, dangerous places', which had endless traffic jams and very few green spaces. This group also predicted an increase in the level of pollution and thought people would always need to wear facemasks in order to breathe. They also believed that it would be less safe to walk on the street as there would be 'more stealing' and other criminal behavior. A smaller number thought cities might become a lot cleaner and might be built from more interesting materials. They were also looking forward to new technology such as flying cars and moving pavements. In general, they believed that the cities of the future would offer a much more convenient way of living. A few people were uncertain; for example, they thought the size of apartments might reduce as the population of the city grew, but they also thought that public transport would become better.

### Paragraph B

What do the results from this questionnaire tell us? In a way, we shouldn't be amazed by the descriptions of the largest group. So many Hollywood films show cities of the future as frightening places. Online newspapers are also responsible for spreading this same belief. Headlines such as 'Global population rises – cities become crowded' are becoming more frequent. Journalists rarely discuss how future cities might be a good place to live.

### Paragraph C

The facts are these: 50% of people now live in cities, even though cities only occupy 2% of the world's land. By 2050, it is predicted that the number of people living there will rise to 70%. Some people are worried that villages in the countryside will become empty as everyone leaves for the city, and so traditional ways of life will be lost. This may be true, but we have to accept changes like this as part of human development. Rather than being negative, we should be hopeful that we can improve people's lives as they move to cities. The way to do this is through intelligent planning.

### Paragraph D

Architects have a big role to play in our future cities. In the past, the architects who were responsible for planning our cities often designed buildings that they were interested in; but now it is time for them to listen carefully to what people living in cities are asking for. In many countries around the world, people are choosing to have smaller families or to wait longer before they start a family. For this reason, not everyone needs a large house. Smaller and cheaper houses are what they need. But 'small' doesn't have to be the same as 'ugly' or 'boring'. Western architects could perhaps look at some of the architecture in Japanese cities, where very stylish houses are built on small pieces of unused land.

### Paragraph E

And what might cities of the future be made from? Engineering companies have produced some interesting new products, for example, wood-like material made from recycled newspapers or old drink cartons. One engineering team are even working on a project that uses mushrooms to create a hard building material. These new materials may seem strange, but we should remember that plastic was only invented in 1907 – at the time people thought that *this* was an unusual product, but now it is something we cannot manage without. Building a city of the future requires imagination and an open mind.

1. *Paragraph A: What do the results of the questionnaire show?*

- A. Most people feel worried rather than pleased about the way that cities will develop.
- B. People imagined that no one would use their own vehicles anymore.
- C. People think that crime will be the worst problem that future cities will have.
- D. Some people believe that there will not be enough houses in the city for everyone.

2. *What is the writer doing in Paragraph B?*

- A. Explaining why many people will probably prefer to live in cities in the future.
- B. Giving a reason why many people feel negative about cities of the future.
- C. Suggesting that newspapers show a more realistic view of future cities than films.

3. *What point does the writer make in Paragraph C?*

- A. It is important to encourage some people to stay in their villages.
- B. It is possible to maintain traditional village customs after moving to cities.
- C. It is necessary to think in a creative way about city design.

4. *Paragraph D: In the writer's opinion, architects who are responsible for planning cities*

- A. often make houses that are unattractive.
- B. must make buildings based on people's needs.
- C. should get experience by working in foreign cities.

5. *Paragraph E: The writer refers to the invention of plastic to make the point that*

- A. we can expect building materials to be very different in the future.
- B. we must accept that good-quality materials take a long time to create.
- C. we should use a variety of building materials to make our cities interesting.

**Exercise 3: In an IELTS Reading text about the future, you are likely to see words and phrases that are used to make predictions.**

**Match the meanings with the underlined words and phrases. Use the words in the box.**

|                |                   |                 |                 |                  |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <i>certain</i> | <i>impossible</i> | <i>possible</i> | <i>probable</i> | <i>uncertain</i> |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. We <u>could</u> see more robots in people's homes by 2050.  |  |
| 2. <u>There is a very good chance that</u> there will be no more oil by 2050.                                    |  |
| 3. Driverless cars <u>will</u> be very popular – but not with taxi drivers!                                      |  |
| 4. <u>There is no possibility</u> of people living on Mars by 2050.  |  |
| 5. <u>It is not clear whether in the future</u> people would consider going back to the countryside from cities. |  |

**Exercise 4: EXAM PRACTICE. Read the passage carefully and choose the correct option.**

### The ballpoint pen

Most of us have at least one, but how did this popular item evolve?

One morning in 1945, a crowd of 5,000 people jammed the entrance of Gimbel's Department Store in New York. The day before, Gimbel's had placed a full-page advertisement in the New York Times for a wonderful new invention, the ballpoint pen. The advertisement described the pen as

“fantastic” and “miraculous”. Although they were expensive, \$12.50 each, all 10,000 pens in stock were sold on the first day.

In fact, this “new” pen was not new at all. In 1888, John Loud, a leather manufacturer, had invented a pen with a reservoir of ink and a rolling ball. However, his pen was never produced, and efforts by other people to produce a commercially successful one failed too. The main problem was with the ink. If it was too thin, the ink leaked out of the pen. If it was too thick, it didn’t come out of the pen at all.

Almost fifty years later, in 1935, a newspaper editor in Hungary thought he spent too much time filling his pens with ink. He decided to invent a better kind of pen. With the help of his brother, who was a chemist, he produced a ballpoint pen that didn’t leak when the pen wasn’t being used. The editor was called Ladislad Biro, and it was his name that people would associate more than any other with the ballpoint pen.

By chance, Biro met Augustine Justo, the Argentinian president. Justo was so impressed with Biro’s invention that he invited him to set up a factory in Argentina. In 1943, the first Biro pens were produced.

Unfortunately, they were not popular, since the pen needed to be held in a vertical position for the ink to come out. Biro redesigned the pen with a better ball, and in 1944 the new product was on sale throughout Argentina.

It was a North American, Milton Reynolds, who introduced the ballpoint pen to the USA. Copying Biro’s design, he produced the version that sold so well at Gimbels. Another American, Patrick Frawley, improved the design and in 1950 began producing a pen he called the Papermate. It was an immediate success, and within a few years, Papermate were selling in their millions around the world.

1. People went to Gimbels to buy a ballpoint pen because
  - they couldn’t get them anywhere else.
  - they had been told how good the pens were.
  - they had never seen a ballpoint pen before.
  - they thought the price was good.
2. Why were early ballpoint pens not produced commercially?
  - Nobody wanted to buy one
  - It cost too much to produce them.
  - They used too much ink.
  - They didn’t work properly.
3. Why was Ladislas Biro’s pen better than earlier models?
  - It didn’t need to be filled with ink as often.
  - It was designed by a chemist.
  - The ink stayed in the pen until it was needed.

- D. It was easier to use.

4. Biro's first commercially-produced pen

- A. was produced in a factory owned by the Argentinian president.
- B. only worked if used in a certain way.
- C. was a major success.
- D. went on sale in 1944.

5. Patrick Frawley's pen

- A. was a better version of an earlier model.
- B. took time to become successful.
- C. was the USA's first commercially successful ballpoint pen.
- D. was only successful in the USA.