12 Travel

AIMS: Vocabulary related to places and travel • Formal and informal phrases • Working with paraphrases • Distinguishing between fact and opinion • Identifying information • Yes/No/Not Given questions

Part 1: Vocabulary

1 **Label the pictures.**

motorway country lane dual carriageway path



1 .....



2 .....



3 .....



4 .....

2 **Circle the best word.**

1 A *runway / motorway / street* is a major road that has been specially built for fast travel over long distances, which has several lanes and special slip roads to enter and exit.
2 A *bridge / pavement / path* is a way between two places that people can walk along.
3 A *main road / dual carriageway / freeway* is the British equivalent for what the Americans call a 'divided highway': a road which has two lanes of traffic travelling in each direction with a strip of grass or concrete down the middle to separate the two lots of traffic.
4 A *country lane / cycle lane / pavement* is a narrow road, usually in a beautiful location.

3a **Read this blog about the daily commute (a journey made regularly between one's home and one's place of work). Underline all the phrases that relate to places and highlight the ones that refer to travel or transport. Do not use a dictionary.**

commuter101 Is anybody else fed up with roadworks? Is it just here in London where they are appearing all at once, or is it the same everywhere? It's added an hour to my journey. EACH WAY.

Heather98 Pretty much the same here, commuter 101. I have to do a round trip of 20 miles between Cheltenham and Birmingham every day and pass (very slowly!) 3 areas with roadworks, on different parts of the M5. It's doubling the time it takes me to get to and from work.

Musicfan2 Take a train, guys. Last time I checked trains were going regularly between Cheltenham and Birmingham. And in London you've got the tube.

CharlotteL. t's driving me crazy too. There are roadworks near the service station by Junction 9 on the M6. It's like the traffic is at a standstill there. I try to avoid it but it's not always possible.

Heather98 @ Musicfan2: not an option, I'm afraid. I am a sales rep and need my car during the day.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

chico I agree with Musicfan. Instead of complaining about roadworks, the cost of petrol, the price of cars etc. we need to think about other options. And I don't mean car sharing or building more motorways. I say we try to save our environment by campaigning for better bus and train networks and for different types of public transport such as trams. Use your time and anger to try and make a difference!

commuter101 What time? I'm stuck in a traffic jam!! (☺)

3b **Look back at the blog in exercise 3a and find the following:**

1. A phrase, used in informal language, that means 'to be tired of something'
2. An informal phrase that means 'almost'
3. A phrase that means 'a trip to a place and back again'
4. Names of two motorways in Britain
5. A phrase that refers to places in Britain that sell things such as petrol and oil, but usually also provide toilets and sell food, drink and other goods
6. A point on a motorway where traffic may leave or join it
7. A word that means 'a complete stop of movement'
8. A word that is short for 'representative'
9. A word that refers to activities that people carry out over a period of time in order to achieve something such as social, political or commercial change

Exam tip

The language that writers use in texts depends on the readers that they expect. For example, in blogs, you will find informal language, whereas in journal articles you would find formal language. In very informal texts you may also find capitalizations, emoticons (smileys) and exclamations marks (LIKE THIS ☺ !). In order to understand texts better, ask yourself what sort of language is being used and who the intended readers of the text are.

4 **Copy and complete the table. Divide the following items into two categories: formal (or neutral) or informal.**

to be fed up | to commute | almost | pretty much | a rep
a campaign | guys | options | anger | a junction

Formal or neutral	Informal

5 **Match the following sentences with the type of text they have most likely been taken from.**

1. Nowadays, there is increasing traffic on our roads.
2. The current traffic problems will be analysed with the aid of practical models.
3. The traffic problems are getting ridiculous ... ARGH!
4. Traffic problems are bringing the UK to a standstill, road organizations have claimed.

a newspaper article
b academic journal article
c student essay
d personal email

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exam information | Yes/No/Not Given

In the exam, you may be asked to demonstrate that you understand the points of view expressed in a text. You will be given a list of statements which each represents an opinion. You have to read the text to find out if the writer expresses these opinions or not. If the writer shares the opinion in the statement, your answer will be YES. If the writer contradicts the statement, your answer will be NO. If it is impossible to know from the text what the writer's opinion is about that subject, your answer will be NOT GIVEN.

The information in the text will be in the same order as the list of statements.

1 **It is important to understand the difference between facts and opinions. An opinion does not have to be based on fact or knowledge and we cannot prove it right or wrong. Are the following statements facts or opinions?**

1 The distance between Birmingham and Cheltenham is about 40 miles. .....
2 There are currently two areas with roadworks between Birmingham and Cheltenham. .....
3 Cheltenham has music, literature and horseracing festivals, a historic promenade and award-winning gardens. .....
4 Cheltenham is well worth a visit. .....
5 Birmingham is sometimes compared to Venice because of its many canals. .....
6 You can't get from Birmingham to Cheltenham in less than half an hour unless you break the speed limit. .....
7 Frankley service station, on the M5 near Birmingham, has shops that provide good value for money. .....

2a **Read the texts and the statements that follow them. Write YES if the opinion is expressed in the text (=the writer agrees) and NO if the writer disagrees.**

Britain never used to have armed police, but when major events are being held, such as the recent London Olympics, there is a visible presence of armed police in train stations. Do people using public transport feel reassured when they see armed police? Possibly. But most of them, especially visitors to the UK, may feel that there is something to worry about, especially as they would expect British police not to be armed. And if we think about it, the police, armed or not, cannot protect us from bombers. But what the police can, and sometimes does do, is make mistakes, and these are always worse when there are firearms involved. So in the end, arming police may do more harm than good.

1 Most travellers feel protected when they see armed police in train stations. .....
2 Even police with guns cannot protect us from bombers. .....
3 The police might shoot somebody by accident. .....
4 It is better not to have armed police in Britain. .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Instead of complaining about roadworks, the cost of petrol, the price of cars, etc. we need to think about other options. And I don't mean car sharing or building more motorways. I say we try to save our environment by campaigning for better bus and train networks and for different types of transport, such as trams.

5 We should complain about car-related problems. .....
6 The environment is not really in danger. .....
7 Public transport needs to be improved. .....

The rise in fuel prices is a very worrying trend. Here are just some examples of the consequences.

Elderly people cannot afford to heat their houses, people lose their jobs because they can no longer afford to commute to work, or because they are made redundant from their jobs in transport-based businesses such as airlines. Self-employed people often rely on their own transport for work, e.g. delivery people, florists and taxi drivers, so they may be forced to close their business. The prices of some food and raw materials also increase as a direct result of the cost of oil, e.g. the prices of beef and cotton. Against all of that, there is one possible advantage: car manufacturers are employing more people to design fuel-efficient cars, which will benefit the environment. But surely, this is not enough. What we need is international cooperation and political goodwill, to reduce fuel prices and/or financially support those who are being affected.

8 We need to be concerned about the increase in the price of fuel. .....
9 There are more problems caused by increasing fuel prices than the ones mentioned in the passage. .....
10 The price of beef is closely related to the price of oil. .....
11 The rise of fuel prices is not a big problem as the environment is benefitting from it. .....
12 If we cannot lower the price of fuel then we need more money so that people can cope with it. .....

2b **Notice how synonyms and paraphrases were often used in the statements. For each statement in exercise 2a, underline the word(s) in the text that helped you.**

Exam tip

To help you determine if something is NOT GIVEN, look for synonyms and paraphrases. If none appear, the answer will probably be NOT GIVEN. But even if you do find paraphrases, be careful: it may be that the topic is mentioned but not in relation to the statement.

3 **Look back at the third passage in exercise 2a. Are the following opinions in the text (✓) or are they NOT GIVEN?**

1 Old people may die because they cannot keep warm. .....
2 There is more unemployment when fuel prices rise. .....
3 People who deliver goods may use their personal vehicles to do this. .....
4 The price of corn and corn-based foods are related to the price of oil. .....
5 There already exist some fuel-efficient cars. .....
6 Politicians are not working hard enough now to solve fuel price problems. .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exam tip

Throughout the exam, you need to make sure you rely on the information in the passages, not on your own ideas. This is especially important with this type of question: never be tempted to reflect your own opinion, always consider only what is in the text.

Questions 1–12

Read the following passage. Do the statements agree with the views of the writer? Write:

YES	if the statement agrees with the views of the writer
NO	if the statement contradicts what the writer thinks
NOT GIVEN	if it is impossible to know what the writer's point of view is

1 Another name for the East-West trading route is 'silk road'. .....
2 Zhang Qian is admired by Chinese schoolchildren. .....
3 Zhang Qian was a Chinese adventurer. .....
4 At least one German used the silk road in the 19th century. .....
5 Silk was the main material to be traded on this route. .....
6 The silk road was used for trade in natural materials, man-made materials and animals. .....
7 We know that Zhang Qian was the first person to use the silk road. .....
8 The Romans may well have used the silk road. .....
9 The reports about a 'stone tower' provide evidence that the Romans used the silk road. .....
10 Kashgar is a welcoming city. .....
11 People who go in the Taklaman desert never come back out. .....
12 The journey from West to East was so long and difficult that the travellers probably did not go all the way to China. .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Schoolchildren in China learn that the opening of the East-West trading route popularly known as the silk road occurred in 139 B.C. when Zhang Qian, the Chinese ambassador-adventurer, travelled westward across the Pamirs, a mountain range in Central Asia. He was the first known Chinese person to do so. The term 'silk road' was actually first used late in the nineteenth century by a German geographer, Baron Ferdinand von Richthofen (1833–1905). Silk was not the only material that passed along these routes. Other goods are known to have included ceramics, glass, precious gems and livestock.

However, there are reasons to think that these roads were being used centuries, probably even millennia, earlier than Zhang's expedition. In Roman times, Pliny the Elder reported a 'stone tower' which he said existed on the Pamir Plateau where goods had been traditionally exchanged between traders from the East and the West. In the early second century, Maës Titianus, an ancient Roman-Macedonian traveller, actually reported reaching this famous Stone Tower, but its exact location remains uncertain. According to one theory, it was at Tashkurgan in the Pamirs. (The word 'Tashkurgan' actually means 'stone tower' or 'stone fortress' in the Uyghur language.) Scholars today, however, believe that its location was probably somewhere in the Alay Valley. Whatever the truth about the Stone Tower may be, it seems likely that that some form trade was taking place in this region millennia before more formal recorded trade took place.

On the other hand, it is difficult to believe that people in those times were able to travel such huge distances. Travelling from West to East, the trader first had to cross the Pamir Plateau, through the 20,000-foot-high mountains. If the weather in the mountains had been kind and the journey undertaken in the right season, the eastward bound traveller would then finally arrive at the Kashgar, a logical place for trade and rest, where they could exchange horses or camels and then start on the return journey back over the mountains before the winter snows started.

It is unlikely that in these earlier times traders or travellers would have continued further eastwards from Kashgar, as they would have had to go round the Taklamakan Desert. Going through it was not an option as its name suggests: it literally means 'Go in and you won't come out'. Beyond this desert, there still would have remained eight hundred miles of a dangerous journey before they would have found the first true signs of Chinese civilization.

Adapted from The Moon over Matsushima - Insights into Mugwort and Moxa, by Merlin Young (Godiva Press).

Progress check

How many boxes can you tick? You should work towards being able to tick them all.

Did you ...

remember that the questions are in the same order as the information in the text? ☐

base your answers on the text, not on your own opinion? ☐

look for synonyms and paraphrases in the text? ☐

focus on detail to make sure that the information in the statement related to exactly what was in the passage? ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS