

Part 3: Exam practice

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 The route between Papa Westray and Westray is officially the shortest scheduled domestic flight in the world.
 - 2 There is more than a mile between Papa Westray and Westray.
 - 3 Loganair does not charge to fly Westray Junior High pupils to school.
 - 4 Pupils from Papa Westray and from Westray go to Orkney to study for their Highers.
 - 5 The airline claims that the flight is useful for tourists as well as residents.
 - 6 Music, art, craft, physical education and home economics are rarely taught on the islands.

Some children moan about having to get a bus to school. Six teenagers on a remote Scottish island, however, have the rather more exciting prospect of going to school by plane on what is believed to be the world's shortest domestic flight.

The journey from Papa Westray to Westray in the Orkney Islands takes 96 seconds, covering a distance of just over a mile. With a tail wind, it can take as little as 47 seconds. Normally the teenagers go by ferry but when the vessel was taken out of service for refurbishment, Loganair, an airline company, stepped in and offered to fly them to Westray Junior High.

Six students, all aged 13-14, will be flown to and from school until the end of the year when the ferry, the Golden Mariana, is scheduled to return, Loganair said.

Papa Westray has a population of 70 and no secondary school. Westray, home to more than 600 residents, has about 70 pupils enrolled at the junior high and nine full-time teachers. The school provides education to Standard Grade level. The six teenagers from Papa Westray take the flight every Tuesday morning, stay with host families for two nights and then catch a return flight on Thursday after school. Pupils from either island choosing to study for their Highers* must travel to Kirkwall, the capital of Orkney.

Loganair, which operates the eight-seater service in an Islander plane, has changed its schedule to ensure that the children get to school on time. The company said that the flight was the shortest in the world and with favourable tail winds could be over in less than a minute. The distance is shorter than the length of the main runway at Edinburgh Airport.

Jonathan Hinkles, the commercial director of the airline, said: 'While it is a popular tourist route for many visitors to Scotland, it is also a vital lifeline for those residents who live, work or do business in the Orkneys and it will make all the difference to ensuring that those children who live on Papa Westray can continue their schooling throughout the winter months.'

Willie McEwen, acting head teacher at Westray Junior High, said: 'We're delighted that Loganair has come forward with this solution. Our children will enjoy the flying especially as, at this time of the year, it can be quite rough on the boat. This kind of flexibility is an essential part of island life and the youngsters take it all in their stride.'

The Islander air service, which carries around 20,000 passengers each year, is critical for local residents during the winter months. It delivers food, mail and newspapers, and provides a lifeline between the islands and Kirkwall on mainland Orkney.

In addition, Loganair regularly carries visiting teachers out to the islands to lead lessons in subjects including music, art, craft, physical education and home economics.

The Guinness World Records said that it did not recognise the world's shortest scheduled domestic flight. "The category is currently under research," a spokesman said.

Glossary:

Highers: national school-leaving exams in Scotland