**• Read this text about horses in London and then read the statements (1-8) that follow.**
**• Your task is to decide whether the statements are true or not according to the text.**
**• Mark a sentence A if it is true according to the article.**
**• Mark it B if it is false.**
**• Mark it C if there is not enough information in the text to decide if it is true or not.**
**• Write the letters in the white boxes next to the numbers as in the example.**

## THE LOST HORSES OF LONDON

The city of the horse and carriage is gone. But some traces remain...

The days when horses and humans lived cheek by jowl in the capital are unarguably over. Horses pulling heavy loads have disappeared, and most people would argue that the black cab does a far better job than the hansom cab* ever did. But statues of kings atop their horses take pride of place in squares and parks, and the more recent Animals in War memorial on Park Lane is a reminder that our dependence on horses lasted until less than a century ago.

Not all of the reminders are visual, either. Streets called mews used to have rows of stables in them, and in central London mews houses, i.e. converted stables, sell for several million pounds each today. Not all London mews have changed, though. Bathurst Mews is one of the last to still house horses; it is home to Hyde Park Stables. The prices for riding lessons are fairly steep, but just think: as everyone else walks gloomily along Oxford Street, you could be trotting purposefully around the park. The pace might be a bit leisurely for the experienced rider, but in terms of location, you simply can't beat it.

If, on the other hand, you're keen to ride through rolling hills, then Richmond Park is just the place. Stag Lodge Stables, for example, are based just off the A3, and as well as offering lessons, in summer they also offer pub rides. A pony and a pint? Sounds like heaven!

If you're a polo enthusiast, London offers a quick fix for that as well; Ham Polo Club is just a short journey from the centre of town, while Windsor (a 40-minute drive from London) offers some of the best polo in the UK. So you see, London might not be the most obvious place for horse-lovers to hang out, but if you look in the right places, the horses certainly do exist.

*(www.spectator.co.uk)*

* hansom cab: two-wheeled carriage pulled by one horse

***0)*** *Horses and humans used to live in close proximity in London.*

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|---|---|
| *0* | *A* |
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| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |
| 7 | |
| 8 | |

**1)** People would much rather get around in a taxi than a horse-drawn carriage.

**2)** The Animals in War memorial was put up nearly a century ago.

**3)** If you want a cheap place to live, streets called mews are a good place to look.

**4)** Bathhurst Mews near Hyde Park is difficult to find.

**5)** It's the area that justifies the prices set by Hyde Park Stables.

**6)** Horse riding is not allowed in Oxford Street.

**7)** Stag Lodge Stables are the best riding club for complete beginners.

**8)** The article mentions two very good polo clubs in London.