

Task 1. The text has 7 paragraphs A- G. Read the text and define which paragraph contains the following information. There are which you needn't use.

Chamonix: Balancing Tourism and Environmental Sustainability

A. The French Alpine town of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, nestled in a valley at 1,035 meters above sea level in the Haute-Savoie department of southeastern France, is flanked by the red peaks of the Aiguilles Rouges massif to the northwest and the snow-covered summits of Mont Blanc, the tallest mountain in the Alps at 4,810 meters, to the southeast. This typical Alpine environment is increasingly strained by human activity.

B. Tourism is the lifeblood of Chamonix. The valley has attracted visitors since it was first explored in 1741. In 1786, the summit of Mont Blanc was reached by a French doctor and his guide, marking the birth of alpinism with Chamonix at its center. The town hosted the first Winter Olympics in 1924, and the subsequent construction of cable cars and lifts made the ski slopes accessible to everyone.

C. Chamonix has evolved into a modern town, well-connected by the Mont Blanc Road Tunnel and a busy highway network. During the ski season, it hosts up to 60,000 visitors at once, and in summer, climbers, hikers, and extreme sports enthusiasts boost the population to 100,000. According to the local Tourism Office, it is the third most visited natural site globally, with 5.2 million visitor bed nights last year, despite having fewer than 10,000 permanent residents.

D. The influx of tourists has severely pressured the local environment, prompting valley authorities to take action. Educating visitors is crucial, with warnings against littering and numerous recycling points throughout the valley. An internet blog provides environmental updates, and the tourist office promotes eco-friendly practices in all its activities.

E. Low-carbon initiatives are vital for the region. France aims to reduce its carbon emissions by a factor of four by 2050, and a key strategy involves communities identifying and reducing their local carbon emissions. Studies show that accommodation contributes to half of the carbon emissions in the Chamonix valley. Hotels are improving efficiency by using low-energy lighting, limiting water use, and providing recycling bins. Some hotels have invested in significant projects like using local materials for furnishing, utilizing geothermal energy for heating, and installing solar panels.

F. Chamonix's council is also promoting renewable energy use in private properties by funding green renovations and new constructions. Public sector buildings have undergone improvements to enhance energy efficiency and reduce waste. For example, the local ice rink reduced its annual water consumption from 140,000 cubic meters to 10,000 cubic meters in three years.

G. Improving public transport is another aspect of the new policy, as 80 percent of carbon emissions from transport came from private vehicles. While the Mont Blanc Express offers an excellent way to travel within the valley and enjoy scenic views, getting to Chamonix from outside by rail is more challenging. There is no direct rail line from the nearest airport in Geneva, so tourists typically transfer by car or bus. To encourage the use of public transport, Chamonix has introduced a free shuttle service, costing 3.3 million euros annually, to reduce car usage and employ buses with particle filters.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

1. Tourism is the main economic activity in Chamonix.
2. Efforts to educate tourists about environmental responsibility.
3. The role of local cuisine in attracting tourists to Chamonix.
4. Impact of private vehicle emissions and public transport improvements.
5. Efforts to use renewable energy in private and public buildings.
6. The economic impact of Chamonix's ski industry on France's GDP.
7. The increasing number of tourists and its effects on the local environment.
8. The town's geographical location and surrounding natural features.
9. Long-term goals for reducing carbon emissions in France.

Task 2. Read the text. 8 parts have been removed from the text. Choose the right part from the list below. There are two variants which you needn't use.

The History and Importance of Bees in Our Ecosystem

A. During the early Cretaceous period, certain hunting wasps became bees by switching to a vegetarian diet. They started to use pollen from plants as a protein source for themselves and their offspring, instead of hunting insects. This change led to the accidental transportation of pollen to other plants, which helped in 1) _____. Over time, bees and flowering plants developed a mutual relationship. Flowers began to provide bees with richer pollen and nectar as a reward for their role in 2) _____.

B. Today, bees play a crucial role in our diet. About 15% of our food comes from crops pollinated by bees. Additionally, another 15% of our diet, which includes meat and other animal products, comes from 3) _____. This means around one-third of our food is dependent on bees. Globally, the annual value of crops that rely on bee pollination is estimated at 4) _____. Most of this pollination is done by honey bees, and its monetary value is 5) _____.

C. However, the relationship between bees and plants is not entirely harmonious. While both need each other, each tries to maximize its benefits and minimize its costs. Flowers compete to attract bees by investing in colorful petals and sweet scents, as well as offering nectar and pollen. They need to offer enough nectar to attract bees but not so much that 6) _____. Bees, on the other hand, try to get the most pollen and nectar while balancing their energy costs to make a profit in terms of calories. So, the apparent harmony between plants and bees is actually 7) _____.

D. This situation is similar to the ideas of the 18th-century economist Adam Smith. In his book, "The Wealth of Nations," Smith suggested that the competitive interactions in human society eventually lead to a balanced, harmonious society. Economists are interested in the relationship between bees and plants for this reason. In Israel, economists, botanists, and entomologists are 8) _____.

- a) an equilibrium based on compromises between the competing interests
- b) collaborating in a long-term study of the pollination biology of the native flora
- c) £1,000 million (US\$1,590 million)
- d) their reproduction
- e) generating honey production

- f) by a factor of fifty
- g) it satisfies all its needs in one visit
- h) bee-pollinated forage crops
- i) studying the dynamics of bee-plant interactions
- j) bringing about pollination

Task 3. Choose the correct option.

To survive in today's business world, it is essential for a company to stay up-to-date with all the (1) _____ technological developments. Nowadays, running a company (2) _____ computers is virtually impossible. Therefore, in order to lead their technology department, businesses (3) _____ hire the best people available. These employees must be familiar with personal or desktop computers, even if this involves no more (4) _____ completing a basic computer course. Sceptical workers will only become comfortable with computers after they (5) _____ using them in practice for some time. Computers (6) _____ people to run companies more efficiently and with (7) _____ difficulties than in the past. For example, computers have the capability (8) _____ organising huge amounts of (9) _____ and speed up the preparation of documents and reports. In short, (10) _____ the average businessman does not have to be a technology expert, they are unlikely to get very far without at (11) _____ a basic knowledge of computer technology.

Task 4. Choose the correct answer.

If you ever asked someone for their mobile phone number and they said, "Sorry, I don't own a mobile phone," you 1) _____ either that a) they are lying or b) they are crazy. 2) _____ seems hard to believe that in this day and age there are people who don't own a mobile phone, but 3) _____ those people exist, and I am one of them.

But why would somebody in their right mind decide to do something so contrary to 4) _____ society deems so essential? In my case, it was more by accident than 5) _____. One day I forgot my incredibly expensive phone in a bar and it just 6) _____. Then, as a way of punishing myself for such a terrible mistake, I decided not to get a new one for some time. 7) _____ a phone, I became fully aware of the extent to which such a small device rules our daily actions. My hand had to reach into my pocket hundreds of times before learning that there wasn't a phone 8) _____ in it. It was the first stage of my detox. Every 30 minutes or so, I was desperate to check what 9) _____ in the world for the last 30 minutes –that was how often I 10) _____ my phone before losing it. Little 11) _____ that you can get separation anxiety from a machine.