

Task 1. Reading the text. Choose the correct heading for paragraphs A-E from the list of headings below. There are two headings which you needn't use.

A. It is hard to imagine robust economic development without a highly efficient transportation network. While modern information technologies can mitigate the need for physical transportation by enabling teleworking and teleservices, the demand for transport continues to grow. This trend is driven by two primary factors. For passenger transport, the main factor is the dramatic increase in car usage. Between 1990 and 2010, the number of cars on the roads in the European Union (EU) grew by three million annually, and the next decade is expected to see a further significant rise in the EU's car fleet.

B. As far as goods transport is concerned, growth is due to a large extent to changes in the European economy and its system of production. In the last 20 years, as internal frontiers have been abolished, the EU has moved from a "stock" economy to a "flow" economy. This phenomenon has been emphasised by the relocation of some industries, particularly those which are labour intensive, to reduce production costs, even though the production site is hundreds or even thousands of kilometres away from the final assembly plant or away from users.

C. The strong economic growth expected in countries which are candidates for entry to the EU will also increase transport flows, in particular road haulage traffic. In 1998, some of these countries already exported more than twice their 1990 volumes and imported more than five times their 1990 volumes. And although many candidate countries inherited a transport system which encourages rail, the distribution between modes has tipped sharply in favour of road transport since the 1990s. Between 1990 and 1998, road haulage increased by 19.4%, while during the same period rail haulage decreased by 43.5%, although – and this could benefit the enlarged EU – it is still on average at a much higher level than in existing member states.

D. However, a new imperative-sustainable development – offers an opportunity for adapting the EU's common transport policy. This objective, agreed by the Gothenburg European Council, has to be achieved by integrating environmental considerations into Community policies, and shifting the balance between modes of transport lies at the heart of its strategy. The ambitious objective can only be fully achieved by 2020, but proposed measures are nonetheless a first essential step towards a sustainable transport system which will ideally be in place in 30 years" time, that is by 2040.

E. In 1998, energy consumption in the transport sector was to blame for 28% of emissions of CO₂, the leading greenhouse gas. According to the latest estimates, if nothing is done to reverse the traffic growth trend, CO₂ emissions from transport can be expected to increase by around 50% to 1,113 billion tonnes by 2020, compared with the 739 billion tonnes recorded in 1990. Once again, road transport is the main culprit since it alone accounts for 84% of the CO₂ emissions attributable to transport. Using alternative fuels and improving energy efficiency is thus both an ecological necessity and a technological challenge.

- 1. A new and significant long-term objective**
- 2. Implementing road tolls and enhancing other transportation options**
- 3. Modifications impacting the distances over which goods are transported**
- 4. The ecological impact of road transportation**
- 5. The necessity of achieving a balanced transport system**
- 6. The swift expansion of personal vehicle usage**
- 7. Transport developments in countries pending EU membership**

Task 2. Choose the correct option to fill in the gaps.

Images from Mars indicate the planet's past included substantial liquid water on its surface. Researchers have identified two primary types of flow features: runoff channels and outflow channels.

Runoff channels are (1) _____ in the southern highlands. These features consist of vast networks—sometimes extending hundreds of kilometers—of interconnecting, winding (2) _____ that seem to converge into larger, wider ones. They closely (3) _____ river systems on Earth, leading geologists to believe they are the dried-up beds of ancient rivers that once carried rainfall from the mountains down into the valleys on Mars. These runoff channels indicate a time around 4 billion years ago (corresponding to the age of the Martian highlands) when Mars had a thicker atmosphere, warmer surface temperatures, and widespread liquid water.

Outflow channels are thought to be the (4) _____ of catastrophic floods that occurred on Mars long ago. These channels are found only in equatorial regions and do not form extensive interconnected networks. Instead, they appear to mark the paths taken by massive volumes of water that (5) _____ from the southern highlands into the northern plains. The rushing water from these flash floods likely formed the unique teardrop-shaped “islands” (similar to smaller versions seen in wet sand at low tide on Earth) found on the plains near the (6) _____ of the outflow channels. Judging by the width and depth of these channels, the flow rates must have been extraordinarily high—potentially up to a hundred times greater than the 105 tons per second carried by the Amazon River. These flooding events that shaped the outflow channels occurred approximately 3 billion years ago, (7) _____ with the formation of the northern volcanic plains.

The presence of these two types of channels offers a glimpse into the ancient Martian climate. Runoff channels indicate a time when Mars had a thicker atmosphere that could support rainfall and stable bodies of liquid water, creating a landscape similar to Earth's river valleys. On the other hand, outflow channels suggest episodes of dramatic flooding, potentially triggered by volcanic activity or the sudden release of underground water (8) _____. This duality in water flow features paints a complex picture of Mars' climatic history, showing both prolonged periods of stable liquid water and (9) _____ events of rapid water release. Understanding these features is crucial for (10) _____ the planet's capacity to have supported life.

Task 3. Read the text. Choose the correct answer to the questions.

Success is a multifaceted phenomenon influenced by a combination of personal attributes, environmental factors, and socio-economic conditions. Research has identified several key elements that contribute to an individual's success.

Grit and Perseverance: Angela Duckworth's research highlights the importance of grit, which she defines as a combination of passion and perseverance toward long-term goals. Duckworth's studies show that individuals who exhibit high levels of grit are more likely to achieve their objectives, even when faced with significant challenges.

Growth Mindset: Carol Dweck's work on mindsets reveals that a growth mindset, or the belief that abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work, plays a crucial role in achieving success. People with a growth mindset view challenges as opportunities to learn and grow, which makes them more resilient and adaptable.

Intrinsic Motivation: Studies have shown that intrinsic motivation, the drive to engage in an activity for its own sake, is a powerful predictor of success. Individuals who are intrinsically motivated are more likely to persist in their efforts, enjoy the process of learning, and achieve higher levels of performance.

Environmental Factors: The environment in which an individual grows up and operates can significantly impact their chances of success. Access to quality education, supportive mentors, and positive role models can provide the necessary resources and encouragement to pursue ambitious goals. Research indicates that socio-economic background often determines access to these critical supports.

Mentorship and Coaching: Having access to mentors and coaches can provide individuals with valuable guidance, support, and accountability. Mentors can share their experience and knowledge, helping mentees navigate challenges and stay motivated.

Socio-Economic Background: Socio-economic factors play a critical role in shaping an individual's opportunities. Those from higher socio-economic backgrounds often have better access to educational resources, extracurricular activities, and networks that can facilitate success. However, research also shows that individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds can achieve success through resilience, resourcefulness, and support systems.

1. According to Angela Duckworth's research, what is the significance of grit in achieving long-term goals?
 - A) Grit is a minor factor and often outweighed by talent.
 - B) Grit is a major factor, often more important than talent.
 - C) Grit is equally as important as talent in achieving long-term goals.
2. How does a growth mindset, as defined by Carol Dweck, influence an individual's approach to challenges?
 - A) It leads individuals to avoid challenges to protect their self-esteem.
 - B) It has little to no impact on an individual's approach to challenges.
 - C) It encourages individuals to embrace challenges as opportunities to learn.
3. What role do environmental factors play in an individual's success, according to research findings?
 - A) Environmental factors can significantly shape the opportunities available to an individual.
 - B) Environmental factors have a minimal impact on an individual's success.
 - C) Environmental factors are only important in childhood and not in adulthood.
4. How do mentors and coaches contribute to an individual's success, based on the information provided?
 - A) Mentors and coaches provide minimal support and guidance.
 - B) Mentors and coaches are only beneficial in the early stages of development.
 - C) Mentors and coaches offer crucial support, guidance, and accountability.

5. What is the relationship between socio-economic background and access to educational opportunities?

- A) Socio-economic background has no effect on access to educational opportunities.
- B) Socio-economic background heavily influences access to educational opportunities and resources.
- C) Access to educational opportunities is solely based on individual merit, regardless of socio-economic background.

6. According to research, what impact does intrinsic motivation have on an individual's persistence and success?

- A) Intrinsic motivation leads to sustained effort and resilience, positively impacting long-term success.
- B) Intrinsic motivation has a negligible impact on persistence and success.
- C) Intrinsic motivation is less important than extrinsic rewards in achieving success.

Task 4. Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the word in parentheses.

1. The construction industry has seen _____ (remark) changes in recent years.
2. This method reduces construction time and waste, leading to _____ (improve) in quality.
3. BIM has resulted in _____ (consider) cost savings.
4. These designs reflect a commitment to _____ (sustain).
5. There has been a _____ (shift) focus on reuse of buildings.
6. Adaptive reuse conserves resources and preserves _____ (history) architecture.
7. Smart materials that can _____ (adapt) and self-repair are gaining popularity.
8. Self-healing concrete reduces _____ (maintain) costs.
9. Prefabrication is highly _____ (effect) in reducing construction time.
10. BIM technology enhances _____ (collaborate) among project teams.