Part 4

Questions 16 – 20

Five sentences have been removed from the text below.

For each question, choose the correct answer.

There are three extra sentences which you do not need to use.

The world's first round-the-world flight powered by the Sun

In July 2016, Bertrand Piccard landed his plane, Solar Impulse 2, in the United Arab Emirates. He and his co-pilot André Borschberg had become the first people to fly around the world in a plane powered only by energy from the Sun. Solar Impulse 2 is a very unusual plane. Its wings are 72 m across. **16** [ ] Yet Solar Impulse 2 is over one-hundred times lighter.

The fastest flight around the world by plane was made in 1992. It took a little less than 32 hours to complete the 42 000 km journey. Solar Impulse 2, however, spent a total of 505 days finishing the trip, far longer than the five months originally planned for the project. The plane wasn't in the air for all of this time, of course. In fact, only 23 days were spent flying. **17** [ ] These delays were caused by technical problems, especially with the batteries.

Unlike typical planes, Solar Impulse 2 can stay in the air for a long time as it doesn't need to land for fuel. In one part of the journey over the Pacific Ocean, with Borschberg at the controls, the plane and its two pilots stayed in the air for almost five days without landing! **18** [ ] The previous best was only three days of continuous flight, made in a plane powered by traditional fuel.

Energy from the sun (solar power), is free and environmentally friendly. **19** [ ] So although it may have taken Solar Impulse 2 a long time, its flight had no negative effects on the environment. It's hoped that this achievement will encourage the use of more solar power worldwide.

Piccard and Borschberg are both from Switzerland. It's actually not the first time that Piccard has travelled around the world. **20** [ ] However, for this second trip he needed a pilot's licence, which took him over six years to get!

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A In doing this, it set a new world record.

B The enormous size helps it to fly in this way but also causes problems.

C This is about the same as the world's largest passenger plane.

D As well as helping the environment, it was also reasonably fast.

E In 1999, he made the same journey non-stop in a balloon.

F At first, he was really pleased about it.

G That's because pilots had to stop for long periods in various places.

H It doesn't produce any of the damaging things that burning fuel creates.

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