Part 1

The Future of Space Tourism

Space tourism, once a concept found only in science fiction, is now on the verge of becoming a real-world industry. In recent years, several private companies have made headlines by launching civilians into space. Although space travel remains expensive and limited to a few wealthy individuals, the future of tourism beyond Earth appears increasingly promising.

Companies like SpaceX, Blue Origin, and Virgin Galactic are competing to offer suborbital and orbital trips to paying customers. These experiences vary in length and altitude but all aim to provide passengers with the sensation of weightlessness and breathtaking views of Earth from above.

Currently, one of the main barriers to widespread space tourism is cost. Seats on early commercial flights have been sold for hundreds of thousands—or even millions—of dollars. However, companies are working to reduce these prices through technological innovation and economies of scale. As reusable rocket technology improves, the long-term cost of spaceflight is expected to decrease.

Aside from financial challenges, there are also health and safety concerns. Space travel places significant physical demands on the body. For this reason, potential space tourists undergo medical screening and training to prepare for the conditions they will encounter during flight.

In addition to offering leisure experiences, space tourism could benefit scientific research. Tourists might participate in experiments or help test new technologies in microgravity conditions. Over time, regular human activity in space may even support plans for building space hotels or bases on the Moon.

Although still in its early stages, space tourism has the potential to dramatically change our relationship with space, turning it from a remote frontier into a more accessible destination for future generations.

Complete the summary below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer

Space tourism is becoming increasingly realistic, thanks to the efforts of several (1) _____. These companies offer passengers the experience of (2) _____ and views of Earth. A major obstacle to space tourism is its high (3) _____, but reusable rockets may help reduce it in the future.

Passengers must also be physically prepared, so they receive medical tests and (4) _____ before flying. Apart from recreation, tourism may contribute to (5) _____ by allowing tourists to help test technologies. In the future, space visitors may even stay in (6) _____ or on lunar bases.

While still new, space tourism might one day make space a more (7) _____ for ordinary people, rather than a distant (8) _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 2

You are going to read an extract from a newspaper article. For Questions 8-14, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Motorsports are my passion, and one day I'd love to challenge myself by taking part in the Dakar Rally. The rally is a long-distance off-road race, which runs for 15 days across varied terrain, with drivers having to cope with desert, mud and rocks. So tough is definitely the word you'd use to describe it. I think that's what appeals to me so much about it. Dad and I follow the race every year on TV, so I've got quite a good knowledge of it now. We're really into engineering and adapting vehicles - Dad's got this old jeep that we've been working on, making it suitable for tricky off-road driving.

In the Dakar Rally, you can drive any vehicle - motorbike, two- or four-wheel drives, even trucks! They're heavily adapted, so you need a lot of experience as a mechanic. They have to be modified in order to be **able to withstand** the journey- you couldn't do it in an ordinary car because it would just fall apart! You don't need to be a professional rally driver to take part, but it helps having experience driving in difficult conditions. As well as all of that, it's a case of saving up a lot of money because the whole thing is *really* expensive, from investing in spare parts for the vehicle, to buying a two week supply of fuel and other supplies.

I first became interested in the rally after being lucky enough to catch the launch of the race one year when I was on holiday. There was a definite tension in the air the day before the race. From where we were standing we could see the area where the teams - drivers and their mechanics - were making repairs and preparations which could only be done at the last minute. All I could see was a mechanic's legs sticking out from under each vehicle and everyone getting on quietly with the task at hand, helping each other out, despite the pressure.

Next day, we headed down to the starting line. I'd expected the vehicles to set off all at once, and when they left one by one, I really didn't know what was going on. Then I overheard someone saying that it was what's known as a time trial. Every vehicle, whether it's a motorbike or a lorry, is timed, and the fastest to complete the route is the winner in each category. Off they went in turn, in a cloud of dust and their engines revving at an incredible volume. I'd never seen anything like it and, before I knew it, the cars had disappeared from sight.

That experience encouraged me to find out more about this amazing race. The route is around 10,000 kilometres long, depending on which country it takes place in, so there's a lot of driving involved. You mustn't lose concentration for a minute and that's what really puts the drivers to the test. You also can't possibly imagine what you're going to encounter ahead - meeting obstacles, skidding on loose stones, crossing rivers, breaking down, you name it. It must be exhausting and thrilling at the same time. But you can't just go full speed ahead like you would on a race-track or you'd tire yourself out on the first day and it'd be really hard to keep going.

The competitors are given a map and have to find their way themselves. Comprehensive instructions are included on this map; however, given the fact that there are few landmarks along the way, this must be really demanding when you're unfamiliar with the territory. Some people get lost, and end up in the wrong place, but they just have to find their way back to the route again. Each day, the drivers aim to complete a particular stage. If they encounter setbacks which mean they don't make it, they spend an uncomfortable night with whatever hazards that might involve. Finishing the race is, therefore, a major achievement.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 Amber is attracted to the idea of participating in the Dakar Rally because she

A. enjoys taking part in motorsports events.
B. likes the idea of doing something so difficult.
C. has been involved in preparing a vehicle for it.
D. has learned a lot about it from her father.

2 What does **'able to withstand'** in line 19 mean?

A. economical enough to run throughout
B. strong enough to endure
C. large enough to cope with
D. advanced enough to be successful at

3 What made an impression on Amber when she saw teams preparing for a race?

A. how late some of them had left it
B. how excited everyone seemed to be
C. how well they were working together
D. how many people were involved

4 How does Amber say she felt as she stood at the starting line?

A. grateful to another spectator
B. concerned by the noise
C. interested to learn about the vehicles
D. surprised at what happened

5 In the fifth paragraph, what does Amber say is especially challenging about driving?

A. coping with its effects on the body
B. staying focused for long periods of time
C. being able to keep up the required pace
D. trying to predict what is coming next

6 What does Amber say about the guidance drivers are given?

A. It provides a high level of detail.
B. It can be interpreted in different ways.
C. It is straightforward to follow.
D. It highlights possible dangers.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 3

You are going to read an article about a cookery course for children. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-H the one which fits each gap (1-7). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

When you think of scientists discovering new species, you probably imagine them searching the Amazon rainforest or the depths of the oceans. However, these days, most new species are discovered by comparing genes in a science laboratory. New species can look so similar to their relatives that it is only the study of their DNA that reveals their differences.

Thanks to the abundance of genetic data that's now available, we're in the middle of a second era of biodiversity discovery……..(1) And now, penguins can be added too. Following analysis of what was thought to be one species of penguin called the gentoo, it's become clear that it's not one single species at all.

In their study of gentoo penguins, scientists analyzed genetic differences among colonies of gentoo across the Southern Ocean, including groups from the Falkland Islands *(Islas Malvinas*), South Georgia Island, the Antarctic Peninsula and Kerguelen Island. They discovered that gentoo penguins from these various regions don't interbreed. ……..……(2) King penguins,
for example, are known to breed between colonies, even when separated by as much as 7,500km of ocean. At first glance, the four groups of gentoo penguins appear very alike. ……(3) In fact, the physical and genetic distinctions are sufficient for the gentoo penguin to have been reclassified as four penguin species: *P. Papua* from the Falkland Islands, *P. Ellsworth* from Antarctica, *P. Ponseti* from South Georgia, and *P. taeniata* from Kerguelen Island.

The four species live in distinct environmental conditions across a large range of latitudes. *P. Ellsworth,* for example, is found on the cold, icy Antarctic Peninsula. This contrasts with the milder conditions experienced by *P. taeniata,* which lives much further from the South Pole.
……..(4) The more southerly species eat more krill - small, shrimp-like crustaceans – and fewer fish. Scientists say that they now need to understand how the four gentoo species have each adapted to their conditions and how they are likely to respond to future environmental changes.
The division of gentoo penguins also has important implications for conservation. Gentoo penguins have been categorized as 'of least concern' on the international list of endangered species……..(5) However, the increase was recorded before the discovery of the four separate gentoo species. In fact, of these four reclassified species only *P. Ellsworth* was found to be thriving. The conservation status of the other three species remains unclear, but given their location on isolated islands far north of the Antarctic Peninsula, they're almost certainly being affected by climate change. Consequently, the conservation status of all four species will need to be urgently assessed.

……(6) However, the discovery of the four new species highlights how little we still understand about the amazing diversity of life around us. That's why scientists say it's clear that we must continue to seek out new species. This is our best chance of preserving biodiversity. Without such efforts, we face losing species that we never even knew existed.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A. This was unexpected, because it contrasted sharply with the behavior of other species.

B. And it's not just their habitat which is different.

C. It therefore brings the total number of penguin species to twenty-one.

D. When their skulls, beaks and legs are measured, though, significant differences become clear.

E. Penguins are among the best-loved and most easily-recognized creatures on Earth.

F. In the past ten years, scientists have identified new species of giraffes, dolphins, birds and orangutans.

G. This is because the total number of these penguins has risen over the past decade.

LIVEWORKSHEETS