Reading

1 The Chunnel

The Channel Tunnel, commonly called the Chunnel, is a 50-km-long rail tunnel connecting England and France. The first person to come up with an idea for a tunnel was a French engineer called Albert Mathieu in 1802. However, construction didn't begin until 1988. It took 15,000 workers over seven years to dig the tunnel. It cost £10 billion to build. Giant tunnel digging machines were used from both ends; the French and British tunnels met on 1 December 1990, remarkably with less than 20 mm of error. The tunnel was opened in May, 1994.

Of the Channel Tunnel's 50 km length, 39 km are undersea. The average depth of these undersea tunnels is 50 metres below the seabed. The Channel Tunnel is actually three parallel tunnels: two main single-track rail tunnels which carry trains, and a smaller service tunnel.

Passenger journeys through the tunnel are run by a company called Eurostar. There is also a service for people to take their vehicles. The journey from London to Paris takes 2 hours and 35 minutes. In total, these two services carry 16 million passengers each year.

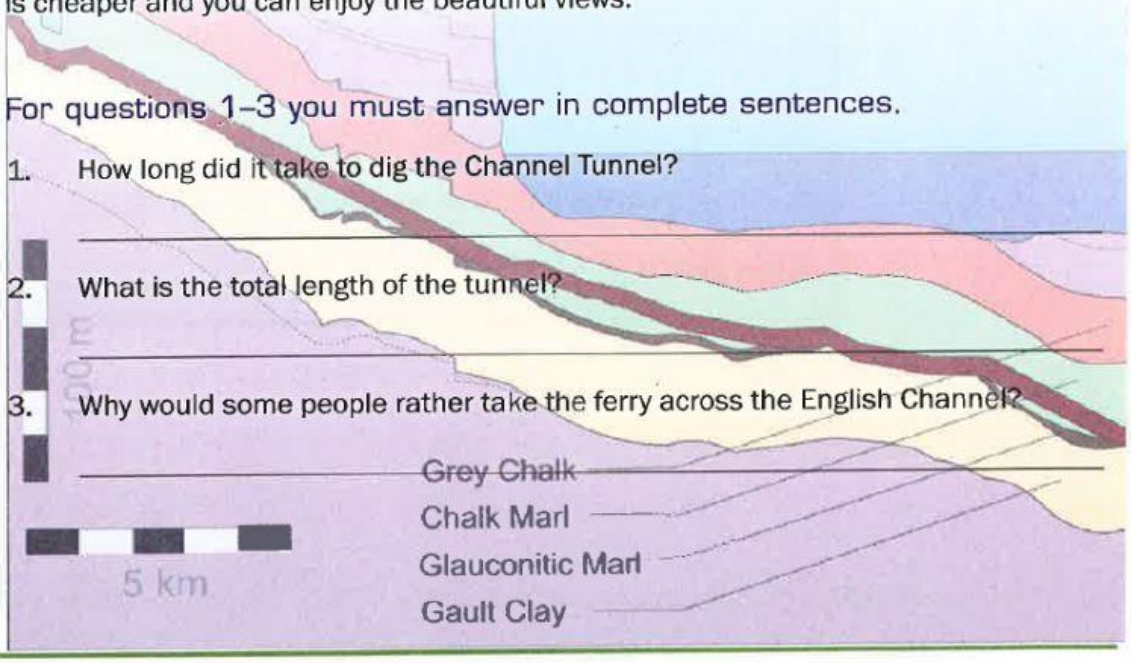
Ticket prices vary greatly; the earlier you book a ticket, the cheaper it is. A return ticket, London to Paris, costs about £170. The cheapest tickets are midweek during the middle of the day, and on Saturday after midday. For travellers who are not in a hurry, taking a ferry across the English Channel is probably better than taking a train. It is cheaper and you can enjoy the beautiful views.

2 For questions 1–3 you must answer in complete sentences.

1. How long did it take to dig the Channel Tunnel?

2. What is the total length of the tunnel?

3. Why would some people rather take the ferry across the English Channel?



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading

3 For questions 4–8 tick (✓) the box.

4. The French began building the Channel Tunnel in 1802.

   ☐ True ☐ False

5. The average depth of the tunnel is 50 metres below sea level.

   ☐ True ☐ False

6. The Channel Tunnel consists of...

   ☐ A. a single tunnel.

   ☐ B. two tunnels.

   ☐ C. two main tunnels and a smaller service tunnel.

7. How long does the train trip between the English and French capital cities take?

   ☐ A. Just over two hours.

   ☐ B. Just over two and a half hours.

   ☐ C. A little less than three hours.

8. Which of the following times would be best for getting a cheap train ticket?

   ☐ A. 2.00pm on Wednesday.

   ☐ B. 8.00am on Saturday.

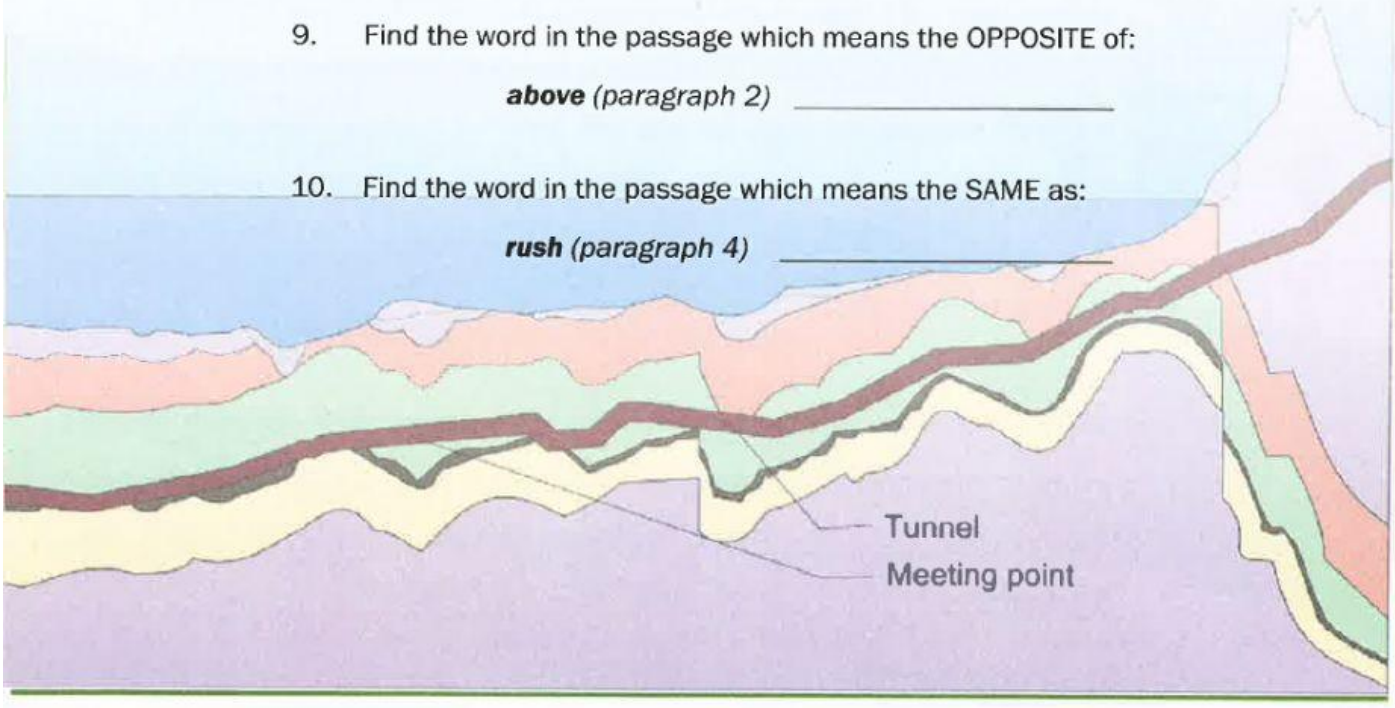
   ☐ C. Noon on Sunday.

9. Find the word in the passage which means the OPPOSITE of:

   above *(paragraph 2)* _____

10. Find the word in the passage which means the SAME as:

    rush *(paragraph 4)* _____



LIVEWORKSHEETS