

## Unit 9. CITIES OF THE FUTURE

### PART 3: READING

#### I. Fill in the blank with a suitable word.

Silicon Valley is (1) ..... to hundreds of technology companies, so it comes as no surprise that San Jose has partnered with technological giant Intel to transform itself (2) ..... a smart city. San Jose and Intel will work (3) ..... to further the city's Green Vision initiative - a 15-year plan for economic growth, and improve (4) ..... of life - which it launched in 2007.

Intel expects to help San Jose create 25,000 clean-tech jobs, drive economic growth, and improve the city's environmental (5) ..... To achieve this (6) ..... Intel will work with the city to track real-time data on air quality, noise pollution, traffic flow, and other environmental and (7) ..... concerns which it will then use to encourage (8) ..... to reduce emissions by using public transportation or bicycles to get to work or school.

Smart cities may sound like something of the distant future (9) ..... many people thought the same thing about smartphones and smart homes. Up to now, over 70 percent of American adults have owned a smartphone and 1.9 billion smart home devices have been installed. If smart cities are (10) ..... like these other smart innovations, we will see them appear in our communities sooner rather than later.

#### II. Fill each of the numbered blanks in the following passage. Use only one word in each space.

*self-driven      decrease      estimate      circuits      intelligent  
booming      technology      digitization      non-renewable      advancements*

The cities of the future will see a large number of (1) ..... homes that can communicate with their owners. In fact, things that were earlier considered science fiction are already coming to life in smart cities such as Masdar in the United Arab Emirates, where an automated underground transport network fully by solar power is already running (2) .....

With smart (3) ....., the possibility of having huge savings on electricity and power is within our reach. Sensors are being developed so that street lights of the future will switch on only when you are close by. The smart technology in (4) ..... cars will enable you to save on gas and other (5) ..... energy sources. In fact, smart cities will aim to neutralize the use of fossil fuels completely.

The cities of the future will have to adapt quickly to rapid technological (6) ..... in IT and engineering. The gap between technological leaps is going to (7) ..... over time. Technology will help bridge the current gap between the government and public in the cities of the future, given that IT and (8) ..... will make these cities more open and social.

Another thing that we can all agree on is that the cost of building in these smart cities is going to be considerable. An (9) ..... can be derived based on the latest smart city developments in India. With the (10) ..... population, the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is pushing to attract investments to fuel rapid development projects in the country.

#### III. Choose the word or phrase among A, B, C or D that best fits the blank space in the following passage.

## PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE CITIES OF THE FUTURE

Cities are built to (1) \_\_\_\_ and prosper. Over the years, we have learned to transform our surroundings according to our needs. We have (2) \_\_\_\_ through mountains to make more land and created artificial islands to make skyscrapers. City planning, as an organized profession, has existed for less than a century. (3) \_\_\_\_, a considerable (4) \_\_\_\_ of evidence (both archaeological and historical) proves the existence of fully planned cities in ancient times. Over the years, humans have made some mistakes in terms of using an excessive amount of resources for cities. This gives rise to the question of (5) \_\_\_\_ sustainable the cities of the future would be.

We might be (6) \_\_\_\_ at smart cities in which street lights would only switch on when you are close (7) \_\_\_\_ traffic light would be eliminated by smart driving. The cities of the future would try to save our resources (8) \_\_\_\_ than deplete them.

An example of an advanced city is Kansas. Plans are in place to make Kansas a smart futuristic city in the future. Planners are considering introducing sensors to monitor the water mains. Warning would be issued to city officials when the (9) \_\_\_\_ requires repair or replacement. In this way, the city would never be at risk of having broken pipes.

While the idea sounds fantastic, a large amount of rational critique has called this plan an oversold dream. Amy Glasmier is an urban planning professor at MIT. She is a smart city skeptic who believes that all the research and talk is great but gravely (10) \_\_\_\_.

1. A. find	B. act	C. survive	D. celebrate
2. A. experience	B. cut	C. decrease	D. pollute
3. A. But	B. Therefore	C. Although	D. However
4. A. number	B. amount	C. percent	D. static
5. A. what	B. how	C. when	D. which
6. A. looked	B. look	C. looking	D. looks
7. A. at	B. by	C. of	D. from
8. A. rather	B. more	C. would	D. less
9. A. requests	B. research	C. infrastructure	D. dependence
10. A. consider	B. future	C. urban	D. oversold

### IV. Read the passage, and choose the correct answer A, B, C or D for each question.

Today's urban cities are practically bursting at the seams. According to research from the United Nations, 54 percent of the world's population lives in urban cities areas, a percentage that is expected to increase to over 66 percent by 2050. In fact, India alone is projected to add 404 million urban dwellers to its population by 2050.

This rapid growth of the urban population has caused daunting problems for city planners, such as overcrowded roads, excessive energy consumption and unemployment. Therefore, to build more sustainable cities and accommodate the growing number of residents, many city leaders are turning to the Internet of things (IoT).

The IoT has forever changed the way urban cities operate. Cities that were once detached and inaccessible are now intelligent and highly connected. From Amsterdam to Seoul, cities are launching smart city

projects to help improve quality of life residents and better support the environment. According to research from IHS Technology, there will be at least 88 smart cities globally by 2025, up from 21 in 2013.

San Francisco, for example, provides more than 100 charging stations in various locations to promote the use of hybrid and electric cars to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Copenhagen is also taking advantage of the lot to improve environmental protection and reduce road traffic by developing smart bikes equipped with sensors that generate data on air contamination and traffic congestion.

The possibilities afforded by the IoT are endless; however, designing smart cities requires comprehensive technology infrastructure that is capable of capturing and processing large amounts of data quickly and securely - which is where 4G LTE comes into play.

The future looks bright for urban cities. Soon they will be able to do things that only sci-fi enthusiasts could dream of before, like monitoring bridge conditions using intelligent sensors and conserving energy by automatically dimming street lights when no one is around.

1. Some cities which follow this trend of the new technology \_\_\_\_.

- A. introduce smart bikes to escape air contamination and traffic congestion
- B. provide charging stations in various locations for cars and bikes
- C. make transportation more eco-friendly and more convenient
- D. only allow the use of hybrid and electric cars to reduce pollution

2. All of the following are the advantages of the IoT EXCEPT that \_\_\_\_.

- A. the Internet of Things will be applied in several cities around the world
- B. the number of smart cities decreases but the quality is much better
- C. cities around the world become more intelligent and connected
- D. we may improve quality of life and better support the environment

3. Today's urban cities \_\_\_\_.

- A. are in fact extremely crowded
- B. are bursting around the world
- C. account for 66 percent of the world's population
- D. have more 404 million dwellers by 2050

4. The potential of the IoT includes all of the following EXCEPT that \_\_\_\_.

- A. intelligent sensors can help watch and check bridge conditions carefully
- B. energy conservation can be done by automatically controlling street lights
- C. things that only sci-fi enthusiasts could dream of before come true
- D. comprehensive technology infrastructure to support the IoT is endless

5. The Internet of Things allows the city planners and leaders \_\_\_\_.

- A. to develop the broadband Internet connectivity in urban cities
- B. to forget daunting problems, such as overcrowded roads, and unemployment
- C. to stop the rapid growth of the urban population in most cities
- D. to make cities more sustainable and provide enough accommodation

