

EXERCISE 8

Read Paragraphs B–E again, then answer the questions.

Paragraph B

What do the results from this questionnaire tell us? In a way, we shouldn't be amazed by the descriptions of the largest group. So many Hollywood films show cities of the future as frightening places. Online newspapers are also responsible for spreading this same belief. Headlines such as 'Global population rises – cities become crowded' are becoming more frequent. Journalists rarely discuss how future cities might be a good place to live.

Paragraph C

The facts are these: 50% of people now live in cities, even though cities only occupy 2% of the world's land. By 2050, it is predicted that the number of people living there will rise to 70%. Some people are worried that villages in the countryside will become empty as everyone leaves for the city, and so traditional ways of life will be lost. This may be true, but we have to accept changes like this as part of human development. Rather than being negative, we should be hopeful that we can improve people's lives as they move to cities. The way to do this is through intelligent planning.

Paragraph D

Architects have a big role to play in our future cities. In the past, the architects who were responsible for planning our cities often designed buildings that they were interested in; but now it is time for them to listen carefully to what people living in cities are asking for. In many countries around the world, people are choosing to have smaller families or to wait longer before they start a family. For this reason, not everyone needs a large house. Smaller and cheaper houses are what they need. But 'small' doesn't have to be the same as 'ugly' or 'boring'. Western architects could perhaps look at some of the architecture in Japanese cities, where very stylish houses are built on small pieces of unused land.

Paragraph E

And what might cities of the future be made from? Engineering companies have produced some interesting new products, for example, wood-like material made from recycled newspapers or old drink cartons. One engineering team are even working on a

project that uses mushrooms to create a hard building material. These new materials may seem strange, but we should remember that plastic was only invented in 1907 – at the time people thought that *this* was an unusual product, but now it is something we cannot manage without. Building a city of the future requires imagination and an open mind.

Read the questions and the options carefully. Choose the correct answers.

1. What is the writer doing in **Paragraph B**?

- Explaining why many people will probably prefer to live in cities in the future.
- Giving a reason why many people feel negative about cities of the future.
- Suggesting that newspapers show a more realistic view of future cities than films.

2. What point does the writer make in **Paragraph C**?

- It is important to encourage some people to stay in their villages.
- It is possible to maintain traditional village customs after moving to cities.
- It is necessary to think in a creative way about city design.

3. **Paragraph D:** In the writer's opinion, architects who are responsible for planning cities

- often make houses that are unattractive.
- must make buildings based on people's needs.
- should get experience by working in foreign cities.

4. **Paragraph E:** The writer refers to the invention of plastic to make the point that

- we can expect building materials to be very different in the future.
- we must accept that good-quality materials take a long time to create.
- we should use a variety of building materials to make our cities interesting.