Reading

1 Read this text about Istanbul. What senses are mentioned in the text? What do they refer to?

Istanbul – the city where East meets West

There are many cities throughout the world, all of them busy, all of them crowded, all of them with their own unique atmosphere and identity. So, what is it about Istanbul that I love above all others?

It's the sights, the sounds, the smells, the flavours! I love nothing more than walking along the waterfront at sunset, when the sky goes from blue to pink to grey and the city's beautiful skyline starts to twinkle in the darkening sky. I love listening to the sound of the muezzins calling out from the hundreds of minarets found throughout the city and watching the old men sitting outside their cafés, drinking tea and playing bezique or backgammon.

The smoky smells of street food are carried on the warm breeze with the salty smell of the sea air. I love wandering the streets after dark, stopping to buy a tasty pomegranate juice, some roasted chestnuts, or if I'm really hungry, a delicious donner kebab.

Istanbul may be one of the most populated cities in Europe, but the city's residents are well-known for their friendliness and warmth and, although I am a stranger in this wonderful, historic old city, the locals have always made me feel at home and welcome.

Did you know?

1. According to the writer, many cities around the world are ...
   a. Every major cities are busy and crowded everywhere.
   b. Every major cities are similar as well as different in certain things.
   c. Every major cities are loved by the writer.

2. When does the writer enjoy going for walks in Istanbul?
   a. When she sees the different colours in the sky.
   b. When the sun sets and it gets darker outside.
   c. When she's along the waterfront.

3. What does the writer think about the street food there?
   a. She doesn't buy it because of the smoky smells.
   b. She thinks that it has a salty smell.
   c. She enjoys the smell of food in the air.

4. What snack does the writer buy when wandering the streets?
   a. Pomegranate juice
   b. Doner kebab
   c. Roasted chestnut

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5. What are the people of Istanbul well-known for?
   a. Their warmth and friendliness.
   b. They love drinking tea and play board games.
   c. They are total strangers.

6. What is the purpose of the text?
   a. To describe the wonderful experience in Istanbul.
   b. To inform others about what to do in Istanbul.
   c. To persuade people to come to Istanbul.

7. In your opinion, what would people do after reading the passage?
   a. They would be interested to visit Istanbul.
   b. They would find the information useless.
   c. They would avoid visiting the city.

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