

Reading Ex. - Gapped Texts

Ex. A > Read the following passage and then choose from the sentences A-J which one best fits each gap. There are TWO extra sentences which you will not need to use.



The Australian airline Qantas was founded in 1920. Queensland and Northern Territories Aerial Services, from which the word Qantas derives, is the longest-serving airline in the English-speaking world and the second longest-serving airline world-wide.

1

The airline was formed by two former Australian Flying Corps officers, W. Hudson Fysh and P. J. McGuiness. They were keen to enter a contest with a prize of \$10,000 for the first Australian to fly from England to Australia in less than 28 days. Unfortunately, they were prevented from entering the race by the death of the man who had offered to provide money to pay their expenses.

2

It took Fysh and McGuiness fifty-one days to plan the route, travelling by car through the thinly populated territory on poorly built roads that were often flooded in the wet season.

3

After a chance meeting with Fergus McMaster, a wealthy cattle farmer who agreed to give the two financial support, Fysh and McGuiness were on their way to making their dream of connecting far-distant parts of the continent by air a reality.

4

On November 2, 1922, a larger plane was bought by Qantas and the airline's first regular mail and passenger flights began between Charleville and Cloncurry. Qantas' services grew throughout the 1920s. An important landmark along the way came in March 1928 when Qantas was contracted to operate the first flying doctor service to sick people in remote parts of the country.

5

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In 1934 the airline changed its name to Qantas Empire Airways Ltd, reflecting its desire to expand beyond the borders of Australia. Air mail services first to Singapore and soon after to Britain began in 1935.

6

In 1947 Qantas became a national airline when the government purchased the company. In December of that year the airline's first passenger service between Sydney and London was introduced.

7

Important changes in the airline industry announced in 1992 meant that aviation reforms would result in Qantas and Australian, the airline which links cities within Australia, becoming one.

8

- A In the following years more overseas passenger services were introduced linking Australia with countries all over the world - Japan, Hong Kong, South Africa, the United States.
- B Australian were at first in favor of joining Qantas but eventually decided to remain independent.
- C However, they were asked by the government to plan a route and landing sites across the Northern Territory and Western Australia that would be used for the race.
- D The service flew 255 patients more than 30,000 kilometers in its first year.
- E Although it is now well-respected as an international carrier which flies people around the world in style, the airline's origins were rather humbler.
- F Qantas bought Australian and agreed to the new name: Qantas, The Australian Airline.
- G It was in the same year that the airline carried its first overseas passenger on a flight from Brisbane to Singapore.
- H In 1920 they bought their first plane and then a second one soon after and for the first two years of Qantas' life, the planes were used as an air taxi service and for pleasure flights.
- I Their experience on the journey convinced them that air travel was a necessity in such a huge country with often inhospitable terrain.
- J Unfortunately, there was not a route, which made their plan a bit difficult to complete.

Exercises taken and adapted from Orpet, B. (2018) How to Pass FCE – Exam Practice in Reading Paper one. Cambridge, UK.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Ex. B > Read the following passage and then choose from the sentences A-H which one best fits each gap. There is ONE extra sentence which you will not need to use.

POLICE TO USE BUSES

Police officers in one part of England are exchanging their cars for the bus, to cut down on expense and to improve efficiency. 1 _____. Most of the buses are double-deckers and police officers will be encouraged to sit on the top deck. 2 _____.

Officers have been issued with timetables so that they can avoid long waits at bus stops. A police inspector said he did not want them waiting around thirty to forty minutes for a bus as this would clearly be a waste of police time. 3 _____. "If a bus is full, we will have to stand or wait for another one," he said.

Officers in uniform, detectives and traffic wardens will all use buses during a six-month trial of the scheme. 4 _____. However, buses would be used when officers are involved in non-urgent routine business such as going to take statements or when returning from court appointments.

Senior police officers believe that the scheme will public transport and will lead to a reduction in spending by the police force. 5 _____

A policewoman said: "I am all in favor of the idea. enough for them, it's good enough for us." be effective in cutting down crime on in spending by the police force. 6 _____. If it's good enough for them, it's good enough for us."

The transport manager for the local bus company which is sponsoring the scheme said: "This scheme will help the police and give peace of mind to the travelling public. 7 _____. We are hoping that the scheme will become permanent."

- A** It is thought that if they sit here, this will help to discourage crime as they will be able to see and to be seen clearly.
- B** The scheme will make life safer not only for passengers but also for our bus drivers.
- C** Obviously buses will not be used when officers are responding to emergency calls.
- D** We have always found the scheme very successful in the past.
- E** However, he did not expect the police to be treated differently from the rest of the public.
- F** It is good for the public, who will be able to see us and talk to us on the buses.
- G** They are to be allowed to travel free on buses in Northampton upon production of their identity card.
- H** Having police officers travel free on buses is cheaper than sending patrol cars to pick them up to return them to the police station.

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