

## UNIT 1. FAMILY LIFE

Read the following passage on transport, and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions.

Most journeys in Britain and the US are made by road. Some of these are made on public transport but most are by private car.

In Britain many people rely on their cars for daily local activities, e.g. getting to work, doing the shopping, and visiting friends. People living in urban areas may use buses, trains or, in London, the Underground, to get to city centers, mainly because traffic is often heavy and it is difficult to find anywhere to park a car. Some places in the country may have a bus only two or three times a week so people living there have no choice but to rely on their cars.

In the US, large cities have good public transportation systems. The El railroad in Chicago and the underground systems of New York, Boston, San Francisco and Washington, DC are heavily used. Elsewhere, most Americans prefer to use their cars. Families often have two cars and, outside major cities, have to drive fairly long distances to schools, offices, shops, banks, etc. Many college and even high-school students have their own cars.

Long-distance travel in Britain is also mainly by road, though railways link most towns and cities. Most places are linked by motorways or other fast roads and many people prefer to drive at their own convenience rather than use a train, even though they may get stuck in a traffic jam. Long-distance coach/bus services are usually a cheaper alternative to trains, but they take longer and may be less comfortable. Some long distance travel, especially that undertaken for business reasons, may be by air. There are regular flights between regional airports, as well as to and from London. A lot of freight is also distributed by road, though heavier items and raw materials often go by rail.

In the US much long-distance travel is by air. America has two main long-distance bus companies, Greyhound and Trailways. Amtrak, the national network, provides rail services for passengers. Private railway companies such as Union Pacific now carry only freight, though in fact over 70% of freight goes by road.

The main problems associated with road transport in both Britain and the US are traffic congestion and pollution. It is predicted that the number of cars on British roads will increase by a third within a few years, making both these problems worse. The British government would like more people to use public transport, but so far they have had little success in persuading people to give up their cars or to share rides with neighbors. Most people say that public transport is simply not good enough. Americans too have resisted government requests to share cars because it is less convenient and restricts their freedom. Petrol/gasoline is relatively cheap in the US and outside the major cities public transport is bad, so they see no reason to use their cars less.

1. In Britain and the US most people travel by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. road                      B. rail                      C. air                      D. sea
2. According to the passage, people in London may prefer the Underground to their own cars due to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. long distances      B. heavy traffic      C. air pollution      D. cheap tickets
3. It is mentioned in paragraph 3 that the public transportation systems in the US are good in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. some states      B. large cities      C. all cities      D. large states
4. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?  
 A. Few college students in the US have their own cars.  
 B. Families in the US often have more than one car.  
 C. Most Americans prefer to drive their cars outside large cities.  
 D. The underground systems are popular in some major US cities.
5. The phrase “at their own convenience” in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. at the latest time and nearest place      B. at the fastest time and nearest place  
 C. at an appropriate time and place      D. at an early time and nearby place
6. Which of the following is true about transport in Britain?  
 A. Trains are usually cheaper than long-distance coach services.  
 B. There are no regular flights between regional airports.  
 C. Heavier items and raw materials are often transported by train.  
 D. Long-distance travel in Britain is only by road.
7. According to the information in paragraph 5, long-distance travellers in the US can choose from \_\_\_\_ mode(s) of transport.  
 A. four      B. three      C. two      D. one
8. It is stated in the passage that the major problems of road transport in Britain and the US are \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. accidents and pollution      B. speeding and bad roads  
 C. drink-driving and traffic jams      D. traffic jams and pollution
9. According to the passage, people in Britain refuse public transport because \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. they see no reason to use their cars less      B. petrol is relatively cheap in Britain  
 C. they like to share rides with neighbors      D. they think it is not good enough
10. The word “they” in the last sentence of the passage can best be replaced by \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. neighbors      B. major cities      C. the government      D. Americans