HOMEWORK

Exercise 1[60]. Read the passage below and do the following tasks

Marcel Bich

The man who turned a luxury item into an everyday object

Marcel Bich, a French manufacturer of traditional ink pens, was the man who turned the ballpoint pen into an item that today almost anyone can afford. Bich was appalled at the poor quality of the ballpoint pens that were available, and was also shocked at their high cost. However, he recognised that the ballpoint was a firmly established invention, and he decided to design a cheap pen that worked well and would be commercially successful.

Bich went to the Bib brothers and asked them if he could use the design of their original invention in one of his own pens. In return, he offered to pay them every time he sold a pen. Then, for two years, Bich studied the detailed construction of every ballpoint pen that was being sold, often working with a microscope.

By 1950, he was ready to introduce his new wonder: a plastic pen with a clear barrel that wrote smoothly, did not leak and only cost a few cents. He called it the "Bic Cristal". The ballpoint pen had finally become a practical writing instrument. The public liked it immediately, and today it is as common as the pencil.

In Britain, they are still called Biros, and many Bic models also say 'Biro' on the side of the pen, to remind people of their original inventors.

Bich became extremely wealthy thanks to his invention, which had worldwide appeal. Over the next 60 years his company Société Bic, opened factories all over the world and expanded its range of inexpensive products. Today, Bic is as famous for its lighters and

razors as it is for its pens, and you can even buy a Bic mobile phone.

Complete the summary below by choosing NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the passage

[60] Tham khảo Exercise 6, trang 26 sách Complete IELTS band 4-5

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It is thanks to Marcel Bich that most people today are able to 1. ..... a ballpoint pen. It was the bad quality and 2. ..... of the pens which were available at the time that inspired him to design a 3. ..... ballpoint pen that would be both inexpensive and reliable. After getting permission from the Biro brothers to base his pen on their 4. ....., he carefully 5. ..... other ballpoints that were sold in the shops, and in 1950 introduced his own versions, the "Bic Cristal". It was popular with the 6. ....., and Bich became very rich. His company, Bic, now makes a variety of cheap 7. ....., such as lighters and razors.

Exercise 2[61]. Read the passage below and do the following tasks

How happy are we?

Wealth is also a poor predictor of happiness. People have not become happier over time as their cultures have become more affluent. Even though Americans earn twice as much in today's dollars as they did in 1957, the proportion of those telling surveyors from the National Opinion Research Center that they are "very happy" has declined from 35 to 29 percent.

Even very rich people - those surveyed among Forbes magazine's 100 wealthiest Americans - are only slightly happier than the average American. Those whose income has increased over a 10-year period are not happier than those whose income is stagnant. Indeed, in most nations the correlation between income and happiness is negligible - only in the poorest countries, such as Bangladesh and India, is income a good measure of emotional well-being.

Are people in rich countries happier, by and large, than people in not so rich countries? It appears in general that they are, but the margin may be slim. In Portugal, for example, only one in 10 people reports being very happy, whereas in the much more prosperous Netherlands the proportion of very happy is four in 10. Yet there are curious reversals in this correlation between national wealth and well-being -the Irish during the 1980s consistently reported greater life satisfaction than the wealthier West Germans. Furthermore, other factors, such as civil rights, literacy and duration of democratic government, all of which also promote reported life satisfaction, tend to go hand in hand with national wealth. As a result,

[61] Tham khảo https://www.bestmytest.com/ielts/ielts-academic-reading/21

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it is impossible to tell whether the happiness of people in wealthier nations is based on money or is a by-product of other felicities.

Complete the summary using the list of words and phrases, A-K, below.

Incomes in the United States have 1. ..... over the past forty years, yet happiness levels have 2. ..... over the same period. According to research, extremely rich people are only slightly 3. ..... happy than people with average incomes. In terms of national wealth, populations of wealthy nations are 4. ..... happier than those who live in poorer countries. Although in some cases this trend is 5. ..... and it appears that other factors need to be considered.

A. more
B. less
C. reversed
D. affected
E. remarkably
F. increased
G. decreased
H. slightly
I. similar
J. slowed down
K. stopped

LIVEWORKSHEETS