

Name:

Section 1

Reading

1 Read the article about public transport. For questions 1–5, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Getting around

Over the centuries, it became more and more important to move larger and larger groups of people from one place to another faster, more comfortably and less expensively.

The stagecoach was probably the first organised means of public transport. A stagecoach was like a cart pulled by horses – it had four wheels, but was closed in with a roof and doors. They first appeared in the 16th century in Britain. An average-sized stagecoach could carry about six passengers. If they were travelling a long distance, passengers would stay the night at an inn, which was like a hotel.

At the beginning of the 19th century, buses first appeared. The early ones looked like stagecoaches and were pulled by horses, but the difference was that passengers could get off the bus at many different stops along the way, making them an ideal means of travelling within cities. When motors replaced horses as a source of power, the number of buses quickly increased as people realised they were a good way to get to work or go shopping. The main drawback in travelling by bus is the long period of time you often have to wait for one.

An underground train is a train which travels below the streets of a city. It provides a quick way to get around because it avoids heavy traffic, but in many cities it is quite expensive. Also, underground trains often don't serve all the areas of a city, so people have to take a bus to the station. What is more, in some cities the service is not clean and comfortable.

Other means of transport are specialised and so not used by everyone. Ferries, for example, are only used to travel between islands or across rivers and seas. A common problem with the ferry, as with other means of transport as well, is that at certain times of the year, it can be extremely difficult to find a ticket unless you have booked way in advance. Also, ferries can be rather slow and may be cancelled or delayed if the weather is bad.

As you can see, mass transport has certainly changed over the years. However, modern means of transport create a lot of pollution, and so the question is: Have we paid too big a price for easy travel?

- 1 What is true about stagecoaches?
- A They have always been used for travel.
- B They were only used for short distances.
- C They could transport people travelling in groups.
- D They were only used to take people to inns.

2 The introduction of buses
A helped transport in cities.
B increased the number of shops.
C helped people get jobs.
D did not make a difference to stagecoaches.

3 An underground system isn't the perfect means of transport because it
A is too fast for some people.
B only avoids heavy traffic.
C serves only a few areas of a city.
D can be unpleasant and expensive.

4 The writer says that, with ferries,
A it's always difficult to find tickets.
B tickets are usually very cheap.
C there are often very long delays.
D the weather can affect the journey.

5 According to the writer, we have to think about whether transport has
A always created pollution.
B more positive or negative effects.
C become less expensive.
D become faster.