Holidays on Mars in 50 years time!

In 50 years humans could begin to make a home on Mars with the help of genetically modified trees. Freeman Dyson, a physicist from Princeton University made this prediction at the American Association for the Advancement of Science's meeting in Washington DC yesterday. A group of astrophysicists and space biologists met at the conference to discuss the future possibility of tourism in space.
"Building habitats on Mars is something I am dreaming about. It is not going to happen in the next 20 years, but it probably will in the next 50." Said Professor Dyson.

The way to do it, he said, was to make a habitat by growing plants that would give out oxygen. This would allow humans and animals to breathe.

Yoji Kondo, a Nasa astrophysicist, told the meeting that 10 companies were trying to develop reusable spacecraft to make launch costs cheaper and make space tourism possible. Nasa was working on special equipment that could accompany astronauts on a nine-month journey to Mars, and even experimenting with growing sweet potatoes in space.

Doctors have also started serious research into health problems that might occur on long journeys in zero gravity.

Prof Dyson added: "People love to go to weird places for reasons we do not know. Humans have a tendency to travel long distances, for reasons that are very hard to know.

"We are a restless bunch of creatures, and so many of us have too much money and don't know how to spend it."

1. **Which sentence explains best what the article is about?**
   a) Scientists want to grow potatoes on Mars.
   b) Scientists research to see if we can visit Mars in the future.
   c) Why Mars will be the next holiday location for rich people.

2. **Read the text again and decide if the sentences are true or false.**
   a) Genetically modified trees might help us to visit Mars.
   b) Professor Dyson studies physics.
   c) Professor Dyson thinks it will be possible to build a habitat on Mars in 20 years' time.
   d) If we can grow plants on Mars there will be more oxygen for humans to breathe.
   e) Re-usable spacecraft will make it more expensive to travel in space.
   f) Nasa is trying to grow tomatoes in space.
   g) Zero gravity is good for the health.
   h) Professor Dyson thinks people will want to travel in space because they like to travel far and have lots of money.

3. **Which is the odd one out?**
   a) A) Passport, B) Money, C) Plane, D) Passport.
   b) A) Suitcase, B) Rucksack, C) Luggage, D) Swimsuit.
   c) A) Swimsuit, B) Map, C) Bikini, D) Sunscreen.
   d) A) Airport, B) Plane, C) Ferry, D) Coach.
   e) A) Sunbathing, B) Sightseeing, c) Swimming, D) Cleaning.