

Reading Quiz 1

Section 1: London to Brighton Bike Ride

The start

The bike ride starts at Clapham Common tube station.

- Your Start Time is indicated by the colour of your body number in this pack. It is also printed on the address label of the envelope. Please arrive no earlier than 30 minutes before that time.
- We allocate an equal number of cyclists for each Start Time to ensure a steady flow. Please keep to the time you've been given so we can keep to our schedule and avoid delaying other riders and prevent 'bunching' further down the route.
- An Information Point, toilets and refreshment stands will be open from very early in the day.

Ride carefully

We put together as many facilities as possible to help ensure you have a troublefree day. But we also rely on you to ride safely and with due consideration for other cyclists and road users. Although many roads are closed to oncoming traffic, this is not always the case and you should be aware of the possibility that there could be vehicles coming in the opposite direction. Please do not attempt reckless overtaking whilst riding – remember it is NOT a race.

Follow all instructions

Every effort is made to ensure that the route is well signed and marshalled. Please obey all directions from police and marshals on the route. If you hear a motorcycle marshal blow his/her whistle three times, move left.

Wear a helmet

Every year we are delighted to see more riders wearing protective helmets, but we would like to see every cyclist on the ride wearing one. More than half of reported injuries in cycling accidents are to the head, and a helmet gives the best protection when the head hits the ground.

Attracting assistance

If you have an accident, ask a marshal for help; they are in contact with the support / emergency services. To call for help from our motorcycle marshals, give a 'thumbs down' signal. The marshal will do all he/she can to help, providing he/she is not already going to a more serious accident. If a motorcycle marshal slows down to help you, but you have just stopped for a rest and don't need help, please give a 'thumbs up' signal and he/she will carry on. *Remember – thumbs down means 'I need help'.*

In case of breakdown

Refer to your route map and make your way to a Mechanics Point. Mechanical assistance is free when you show your Rider Identity Card; you just pay for the parts.

Refreshment stops

Look out for these along the route. Most are organised by voluntary clubs and their prices give you real value for money. They are also raising money for their local communities and the British Heart Foundation, so please give them your support.

Rain or shine – be prepared

In the event of very bad weather, watch out for signs to wet weather stations en route. Good waterproofs, like a cycle cape, are essential. Our first aid staff can only supply bin liners and by the time you get one you may be very wet. However, the English summer is unpredictable – it may also be hot, so don't forget the sun protection cream as well!

If you have to drop out

We will try to pick up your bike for you on the day. Call Bike Events (01225 310859) no more than two weeks after the ride to arrange collection. Sorry, we cannot guarantee this service nor can we accept liability for any loss or damage to your bike. Bike Events will hold your bike for three months, after which it may be disposed of. You will be charged for all costs incurred in returning your cycle.

Questions 1 – 8

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text?

In boxes 1-8 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

1. You should not arrive more than half an hour before your allocated starting time.
2. Your Rider Identity Card will be sent to you before the event.
3. Some roads may have normal traffic flow on them.
4. Helmets are compulsory for all participants.
5. Refreshments are free to all participants during the ride.
6. If you need a rest you must get off the road.
7. First aid staff can provide cycle capes.
8. Bike Events will charge you for the return of your bike.

Section 2: Sylvia Earle

Sylvia Earle was called a "Hero for the Planet" by Time magazine. She's an oceanographer, explorer, author, and lecturer.

Sylvia Earle is one of the world's most famous marine scientists and a National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence. She loves to go diving in the ocean. She has spent a lot of her life both in and under the waves. Earle has led more than a hundred expeditions and she set a record for solo diving in 1,000-metre deep water. In total, she has spent more than 7,000 hours underwater.

Earle describes the first time she went to the ocean: 'I was three years old and I got knocked over by a wave. The ocean certainly got my attention! It wasn't frightening, it was thrilling. And since then I have been fascinated by life in the ocean.'

In the past, Earle was the chief scientist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the USA. Now one of her jobs is with Google Earth's Ocean. Earle's special focus is on developing a global network of areas on the land and in the ocean. This network will protect and support the living systems that are important to the planet. She explains why this is important: 'When I first went to the Gulf of Mexico in the 1950s, the sea looked like a blue infinity. It seemed to be too large and too wild to be damaged by the action of people. Then, in a few decades, not thousands of years, the blue wilderness of my childhood disappeared. By the end of the 20th century, about 90 percent of the sharks, tuna, turtles, whales and many other large creatures had disappeared from the Gulf. They had been there for millions of years.'

Some people don't understand why the ocean is so important to life on Earth. Earle explains that 'the ocean is the foundation of our life support system. The ocean is alive. The living things in the ocean generate oxygen and take up carbon. If we don't have the ocean, we don't have a planet that works.'

The Gulf of Mexico has had many problems, especially after the Deepwater Horizon Oil disaster of 2010, but Earle says, 'In 2003 I found positive signs in clear, deep water far from the mouth of the Mississippi River. It was full of life. Large areas of the Gulf are not damaged. Protecting the most important places will be good for the future of the Gulf and for all of us.'

Read the article and choose the correct option.

1. Who does Sylvia Earle currently work with?
 - A. the American government
 - B. Google
 - C. an oil company
2. When did she first go to the Gulf of Mexico?
 - A. when she was three
 - B. in 2003
 - C. in the 1950s
3. What percentage of animal life had disappeared from the Gulf of Mexico by the year 2000?
 - A. 20 percent
 - B. 50 percent
 - C. 90 percent
4. When was there a big oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico?
 - A. 2000
 - B. 2003
 - C. 2010
5. Which of the statements about Sylvia Earle is NOT true?
 - A. She's an experienced expedition leader.
 - B. She holds a record for the longest time under water.
 - C. She does one of her favourite activities in her work.
6. What does she say about her first experience of the sea?
 - A. She was afraid of the waves.
 - B. She enjoyed it very much.
 - C. She was too young to remember it.
7. The work that Earle is currently doing is based ...
 - A. all over the world.
 - B. in North America.
 - C. in the Gulf of Mexico.

8. According to Earle, sixty years ago ...
- A. it was difficult to imagine the oceans were in danger.
 - B. the problems with the sea were too big to solve at that time.
 - C. the marine environment wasn't as important as it is now.
9. Which statement is NOT true?
- A. Not everybody agrees that the sea is very important.
 - B. The ocean is essential to life on Earth.
 - C. We get resources we need from the sea.
10. According to Earle ...
- A. it will be too difficult to clean up the Gulf of Mexico.
 - B. it's possible to protect marine areas.
 - C. parts of the Mississippi River are healthy.