Reading Part 2

Read the text. Use the sentences to complete the text. Choose the correct sentence for each gap. There are two extra sentences you will not need.

Tourism: an unsustainable luxury?

Recent research has investigated how willing the public is to change its behaviour towards more sustainable forms of tourism and leisure. It was found that, whilst people readily take action at home to promote the environment, they are largely ignorant of the impact their holidays have.

People said they felt they were 'doing their bit' by recycling all year, switching off lights when not in use and switching electronic devices off at the plug rather than leaving them on standby. **(1)**_____ When people were told a flight to Thailand was the equivalent of leaving a light bulb on for seven years, many expressed their disbelief that the negative impacts of flying were not balanced out by the pro-environmental behaviour they undertook throughout the year.

Despite any of the statistical evidence presented to them of the harmful effects of air travel on the environment, people were very reluctant to give up their holidays and would only consider the possibility of changing their second or third holidays of the year. **(2)**_____ When questioned more closely on the mode of transport, some people said they would be willing to consider taking the train rather than flying, but given the destinations people wish to travel to these days, that just wasn't always feasible, meaning flying was the only real option. Once on holiday, some were quite willing to try local restaurants and hotels.

(3)_____ Instead, people would prefer to continue to do the things they want to do, but would agree to doing them in slightly different ways, giving more thought to exploring techniques which would be more environmentally-friendly. If all tourists sought the most environmentally-friendly way of doing what they wanted to do, many negative impacts of tourism might be avoided.

(4)_____ Instead, we may need to think along more drastic lines and alter our behaviour more radically by doing such things as, for instance, holidaying nearer to home and only travelling abroad as a rare treat. One can envisage a time when tourism could become the kind of luxury we can only afford very occasionally. **(5)**_____

There are myriad mechanisms for reducing tourism demand if it is felt to be unsustainable. All of them, however, are likely to be unpopular. **(6)**_____ If we don't make the changes to our behaviour voluntarily, then international tourism may become an unsustainable activity and become the rare luxury item that it was forty years ago.

A Many respondents said they would contemplate taking as many as four or more holidays a year.

B The main holiday was seen as inviolable and, perhaps even more worryingly, as a right.

C However, the attraction of travel, the growing wealth of the world and technological limitations make it doubtful that this can deliver changes to avert climate change.

D Nevertheless, it behoves all of us to think about whether all our travel is necessary and if it is, to find the most sustainable way.

E On the other hand, people did not think about the environmental impact on their holiday travel.

F Switching from air travel to trains, for instance, is one important way of reducing a holiday- maker's impact on the environment.

G Overall, however, there was a reluctance to change their pattern of behaviour even when this might have less of a negative impact on the environment.

H This may be brought about by peak oil production pushing up the price of flying, or personal carbon allowances that limit the emissions we cause per year, or taxes that limit travel.