

Part I - READING COMPREHENSION (A)

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions in English

Transition: Fly and Drive All in One

I

The Terrafugia Company is developing a small 19-foot, two-seater light-sport aircraft called "Transition" that drives on the roads as easily as it flies in the skies. A "Transition" pilot will be able to land in a small airport, fold up the air plane's wings and simply drive off as a "car", with the other vehicles on the road. The

5 Transition will cost \$ 148,000.

II

Some passengers may not feel safe when they're 10,000 feet in the air in a plane with foldable wings. To make them feel safer, there are **several safety features**. For example, there are a number of locks which are connected to one another to make sure the wings stay open while in the air. In addition, the plane **must be on**

10 **the ground** to activate the wings. Then, there are sensors that tell the pilot when the plane is on the ground and if the engine is off. Finally, the pilot has to enter a **personal identification number** that only he knows- this is to stop people who don't know how to fly this kind of plane from flying it.

III

When the planes are ready there will be some problems using them. First, the U.S.

15 still doesn't have the infrastructure* for planes that drive on roads: the roads in front of buildings are narrow, not wide like runways. Second, not everyone has the skills needed to fly a plane and this limits who can get a **pilot's licence**. Third, with so many people suddenly in the sky, there may be an air traffic problem. Finally, many people do not live close to one of the 6,000 public airports in the U.S (a country the

20 size of a continent) and so won't be able to use the "Transition".

IV

The life size model of the "Transition" will be completed in 2009 and the first model to be sold will probably be ready in 2010. Thirty to fifty "Transitions" **have already been ordered** by people eager to "fly and drive" to work and on vacation. However, mass production is expected only in 2011 or 2012.

* תשתיות

(Adapted from www.bbc.com)

QUESTIONS

1. Answer the following questions in English. (40 points)

a. What is the Terrafugia Company developing? (paragraph I)

b. Why will some people be afraid to fly in the Transition? (paragraph II)

c. What keeps the wings open during the flight? (paragraph II)

d. Where does the plane have to be for the wing mechanism to begin to work? (paragraph II)

e. What do the sensors do? (paragraph II)

f. Why must the pilot have a personal identification number? (paragraph II)

- g. List 3 problems that will not be solved when the planes are ready to be used:
(paragraph III)

1

2

3

- h. Translate the following words and expressions into Hebrew or Arabic according to their meaning in the context. These words and expressions appear in bold type in the text.

(i) several safety features (7) _____

(ii) must be on the ground
(9-10) _____

(iii) a personal identification
number (12-13) _____

(iv) a pilot's licence (17) _____

(v) have already been
ordered (22-23) _____