

## Part I - READING COMPREHENSION (A)

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions in English

*Israel Looks to Electric Cars*

I

Although electric cars have existed for more than 100 years they are only now becoming popular. Fifteen countries, including Israel, want to reduce their dependency on the world's oil-producing nations. In addition, they want to lessen the dangers to the environment and to prevent damage to people's health which is caused by burning gasoline.

II

- 5 The Israeli government plans to encourage Israeli drivers to use electric cars with a new project, created by Israeli Shai Agassi. Since Israel will be the first country to use electric cars, other countries will be able to learn from Israel's experience. Renault-Nissan will manufacture the cars. To make it easy to recharge the cars, the Better Place Company will build an infrastructure of 500,000 charging spots at Israel's three to four million parking places. It will also build 200 battery-exchange stations.

III

- Using an electrically powered family car limits how far a person can drive and therefore the car needs to be recharged more often than when you use oil. Unlike oil-fuelled cars, an electrically powered car can't go much farther than 100 miles on one charge and once a battery is emptied, it takes hours to charge it up. Most people don't drive more than 100 miles at a time so putting recharge spots at workplaces and public places will keep most cars going. For longer drives, customers will be able to get a fresh battery at battery exchange stations.

IV

- The project has begun. A few dozen electric cars will be tried out later this year in Tel Aviv. Afterwards, a few hundred cars will be put on the road by 2011. Finally, mass production will begin in 2013. This year Israel cut taxes on cars powered by electricity by 10% to encourage consumers to buy the vehicles. Even though this plan will take years to become a reality many people are looking forward to driving an electric car.

*Adapted from Time Magazine*

## QUESTIONS ( Part I )

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

a. List **TWO** reasons why electric cars are becoming popular: ( par I)

.....א.

.....ב.

b. Why will other countries be interested in Israel's use of electric cars? ( par II)

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c. What will make it easy to use electric cars? ( par II )

.....א.

.....ב.

d. What is the problem with using the electrically powered family car? ( par III)

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e. List the three stages of the project: ( par IV)

.....א.

.....ב.

.....ג.

f. What is Israel doing to encourage people to buy electric cars? ( par IV)

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g. How do people feel about using electric cars? (par IV)

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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) oil-producing nations ( line 3)

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(ii) from Israel's experience (line 7)

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(iii) once a battery is emptied (line 13-14)

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(iv) will be put on the road (line 19)

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(v) become a reality (line 22)

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