

Exercise 2:

Read this passage, then answer the questions below. Choose NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the passage for each answer.

Not just a lot of hot air

There is a revolution going on in Africa; not a political one, but an economic one. The driving force behind this revolution is the humble mobile phone. Once the preserve of the elite (which was also the case in Europe and America not so long ago), the mobile phone is now ubiquitous, as there are over 600 million African subscribers, from Morocco and Tunisia in the north to south Africa, with 93 million in Nigeria alone, putting it at the top of the list. However, others, like Egypt, are not far behind, and changes in sales taxes in Kenya, for example, resulted in a 200% increase of sales in one year. Even this figure does not truly reflect the number of users, as in rural areas it is common for many people to share a single phone, which explains why researchers claim that around 80% of Africans use mobile phones regularly. Although many associate the continent principally with areas of business such as farming and mining, both of which do have a long and successful history there, we should not make the mistake of assuming that there is less business innovation in Africa than in the industrialized nations. The banking industry has been quick to see the potential of increased phone use, and many Africans, notably in Kenya with 8.5 million users, now do their banking via a mobile phone.

Source: IELTS Advantage - Reading skills

Question 1 – 5:

1. What is the cause of the great change that is taking place throughout Africa?
2. Which social class has lost its monopoly of mobile phone use?
3. Where do most African mobile-phone users live?
4. Where are phones most likely to be co-owned?
5. Which area of business has taken most advantage of mobile phone usage?