

READING

- 1 Read the text and decide if sentences 1–10 are True or False

	True	False	Doesn't say
1 The hottest temperature in Kuwait city is more than 52°C.			
2 The temperature in Kuwait City is 44°C most of the time.			
3 There are no parks in Kuwait City.			
4 Kuwait City is close to the city of Timbuktu.			
5 Not everyone in Kuwait City can afford air-conditioning.			
6 There are many forms of public transport in Kuwait City.			
7 Kuwait City is a modern city.			
8 Kuwait City got a lot bigger in the 18 th century.			
9 More boats came from Kuwait City than any other city.			
10 Kuwait has produced oil since 1946.			
11 Kuwait is the biggest producer of oil in the area.			
12 Many foreign people live in Kuwait City.			

THE HOTTEST CITY IN THE WORLD

In July and August, the temperature in Kuwait City regularly reaches 50°C. The record for the city, set in 2014, is over 52°C. In the summer, the usual daytime high is 44°C. In the hot summer months, most Kuwaitis escape the heat by staying indoors. They live in air-conditioned houses, work in air-conditioned offices, drive there in air-conditioned cars and shop in air-conditioned shopping centres. The shopping centre is the only public space in the city that people go to walk around. Outside, it's just too hot. On average, summer is hotter than in desert city Timbuktu, which sits on the edge of the Sahara.

Fortunately, Kuwait City is one of the richest cities in the world as well as being the hottest, so paying for the air conditioning is not a problem for most Kuwaitis. Modern Kuwait City is built on oil money so the majority of residents can stay out of the heat. Only those on lower incomes walk on the streets or use buses instead of a car.

Kuwait City started when a few fishermen set up their homes there in 1613. For the first one hundred years, it was primarily a fishing village. However, in the 1700s it grew quickly, becoming the main business centre for the movement of goods between India, Oman, Iraq and Arabia. Kuwait City was also the centre of boat building in the region.

From 1946, Kuwait City became even richer, thanks to the discovery of oil in the area. By 1952, the country became the largest oil producer in the area (it's Saudi Arabia these days). Residents of the city describe it as an exciting place to live, with people of numerous cultures and from many countries now calling it their home. So despite the heat, the city is alive and well!

2. Read the text and choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

MAN AND MACHINE

BY MARK RAVENS

Science and technology have developed a lot since the fifteenth century, when the artist Leonardo da Vinci drew mechanical figures that looked like men – the first known robot designs. Now, of course, robots are everywhere, from factories to space stations, and they safely carry out all sorts of tasks, from cutting the grass to performing surgery. However, until recently most of them haven't looked like humans at all, as Leonardo imagined, and they certainly haven't had feelings. But now all that is beginning to change.

Imagine a world in which robots not only look like us but also know our moods, and have feelings themselves. It might even be possible for robots to become our friends! Science fiction writers have written about a world just like that for many years, and scientists are now predicting that intelligent robots like these will exist quite soon. In fact, they've already produced one that recognizes sound, movement and touch. Its bright red heart, which you can see through its plastic body, beats faster if you are rough with the robot or shout at it. But its heart slows down if you are gentle with it. Although it can't talk, it's easy to believe the robot actually has feelings!

It's true that so far 'human' robots do not really move, talk or respond in the way we humans do, but they are becoming more advanced all the time. At some point in the future, a robot will definitely be created that may not look like us, but will be capable of doing anything that we can. And then we will truly be in the world of science fiction stories!

- 1 What does Mark say about da Vinci's robot drawings?
A The designs were amazing for their time.
B Some later designs were based on them.
C They were the earliest designs ever recorded.
- 2 In the first paragraph, Mark says that robots
A are used much more than before.
B already look like real people.
C can still only do basic tasks.
- 3 What does Mark say about science fiction writers?
A They have warned about the dangers of intelligent robots.
B The robots they have written about might soon be real.
C They are looking forward to having robots as friends.
- 4 Mark says that the robot with a heart
A realises what's happening around it.
B really has feelings.
C understands how other people feel.
- 5 In the final paragraph, Mark says he
A hopes that robots won't advance much further.
B believes that completely 'human' robots will only exist in stories.
C thinks that robots will one day do what humans do.