Nomads are people who move from place to place. In pre-industrial societies, they move to find fresh grazing for the animals on which they depend for their livelihood. You are going to listen to Nicola, a latter-day nomad, while you listen choose the best option for questions 1-7. Only ONE answer is correct.

1. …… regard Nicola as an unconventional person.
   a. The police
   b. Her neighbours
   c. Local authorities
   d. Other travellers

2. When Nicola left Birmingham, she and her husband …
   a. wanted to escape city life
   b. wanted to return to nature
   c. had somewhere particular to go to
   d. had a clear idea of how they would live

3. When Nicola started travelling, what did she have in common with the people she met?
   a. Skills
   b. Profession
   c. Aspirations
   d. Means of transport

4. The …… would be likely to shock a visitor to a travellers' camp.
   a. range of ages
   b. amount of noise
   c. variety of activities
   d. old-fashioned way of life

5. According to Nicola, being in such a community means …
   a. mutual support
   b. sharing the chores
   c. developing new skills
   d. having help with the children

6. What protection is there in the camp against intruders?
   a. Animals give warning
   b. Everyone is suspicious
   c. Guns are on hand for use
   d. One person keeps a look-out

7. Nicola believes that he lifestyle …
   a. produces little rubbish
   b. has benefits for the land
   c. would be enjoyed by others
   d. encourages respect for nature

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TRANSCRIPT AND KEY

Interviewer: So do you find that you get different reactions from different people in the community?

Nicola: Yeah. I am described as a lot of things by different people. To the police I'm a 'New Age'traveller, **to the local authorities I'm a 'camper' or 'hippy' (1C).**

Interviewer: And is this how you regard yourself?

Nicola: What I really am is the mother of three young children whom I wash, clean, feed and teach from 7.30 a.m. until 8.30 p.m. daily.

Interviewer: And where do you call home?

Nicola: We live in a beautiful old trailer pulled by a big old (and legal) truck. Before that my husband Richard and I rented a place in Birmingham, but we left there four years ago hoping to find somewhere more satisfying to live. **What we wanted was a place where we wouldn't be afraid of walking in the streets, where we wouldn't have to worry about our children inhaling heavily-polluted air every time we let them out to play, you know. We felt something was wrong, something was missing, so we went out searching for that missing something (2A)**.

Interviewer: And has it been worth it?

Nicola: Oh yeah, to our delight and surprise we found many beautiful uncultivated pieces of 'wasteland'. And many little places which had been forgotten about.

Interviewer: And were you and the family alone?

Nicola: Oh, no, not at all. **In these places we found many like-minded people (3C)**–there were ex-nurses, engineers, carpenters, financial consultants, social workers… there was even a vicar. They were living in converted trucks, buses, horse boxes, trailers, you know, wagons pulled by horses. **All were seeking a different way of life –a better way of life away from the madness of modern living (3C)**.

Interviewer: What's it like entering a travellers' camp?

Nicola: Well, anyone entering a travellers' camp for the first time must be prepared for the culture shock. **It's a, it's a bit like I imagine it would be stepping back into the sixteenth century (4D)**, yet seeing people working with twentieth century tools. The people will be wearing colourful old clothes and often have windswept hair and dirty faces. There'll be a fire heating a large iron kettle –someone cooking, somebody singing, a mother quietly nursing her baby, children playing loudly and perhaps the sound of someone playing a whistle or a violin. You'll find a close community who look after one another, working with others to survive, you know?

Interviewer: Sounds idyllic.

Nicola: Well, it is but life this way is very hard. Each day we need wood for warmth and cooking, and sometimes we have to walk far to find dead wood which we'll then carry home, saw and axe into suitable pieces. Then there is the water to fetch and the washing to do. These are our daily chores whichhave to be done. In warm weather, these activities can be a pleasure since you get to see the land around you and watch it change through the seasons. But the winters are not so kind to us. I've been through more than one I'd like to forget, I can tell you. **But that is when you really appreciate being amongst the community. You have to pull together. Everyone has a part and you're all equal (5A)**.

Interviewer: Do you have to watch out for intruders?

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Nicola: **No strangers can come amongst us without being heard by the horses or the dogs or the geese. They'll be watched, scrutinized and sometimes turned away (6A)**. But they might also be led to the fire and given food to eat and something to drink. We are always suspicious of the police, of the council and locals with shotguns. We have been hurt, yeah, many times. So sometimes we hide. If we are seen, we'll be moved and every time we move, well, we have problems.

Interviewer: So what is the compensation for you?

Nicola: **Well, I believe our way is one of the most environmentally acceptable ways to live today. Staying only briefly in places, we use the land only a little, and the land will soon right itself when we are gone. We make use of dead wood in the locality which makes room for new trees and plants to grow and we often plant trees ourselves (7B)**. We use water sparingly. We collect and recycle other people's rubbish. You should never be able to tell where responsible travellers have lived. Nomadism is a valid way of life yet we, like this planet, are in danger of extinction. Surely this is wrong.

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