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FACULTIES TEST 2
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READING 10 POINTS

Computer technology and happy cows

Cows that milk themselves? This is not science fiction, but a product of twenty first-century technology. Farmers and scientists have created a farm where the cows choose when they want to be milked using a computerised automatic milking system. As long as they turn up for milking at least once a day, the cows are free to do whatever they like. But how does it work? The animals are first attracted into the building by automated devices like skin-brushing and scratching machines, which they enjoy using. Nearby, there's a robot, which scans a microchip in the cow's collar. The chip holds information about the cow's milking history and health. If it needs to be milked, the robot machine starts the milking process, while feeding it with a protein and energy supplement at the same time.



Farmers who use this computerised milking system are very enthusiastic about it. One British farmer we interviewed told us, 'It's amazing how the cows take to it and it's certainly the biggest step forward for dairy farmers in the last thirty years.' There are now more than eight thousand farms in over twenty-five countries around the world using the new system. People who support it say the system not only saves time and money, but also shows respect for the cows by allowing them to manage their own lives. However, others claim it's just another form of 'factory farming', and has a negative effect on the animals.

Read the text below and underline the correct answer, a), b) or c), opposite.

1 Self-milking cows are ____.

- a) expected to become a thing of the future b) in existence at this moment in time c) going to evolve naturally

2 The new system has been created ____.

- a) by agriculturally-orientated scientists b) through cooperation with farmers c) as a result of researching cows' behaviour

3 Much of the time ____.

- a) milk goes to waste b) cows do their own thing c) the scratching facility doesn't function

4 Robots are essential for ____.

- a) keeping data records up-to-date b) scratching and brushing the cows c) attracting the cows into the milking area

5 ____ after having its collar scanned.

- a) Not every cow is given supplements b) Each cow automatically gets milked c) A cow doesn't always gets milked

6 One British farmer ____ for thirty years.

