

PART 4

You should spend about 20 minutes in this part.

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

Choose **no more than five words and/or a number** from the text for each answer.

The Penang Trishaw

Penang's transit system was created by hundreds of trishaws, long before taxis and public buses arrived. These three-wheeled carriages were a regular sight and an important means of transportation in George Town, the state capital, in the 1950s.

Trishaws have become less common these days, progressively being replaced by cars and motorcycles. However, the cars have discovered other creative methods to blend in with the people and culture of the city.

In Penang, trishaws were first introduced in 1935. While the local Malays refer to them as "beca," a Malay word taken from Hokkien dialect that means "be-chia" or horse carriage, the Hokkien Chinese call them lang-chhia. At their height, there were about 2000 of these carts, which served as George Town's primary means of transportation before cabs, buses and cars.

Food and merchandise are now transported throughout the island using trishaws and tricycles, their brothers. Both of them have also been immortalised in the city's well-known street art, which was introduced in 2011 by the young Lithuanian artist Ernest Zakarevich. Since then, Penang's street art has grown to be a popular tourist destination.

The city's thriving tourism industry, which sustains these attractions, has given today's trishaw drivers a consistent stream of customers. George Town's economy has always relied heavily on tourism; in 2008, the city was named a UNESCO World Heritage site, elevating its stature as a popular travel destination for both domestic and foreign tourists. When the first weekend interstate travel began in October 2021, hotel occupancy shot up to 70%. Since Malaysian borders reopened in April, there have been more planes and passengers.

It can be exhausting for those who are not used to the tropical heat to stroll about George Town. Trishaw drivers are familiar with all of the best hotels, and they frequently set up trips that begin at the lodging and take passengers to the city's most important historical attractions. The city comes alive at night as legions of decorated trishaws transport tourists and the memories of a bygone era of travel.

It offers many visitors an opportunity to view the city from a new angle. A visitor from Quebec named Mrs. Ines mentioned how much she liked riding in trishaws since they offered an alternative viewpoint and helped carry on a long-standing custom. However, it also draws attention to the difficulties the drivers face.

Owners hire out their trishaws to most riders on a weekly or monthly basis. Due to travel restrictions and lockdowns, the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted business, as visitor traffic to the city decreased. After losing their jobs and their homes due to the pandemic, a number of drivers have taken to sleeping in their trishaws, and some are unable to afford to eat a full meal every day.

(Adapted from: <https://southeastasiaglobe.com/the-penang-trishaw-survivors-of-a-unique-tradition/>)

25. In the 1950s, trishaws were _____ and a significant mode of transportation in George Town, the state capital.
26. These days, trishaws are less widespread as _____ gradually take their place.
27. These carts, which were the main mode of transportation in George Town prior to taxis, buses and vehicles, had a peak population of roughly _____.
28. The city's renowned street art, which was unveiled in 2011 by _____ Ernest Zakarevich, has also immortalised trishaws and tricycles.
29. The tourism industry has long played a major role in George Town's economy; the city was recognised as a _____ in 2008.
30. Trishaw drivers usually arrange journeys that start at the accommodation and take customers to the most significant _____ in the city.
31. The Covid-19 pandemic negatively affected commerce because of _____, which resulted in a decline in tourist visitation to the city.
32. Many drivers have shifted to sleeping in their trishaws after losing their jobs and houses as a result of the _____.

Questions 33 and 34

Complete the table below with a **word** from the text.

For each question, write your answer in the space provided on your answer sheet.

Meaning	Word
33. substituted	
34. raising	

[10 marks]