Cambridge Advanced - READING AND USE OF ENGLISH PART 6

You are going to read four news reports about an abandoned baby. For questions 1 – 4, choose from the reviews A – D. The reviews may be chosen more than once.

Artice A

It has been alleged that the mother charged with attempted murder after dumping her newborn baby into a drain has admitted to abandoning the baby boy. The woman remains in custody after bail was formally refused at Blacktown Local Court .

The newborn baby was discovered by passing cyclists on a day when temperatures surpassed 40 degrees Celsius. Mr Otte, who discovered the baby and only cycles the route once a month, said, 'That baby had no chance if we and the other people hadn't been there. Something made us find that baby today'.

The child was already undernourished, and dehydration would have taken effect and the baby would not have survived the day.

Passersby outside court cried 'shame' as the accused woman's relatives crossed the street in Blacktown.

Article B

A woman has been charged with the attempted murder of her newborn son, who was left in a drain on Tuesday before being discovered the following Sunday. The incident has shocked us all. In the searing heat, the baby had little chance of survival, and the mother must have been aware of this as she callously shoved him through the tiny gap, dropped him into the darkness and left him to his fate. But although crimes like this are a rarity, they don't happen in isolation. Australia criminalises child abandonment, thus making it nigh on impossible for a depressed mother to give up her infant without causing it harm. Meanwhile pregnant women are shuffled through the system, rarely seeing the same caregiver twice. This model of care treats the pregnancy, but ignores the patient, and it is this ill-equipped, indifferent system that makes a crime this one possible.

Article C

A mother has been charged with attempted murder after she allegedly abandoned her newborn son in a roadside drain, police confirmed today. The baby had been alone in the deep drain for five days when, by a stroke of luck, cyclists caught the faint sound of his muffled cries above the heavy noise of motorway traffic. Sweltering temperatures in Sydney have settled around 30C over the past week and it is believed the week-old boy would have died had he not been found. Karen Healy, National President of the Australian Association of Social said that this was a highly unusual case, as parents who abandon their children tend to do so in high-traffic areas like churches or hospitals where the child will be taken care of. This scenario, in which the mother clearly wanted the baby to be hidden and it was only by the grace of God that the infant survived, suggests an element of shame or possible mental illness which was not heeded by pre- and post-natal health providers. The 30-year-old mother is currently receiving therapy while she remains in police custody.

Article D

A newborn baby boy has been rescued from an eight-foot drain beside a bike track in Australia after passing cyclists heard the sounds of wailing. Graham Bridges, who was among the people who helped rescue the baby, walked the bike track regularly and said it was usually very popular with riders on a Sunday morning. Inspector David Lagats said 'We all thought the worst but he's still alive. It was a long drop down, but he's wrapped up pretty well, so that will have cushioned his fall.' The concrete moulding of the drain formed a layer of insulation which protected the baby from the weather, which, during the week, reached temperatures of thirty degrees. The baby was taken to hospital in a stable condition, thanks, in part, to the fact that newborn babies have reserves of fluids and body sugars which they can resort to as they adapt to the new way of feeding. Lisa Charet, from the state department of family and community services said she was concerned for the mother's welfare. "We can give her the help and support that she needs. She must be feeling enormously distressed if she feels that this is the only course of action available to her."

Which article:

a. differs from the others with regards to the threat to the baby's health?

b. shares the same attitude to the mother as article B?

c. shares article B's view that the mother was not entirely responsible for her actions?

d. shares article C's attitude towards the baby's rescue.

LIVEWORKSHEETS