

## Reading

### Textbook text

The following passage is a piece of factual writing. Read it carefully and then answer the questions that follow.

### The Channel Tunnel

Plans for an undersea tunnel joining Britain and France were first drawn up by a French engineer, Albert Mathieu, in 1802. The idea was to transport passengers by horse-drawn carriage. However, as hostilities developed between Britain and France the idea was dropped.

Nevertheless, people still thought about the possibility throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. After the invention of the railway, much thought was given to building a rail tunnel but as early trains were pulled by steam-powered locomotives there were significant practical problems with this idea, as well as the continuing fear that such a tunnel could be used for hostile invasions of both countries.

In the early 1870s, however, the Channel Tunnel Company Ltd started to dig shafts for a tunnel but the project was abandoned in 1875 when there was a change of UK government.

A hundred years later, in the early 1970s, work started again but was abandoned for economic reasons. At last, in 1985, it was finally agreed that the project would go ahead but would be funded privately and not by taxpayers. Various proposals were put forward both for road and rail tunnels and for different types of bridges. The outcome was that a rail tunnel, to be built by the Channel Tunnel Company, was chosen and construction began in 1988.

The tunnel was to run from Folkestone in South East England to Coquelles in Northern France. There would be two rail tunnels plus a central service tunnel. The project involved over 1500 workers and the total cost was around £4650 million (about \$7 billion).

The two ends of the tunnel finally met in 1990 and the tunnel was completed and opened on 6 May 1994. It carries both high-speed passenger trains (London to Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam), shuttles for cars and passengers and freight. All are electrically powered. At 23.5 miles (37.5 kilometres) in length, the Chunnel, as it is known, is the longest undersea tunnel in the world.

Now answer these questions. You should try to use your own words in your answers as much as possible.

- 1** Write down what you think the writer's purpose is in writing this text, and who their intended audience is. Say what evidence you have for your decision.

[illegible]

- 2 Suggest a reason why a rail tunnel was thought to be impractical in the nineteenth century.

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- 3** How many tunnels were eventually constructed?

- 4 a** How has the writer organised this article? Find each topic sentence and compare them to help you map out the structure.

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- b** Why do you think the writer has chosen to use this structure? Think about what the writer's purpose is in writing the text. Does this structure help them achieve it?

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- 5 State five facts given in the passage about the Channel Tunnel. **You should refer to the last three paragraphs only.**

- a

- b** .....

- C** .....

- d

- e .....

- 6 Look at the numbers *nineteenth* and *twentieth*. The suffix -th has been added to turn the numbers into adjectives. Using the same patterns you can see in those words, turn the following numbers into adjectives:

- a eighteen .....
- b eighty .....
- c eight .....

### Tourist guide text

Here is a piece of factual writing from the 'Hostelbookers' website. Read it carefully and then answer the questions that follow.

#### How to travel on a limited budget

The words 'cheap travel' can conjure up nightmare images of unreliable tour packages and cowboy hoteliers. And, for the unwary, this could indeed become reality, but it really needn't be the case for travellers on a budget!

- 5 With a little forward planning, you will find that less can indeed be more in the world of cheap travel; a bit of extra cash in your pocket can mean another week (or even two) of travels and adventures.

The number one rule when it comes to cheap travel is to do some homework and plan ahead. The biggest costs of travelling will be transport and accommodation, and it follows that this is also where the biggest savings can be made.

- 10 Booking in advance with budget airlines can save huge amounts, as can checking dates (and times) around your preferred time of travel to find the cheapest; airlines adjust prices according to demand and a flexible schedule can be a great way to find a great deal.

- 15 Accommodation prices are also often subject to variation; particularly depending where you book. Websites such as 'Hostelbookers' allow travellers to compare hostel prices quickly and find the best value options for cheap travel. Moreover, there's no additional booking fee charged on the price of a bed!

Hostels and cheap hotels can change their prices at any time so it can pay to book early, especially during the peak season. Conversely, prices can drop at the last minute, but usually only out of season.

- 20 However, there's more to cheap travel than booking and research from home. Once you're on foreign soil, the best bet is to find some local secrets, especially when it comes to eating and drinking. Don't be afraid to ask friendly locals, other travellers or the staff at your hostel for tips.

Sticking to a budget on your travels needn't hamper your trip; in fact, it can be an advantage. Staying around the spots geared towards tourism (and paying for the guidebook's 'top' attractions) can mean missing out on a real, authentic taste of the country or city where you're travelling. And stepping off the beaten track to find those low prices can be both exciting and rewarding!

## Reading

Now answer these questions. You should try to use your own words in your answers as much as possible.

- 1 a The writer has used several adjectives in the first sentence. List them here:

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- b Write out the sentence with the adjectives removed. Make sure you amend your grammar to fit the new sentence.

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- c Compare the two sentences. How do the adjectives help the writer make their point?

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- 2 According to the author, why should you use websites such as 'Hostelbookers'?

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- 3 Why do you think 'Hostelbookers' is mentioned by name in the article?

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- 4 What three groups of people should be consulted for advice once you are in a foreign country?

a .....

b .....

c .....

- 5 Explain what is meant by 'spots geared towards tourism'. Why should you avoid such spots?

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- 6 In the first column of the table, list the different pieces of advice given in the passage about how to travel cheaply. In the second column, state what can be gained by following these tips.

You should use only information given in the passage and answer using your own words. Try to list the points as concisely as possible. Continue on a separate piece of paper if you need to.

Budget travel advice	Benefits
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- 7 Compare the way the two passages 'The Channel Tunnel' and 'How to travel on a limited budget' set out to give information. In particular, you should consider the tone of the passages, the language used, the way the texts are structured and the audiences at which you think each was aimed. Remember to use references from each text to support your response.

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Key Skills

Parts of speech: nouns

- 1
- Remind yourself of the definitions of these types of nouns:
- common nouns

– proper nouns

– collective nouns

– abstract nouns.

Identify each noun used in the following paragraph and write it in the correct column in the table below.

It was Thursday, a normal day at school. Rohan and Shivane were in their classroom waiting for English, their favourite lesson, to begin. It was the last lesson before the morning recess. The class were reading a novel entitled *Emil and the Detectives* which they were all enjoying. It was full of suspense and excitement. The book was originally written in German and was set in Berlin, the capital city of the country. Rohan had been reading the book on the bus as he travelled to school that morning. He wanted to be a detective when he was an adult. He told Shivane of this ambition. She laughed and said that she liked the book because it told her about life and society in another country in an earlier time. She wanted to travel to Europe when she was older.

Common nouns	Proper nouns	Collective nouns	Abstract nouns

## Bias

A biased text is one that is unbalanced. Texts can be biased if they show only one side of an argument and ignore inconvenient facts.

A balanced text considers both sides of an argument equally, even if it gives an opinion in favour of one side or the other.

Compare these two passages. They are both written about the same football match.

### Pompeii Pompadours 4–0 Herculaneum Heroes

The impressive Pompeii has romped into the third round of the Vesuvius Cup after destroying an uninspiring Herculaneum.

After a fireball of a first goal from Claudia, Pompeii scored another with ease five minutes later. Herculaneum's Julius scored a comical own goal in the 52nd minute.

- 5 The Heroes' Augustus conceded a penalty after committing a disgraceful foul. Felix sent the penalty rocketing into the net.

### Pompeii Pompadours 4–0 Herculaneum Heroes

Pompeii has managed to edge into the third round of the Vesuvius Cup after a lucky day against Herculaneum.

- 5 After Claudia surprised everyone with a lucky tap, Herculaneum's goalie Lucia held her own well against a messy attack from Pompeii, and nearly held them off. Julius, usually fantastic, scored an unfortunate own goal in the 52nd minute.

Pompeii's Felix took advantage of a penalty that he was lucky to be awarded after a tackle by Augustus.

- 1 Each passage was written by a fan of one of the teams. Which team's fan wrote each article?

a .....

b .....

- 2 Write a new, balanced article describing the events of the Pompeii vs Herculaneum match. Think about which word choices in particular show bias, and what descriptions you will need to change or remove completely.

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## Paragraph structuring and linking

Here is an informative piece of writing consisting of five paragraphs about the Nile Delta in Egypt. You have been given the text of the first and last paragraphs; the topics of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4; and a list of points to be included in these paragraphs (labelled A–Q).

The points are jumbled up and you will need to reorganise them into the correct order and write the letters into the table to indicate which points will appear in each paragraph.

Once you have sorted the points under paragraph headings you should then write your own version of the article, making sure that you include all points in the list. You may change or adapt the wording of the points and should focus on producing paragraphs that link with each other and in which the sentences are linked internally.

You should think about using appropriate connectives to link your paragraphs and points; you will find a list of the most frequently used connectives on page 39 of this Workbook.

### Paragraph 1

The fertile region known as the Nile Delta has for thousands of years provided much of Egypt's food. Over 4000 years ago, the inhabitants of the area developed irrigation systems so that they could increase the area of land in which crops could be grown to support the population. Important crops such as beans, cotton, wheat and flax grew freely in the soil and could be stored easily.

5 Paragraph 2: The Nile in ancient times

Paragraph 3: The Nile in the present day

Paragraph 4: Problems and concerns

### Paragraph 5

The Nile River, nevertheless, remains an important trade route, which links Africa with markets in the rest of the Northern Hemisphere.

### Points to be included

- A** Ideal for growing papyrus
- B** Canals have been dug to bring its water to and from cities
- C** The richness of the soil of the Nile Delta comes from the river's deposits of silt and sediment
- D** This results in the Delta area shrinking as a result of erosion
- E** The river supports agriculture and fishing
- F** Dams have been built to make navigation easier
- G** The annual flooding of the Nile no longer occurs
- H** It continues to play an important role in transportation
- I** Dams, such as the Aswan High Dam also are used for hydroelectric power
- J** Inhabitants used the river's natural resources for their own purposes and to trade with others
- K** The water is now becoming increasingly polluted

- L** The richness of the soil of the Nile Delta comes from the river's deposits of silt and sediment
- M** The building of the Aswan Dam has prevented this sediment flowing into the Delta area
- N** The river was also crucial for bathing, drinking and transportation
- O** Used for many purposes: cloth making, rope and most importantly paper
- P** The silt is now building up behind the Dam
- Q** 95 per cent of Egyptians still live in close proximity to the Nile

Paragraph 2	Paragraph 3	Paragraph 4

Writing

Write a one-page information leaflet for students joining your school. The leaflet’s purpose is to help them in their first week at their new school and it should contain only **facts**. You should include information and advice about: times of the school day; getting around the school; what happens at break and lunch times; key school rules, and so on.

Consider what organisational features you could use to suit your chosen purpose, such as headings, bullet points and numbered lists.

Remember to adjust the tone and voice of your writing to suit the audience and think about which words will help to clarify your message clearly.

Plan your work in the space below and then design your answer on the computer. Think carefully about how the layout of your leaflet will help to make the information on it clear and easy to read.

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