Read the texts below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

1

The internet bus

In the desert areas that (0) Tucson city, USA, students spend hundreds of hours on yellow buses each year getting to and from their schools. But when mobile internet equipment was (1) **installed** on a yellow school bus, the bored, often noisy, teens were (2) **transformed** into quiet, studious individuals.

District officials got the idea during (3) **occasional** drives on school business to Phoenix, two hours each way, when they (4) **realised** that, when they went in pairs, one person could drive and the other could work using a laptop and a wireless card. They (5) **wondered** if internet access on a school bus could (6) **improve** students’ academic productivity, too.

But the idea for what students call 'the internet bus' really (7) **formed** when the district's chief information officer (8) **came** across an article about having internet access in cars. He thought, 'What if you could put that in a bus?'

The officials have been delighted to see the (9) **number** of homework getting done, morning and evening, as the internet bus (10) **rides** up and drops off students along the 10-minute drive. (11) **Although** some students spend their time playing games or visiting social networking sites, most students do make (12) **use** of their travel time to study.

For Nigel Portman, a love of travelling began with what’s (0) a ‘gap year’. In common with many other British teenagers, he chose to take a year out before (1) **settling down** to study for his degree. After doing various jobs to (2) **raise** some money, he left home to gain some experience of life in different cultures, visiting America and Asia. The more adventurous the young person, the (3) **stronger** the challenge they are likely to (4) **place** themselves for the gap year, and for some, like Nigel, it can (5) **cause** in a thirst for adventure.

Now that his university course has (6) **come** to an end, Nigel is just about to leave on a three-year trip that will take him (7) **around** the world. What’s more, he plans to make the whole journey using only means of transport which are (8) **powered** by natural energy. In other words, he’ll be (9) **using** mostly on bicycles and his own legs; and when there’s an ocean to cross, he won’t be taking a (10) **brief** cut by climbing aboard a plane, he’ll be joining the crew of a sailing ship (11) **instead** .

As well as doing some mountain climbing and other outdoor pursuits along the way, Nigel hopes to (12) **keep** on to the people he meets the environmental message that lies behind the whole idea.
TRAFFIC IN OUR CITIES

The volume of traffic in many cities in the world today continues to expand. This causes many problems, including serious air pollution, lengthy delays, and the greater risk of accidents. Clearly, something must be done, but it is often difficult to persuade people to change their habits and leave their cars at home.

One possible approach is to make it more expensive for people to use their cars by increasing charges for parking and bringing in tougher fines for anyone who breaks the law. In addition, drivers could be required to pay for using particular routes at different times of the day. This system, called "road pricing," is already being introduced in a number of cities, using a special electronic card placed on the windscreen of the car.

Another way of dealing with the problem is to provide cheap parking on the outskirts of the city, and strictly control the number of vehicles allowed into the centre. Drivers and their passengers then use a special bus service for the final stage of their journey.

Of course, the most important event is to provide good public transport. However, to get people to give up the comfort of their cars, public transport must be felt to be reliable, convenient and comfortable, with fares at an acceptable level.

In the modern world, there is a wealth of leisure activities to choose from. Entertainment industries compete for your leisure time. You can watch TV, listen to music, go to an art gallery or concert or, of course, read a book. Sometimes it seems that reading is neglected because, even if you're a fast reader, it can take a considerable amount of time to finish a novel, for example. But in the modern world, time is something that can be in short supply.

Book publishers haven't been slow to realise this and are now selling a product which needn't take up as much of your time but still tells you an excellent story. The new product is the audiobook - cassette recordings of shortened novels, often read by well-known personalities or the authors themselves. Audiobooks are relatively new but people are becoming more aware of them and sales are increasing ever since then.

One of the attractions of audiobooks is that they're listening to the radio, only better. You can listen to what you want when you want, and you won't ever do anything. Much of their appeal lies in their flexibility. They allow you to do other things while you're listening, such as driving or the housework. For some people, audiobooks can be a much more enjoyable way of gaining knowledge than reading.
In 1885, a Frenchman, Charles Pathè, created what later became France’s most successful film studios. By 1907, the company had (0) ___________ and had studios in France, Britain, Germany, Italy, Spain and the USA. What seems surprising now that Hollywood dominates the film (1) ___________ is that a French company (2) ___________ itself so well in the USA. Pathè was one of the main film companies there at that (3) ___________.

However, (5) ___________ Pathè was big in the USA, it was a giant in Europe. In 1913, the year before the First World War (6) ___________. Pathè made no fewer than three hundred films. But the war affected the company (7) ___________. Shortages of staff and equipment led to big (8) ___________ in production, and by 1918 output had (9) ___________ to sixty-three films. From then on, Pathè (10) ___________ on making fewer films of (11) ___________ length and better quality.

Pathè was the first company to put out regular news films, which it started doing in 1903. Each film (11) ___________ of six news items. From (13) ___________ on, Pathè’s news department had branches all over Europe and later all over the world. By the 1970s, TV news had completely (14) ___________ the role of cinema news films and so the company stopped making them. Today, Pathè is chiefly (15) ___________ in TV, cinema and new video technology.

6 MARKETS

In practically any country in the (0) ___________ you are (1) ___________ to find a market somewhere. Markets have been with us since (2) ___________ times, when people became self-sufficient and needed to exchange the goods they produced. For example, a farmer might have exchanged a cow (3) ___________ tools and so on. But just as times have (4) ___________ so have market practices. So, (5) ___________ in early times the main activity (6) ___________ with markets would have been ‘bartering’, meaning the exchange of goods as described (7) ___________. today most stall-holders wouldn’t be too (8) ___________ on accepting potatoes as payment, for instance, instead of cash.

In contrast, what might be a common (9) ___________ in a modern market is a certain amount of ‘haggling’, where customer and seller eventually (10) ___________ on a price, after what can sometimes be quite a heated debate. This has become so popular in certain places that many people think that this is what makes the (11) ___________ atmosphere of a market. But (12) ___________ as no two people are the same, no two markets are the same either, and so behaviour which is expected in one market in one country may not be (13) ___________ in another. Even within one country, there are those markets where you could haggle quite (14) ___________ and those where you would be (15) ___________ not to try!

KEYS:
EX 1 A - 2 D - 3 B - 4 D - 5 D - 6 A - 7 B - 8 C - 9 B - 10 B - 11 C - 12 C 
EX 2 A - 2 B - 3 C - 4 B - 5 A - 6 A - 7 D - 8 D - 9 A - 10 B - 11 C - 12 C 
EX 3 A - 2 D - 3 A - 4 B - 5 C - 6 C - 7 D - 8 B - 9 A - 10 C - 11 C - 12 D - 13 B - 14 C - 15 B 
EX 4 A - 2 D - 3 C - 4 D - 5 D - 6 B - 7 A - 8 D - 9 B - 10 C - 11 C - 12 D - 13 B - 14 A - 15 C 
EX 5 A - 2 D - 3 A - 4 C - 5 D - 6 B - 7 A - 8 C - 9 C - 10 D - 11 B - 12 A - 13 C - 14 D - 15 A 
EX 6 A - 2 D - 3 A - 4 A - 5 D - 6 A - 7 B - 8 B - 9 C - 10 D - 11 D - 12 C - 13 A - 14 D - 15 B 
EX 7 A - 2 D - 3 A - 4 B - 5 C - 6 B - 7 A - 8 C - 9 B - 10 B - 11 C - 12 D - 13 B - 14 C - 15 B 
EX 8 A - 2 D - 3 A - 4 B - 5 C - 6 B - 7 A - 8 C - 9 B - 10 B - 11 C - 12 D - 13 B - 14 A - 15 C 
EX 9 A - 2 D - 3 A - 4 B - 5 C - 6 B - 7 A - 8 C - 9 B - 10 B - 11 C - 12 D - 13 B - 14 A - 15 C 
EX 10 A - 2 D - 3 A - 4 B - 5 C - 6 B - 7 A - 8 C - 9 B - 10 B - 11 C - 12 D - 13 B - 14 A - 15 C 
EX 11 A - 2 D - 3 A - 4 B - 5 C - 6 B - 7 A - 8 C - 9 B - 10 B - 11 C - 12 D - 13 B - 14 A - 15 C 
EX 12 A - 2 D - 3 A - 4 B - 5 C - 6 B - 7 A - 8 C - 9 B - 10 B - 11 C - 12 D - 13 B - 14 A - 15 C 
EX 13 A - 2 D - 3 A - 4 B - 5 C - 6 B - 7 A - 8 C - 9 B - 10 B - 11 C - 12 D - 13 B - 14 A - 15 C 
EX 14 A - 2 D - 3 A - 4 B - 5 C - 6 B - 7 A - 8 C - 9 B - 10 B - 11 C - 12 D - 13 B - 14 A - 15 C 
EX 15 A - 2 D - 3 A - 4 B - 5 C - 6 B - 7 A - 8 C - 9 B - 10 B - 11 C - 12 D - 13 B - 14 A - 15 C 

0 A planet B world C earth D globe 
1 A safe B confident C definite D sure 
2 A ancient B antique C old D past 
3 A into B by C for D over 
4 A changed B turned C developed D differed 
5 A however B despite C nevertheless D whereas 
6 A associated B relating C connecting D attached 
7 A over B above C upper D higher 
8 A fond B keen C eager D pleased 
9 A look B appearance C sight D view 
10 A confirm B consent C approve D agree 
11 A sole B single C only D unique 
12 A even B so C just D such 
13 A acceptable B convenient C comfortable D receptive 
14 A simply B plainly C clearly D easily 
15 A informed B advised C noticed D suggested