

# Mini-texts

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Read through each text and decide which of the four alternatives agrees best with the meaning of the text. Mark your choice by writing one of the letters A, B, C or D in the appropriate boxes.

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## 1 Early Learning

Girls arrive in primary schools with a much stronger grasp than boys of the alphabet, numbers and every other aspect of early learning, the Government's curriculum advisers report.

The text tells us that...

- A when they start school, girls are ahead of boys in all areas.
- B primary schools are told by the Government to change the curriculum.
- C when they start school, boys seem ahead of girls in certain respects.
- D the Government advises that girls should start school earlier than boys.



## 2 Butterflies



Few creatures are better environmental barometers than butterflies, and naturalists believe that an influx of butterfly species in recent years may indicate that global warming is a reality.

It is suggested that...

- A due to the greenhouse effect, certain butterflies are disappearing
- B the large number of butterflies indicates a climatic change
- C in recent years some kinds of butterflies have become larger
- D butterflies have been used as barometers by researchers

## 3 Air Quality

All new petrol and diesel cars and vans will have their exhaust emissions cut by half in 18 months in an attempt to improve city air quality following a new European directive on the quality of petrol and diesel fuels.

The news is that ...

- A in 18 months, European cities must cut pollution by half.
- B the number of cars and vans in European cities will be reduced.
- C in future, European city dwellers will hopefully breathe cleaner air.
- D an EU directive has led to cleaner air in the cities.

### Answers

1     2     3

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## 4 Outlook

Despite figures showing a drop in the number of people unemployed and claiming growing benefit, evidence from industry suggests a lot of problems in the pipeline.

We are told that...

- A the economy is not as good as it may seem
- B oil pipelines are causing a lot of trouble
- C the unemployed are demanding more money
- D we can look forward to economic growth

## 5 Time is Money



Crossing the North Pole will become as routine as crossing the Atlantic when Russia opens its Arctic airspace to foreign flights, resulting in dramatic savings in time and money for travellers from Europe and North America to Asia.

The news is about...

- A new Russian flights between Europe, North America and Asia.
- B dramatic flights across the North Pole.
- C regular inexpensive air traffic across the Atlantic.
- D new routes for international air travellers.

## 6 Black and White

Black women have overtaken black men and white women in the pay stakes, according to figures from the Employment Policy Institute, but overall ethnic minorities are less likely to be employed and earn less than white counterparts.

According to the text, statistics from the EPI (Britain) show that...

- A most working women in Britain are underpaid.
- B black women earn less than their white counterparts.
- C compared to white people, non-whites face a tougher labour market.
- D people of different races are usually fairly treated.

### Answers

4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Points
6