
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1123/22

Paper 2 Reading

May/June 2016

INSERT

1 hour 45 minutes



READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This insert contains the two reading passages.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

Passage 1 – Bicycles

- 1 There are several early, but not proven, claims for the invention of bicycle-like machines. The earliest comes from a sketch from 1493 attributed to a pupil of Leonardo da Vinci. However, it has now been shown that this assertion was a deliberate fraud. Later, and equally unproven, was the claim that a French nobleman developed a bicycle-like machine in 1791; however, that claim is now thought to be a misinterpretation by a well-known journalist. 5
- 2 The forerunner of the modern bicycle was the Draisine, taking its name from its German inventor, Karl von Drais, who patented his two-wheeled method of transport in 1817. It was seen as a useful alternative to the horse, the numbers of which had been seriously depleted in various parts of the world through severe famine the previous year. The Draisine quickly became popular with young men who, because of their inordinate pride in their physical appearance, were called dandies, hence the nickname ‘Dandyhorse’ for this new fashion accessory. The later introduction of adjustable saddles meant that each Draisine did not need to be made to measure for each individual rider. However, as the rider sat astride the Draisine, with his feet on the pavement to propel him along, there were frequent complaints of damage to pavements and injury to pedestrians. 10 15
- 3 A major breakthrough came in the 1860s in Paris when a group of engineers devised pedals for these machines, now called ‘velocipedes’; riders could propel them by pushing their feet against the pedals instead of wearing out their shoes. A period of mass-production of the velocipede from 1857 to 1871 made them cheaper and thus accessible to more people. Because they were made of wood and ridden on cobblestones, they were given another nickname, ‘Boneshaker’; nevertheless their popularity increased and indoor riding academies sprang up in many big cities in France. 20
- 4 Velocipedes made of metal not wood resulted from improvements in metallurgy, the manufacture of metals, and increasingly comfortable velocipedes followed. A short-lived but important surge in the popularity of velocipedes came with the trend towards machines which had a much larger front wheel than back wheel, meaning that the rider could travel further with a single rotation of a larger, rather than a smaller, wheel. The high riding position was daunting but riders could first learn on lower velocipedes, which around this time came to be known as ‘bicycles’. Initially, tyres were made of wood and, later, metal, but the use of rubber tyres, solid and then pneumatic, gave the advantage of increased comfort. 25 30
- 5 In modern times, the bicycle continues to be popular. Unlike other methods of transport, which give off toxic emissions, cycling is environmentally friendly, partly solving the problem of polluting vehicles, particularly in big cities. The bicycle is also seen in many places as an inexpensive alternative to other means of transport such as bus, train and car. Cyclists can combine travelling to work with taking exercise, as cycling reduces the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, and obesity, all threats and preoccupations in the so-called developed world. So convinced are some people that cycling is good for them that they bypass the bicycle as a means of transport and spend time every day at home cycling nowhere on an exercise bike! 35
- 6 The bicycle also has recreational uses. Cycling holidays can be taken through organised tours as diverse as meandering through the English countryside, along the banks of German rivers, and through the Mekong Delta. Nowadays competitive cycling events are popular both for participants and for those who are entertained by watching events like the Tour de France each year and the Olympic Games every four years. BMX – Bicycle Motocross – is a modern and popular sport, which has given rise to customised bicycles for better performance and offers fun and fitness to those who participate. Olympic and Tour de France competitors raise the profile of cycling in particular, and exercise in general, and are good role-models, especially for young people. 40 45
- 7 In some developing parts of the world, the bicycle is a lifeline for children who would otherwise find it very difficult to get to school, and charities, for example ‘Bikes to Africa’, exist to help provide bicycles to such students. 50

Passage 2 – An Unusual Day

1 One morning I looked out of the window and nearly died of fright.

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smoking black hole in her yard.

Miss Maudie was left staring at the

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