

**PART I: ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS (70 points)**

Read the interview below and then answer questions 1-7.

**PARIS BECOMES A CITY OF BIKES**

One morning last July, the people of Paris woke up to discover bikes for rent at hundreds of stations throughout the city. Cyclocity, the company which runs the bike rental program, hopes it will cut traffic, reduce pollution, and help solve the city's parking problems. Our reporter spoke with David Nelkin from Cyclocity.

5 **Has your company ever run a project like this before?**

Yes, three years ago we began operating a similar program in the city of Lyon, and it has been very effective. There are fewer cars on the road, which means fewer traffic jams and cleaner air.

**The city of Amsterdam once tried something similar, didn't it?**

10 Yes, Amsterdam had a bike rental program in the 1960s, in which the city repaired hundreds of old bicycles and left them on the streets for anyone to use. Unfortunately, most of them fell apart or were stolen. But we've learned from that. Our engineers developed an extremely strong bike, and we're also using an electronic monitoring system to prevent theft. The same system is used to keep track of each bike's condition  
15 and location. This enables us to repair broken bikes quickly, and also to move bikes to where they are needed most.

**Do you think people in Paris will really leave their cars at home?**

Well, it's been proven that bikes are the fastest way to get around the city, and also the cheapest. In our program the first 30 minutes are free, and even people who rent a bike  
20 for two hours pay only \$5.20. That's less than you'd pay for parking your car in town for that long. And it's probably one of the reasons the program is so popular.

**So how do you see the future?**

I can really see this kind of business growing. Cities all over Europe and Asia are seriously considering the idea. As for Cyclocity, I'm convinced that within a few years  
25 you'll be able to rent our bikes in all the major cities in France.

(Adapted from "Paris Embraces Plan to Become City of Bikes," *Washington Post Foreign Service*,  
March 24, 2007)

**QUESTIONS** (70 points)

Answer questions 1-7 in English, according to the text. In questions 1, 3 and 7, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions.

1. What do we learn from lines 1-4 about the Paris bike rental program?

- (i) What the writer thinks of it.
- (ii) What kind of bicycles it uses.
- (iii) What its goals are.
- (iv) How it developed.

(8 points)

2. Give TWO benefits of bike rental programs. Take each benefit from a different paragraph.

- (1) .....
- (2) .....

(2×7=14 points)

3. Why does Nelkin mention the Lyon bike rental program?

- (i) To describe the history of bike rentals.
- (ii) To describe the future of bike rentals.
- (iii) To show that Cyclocity learns from its mistakes.
- (iv) To show that Cyclocity has experience in bike rentals.

(8 points)

4. What did Cyclocity learn from the bike rental program in Amsterdam?

PUT A ✓ BY THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.

- ..... i) How many bikes are needed.
- ..... ii) Who uses the bikes most.
- ..... iii) What kind of bike is needed.
- ..... iv) How to repair broken bikes.
- ..... v) Why it is important to monitor bikes.
- ..... vi) Where bikes should be placed.

(2×8=16 points)

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5. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

Nelkin answers the interviewer's third question by comparing .....  
to .....

(8 points)

6. Nelkin mentions "this kind of business" (line 23). What is he referring to?

ANSWER: .....

(8 points)

7. What can we understand from Nelkin's last answer?

- (i) He is optimistic about Cyclocity's future.
- (ii) He thinks Cyclocity needs new ideas.
- (iii) Cyclocity is worried about the competition.
- (iv) Cyclocity is active all over the world.

(8 points)

**PART II: WRITTEN PRESENTATION (30 points)**

Write 100-120 words in English on the following topic.

8. You have just taken part in a volunteer project. Write a letter to a friend abroad, telling him or her about it.

You may write about some or all of the following:

- \* Why you took part in the project.
- \* What kind of volunteer work you did.
- \* Why you did or did not enjoy the volunteer work.

**! בהצלחה**

Use this page and the next (nos. 5-6) for writing a rough draft.