

Other types of questions that may appear in the Reading Section

These questions are based on the following text.

Buses May Help Climate Battle in Developing Cities

- A** In Bogota, Colombia, like most major streets in booming cities of the developing world, the Seventh Avenue resembles a noisy, exhaust-coated parking lot; a traffic jam of cars and the old, smoke-puffing private minibuses that have long provided transportation for the masses.
- B** However, a few blocks away, sleek red vehicles full of commuters speed down the four center lanes of Avenida de las Américas. The long, segmented, low-emission buses are part of a novel public transportation system called bus rapid transit, or B.R.T. It is more like an above-ground subway than a collection of bus routes, with seven intersecting lines, enclosed stations that are entered through electronic barriers with the swipe of a fare card and coaches that feel like trams inside.
- C** Versions of these systems are being planned or built in dozens of developing cities around the world — Mexico City, Cape Town, Jakarta, Indonesia, and Ahmedabad, India, to name a few — providing public transportation that improves traffic flow and reduces smog at a fraction of the cost of building a subway.
- D** Furthermore, the rapid transit systems have another benefit: they may hold a key to combating climate change. Emissions from cars, trucks, buses and other vehicles in the booming cities of Asia, Africa and Latin America account for a rapidly growing component of heat-trapping gases linked to global warming. While emissions from industry are decreasing, those related to transportation are expected to rise more than 50 percent by 2030 in industrialized and poorer nations. Moreover, 80 percent of that growth will be in the developing world, according to data presented in May at an international conference in Bellagio, Italy, sponsored by the Asian Development Bank and the Clean Air Institute.
- E** To be effective, a new international climate treaty that will be negotiated in Copenhagen in December must include “a policy response to the CO₂ emissions from transport in the developing world,” the Bellagio conference statement concluded.
- F** Bus rapid transit systems like Bogotá’s, called TransMilenio might hold an answer. Now used for an average of 1.6 million trips each day, TransMilenio has allowed the city to remove 7,000 small private buses from its roads, reducing the use of bus fuel — and associated emissions — by more than 59 percent since it opened its first line in 2001, according to city officials.
- G** In recognition of this feat, TransMilenio last year became the only large transportation project approved by the United Nations to generate and sell carbon credits. Developed countries that exceed their emissions limits under the Kyoto Protocol or that simply want to demonstrate a “green” image, can buy credits from TransMilenio to balance their emissions budgets, bringing Bogotá an estimated \$100 million to \$300 million so far, analysts say. Indeed, the city has provided a model of how international programs to combat climate change can help expanding cities.
- H** “Bogotá was huge and messy and poor, so people said, ‘If Bogotá can do it, why can’t we?’ ” said Enrique Peñalosa, an economist and a former mayor of the city who took TransMilenio from a concept to its initial

opening in 2001 and is now advising other cities. In 2008, Mexico City opened a second successful bus rapid transit line that has already reduced carbon dioxide emissions there, according to Lee Schipper, a transportation expert at Stanford University, and the city has applied to sell carbon credits as well.

- I** With its wide streets, dense population and a tradition of bus travel, Bogotá had the ingredients for success. To create TransMilenio, the city commandeered two to four traffic lanes in the middle of major boulevards, isolating them with low walls to create the system's so-called tracks. On the center islands that divide many of Bogotá's two-way streets, the city built dozens of distinctive metal-and-glass stations. Just as in a subway, the multiple doors on the buses slide open level with the platform, providing easy access for baby strollers and older riders. Hundreds of passengers can wait on the platforms, avoiding the delays that occur when passengers each pay as they board.
- J** Mr. Peñalosa noted that the negative stereotypes about bus travel required some clever rebranding. Now, he said, upscale condominiums advertise that they are near TransMilenio lines. "People don't say, 'I'm taking the bus,' they say, 'I'm taking TransMilenio,'" he added, as he rode at rush hour recently, chatting with other passengers.
- K** TransMilenio is building more lines and underpasses to allow the buses to bypass clogged intersections, but for the moment the real challenge is overcrowding. Juan Gómez, 21, a businessman, takes TransMilenio only on days when he cannot drive, and he griped that it was often hard to find a seat. "It's O.K., but I prefer the car," he said.

Sentence insertion questions

These questions are based on paragraph D from the text, which is repeated below for you:

Furthermore, the rapid transit systems have another benefit: they may hold a key to combating climate change. **[A]** Emissions from cars, trucks, buses and other vehicles in the booming cities of Asia, Africa and Latin America account for a rapidly growing component of heat-trapping gases linked to global warming. **[B]** While emissions from industry are decreasing, those related to transportation are expected to rise more than 50 percent by 2030 in industrialized and poorer nations. **[C]** Moreover, 80 percent of that growth will be in the developing world, according to data presented in May at an international conference in Bellagio, Italy, sponsored by the Asian Development Bank and the Clean Air Institute. **[D]**

The following sentences can be added to the above paragraph. Where would they best fit in the paragraph? Write position A, B, C or D on your answer sheet for questions 1 and 2.

1. These gases include carbon dioxide, which is a by-product of burning fossil fuels such as diesel and gasoline.
2. Therefore, a bus rapid transit system can help in the battle against global warming.

Multiple choice questions – select one answer from four options

Choose the correct letter A, B, C or D.

1. What does the writer describe as distinctive about the TransMilenio?
 - A. center islands
 - B. stations
 - C. multiple doors
 - D. red buses
2. The writer describes the part of the road on which the TransMilenio runs as
 - A. tracks.
 - B. islands.
 - C. roads.
 - D. lanes.
3. According to Enrique Penalosa, what is an example of how the TransMilenio has shed the negative image of bus travel?
 - A. removal of negative stereotypes.
 - B. advertising near TransMilenio routes.
 - C. marketing of apartment buildings near TransMilenio routes.
 - D. politicians riding the TransMilenio.

Finding information questions

The text has 12 paragraphs marked **A to K**. Which paragraph contains the following information? You may use any letter more than once.

1. carbon emissions in poorer nations
2. the current problems faced by TransMilenio
3. a programme through which Bogota helps other cities with their carbon emissions
4. the projected increase in carbon emissions in the future

True/False/Does Not Say

According to the text, are the following statements True (T), False (F) or Does Not Say (DNS)?

1. The writer believes Bogota was a good option for this project because its people were used to travelling by bus.
2. It is cheaper for passengers to ride on Transmilenio than on a regular bus.
3. Enrique Penalosa has travelled on Transmilenio at the busiest time of day.

Short answer questions

CHOOSE NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR NUMBERS FROM THE TEXT for each answer.

1. What is Bogota's Bus Rapid Transit system comparable to?
2. What is the reported reduction in emissions in Bogota as the result of the bus rapid transit system?
3. What is the minimum estimated income that the TransMilenio has generated from selling carbon credits?
4. In which city is a new agreement on climate to be discussed?