

## Reading Part 4 – Multiple choice

## Teacher's notes and answer key

The following worksheet is intended to help your students prepare for Part 4 of the Reading paper of the Cambridge Preliminary exam. The tasks are taken from *PET Testbuilder* by Lucrecia Luque-Mortimer (Macmillan), and are designed to be used in class or for homework.

**Note:** The answer key below provides the correct answers (in italics, with excerpts from the text), as well as reasons why the other options are incorrect.

## Answer key

1. *C ... accompanying a postman, every day he ... one of the longest ... in the world.*
  - A He says it is long, difficult and expensive, but does not ask for support.
  - B He mentions the wild landscape, but this is not his main purpose.
  - D There are dangerous animals below, but his purpose is not to warn the postman about dangers.
2. *A To help with the cost, the plane takes three or four paying local people or tourists.*
  - B People pay 50 cents to send a letter to the outback (or to any other place in Australia). They don't pay to have it delivered to them.
  - C He says the system is expensive, but does not mention a different system.
  - D The sender pays the same amount (50 cents) to send a letter to the outback or to a neighbouring town.
3. *B ... this looks no more exciting than the post delivered to me in England.*
  - A He expects to see special items, but there are not any.
  - C He looks at the names, but doesn't say he can't read them.
  - D There is a pile of post, but he doesn't say it's disorganized.
4. *D I do miss actually going shopping.*
  - A She says there's not much that she can't get delivered.
  - B She looks forward to the weekly delivery but doesn't say she'd like it to be more frequent.
  - C Rowan checks the time but Sandy does not complain about the length of the visit.
5. *B ... sets off with his post bags in the tail of his little plane, hand-delivered by the flying postman to ...*
  - A Rowan checks the time because he knows he has many other stops. It is the writer who talks to the local person, so this is not the case.
  - C The writer says both tourists and local inhabitants can be passengers.
  - D The post plane is very small, but it is large enough for a pile of post at the back and a few passengers.

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Read the text and the questions below. For each question, choose the correct answer: A, B, C or D.

**The Australian Outback Post Plane**

Today I am accompanying Rowan Dougall, a postman in Queensland in the far north of Australia, on his daily delivery trip. Every day, Rowan sets off with his post bags in the tail of his little plane – not much bigger than a large family car – and flies across one of the wildest places on earth, Australia's Cape North, to reach the very remote inland areas called the Outback. We fly just 300 metres above dangerous crocodiles and snakes. This is one of the longest and most expensive postman trips in the world. However, a 50-cent stamp not only gets a letter posted to a neighbouring town, it will get it hand-delivered by flying postman to the furthest areas of the outback. To help with the costs incurred, the plane takes three or four paying local people or tourists, and I am one of them. In the back of the plane, there is a pile of post – envelopes of all sizes, newspapers, and a few parcels. Somehow I expected this post to look special, maybe to include some hats or cowboy boots, but this looks no more exciting than the post delivered to me in England. I look at some of the names and addresses, wondering about the people who are waiting for these letters and parcels. Rowan's route is 2,000 km long, with 15 stops, and I get a chance to meet Sandy, who has just received an order of clothes from a store. 'I look forward to this weekly delivery ... there's not much that you can't get delivered out here,' she says, 'but I do miss actually going shopping.' Rowan is checking the time. There are another ten stops to make before dusk. Time to leap back on the plane and up into the air.

- 1 What is the writer's main purpose in writing the text?
  - A to get more support for postal services in the outback
  - B to show the wild beauty of the Australian outback
  - C to describe postal delivery services in the outback
  - D to warn about the dangers to postmen in the outback
- 2 What does the writer say about the expense of delivering mail to Cape North?
  - A Passenger fares help to cover some of the expense.
  - B People in the outback pay 50 cents for a delivery.
  - C It may be possible to find a less expensive system.
  - D The sender pays more than the usual postage.

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- 3 What surprises the writer about the items of post on the plane?
- A Some of the items are very unusual.
  - B The items are similar to his own post.
  - C He can see no clear names on the items.
  - D The items seem to be disorganized.
- 4 When talking about the plane post service, Sandy says that:
- A there are many items that cannot be delivered to her.
  - B she would like the service to be more frequent.
  - C the mail plane does not stop long enough there.
  - D she would like to be able to do her own shopping.
- 5 What might the writer say to a friend when he gets back?
- A The delivery service could be faster if the postman spent less time talking to the local people.
  - B The postman has to fly the plane himself and deliver everything by hand.
  - C Tourists are keener than the local inhabitants to go as passengers on the post plane.
  - D The post plane is too small for the amount of post that has to be delivered.