DID YOU KNOW?

1 Read the text.

Is the car of tomorrow here today?

Most cars use petrol in their engines. When petrol is burned, it produces energy. This energy makes the engine work and so the car moves. But it also causes air pollution.

Twenty litres of petrol weigh about 13 kilos. When the car engine burns the petrol, the carbon in the petrol combines with oxygen in the air. This produces carbon dioxide. Twenty litres of petrol make about 43 kilos of carbon dioxide. This is very bad for the environment.

A hybrid car looks like a normal car. But it runs on petrol *and* electricity. Every time you brake, the energy from the braking goes back into the battery. This is called 'regenerative braking', because it generates more electricity. Most of the time the hybrid car uses petrol. But when you are driving uphill, the battery gives more power to the engine. And if you want to go a little bit faster, the battery gives a bit of extra power. This means the car uses less petrol than a normal car, saves the driver money and helps the environment.

The hybrid car has one more advantage – if it runs out of petrol, the battery can keep it moving for a few more kilometres – perhaps until you get to a petrol station!

2 Choose the correct answer to these questions.

1 What makes carbon dioxide?

a petrol and oxygen ☐
b petrol and carbon ☐
c carbon and oxygen. ☐

2 How do you charge the battery in a hybrid car?

a You use the energy from braking. ☐
b You plug it in. ☐
c You use petrol. ☐

3 Is the hybrid car:

a cheaper to run than a normal car? ☐
b more expensive to run than a normal car? ☐
c the same as a normal car to run? ☐

3 What do you think of hybrid cars? Do you think they are a good idea? Would you like to drive one?