



# Reading 11

*For questions 1–5 read the following extracts and choose the best answer A,B,C,D.*

A

The most populous metropolis of the Western hemisphere, New York is, depending on one's point of view any one of four cities: to social scientists it is a laboratory in which to study the challenges of urban life, from ghastliest slum to tycoon luxury; to tourist it is a city of jostling crowds, horn-honking traffic jams, dirty streets, smelly subways - all in dramatic contrast to such international symbols as the skyscraper skyline, the United Nations building, Wall Street, the Statue of Liberty, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Times Square and Broadway theatres; to commuters it is an enervating beehive of world trade and finance, mass media, business administration, fashion and associated entrepreneurial activities and manufacturing - a place to leave as soon as possible in the evening for the more serene atmosphere of greener suburbia.

B

Okay, so New York is crowded, dirty noisy and impolite! But it's one of the world's most exciting and beautiful cities and, surprisingly, a very human place. Other Americans often fear and dislike New York. With a typical shrug, New Yorkers dismiss this as a provincial jealousy. Fire sirens may wail all night while steam billows hellishly from manholes, the subway cars may be defaced by graffiti and people move faster than taxis. So what? New York is the place where it's all happening.

C

New York. If I leave my writing table in the hotel and go to the window I can look down on a corner of Central Park where I was jogging a short while ago.

Spring is still some weeks distant and it was cold out there. Squirrels, not birds, were most evident among the bare trees. The few early morning walkers - mostly with their dogs - were well-wrapped. The exercise followed by the hot, then cold shower that I returned to so stimulated my appetite for breakfast that I ate buckwheat pancakes with maple syrup to preface bacon and eggs.

Such enthusiastic self-indulgence is a vice I am more prone to in New York than in any other city in the world. Although this may owe something to the exercise, and something to that shedding of inhibitions which is one of the most evident consequences and rewards of travel, it owes yet more, I think, to a quality which is peculiar to New York itself.

D

He popular image of New York conjures up a jungle of muggers, dope addicts, and hustlers creating an obstacle course for the city's normal citizens. But the tourist will find that the Big Apple threatens only his budget. New York's menacing streets, while not entirely mythical, fortunately do not approach their notoriety. Common sense and an alert eye should insure the safety of all but the most reckless: steer clear of run-down neighborhoods (especially after dark) and keep to the more touristed parts of the city and trouble will not find you.

1 A feature of New York mentioned in both extracts A and B is

- a the comfortably humid heat of the streets
- b the spectacular height of buildings
- c the characteristic sound of the traffic
- d the writing on walls and public transport

2 In extract C, we understand that in New York the

- a enjoys taking exercise more than usual
- b prefers American breakfast to English ones.
- c is struck by the strangeness of the environment
- d is less restrained in his behavior than usual.

3 Extracts B and C share

- a relish for the city's particular character
- b an awareness of the city's imperfections.
- c a sense of the city's startling contrasts.
- d an appreciation of the beauty of the city.

4 In extract D, the writer points out that in

- a it is extremely difficult to get about.
- b it is easy to be cheated over prices.
- c the violence has been exaggerated.
- d the traffic can present a hazard.

5 In extract D, the reader is advised

- a to avoid going out at night.
- b to keep an eye open for crime.
- c not to run unnecessary risks.
- d only to drive in the city centre.

*Источник задания: финал Плехановской олимпиады школьников 2016/17*

# Reading 11 — Keys

1 c

2 d

3 a

4 c

5 c

## Explanation

A

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(5)