

MODEL READING EXAM SEPT 2017

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

Go Fly a Kite

- I Imagine zooming over the land or on water at speeds of up to 110 kph, powered only by the wind and a kite. It's thrilling! Just ask anyone who does kite-buggying or kite-surfing.
- II Most kite buggies are one-person, three-wheeled vehicles, made of lightweight metal. A large, curved kite on long lines, or strings, is attached to the vehicle or to the driver's safety belt. Drivers steer, accelerate, slow down and stop by manoeuvring the kite. Kite surfboards are shorter than ordinary surfboards, and have a place to hold the surfer's feet. Kite-surfers use similar kites to those used in kite-buggying, and control direction and speed in the same way.
- III Kite-buggying and kite-surfing have been around since the 1970s. But their roots are in ancient China.
It was there that kites are thought to have originated in about 400 BC. From there, kite-flying gradually spread throughout Asia and beyond. In some places, it developed into the sport of kite-fighting. In kite-fighting, competing kite-fliers coat kite strings with crushed glass and aim to cut each other's kite strings. This sport remains popular in many countries, including Afghanistan and Pakistan, and has attracted new fans in New York City and elsewhere.
- IV Using kites to power vehicles was tried as early as the 1400s, but it is George Pocock, an early 19th-century English inventor and teacher, who is considered the father of today's kite adventure activities. Pocock's experiments with kite power included sending one of his daughters up into the air in a kite-powered chair. However, his main interest was in replacing horse-drawn carriages with kite-powered ones. After building what was essentially the first kite-buggy, Pocock designed what he called a "Charvolant", a carriage that could hold six people. Powered by two kites, it had a top speed of about 32 kmph – faster than most horse-drawn carriages. However, the vehicle never caught on despite the publicity it received after Pocock demonstrated it to King George IV.
- V Pocock probably would have been delighted that modern kite-sport inventors used some of his ideas. And if you ever get the chance to try these adventure activities, don't pass it up. You won't regret it!

1 Complete the sentences.

- 1. Cutting an opponent's kite string is
- 2. As long ago as the 1400s, people
- 3. Most horse-drawn carriages didn't travel

2 Write T (true) or F (false). Find evidence in the text to justify your answers.

..... 1. Kite-surfers use traditional surfboards.

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..... 2. King George IV's interest in the Charvolant helped it become quite popular.

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3 Answer the question.

Why is George Pocock called the "father" of activities such as kite-buggying?

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4 Find words in the text that mean: (5 x 1 = 5 points)

1. moving very fast (paragraph I)

2. moving something in a certain way (paragraph II)

3. put a layer of something over something else (paragraph III)

4. to be capable of containing (paragraph IV)

5. very pleased (paragraph V)

5. Write a composition of about 100 words on the following topic.

- An activity yo did while you were on holiday.