

PARTE I - LÍNGUA INGLESA

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New York City's Mayor, Michael Bloomberg, is about to add a whole lot of greenery to the concrete jungle. He just announced a campaign to install green roofs, sidewalks and porous parking lots in order to capture excess rainwater and runoff. The idea comes as part of Bloomberg's PlaNYC goal of making 90% of New York City's waterways suitable for recreation — right now excess sewer and rain runoff is making them unsuited for fun. The proposed green surfaces would eliminate 40% of the existing runoff into the waterways and save taxpayers \$ 2.4 billion dollars over the next 20 years.

One of the problems the city must get around is its antiquated water system, which was built 150 years ago when the concept of pollution wasn't at the forefront of engineers' minds. Currently the system works fine, until it rains, when runoff and sewage are spewed into rivers, canals and the harbor. The proposed green roofs, sidewalks, and parking lots would be equipped to soak up at least an inch of rain — sometimes more — and would seriously reduce the need for costly water system infrastructure that is needed to stop the sewage from spewing all over New York City's waterways.

Currently the city's plan is to ramp up the technological infrastructure of the water system and use costly equipment to stop the spewing. This plan would cost \$ 6.8 billion; however, Bloomberg's initiative could accomplish the same goal at a fraction of the cost. Not only would the green roofs be less expensive but they'd save taxpayers money by keeping their water bills low — more infrastructure, more cost to the taxpayers. This is all part of Bloomberg's ambitious PlaNYC goals of cutting the city's emissions and cleaning its air and waterways. As with many of the PlaNYC initiatives, Bloomberg has just announced the strategy — details of how many green roofs and where they will be placed will come at a later date.

Brit Liggett. NYC Mayor Bloomberg Announces Green Roof Initiative. Internet: <www.inhabitat.com>.

Judge the following items according to the text above.

- 1 The pollution of rivers is not a concern in New York City if it is not raining.
- 2 The green roofs initiative is an attempt to fix an outdated system.
- 3 PlaNYC was designed to address different environmental problems.
- 4 The first place to benefit from the green roofs initiative will be Manhattan.
- 5 Mayor Bloomberg's green roof initiative consists of building more parks in New York City.
- 6 Without green roofs, New York City's taxpayers spend US\$ 2.4 billion a year.
- 7 The word "runoff" is a synonym for **wastewater**.
- 8 In New York City, the same system carries both rainwater and wastewater.
- 9 The current water system in New York City cannot be fixed to reduce pollution.



1 Visitors and Londoners will later this week have their
first chance to join the big city bike rental revolution.
Following in the path of Montreal, Paris, and Cardiff, London
4 mayor Boris Johnson is to unveil the Barclays Cycle Hire
scheme this Friday, and Londoners and visitors will have
access to almost-free bike hire in 30-minute bursts. Over the
7 past few weeks new docking stations have been appearing
across central London in readiness for the 6,000 bikes that will
be available for rent. The scheme is modelled on the Bixi
10 project that has become a big success in the Canadian city of
Montreal, and even uses similar bikes. Once you've paid a £1
a day access charge, the first half an hour's rental is free, and
13 you can make as many 30-minute trips in the day as you like
without paying a penny more.

From this Friday, and for the first month, it will only
16 be open to those who become members by registering online
and agreeing to pay £3 for a smartcard. After that period the
scheme will be opened to everyone. Once fully up and running,
19 spontaneous users will be able to go to one of the capital's 400
docking stations, enter their credit or debit card details, select
a bike and ride off. When they have finished that journey, they
22 deposit the bike at the nearest docking station. You can repeat
this as many times as you like during the day — or in the period
for which you have paid to access the bikes.

25 Transport for London, which is behind the scheme,
says it is aimed at those in the capital who need to make short,
repeated journeys, rather than longer rentals. Potential users
need to be aware that if they return their bike after their access
28 time has expired, they face a punitive £150 late return charge.
If the bike goes missing, or is damaged by the hirer — or
vandals — the hirer will have to pay up to £300 to cover the
31 loss. Punctures are considered wear and tear.

Miles Brignall. London joins the bike rental revolution.
In: The Guardian. Internet: <www.guardian.co.uk>.

Judge the items that follow according to the text above.

- 10 Users have to pay for damage to the bike even if they have not caused it themselves.
- 11 The expression "wear and tear" (ℓ.32) means **unacceptable**.
- 12 London's bike rental program is better than Montreal's.
- 13 The first 30 minutes of bike rental on a day are free. Then users have to pay a little more for each time they rent a bike again.
- 14 Those who plan to rent bikes for a whole month should pay £3.
- 15 Users will pay for the rent of the bike at the moment they will use it.
- 16 If users return a damaged bike after their access time has expired, they will pay at least £450.
- 17 Users do not have to leave the bike at the same station from which they rented it.
- 18 In the third paragraph, in the phrase "says it is aimed at those" (ℓ.26), the pronoun "it" refers to "Transport for London" (ℓ.25).



Internet: <www.hardrainproject.com>.

1 Mexico City once had the world’s worst air, with skies
 2 so poisonous that birds dropped dead in flight. Today, efforts
 3 to clean the smog are showing visible progress, revealing
 4 stunning views of snow-capped volcanoes — and offering a
 5 model for the developing world. International experts are
 6 praising the country’s progress. Many say its determined efforts
 7 to control auto emissions and other environmental effects of
 8 rapid urbanization offer practical lessons to cities in China,
 9 India and other fast-growing countries. Mexican officials have
 10 attacked the root causes of pollution that plagues many large
 11 urban centers with spiraling growth. They plan to further
 12 reduce vehicle emissions, which are the city’s greatest source
 13 of pollution. Pemex, the state oil monopoly, plans to build a
 14 US\$9.3 billion plant to produce low-sulfur fuel. Mexico City
 15 Mayor Marcelo Ebrard is expanding the low-emissions
 16 Metrobus system, which has eliminated 80,000 tons of carbon
 17 monoxide annually since 2005. Officials plan to add hybrid
 18 buses. A suburban train system is to replace hundreds of
 19 thousands of vehicles.

20 The potential payoff for such efforts is now in sight:
 21 Mexico City does not even rank among the top 10 polluted
 22 cities worldwide. Mexico City appears to have cut most of its
 23 pollutants at least by half, while recent studies show a number
 24 of cities in China and India recording higher levels of the most
 25 serious pollutants. In 1992, the United Nations declared
 26 Mexico City the most polluted on the planet. High ozone levels
 27 were thought to cause 1,000 deaths and 35,000 hospitalizations
 28 a year. Mexico was forced to act. It replaced the city’s soot-
 29 belching old cars, removed lead from gasoline, embraced
 30 natural gas, expanded public transportation, and relocated
 31 refineries and factories. Change was gradual, but the pace has
 32 quickened in recent years. The presence of lead in the air has
 33 dropped by 90 percent since 1990. Suspended particles –
 34 pieces of dust, soot or chemicals that lodge in lungs and cause
 35 asthma, emphysema or cancer – have been cut by 70 percent.
 36 Carbon monoxide and other pollutants also have been
 37 drastically reduced.

Anne-Marie O’Connor. Mexico City drastically reduced air pollutants since the 1990s. In: The Washington Post. Internet: <www.washingtonpost.com>.

Judge the items from 19 through 27 based on to the text above.

- 19 Before pollution reduction policies were introduced, a part of Mexico’s natural landscape could not be seen.
- 20 Mexico City has learned from experiences in China and India to implement its pollution reduction policies.
- 21 In the first paragraph, the pronoun “They” in “They plan to further reduce vehicle emissions” (l.11-12) refers to “large urban centers with spiraling growth” (l.10-11).

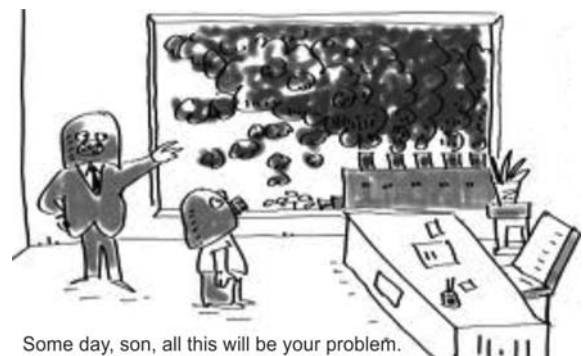
- 22 One of the solutions found to the pollution problem was the improvement of public transportation.
- 23 In the last paragraph, the verb “lodge” (l.34) conveys the same meaning as the verb **damage**.
- 24 The words “poisonous” (l.2), “smog” (l.3), “low-sulfur fuel” (l.14) and “soot” (l.34) convey the idea of “pollutant”.
- 25 In order to address the pollution problem, both the quality and type of the fuel used in Mexico City were changed.
- 26 Mexico City was able to reduce the emission of some pollutants by more than 50%.
- 27 Factories and refineries were built farther from the city to help solve the pollution problem.



Internet: <www.grinningplanet.com>.

From the analysis of the cartoon above, it is correct to say that

- 28 the cartoon suggests that the character refuses to accept the actual desertification of our planet.
- 29 the preposition “over” can correctly be replaced with **above**.



Internet: <www.theomahaproject.org>.

- 30 From the analysis of the cartoon above, it is possible to conclude that
 - A the characters’ faces have suffered from genetic mutation due to pollution.
 - B it will be the son’s responsibility to correct his father’s mistakes.
 - C the father has been working on a better future for his son.
 - D the son is helping the father to build a better future.

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