

Unit 4 Cross-curricular worksheet

Technology: High-speed trains

1 Look at the pictures. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each form of transport?

1



2



3



2 Read the text quickly. Which of your ideas from exercise 1 are mentioned?

(1) _____ Twenty years ago, most people used aeroplanes for long or international journeys and cars for shorter journeys. But nowadays there are a few reasons why people might decide not to go by plane. They might think about the cost to the environment or problems with airport security. Some air travel can be cheap, but travelling by train is becoming a more attractive option.

Aeroplanes are still faster, but trains can be more convenient because you depart from and arrive in the city centre. (2) _____

On a train, passengers are free to move around and work or study in peace. Trains can be more practical than cars, as the roads are becoming more congested. (3) _____

There are now modern high-speed train services in France, Japan and China. These trains can travel at 170–220 kilometres per hour. (4) _____. They are expensive to build, but they allow people to travel safely at speed.

Some of the modern trains use traditional technology, but many have a 'maglev' (magnetic levitation) system. These vehicles haven't got an engine – they float using electromagnets. They're much cleaner and safer than the trains of the past. (5) _____

How would you prefer to travel, by plane or train?

3 Translate these words from the text into your language. Use a dictionary to help you.

- 1 environment _____
- 2 security _____
- 3 convenient _____
- 4 depart _____
- 5 congested _____
- 6 expensive _____
- 7 engine _____
- 8 float _____

4 Match sentences a–e with 1–5 in the text.

- a The way we decide to travel is changing.
- b In 2007, the French TGV train broke a new record, travelling at an incredible 574 kilometres per hour.
- c They're quieter too.
- d Many airports are outside the city.
- e Parking is becoming more difficult and expensive too.