

BGE NYVK	B2	Reading Comprehension	
English for Business Communication		140 minutes (with Writing)	40 marks
Sample 4			

***Mark or write your answers on the task sheet first.
Then copy your answers on the Answer Sheet.***

Read the following texts and complete the tasks.

Text 1

Technology, stagnant wages and inflation threaten the future of the British high street

..... (1) the many retail and leisure groups who have recently run into some sort of trouble or required restructuring or retrenchment. You could, in a fantastical mall, stroll past some very well-known names. At the end of your long walk you might find yourself next to a substantial corner lot occupied by one of Vauxhall's car dealerships, a third of which are now set to close.

..... (2) been disappearing, much to the distress of many communities. Still, the scale and pace of the current crop of casualties seem exceptional, as well as the dearth of replacement activities. Where once the ex-banks could be readily converted into pubs, and a variety of often innovative bars and restaurants promised to breathe life into streets abandoned by traditional shops, now even those hopeful trends have been reversed.

..... (3) varied reasons for their problems, and those problems vary from mild overexpansion to calamitous debt and pensions obligations to strangely overlooked tax bills; yet together they symbolise the crisis on the high street.

..... (4) the squeeze on household incomes, with near-stagnant wage levels and bouts of relatively high inflation, has lasted since the financial crisis began a decade ago. Even with the British shopper's ingenious way of defying financial logic, and despite the Bank of England's attempts to put cheap money into borrowers' pockets, sooner or later there was bound to be a correction.

..... (5) hardly risen, the supply of everything from cupcake stands to sandwich outlets to classic vinyl has been expanding, pushing rents and wages higher. Huge retail developments are still looked on by desperate development agencies and local councils as the quick fix for any devastated post-industrial landscape. Once again, sooner or later this vast overcapacity was going to run into the reality of weak demand. No matter how smart the store or niche the outlet, the future is bleak, when overheads aren't being covered by healthy sales.

I.
1-5 | **Complete the text by choosing from list A)-F). You will not need one of the items.**

- A) For years banks, post offices and pubs have
- B) There are common and familiar problems;
- C) For the sake of the high street, we need
- D) Imagine a high street populated only with
- E) Of course, the various companies have widely
- F) While the money flowing into the high street has

Text 2

Making the most of an international trade fair

Our experts share their tips on finding the best overseas events and getting the most out of them.

Where to be seen

UK-based trade associations and(6) of commerce are good starting points for research into potential overseas events. They have vast experience of international markets and trade shows and will offer unbiased(7) on the best events for your products and services.

Cost the opportunity

Next, it's time to do the maths. What will attendance cost, and what sort of(8) on investment should you expect? You could get a better deal by sharing a stand and other expenses with other companies(9) from the UK.

Plan your presence

Weigh up the(10) merits of having a stand, getting involved in conference sessions, and taking part(11) the event. And don't forget(12) people you're going. 'Promote your presence at the show through media relations, show guides and social media.'

If you are going to(13) at the event, consider where your stand will be. Being present doesn't have to mean having(14) floor space. It's important to be seen at these events, but it isn't necessary to take a costly stand to(15).

II. 6-15 | Choose the best alternative A) B) or C) to fill each gap in the text.

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 6. A) councils | B) authorities | C) chambers |
| 7. A) advice | B) advices | C) advise |
| 8. A) income | B) refund | C) return |
| 9. A) visit | B) visiting | C) visited |
| 10. A) relate | B) relative | C) relatively |
| 11. A) for | B) to | C) in |
| 12. A) to tell | B) telling | C) tell |
| 13. A) exhibit | B) display | C) portray |
| 14. A) desperate | B) dedicated | C) defined |
| 15. A) participate | B) take apart | C) perform |

Text 3

Waymo announces major expansion in self-driving cars

With a top rival reeling, the self-driving car unit, Waymo, launched by Google has announced a massive expansion.

Waymo said it would partner with Jaguar Land Rover to design an electric self-driving vehicle. Up to 20,000 of the new cars would join a driverless transportation service Waymo plans to launch later this year.

‘This is the self-driving car that car lovers have been looking for’, Waymo CEO John Krafcik said at a press conference, adding it would offer ‘a safe and delightful experience for our passengers’.

The company has already sent self-driving cars ferrying passengers around the Phoenix, Arizona area, and last year took a significant step by deploying autonomous cars there without human backup drivers.

By joining forces with a legacy car manufacturer, Google intensified its efforts to dominate the emerging autonomous vehicle industry - and effectively issued a challenge to top competitor Uber, whose self-driving car initiative is beset by crisis.

Days before Waymo unveiled the new initiative, a woman crossing the street in Arizona was killed by an autonomous vehicle operated by Uber, believed to be the first such death. Uber has suspended its self-driving car tests in response and Arizona Governor Doug Ducey has barred the company from operating autonomous cars on the state's roads.

III. | **Complete the following sentences according to the text in no more than**
16-20 | **5 words.**

- 16.** The extent of expansion of Waymo-Jaguar partnership:
- 17.** The feeling Mr Krafcik promises passengers:
- 18.** Last year self-driving cars were driven
- 19.** Google set Uber a/an
- 20.** Autonomous cars are banned from:

BGE NYVK	B2	Reading Comprehension	
English for Business Communication		140 minutes (with Writing)	40 marks
Sample 4			

KEY

Text 1	
1.	D
2.	A
3.	E
4.	B
5.	F
Text 2	
6.	C
7.	A
8.	C
9.	B
10.	B
11.	C
12.	A
13.	A
14.	B
15.	A
Text 3	
16.	20,000 new cars / massive
17.	a safe and delightful (experience)
18.	without human back up (drivers) / autonomously
19.	challenge (to dominate)/ competition
20.	Arizona / the roads operating in Arizona/ Arizona's roads / Arizona's state roads