



TRAFFIC IN LONDON

When cars first replaced horses in London, everyone was pleased. Thank goodness, the streets would no longer be full of smelly excrements. But Londoners have changed their minds about cars since then. In February 2003, in fact, the city introduced a plan to cut traffic and make it a nicer place to live in. All motorists coming into the capital between 7.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. have to pay a £5 admission fee.

The success of this system is highly unexpected. It was introduced by the Mayor, Ken Livingstone, in the face of opposition from business leaders, politicians, and a lot of people who just love their cars. Business leaders claimed that their companies would suffer, while politicians said it would unfairly penalise various groups. Even the Government took an attitude of wait and see. Against predictions, private traffic is now down by 20 per cent, while fees and fines provide £130 million each year for improving public transport.

In order to sell this plan to the public, you cannot just introduce it, you have to get people to accept it. If you ask motorists directly, they say no, but if you put it in a package with a reduction in the price of petrol, or in a package including better roads and better public transport, a majority of motorists will support it.

(A) COMPREHENSION

1. Answer questions 1-2 according to the information given in the text. Use your own words.
 - a) Why do you think Londoners have changed their minds about cars since they replaced horses in their city?
 - b) How does this system help public transport? (Give two reasons)
2. Are these statements true or false? Justify your answer with words or phrases from the text.
 - a) If motorists want to drive into London between 7.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m., they are charged some money.
 - b) The Government agreed to support this plan introduced by the Mayor.
 - c) In spite of this plan, traffic has not decreased in London.
 - d) Most motorists will support the plan if it is combined with other measures.

(B) USE OF ENGLISH

3. Answer the next questions:
 - a) Give one synonym for PLEASED (adjective)
 - b) Find in the text the word that has the following definition:
"Sum of money paid as punishment for breaking a law or rule"
 - c) Give one adjective with the same root as SUCCESS (noun)
 - d) Give one noun with the same root as IMPROVE (verb)

(C) GRAMMAR

4. Answer the next questions:
 - a) Turn the following sentence into the active voice:
The scheme had been introduced by the Mayor, Ken Livingstone.
 - b) Complete the following sentence:



If I were a driver, ...

13) Turn the following sentence into reported speech:

In 2001 the councillor said: "The city will launch a radical traffic plan next February"

(C) PRODUCCION

Write a composition (80-100 words). Choose one of the following options. Specify your option.

- Give reasons for and against reducing traffic in the city centre.
- Would you like to be a politician? Why?

