II Reading

Nazwisko osoby sprawdzającej test	Ocena: ...../50

EXERCISE A. GUIDED CLOZE. *Write one of the 17 words listed below into each gap in the text, in line with your judgment as to what fits best in the context of the February 16th 2022 article.*

by / cut / fact / high / interest / into / it / major / monitor / on / pace / refer / request / sector / sure / there / thing

The UK car industry has called for a watchdog to oversee the prices needing to be paid to charge electric cars, as well as the availability of charge points. According to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), a regulator to _____ the market is mainly needed because the growth in levels of sales of electric vehicles is proceeding faster than the rollout of charging points.

The government responded by saying that it was providing £1.3bn to expand the charging network. Indeed, industry figures reveal that the decade between 2011 and 2021 saw the number of charge points in the UK jump from about 1500 to more than 48,000. Still, between 2019 and 2021, the number of electric cars on the road increased much faster than that. Moreover, the rollout has proved to be uneven, with the _____ of change faster in the South of England than the North, the industry body said.

These were some of the reasons for the SMMT to submit its formal _____ to the government, that it should set up a new body under the name *Ofcharge* (short for "Office of Charging"). Public charging points "remain critical to consumer confidence and are still relied _____ by many commercial fleets, as well as the one-third of all British households that do not have designated off-street parking", the SMMT added.

Electric vehicles are seen as a way to _____ greenhouse- gas emissions from transport – the _____ of the UK economy identified as emitting most in each year since 2016. Nevertheless, while there is soaring interest in electric cars, this has not yet translated _____ actual numbers of vehicles on our roads. Still, in 2020, the number of battery electric cars in use increased _____ 114% to a record _____ of just under 200,000, while the number of plug-in hybrids jumped 35% to just under 240,000. _____ has also been a sharp increase in the level of _____ being shown in second-hand electric cars.

However, cars of this kind continue to represent just a tiny fraction (in _____ about 1.3%) of all passenger vehicles on UK roads. Businesses have been leading the way with fleet purchases, but the car industry is pushing for consumers to buy into electric cars too. However, many people have concerns about them – relating to cost of purchase for _____, but also numbers of charge points, including when it comes to longer journeys.

Last summer, MPs raised concerns in Parliament about the cost of public charging, since this was found to be far more expensive than doing the same _____ at home. But that was then and this is now, with energy prices famously rocketing upwards in the meantime.

SMMT Chief Executive Mike Hawes demanded there should be "clear targets", and more government support for rolling out charge points. _____ was his words that encouraged a Department for Transport spokesperson to _____ to the above-mentioned £1.3bn of spending, as well as "the levelling up of charge-point provision, and the support being offered to deploy rapid charge points on motorways and other _____ roads in England".

The government is soon to publish its electrical vehicle infrastructure plan, with the same spokesperson stating that: "we continue to work with local authorities to ensure they are engaged in the transition; and we are encouraging them to make use of the on-street residential charge-point scheme, which last year allocated £20m to the rollout of public charge points in residential areas."

EXERCISE B. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS. *In line with the specific features and overall approach of the article – and the January 2020 situation it presents – indicate which of the four options best completes each of the 6 sentence-beginnings given below.*

Electric cars: • are not selling as well in northern parts of England. • can be charged for free in certain residential areas. • hardly appeared at all in the pandemic year of 2020. • interest people, but a huge majority still lack them.	The SMMT is: • a regulatory agency. • appointed by car-users. • for makers and sellers. • headed by Mike Hayes.
Home-charging is: • a lot less universal and straightforward than is thought. • easy for all, but people still worry about their long trips. • not much less expensive than charging cars in the road. • now backed via a government scheme costing £20M.	The government of the United Kingdom: • has spent little and achieved little with charge points. • focuses on local charging, not non-green far travel. • is pushed to found *Ofcharge* because of overpricing. • reminds the SMMT that targets have been published.

The 2021 House of Commons debate:	"Rollout" and "rolling out" refer precisely to:
• has had no connection with the need for a watchdog. • revealed satisfaction with the progressing situation. • was about the true "green-ness" of electric vehicles. • was left outdated by the unexpected impacts of war.	• administration giving tasks to other stakeholders. • efficiency in giving real-life effects or progress. • sums of money administration spends on policy. • the kinds and means of transport that use wheels.

EXERCISE C. DEFINITIONS. *Look at the following underlined words appearing in the text, and decide which of the 3 meanings provided below matches best in the article's specific and overall contexts.*

oversee	supervise	mistake	ignore
uneven	impossible	non-proportional	late
critical	full of criticism	of huge importance	not satisfactory
soaring	boringly unchanged	painfully limited	quickly rising
actual	legal	present	real
tiny	not at all great	quite secret	very basic
purchases	new supplies	sessions of production	cases of items being bought
when it comes to	at the time of	in agreement with	in the matter of
engaged	involved	measured	crucial
scheme	prepared diagram	official mechanism	hidden plan