ZiloAcademy

✨ Grade 8 English — Main Idea ✨

Name: Demo **Date:** 26/11/2026

1. What is the main idea of each passage (separate your two answers with a comma)? 1) "Electric scooters have multiplied across city footpaths over the past three years, offering a cheap alternative to short car trips. Supporters highlight reduced traffic and emissions, but pedestrian groups report a sharp rise in footpath collisions and near-misses. Several councils are now trialling speed limits and designated scooter lanes to address the safety concerns." 2) "Backyard chicken-keeping has grown steadily in suburban areas as families look for fresher eggs and a hands-on hobby for children. Councils have relaxed permit rules in response to demand, though some neighbours have raised noise and odour complaints during warmer months."

2

What is the main idea of each passage (separate with commas)? 1) "A growing number of regional towns have begun offering free land or housing grants to attract young families and skilled workers, hoping to reverse decades of population decline. Early results are promising in towns with strong local job markets, but towns without nearby employment have seen little uptake despite the free housing offers." 2) "Public libraries have reinvented themselves over the past decade, adding maker spaces, coding clubs, and free tool libraries alongside traditional book lending. Visitor numbers have climbed in branches that modernised earliest, while a few smaller branches have struggled to fund the new programs without extra council support." 3) "Urban beekeeping has surged in popularity across Australian cities. Councils now issue permits for rooftop hives, schools run beekeeping clubs, and cafes proudly serve 'suburb honey.' Enthusiasts argue the trend also boosts pollination for community gardens, though some residents worry about allergic reactions in dense neighbourhoods."

3

What is the main idea of each passage (separate with commas)? 1) "Community choirs have seen a wave of new members since local health campaigns began promoting singing as a mental health boost. Participants report lower stress and a stronger sense of belonging after just a few weeks. Choir directors note that waiting lists have tripled in some suburbs, though many groups lack the funding to run extra sessions." 2) "A trial allowing students to resubmit failed assignments after feedback, rather than receiving a final mark immediately, has been rolled out across several high schools. Teachers report improved understanding of material, though marking workloads have increased noticeably." 3) "Research increasingly shows that adolescent sleep patterns are shaped by biology, not just habit. Teenagers' internal clocks naturally shift later, making early school starts a poor fit for their bodies. Some schools that delayed starting times report improved attendance and grades, though critics note the logistical difficulty of changing bus and childcare schedules."

4

What is the main idea of each passage (separate with commas)? 1) "Community gardens have spread rapidly through suburban councils over the past decade, turning vacant lots into shared vegetable plots. Supporters point to lower grocery bills and stronger neighbourhood ties, while critics note ongoing disputes over water use and plot allocation. Councils that provide clear rules report far fewer conflicts than those that leave management to volunteers alone." 2) "A pilot program placing therapy dogs in primary school libraries during exam periods has shown a noticeable drop in reported student anxiety. Teachers say even brief interactions with the dogs seem to calm nervous students before tests, though a few parents have raised concerns about hygiene and allergies." 3) "Fast fashion brands release new clothing lines every few weeks, encouraging constant buying. This rapid cycle keeps prices low but relies heavily on cheap labour and synthetic materials that shed microplastics. A growing number of shoppers are turning to second-hand and rental clothing as an alternative, driven by concerns about both ethics and the environment."

5

What is the main idea of each passage (separate with commas)? 1) "Night markets have become a fixture of summer in many Australian cities, drawing crowds with street food stalls, live music, and local craft vendors. Local councils say the markets boost small business revenue significantly, though some nearby residents complain about noise and parking congestion late into the evening." 2) "A free program pairing isolated elderly residents with university student volunteers for weekly visits has shown a marked drop in reported loneliness after six months. Universities say demand for volunteer spots has grown faster than they can train new volunteers." 3) "Research increasingly shows that adolescent sleep patterns are shaped by biology, not just habit. Teenagers' internal clocks naturally shift later, making early school starts a poor fit for their bodies. Some schools that delayed starting times report improved attendance and grades, though critics note the logistical difficulty of changing bus and childcare schedules."

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7

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10

What is the main idea of each passage (separate with commas)? 1) "A new app lets residents report potholes, broken streetlights, and other maintenance issues directly to the council with a photo and location pin. Response times for reported issues have dropped sharply since the app launched, though older residents without smartphones say they now feel left out of the reporting process." 2) "A regional theatre company began offering pay-what-you-can tickets for midweek shows, hoping to attract audiences who found standard pricing out of reach. Midweek attendance has nearly doubled since the scheme began, though the company reports average revenue per seat has fallen." 3) "Community choirs have seen a wave of new members since local health campaigns began promoting singing as a mental health boost. Participants report lower stress and a stronger sense of belonging after just a few weeks. Choir directors note that waiting lists have tripled in some suburbs, though many groups lack the funding to run extra sessions."