

Le sujet comporte 4 pages

## I- READING COMPREHENSION

### A- THE TEXT

1- Each morning, about 450 students travel along 17 school bus routes to 10 elementary schools in the city of Lecco, Italy without taking any school buses. In 2003, to confront the triple threats of childhood obesity, traffic jams and, most importantly, a rise in global greenhouse gases caused by car emissions, environmental activists here proposed a new concept: Children should walk to school. **They** set up a "pedibus" - foot bus in Italian- route with a driver but no vehicle. Each morning, a mix of paid staff members and parental volunteers in fluorescent yellow vests lead lines of students along Lecco's twisting streets to the schools' gates.

2- At the Castello School, 100 children or more than half of the students now walk to school. Giulio Greppi, a 9- year-old student, said he had been driven about 500 meters each way until he started taking the pedibus. "I get to see my friends and we feel special because we know it's good for the environment," he said. Naturally, some children whine on rainy mornings. Therefore, participation falls by 20 percent on such days, though **it** increases during snowfalls.

3- Although each route is generally about a kilometer, the town's pedibuses have so far got rid of more than 160,000 kilometers of car travel and, in principle, prevented thousands of tons of greenhouse gases from entering the air, estimated Dario Pesenti, the town's environment auditor. To encourage use, the city of Lecco contributes nearly \$20,000 annually to organizing and providing staff members for the pedibus.

*Adapted from International Herald Tribune*

*Friday, March 27, 2009*

**B- Comprehension questions (12marks)**

1) Read the text and tick (✓) the right option. (1mark)

The text is about a programme that

- a) encourages students to walk to school.
- b) teaches students how to ride to school.
- c) obliges students to walk to school.

2) Complete the table with information from paragraph 1. (3marks)

Program	Country	Problems to solve
"piedibus" (foot bus)	.....	a) ..... b) ..... c) a rise in global greenhouse gases

3) For each of the following statements, pick out one detail from the text showing that it is false. (3marks)

- a) All students' parents participate in the programme. (parag. 1)  
.....
- b) Participation in "piedibus" increases on rainy days. (parag. 2)  
.....
- c) Reducing car travel has had a negative effect on the environment. (parag. 3)  
.....

4) Find words in the text meaning nearly the same as : (2marks)

- a) make a complaining cry : (parag. 2).....
- b) eliminated : (parag. 3).....

5) What do the underlined words in the text refer to ? (2marks)

- a) "They" in paragraph 1 refers to: .....
- b) "it" in paragraph 2 refers to: .....

6) Give a personal justified answer to the following question. (1mark)

Do you think "piedibus" is a successful program ? Why / why not ?

I think that.....because.....  
 .....

**II- WRITING (12marks)**

- 1) Use the information below to write a 4-line paragraph about the electronic robot. (4marks)

Type	an automatic device
Creation	by William Grey Walter/ Bristol, England/ 1948
Characteristics	-electro-mechanical machine -guided by a computer programme
Functions	perform repetitive dangerous tasks

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- 2) Your friend is an engineer and has been offered a job in a foreign country.

However, he/she is hesitant about whether to accept the offer or turn it down. Write him/her a 10-line letter in which you advise him/her not to miss this opportunity. (8marks)

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### III- LANGUAGE (6 marks)

1) Fill in the blanks with 6 words from the list below. (3marks)

remain - both – including – only – from – prevents – costs - to

Violence against women and girls is a serious violation of human rights. Its effects vary.....immediate to long-term physical and mental consequences for women and girls,.....death. It negatively affects women's general well-being and ..... them from fully participating in society. Violence not .....has negative consequences for women but also their families, the community and the country at large. It has enormous .....ranging from greater health care and legal expenses to losses in productivity. It also has effects on..... national budgets and general development. Thus, a large number of countries have already adopted laws against domestic violence.

2) Put the bracketed words in the right tense or form. (3marks)

Now electricity really could grow on trees! Scientists have invented a 'wind tree' that uses turbines put inside plastic leaves to create power. **(Invent)**.....hope they can be used in people's homes and city centers. They claim the tree is **(little)**.....apparent and more durable than wind turbines. The 'wind tree' **(have)** .....small blades which lie in the 'leaves' that turn in breezes. A French team of engineers has developed a man- **(make)** .....tree that can generate electricity using the wind. The idea came to them in a square where they **(see)**.....the leaves moving when there was not a breath of air. The founders believe the 'wind tree' will be **(sell)** ..... in 2015.