

TRUE

- 2 What point is the author making with the story of his experience at Burger King?  
 A Fast food restaurants are not very fast.  
 L-12 **B** Some aspects of modern life are not always as convenient as they are intended to be.  
 C The driver of the pickup truck had parked in the wrong place.  
 D The queues at the drive-through windows are usually very long.
- 3 What does the author tell us about everyday inventions in America?  
 A They were all invented there.  
 B They make life less exciting.  
 L-19 **C** People assumed they would make life more comfortable.  
 D There aren't as many now as there used to be.
- 4 What does the author mean by 'Perhaps my memory is playing tricks on me' (line 23)?  
 A He is sometimes very forgetful.  
 B He cannot remember all the details.  
 Part 5 **C** What he says might not be completely true.  
 D He remembers having fun.
- 5 What does 'the whole thing' in line 26 refer to?  
 A the turkey  
 B the plate  
 C the rubber gloves  
 L-26 **D** the carving knife
- 6 What does the author say about labour-saving devices today?  
 L-35 **A** People cannot stop buying them.  
 B People try to do ridiculous things with them.  
 C They are better than the ones in the sixties.  
 D They help people to do more work.
- 7 What are we told about the automatic curtains?  
 A They had been brought from a previous house.  
 B Some of them worked as they were supposed to.  
 C The room where they were fitted was never used.  
 L-44 **D** The author and his family decided not to use them.

### What to expect in the exam

In Part 2 of the Reading Paper, the multiple choice questions will test some or all of the following:

- a detailed understanding of the text: see questions 2, 3, 6 and 7 (the most common type of question).
- a general understanding of the text: see question 1 (this type of question usually comes last in the exam).
- an understanding of reference words in context: see question 5 (these are often pronouns such as *it* or *they*).
- the ability to decide meaning from context: see question 4.

### Reacting to the text

Do you agree with Bill Bryson when he says that 'the things that are supposed to speed up our lives more often than not have the opposite effect'?

Have you ever had a device or appliance which created problems for you?

Are there any devices or appliances you think should or will be invented in the future?