

### Fare well?

adapted from an article by **Deyan Sudjic**

1 **T**he classic London black cab looks doomed. A safety recall earlier this year resulted in a financial meltdown for its manufacturer, Manganese Bronze. If the taxi now goes the way of the Routemaster bus, the electric milk float, the telephone box and the pub, then Britain will be stripped of yet another of the things that make it special.

2 This has nothing to do with nostalgia, but everything with the car's ability to seat five in comfort, a 25-foot turning circle and easy wheelchair access. The black cab is a defining part of the urban landscape. The orange glow of the taxi sign, and the distinctive tick of the diesel engine are remarkably reassuring on a rainy street at night.



3 The cleverest thing about Kenneth Grange's design, first launched in 1997, is that it looks as if it has been around for ever but doesn't feel like a living fossil. Taxis stay in production for far longer than ordinary cars and their looks must reflect that. Anything too daring will date quickly.

4 The latest version, the TX4, formed the centrepiece of the retrospective on Grange's work at the Design Museum last year. Grange, now in his eighties, is still working. He belongs to a generation of designers that believes design is about thinking about how to make things work better, not smothering them in superficial styling.

5 If Manganese Bronze does vanish, there will still be London taxis. The Mercedes van-based Vito already challenges the TX4, and Nissan launches its own model next year. But stepping into a Mercedes van with sliding doors feels like being taken into custody, and images of the Nissan don't make it look any more appealing. The TX defines how taxis should look and feel. There is something inherently civilised about it. It is a genuine emblem of the city.

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## Tekst 4 Fare well?

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- 2p 7 Geef van elk van de volgende beweringen aan of deze wel of niet in overeenstemming is met de tekst.
- 1 De TX mag sinds kort ook gebruikmaken van de busbanen in de stad.
  - 2 De vormgeving van de TX is vooral afgestemd op oudere passagiers.
  - 3 De TX werd tentoongesteld in een museum.
  - 4 Taxi's van andere producenten lijken qua uiterlijk veel op de TX.
- Noteer het nummer van elke bewering, gevolgd door "wel" of "niet".
- "If Manganese Bronze does vanish" (paragraph 5)
- 1p 8 Why is this a possible scenario for Manganese Bronze, according to the text?
- A Foreign car manufacturers have entered the British market with cheaper cars.
  - B Its engineers have failed to come up with innovations and improvements.
  - C Its taxis are too big to navigate comfortably through the narrow London streets.
  - D Technical problems with its cars have cost the company a lot of money.
- "It is a genuine emblem of the city." (alinea 5)
- 1p 9 Welke zin eerder in de tekst betekent hetzelfde?  
Citeer de eerste twee woorden van deze zin.

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### Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.