

Paper on Public Libraries

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Questions 1-3

Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B** or **C**.

Paper on Public Libraries

- 1 What will be the main topic of Trudie and Stewart's paper?
A how public library services are organised in different countries
B how changes in society are reflected in public libraries
C how the funding of public libraries has changed

- 2 They agree that one disadvantage of free digitalised books is that
A they may take a long time to read.
B they can be difficult to read.
C they are generally old.

- 3 Stewart expects that in the future libraries will
A maintain their traditional function.
B become centres for local communities.
C no longer contain any books.

Questions 4-10

Complete the notes below.

Write **ONE WORD ONLY** for each answer.

Study of local library: possible questions

- whether it has a **4**..... of its own
- its policy regarding noise of various kinds
- how it's affected by laws regarding all aspects of **5**.....
- how the design needs to take the **6**..... of customers into account
- what **7**..... is required in case of accidents
- why a famous person's **8**..... is located in the library
- whether it has a **9**..... of local organisations
- how it's different from a library in a **10**.....

Solution:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. B | 6. safety |
| 2. C | 7. insurance |
| 3. C | 8. diary |
| 4. budget | 9. database |
| 5. employment | 10. museum |

Audioscript:

TRUDIE: OK, Stewart. We need to start planning our paper on public libraries. Have you thought about it yet?

STEWART: Weil, there's so much we could look into. How libraries have changed over the centuries, for instance, or how different countries organise them. What do you think, Trudie?

TRUDIE: Maybe we should concentrate on this country and try and relate the changes in libraries to local developments. Like the fact that far more people can read than a century ago. And that the population may speak lots of different languages.

STEWART: We could include something about changes in the source of funding, too.

TRUDIE: Yes, but remember we're only supposed to write a short paper, so it's probably best to stick to funding in any detail.

STEWART: Right. Well, shall we just brainstorm a few ideas, to get started?

TRUDIE: OK. We obviously need to look at the impact of new technology, particularly the internet. Lots of books have been digitalised, people can access them from their own computers.

STEWART: And if everyone did that, libraries would be obsolete.

TRUDIE: Yes.

STEWART: But the digitalised books that are available online for free are mostly out of copyright. And copyright in this country lasts for 70 years after the author dies. So you won't find the latest best-seller or up-to-date information.

TRUDIE: That's an important point. Anyway, I find it hard to concentrate when I'm reading a long article on a screen. I'd much rather read a physical book. And it takes longer to read on a screen.

STEWART: Oh, I prefer it I suppose it's just a personal preference.

TRUDIE: Mm. I expect that libraries will go on evolving in the next few years. Some have already become centres where community activities take place, like local clubs meeting there. I think that's becoming even more common.

STEWART: I'd like to think so, and that they'll still be serving their traditional function, but I'm not sure about the financial implications, after all. What I'm afraid will happen is that books and magazines will disappear, and there'll just be rows and rows of computers. They won't look anything like the libraries we're used to.

TRUDIE: Well, we'll see.

TRUDIE: I've just had an idea. Why don't we make an in-depth study of our local public library to provide the background to our paper?

STEWART: Yes, that'd be interesting, and raise all sorts of issues. Let's make a list of possible things to ask about, then work out some sort of structure. For instance, um, we could interview the staff, and find out whether the library has its own budget. Or if that's controlled by the council.

TRUDIE: And what their policies are. I know they don't allow food, but I'd love to find out what they do allow. And what they ban - there always seems to be a lot of talking, but never music. I don't know if that's a policy or it just happens.

STEWART: Ah. I've often wondered. Then there are things like how the library is affected by employment. I suppose there are rules about working hours, facilities for staff, and so on.

TRUDIE: Right. Then there are other issues relating to the design of the building and how customer-friendly it is. Like what measures does the library take to ensure their safety? They'd need floor coverings that are easy to clean.

aren't slippery, and emergency exits, for instance. Oh, and another thing - there's the the kind of insurance the library needs to have, in case anyone gets injured.

STEWART: Yes, that's something else to find out. You know something I've often wondered?

TRUDIE: What's that?

Well, you know they've got an archive of local newspapers going back years? Well, n

STEWART: they've got the diary of a well-known politician from the late 19th century.

I wonder why it's there. Do you know what his connection was with this area?

TRUDIE: No idea. Let's add it to our list of thing to find out. Oh I've just thought - you know peo
in the library about local organisations. like sports clubs? Well. I wonder if they keep a
whether they just look online.

STEWART: Right. I quite fancy finding out what the differences are between a library that's open
and one that's part of a museum, for example - they must be very different.

TRUDIE: Mmm. Then something else I'd like to know is ...