**Tlemcen University**

**Department of English**

**Mrs. Hamza Cherif**

**Mrs. Belkherroubi**

**LMD 1**

 **Reading Comprehension**

**Argumentative Text**

*Read the following text and answer the questions.*

In many countries now seat belts are compulsory for the driver and front seat passenger at least.

Most doctors believe that seat belts save people from being seriously hurt in a crash, but there are some people who still think it is more dangerous to wear a seat belt than not to wear one.

They say that a seat belt may trap one in a car that is burning, or that has fallen into a river or the sea and is sinking, so that one is burnt to death or drowned.

But less than half of one per cent of car accidents lead to fire or sinking, and in any case, a seat belt may easily save a person from being knocked unconscious in an accident, so that he or she is able to undo the seat belt immediately and get out of car that is on fire or sinking.

People who object to seat belts also sometimes say that without one, one hits something, usually the road, and usually hard and at speed. It is better to remain inside a car in the case of a crash.

There is also the question of personal freedom; some people say that it is an attack on their freedom to force them to wear a seat belt, whether they want to or not. But even in a democracy there are a lot of things a person is denied the right to do though he or she wants to do them. I may, for example, want to play music loudly all night; it interferes with my freedom if I am not allowed to do this. But my neighbours have their own rights to freedom, just as I have. They want to be free to sleep quietly at night, and if I stop them doing so, I am interfering with their freedom.

How does this affect seat belts? In what way does it interfere with the rights of others if someone refuses to wear a seat belt? Well, first of all because common sense tells us that a driver without a seat belt has less control of a car if there is an accident, so that he or she is more likely to be a danger to others, who after all also have the right to be protected as much as possible from accident.

But also there is the question of the cost of being hurt. A driver expects to be taken to hospital free of charge by ambulance if he or she is hurt in a crash. He or she also expects to be looked after properly in hospital, again free of charge. Who pays for this? In most countries the people who pay the taxes do so. And they have a right to demand that the amount they pay should be kept as low as possible by making sure that people do not hurt themselves unnecessarily by not taking proper care such as wearing a seat belt.

**Exercise one:**

* Provide the appropriate Title …………………………………..

Find the right answers in the following questions.

1. Do all people believe that seat belts are a good thing?

a-No, they do not. b- Yes, they do.

1. Why do some people say that they are dangerous?
2. Because they may make a car burn or fall into a river.
3. Because they may prevent one escaping from a burning or sinking car.
4. Do a lot of cars catch fire or fall into deep water?
5. Yes b- No
6. How can a seat belt help if one’s car does catch fire or sink?
7. It can knock one unconscious, so that one does not feel anything.
8. It can stop one from being knocked unconscious, so that one can escape.
9. Do doctors say that it is better or worse to be thrown out of a car if it has an accident?
10. They say it is better. b- They say it is worse.
11. Why?
	1. Because if one is thrown out of a car one is not hurt.
	2. Because if one is thrown out of a car one is hurt.
12. Are we free to do what we want in a democracy?
13. No, we are not. b- Yes, we are.
14. What limits our freedom?
15. Nothing. b- The rights of others.
16. Why may our not wearing a seat belt affect other people?
17. Because it may cause us to lose control of the car and hits theirs.
18. Because then they may refuse to wear seat belts too.
19. How does not wearing seat belts affect people who pay taxes?
20. It leads to more ambulance and hospital costs.
21. It means that they get more things free of charge.

**Exercise Two:**

Give the synonyms of the following words from the text.

Request =……………………

Required =……………………

Open =……………………….

Precaution =…………………

 Presumes=…………………

**Exercise Four:**

In each of these (pairs of) sentences, fill the empty space with a word that has the same root as the word *in italics*:

1. A lot of people are *seriously* hurt in car crashes, but one often cannot tell the…………of the damage done to them until they get to hospital.
2. One passenger was *dead* when the police found him. He had been burnt to…………..
3. One can say, ‘She was killed in an *accident*,’ or ‘She was killed……………..’
4. A blow with plenty of *force* can be called a ………….blow.
5. People who do not wear seat belts are in *danger*, and I for one do not like living…………
6. A *person* who wants…………. Freedom for herself or himself but not for others is a selfish person.
7. We all want to be *free*, but we cannot have this…………..when it hurts others.
8. It is foolish to *refuse* to wear a seat belt if this…………….costs others a lot of money.
9. Common *sense* will tell any……………person that a driver without a seat belt has less control of a car.
10. A bus *crashed* on a bridge last week, and a lot of people were hurt in the …………..

**Exercise Five:**

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| Someone may do something can mean ‘it is possible that someone does (or will do) something’ (e.g. An ambulance is coming, but it may be late because of the fog). Someone may have done something can mean ‘it is possible that someone did (or has done) something’ (e.g. The doctor is late; he may have been slowed down by the fog). |

Write these sentences, putting the verbs in brackets in the correct form, using ‘*may’:*

1. Passengers in the front seats have to wear seat belts, and soon ones in the back seats (have) to wear them too.
2. There is a car in the sea there! It (fall) down that cliff.
3. There is also a man in the sea. He is swimming to the shore. He (be) in the car.
4. There (be) passengers in the back seat of the car too when it fell down the cliff.
5. That boat (save) them.

**Exercise Six**:

1. Summarize the text into a paragraph.

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1. Write an **argumentative paragraph** about the same topic (of the text) using **your own** topic sentence, stating **your reasons** to support your opinion in order to convince the readers about your argument, and ending your paragraph with a concluding sentence (keep your opinion).

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