

China scrambles to tame bike chaos Answer Sheet

A. Match these words to their correct definitions

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|---------------|---|
| 1 booming | 6 assigned to a position or a duty |
| 2 capping | 4 has a different result from what was expected |
| 3 haphazardly | 1 growing very quickly |
| 4 backfires | 7 used for one purpose only and nothing else |
| 5 swerve | 2 putting a limit on something; stopping something from growing |
| 6 appointed | 5 to turn suddenly or unexpectedly |
| 7 dedicated | 3 in a disorganized manner |

B. Mark the statements below as either T (true) or F (false). You will have to scan the reading for the answers. Some answers may be indicated but not mentioned directly.

1. Authorities aren't trying to regulate bicycle riders but are forcing the bicycle companies to regulate their customers. (F)
Authorities are considering regulations; some companies are voluntarily making efforts.
2. Regulators in Beijing, Chengdu & Hangzhou want GPS to be installed on all of the bikes. (T)
3. Startups like MoBike and Ofo have introduced their bikes all over the country and in London, Paris & New York. (F)
These companies only operate in China; London, Paris & New York have their own systems.
4. Firm staff wearing armbands or neon vests are authorized to fine users who ignore the regulations. (F)
Staff collect abandoned bikes but don't enforce the regulations.
5. Bicycle users park the bikes upright and lock them when they are finished. (F)
Bicycle users are supposed to park & lock the bikes properly, but many don't.

C. Answer these questions using full sentences. Some questions may not have a single correct answer; these questions will require you to give an opinion and prove it using facts from the reading.

1. Will the new regulations being considered by the authorities solve the problems being created by the bikes? Why or why not?

I think not (but this is an opinion only), because the new regulations don't address the basic problem of people ignoring the regulations, and they do nothing to force the users to be more responsible. What do you think? Can you find evidence in the reading to support your opinion?

2. Will barring riders who are too tall, too short or too heavy solve the problem of cyclists who don't know how to ride?

Probably not; authorities claim that riders who are too tall, short or heavy may not fit the bike and create trouble (such as swerving) for other riders. However (in my opinion), these physical qualities aren't necessarily a good indicator of whether a rider is skilled or unskilled. However, it may have some effect (big or small) by limiting the number of people using the bikes and therefore cutting down on traffic jams caused by bicycles.

3. According to Jeffrey Towson, good regulations would force the bike-sharing companies to regulate themselves. What three regulations are mentioned in the reading?

The three regulations are: developing dedicated parking zones near high traffic areas (such as major transportation hubs, shopping areas and office blocks); making some areas off-limits for bike parking; and forbidding children younger than 12 from using shared bikes.