**Reading test Section 01: activity 05**

Read the passage below and answer Questions 1-7.

**The Young Person's Railcard**

A Young Person's Railcard gives young people the opportunity to purchase discounted rail tickets across Britain. Just imagine where it could take you - to festivals, to see distant friends or to London for a weekend break.

**Who can apply?**

Absolutely anybody between 16 and 25 can apply. You will need to provide proof that you are under 26 years of age. For this, only your birth certificate, driving licence, passport or medical card will be acceptable. Alternatively, if you are a mature student over this age but in full-time education, you can also apply. In order to prove your eligibility, you will need to get your head teacher, tutor, or head of department to sign the application form as well as one of your photos, the latter also needing to be officially stamped. 'Full-time education' is defined as over 15 hours per week for at least 20 weeks a year.

Then go along to any major railway station, rail-appointed travel agent or authorised student travel office with your completed application form from this leaflet, together with £28, two passport-sized photos and proof of eligibility.

**Using your railcard**

You can use it at any time - weekends, Bank Holidays or during the week. But if you travel before 10 am Monday to Friday (except during July and August) minimum fares will apply. For full details of these, please ask at your local station or contact a rail-appointed travel agent.

**Conditions**

In cases where a railcard does not bear the user's signature, it will be treated as invalid. Neither your railcard nor any tickets bought with it may be used by anybody else. Unless there are no purchase facilities available at the station where you began your journey, you will be required to pay the full fare if you are unable to produce a valid ticket for inspection during a journey.

Reduced rate tickets are not available for first-class travel or for Eurostar links to France and Belgium. Passengers will be charged the full rate if they want to use these services.

Questions 1-7

Complete the sentences below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 1-7 on your answer sheet.

1. Railcard applicants over 25 need to be involved in ............................. .

2. For mature, full-time students, one of the photographs submitted must be signed and ............................. .

3. At certain times of the year, there are no ............................ for railcard holders at any time of day.

4. If your railcard doesn't have your ............................. it will be impossible to use it for travel.

5. The benefits of a railcard are not transferable to ............................. .

6. If you have no ticket but boarded a train at a station without any ............................. you will still be eligible for a discounted ticket.

7. If railcard holders wish to use the Eurostar network they must pay the ............................. .

Read the text below and answer Questions 8-14.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TRAIN TRAVEL INFORMATION  We offer several distinct options for you to choose the ticket that suits you best.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **TICKET TYPE** | **DISCOUNT\*** | **NOTES** | | standard returns  same day returns  children  students  senior citizens  groups (10-25 people)  globe-trotter tickets | 20%  25%  40%  25%  25%  15%  according to ticket | return within 60 days of outward trip  ticket cannot be altered or refunded  children between 4 and 11  student card must be shown  seniors card must be shown  discount on each section of the trip  Railpass, Tourist Card, Econopass |   \* Only one discount may apply to each fare.  **CHANGES AND REFUNDS**  Tickets may be refunded not later than 5 minutes before the departure of the train for a  charge of 15% of the ticket price, or the journey may be changed to another day for a charge of 10% of the ticket price. (Not applicable to same day returns.)  **CHANGES FOR SAME DAY TRAVEL**  You may change your ticket once without charge for a journey on the same day as the original ticket.  INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO TRAVELLERS  • When you buy your ticket it is up to you to check that the dates and times of the journey on it are exactly as you requested.  • Ticket control and access to each train platform will be open until 2 minutes before departure of the train.  • Each traveller may take one suitcase and one item of hand luggage. You may also check in 15kgs. of luggage not later than 30 minutes before departure, at no extra charge.  • If you would like to charter a train, or make reservations for over 25 passengers travelling together, call the Sales Department.  **OUR TIMETABLE IS GUARANTEED**  If the arrival of your train at your destination is delayed by more than 5 minutes according to the timetable, we will refund the full price of your ticket if the delay is caused by our company. |

Questions 8-14

Complete the summary below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 8-14 on your answer sheet.

An elderly person who is also studying full-time receives a concession of 8 ....................... . Large groups people who want to reserve seats should get in touch with the 9 ..................... .

If travellers cancel their trip, they will usually receive back the ticket price less 10 ............... , or they may change the date of their trip by paying 11 ................ of the original value. These concessions do not apply in the case of 12 ..................... . It is the passenger's responsibility to make sure the 13 ........................... and are correct.

Travellers should ensure they are ready to board the train with at least 14 ........................... to spare. They may take a suitcase with them in the carriage as well as hand luggage. A traveller may check in 15 kilos maximum weight of luggage but this must be done at least 30 minutes before the train leaves.

**Answer:**  
1. full-time education  
2. (officially) stamped  
3. minimum fares  
4. signature  
5. anybody else  
6. purchase facilities  
7. full fare// full rate  
8. 25 per cent (/percent)/ 25%  
9. Sales Department  
10. 15 per cent (/percent)// 15%  
11. 10 per cent (/percent)/ 10%  
12. same day returns  
13. dates, times [in either order, both required for one mark]  
14. 2 minutes  
[Note: Words in brackets are optional - they are correct, but not necessary.]