MEXICO CITY

Mexico City is the capital \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mexico. It’s an exciting, noisy and busy place to live, but it’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ vulnerable to natural disasters. It sits on an ancient lake surrounded \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mountains and volcanoes and is in constant danger of earthquakes and flooding

With a population of more than 18 million, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (overcrowd) is a major issue in Mexico City and the housing supply is inadequate. As a result, shanty towns, called barrios \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (appear). People \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are desperate for somewhere to live in the city put up these shanty houses in any spare corner of land. The houses ought to have proper foundations, but they have been built quickly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ top of the land and when floods come, water sweeps the houses away.

Disease spreads quickly in megacities like Mexico City – overcrowding could be a reason for this. Sometimes, as many as ten people live \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ one room, sharing toilets, water and cooking facilities. In the 21st century, we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have the technology to provide toilets and clean drinking water \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ everyone, but this isn’t the case \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shanty towns.

Pollution is another health hazard. Smog \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (cover) the city from November to May and tens of thousands of people die \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ health issues relating to it. The government should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (create) new systems of public transport many years ago \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ order to reduce the number of cars in the city, but at least they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (do) something now. A programme called *Hoy No Circula* has been introduced and cars must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (stay off) the road for one day a week. The government is also trying to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (motivar) commuters to find a different way to travel to work: there is a new bicycle sharing service called *Ecobici* and Metrobus system.

Despite its problems, Mexico City is vibrant and lively with a rich cultural life, fantastic shopping, amazing restaurants and plenty for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ citizens and visitors to do. There are more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ two hundred museums and galleries and there is a wonderful zoo. Architecturally, it is very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (interest) with a wonderful chequerboard layout and splendid religious architecture, which dates from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 16th century.

Santa Muerte is much loved \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the people of Mexico City. There is a shrine to her where people leave sweets and food. Poor people pray to her and that gives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hope. People \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ make their home in megacity live life on the edge. Their lives can be creative, interesting and terrifying!

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