

Instructions: Please Complete each activity and put your answers on a blank sheet of paper. Return your sheet of paper with the answers on it to school when you come back:) You are able to print these if you want but you do not have to!

Blizzard Bag 1

Task 1: Take the Anxiety Quiz, you read the prompts and rate each of them. Then look below and read the description that matches your score. Descriptions say "So what does it all mean?" I would like to know what your score is and what test taking tips you can do to help ease any testing anxiety you might have!

So what does it all mean?

15-20 Total Points

You probably have a very low level of test anxiety. Preparation is the key. A student who spends a significant amount of time preparing and learning the material will be able to sustain a low level of anxiety. If you feel stressed out - don't! You are doing the right things for testing success.

10-14 Total Points

You probably have a moderate level of test anxiety, which may be dependent upon the subject matter of the course. Your problem is that you are not consistent with the behaviors that will help you lower your level of anxiety so you may succeed. If you don't find the subject matter interesting, find ways to motivate yourself to be consistent and diligent with the positive behaviors listed above. If you find the material too challenging, find others with whom to study who have an understanding of the material (or get help from the professor). Work to turn all of your responses into "yes" for the above questions.

0-9 Total Points

You may have a fairly high level of test anxiety that could be caused by a number of problems. Preparedness and consistency are probably issues for you. Following through with the behaviors listed above will surely bring you some success, so find ways to motivate yourself to be consistent. If you find the subject matter to be too complicated, try visiting with the professor or forming a study group with students who seem to have a thorough understanding. Getting together with other confused students is not the answer - all of you will just end up feeling frustrated and less confident. Work to turn all of your responses into "yes" for the above questions.

Test Anxiety Quiz

Please respond to the following questions. Award yourself 2 points for every "yes" answer, 1 point for every "sometimes" answer, and 0 points for every "no" answer. Add up your total number of points and see what that means for you.

When answering the following questions, think about a course in which you are preparing to have an exam.

I have taken organized and thorough class notes for this course.

I have kept up with my readings.

I have made study guides for this class.

I know in advance what kinds of questions are going to be on this exam.

I know how to study for essay tests versus objective tests (multiple choice or true/false).

I begin studying at least five days in advance of the exam.

I make up potential test questions and quiz myself as a means of preparation for the test.

I believe that I am capable of doing well in this class.

I will get a good night's sleep and not cram for this test.

I am trying to learn by understanding instead of only learning by memorization.

Total Points

Task 2: Reading and Comprehension Questions: Read the 2 short essays about Informational Text about "Future of Transportations": after you are done reading them answer the 7 questions in complete sentences:)

ReadWorks

Could the Futuristic Traveling Tube Become a Reality?

Could the Futuristic Traveling Tube Become a Reality?

by ReadWorks



It sounds like something straight out of a science fiction movie or a silly cartoon: a futuristic, traveling tube that can speed across people wherever they want to go, inside a very quiet, but this may be just around the corner for people looking for a faster, easier, and cheaper than ever way to travel.

South African-American inventor and entrepreneur Elon Musk, who, in the past, has worked on both private space flight and electric cars, recently announced he has been working on the design of this traveling tube, which could become cheaper than the way we travel the world.

In an interview, Musk described the new tube as a 100-foot-long hyperloop.

"We have private jets, airplanes, and buses," he explained. "What if there was a tube that had a speed that is 10x faster than the hyperloop?"

The hyperloop could have the power to cut back on travel time between major cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco, which is what inspired Musk to design the Hyperloop in the first place.

Musk stated in an interview that he actually came up with the idea for the hyperloop while parking outside of the train that takes people between Los Angeles and San Francisco. It is known by being one of the slowest in the country.

"This system I have in mind... it's faster than a jet, it's cheaper than a bus, it's faster than a train, faster than the tube that takes people between Los Angeles and San Francisco. It is known by being one of the slowest in the country."

"We would get from downtown L.A. to downtown San Francisco in about 30 minutes." In addition, "it would cost you much less than an airplane (and would have many other benefits as well)."

Predicting the Future

by ReadWorks



Gary Golden sits at a small cafe in Brooklyn, New York. In front of him, there is a map with diagrams that show the future of transportation. He is looking at the map and thinking about the future of transportation. He is looking at the map and thinking about the future of transportation. He is looking at the map and thinking about the future of transportation.

Golden is a futurist. He is someone who studies the way the world is today and tries to predict the way the world will be in the future. He is looking at the map and thinking about the future of transportation. He is looking at the map and thinking about the future of transportation.

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ReadWorks

Could the Futuristic Traveling Tube Become a Reality?

Name

Date

Use the article "Predicting the Future" to answer questions 1 to 3.

1. What is one change that Golden expects to see in cars?

2. What is one change that Golden expects to see in public transportation?

3. Does Golden view the changes he expects as good or bad? Support your answer with evidence from the article.

Use the article "Could the Futuristic Traveling Tube Become a Reality?" to answer questions 4 to 5.

4. What is the Hyperloop?

5. What is one advantage the Hyperloop would have over other types of transportation?

Use the articles "Could the Futuristic Traveling Tube Become a Reality?" and "Predicting the Future" to answer questions 6 to 7.

6. Contrast the Hyperloop with the changes in transportation that Golden expects.

7. What might Golden think of the Hyperloop? Use evidence from both texts to support your answer.

Test Anxiety Quiz

PAGE MENU

TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES

Test Anxiety Quiz

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I am trying to learn by understanding instead of only learning by memorization.

Total Points

So what does it all mean?

15-20 Total Points

You probably have a very low level of test anxiety. Preparation is the key. A student who spends a significant amount of time preparing and learning the material will be able to sustain a low level of anxiety. If you feel stressed out - don't! You are doing the right things for testing success.

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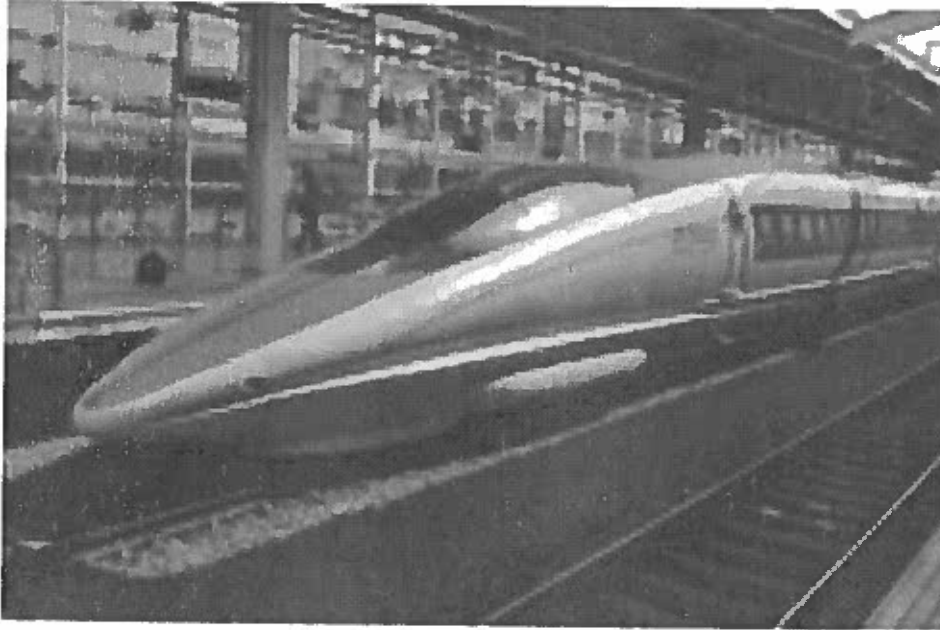
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Could the Futuristic Traveling Tube Become a Reality?

by ReadWorks



It sounds like something straight out of a science fiction movie or a silly cartoon: a futuristic traveling tube that can quickly shoot people wherever they want to go, inside a tiny pod. But this may be just around the corner for people looking for a faster, easier, and cheaper-than-ever way to travel.

South African-American inventor and billionaire Elon Musk, who, in the past, has worked on both private space flight and electric cars, recently announced he has been working on the design of this traveling tube, which could forever change the way we travel the world.

In an interview, Musk described the new tube as a fifth kind of transportation.

"We have planes, trains, automobiles, and boats," he explained. "What if there was a fifth mode? I have a name for it, [it's] called the Hyperloop."

The Hyperloop would have the power to cut back on travel time between major cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco, which is what inspired Musk to design the Hyperloop in the first place.

Musk stated in an interview that he actually came up with the idea for the Hyperloop while thinking about the train that takes people between Los Angeles and San Francisco-it is known for being one of the slowest in the country.

"This system I have in mind...can never crash, is immune to weather, it goes three or four times faster than the bullet train...it goes an average speed of twice what an aircraft would do," explained Musk.

"You would go from downtown L. A. to downtown San Francisco in under 30 minutes," he added. "It would cost you much less than an air ticket [and less] than any other mode of transport."

People using the Hyperloop would shoot around in pods, which are each just over six-and-a-half feet across, and the pods would travel through tubes located either above ground or under water, though Musk has not yet released his final design drawings.

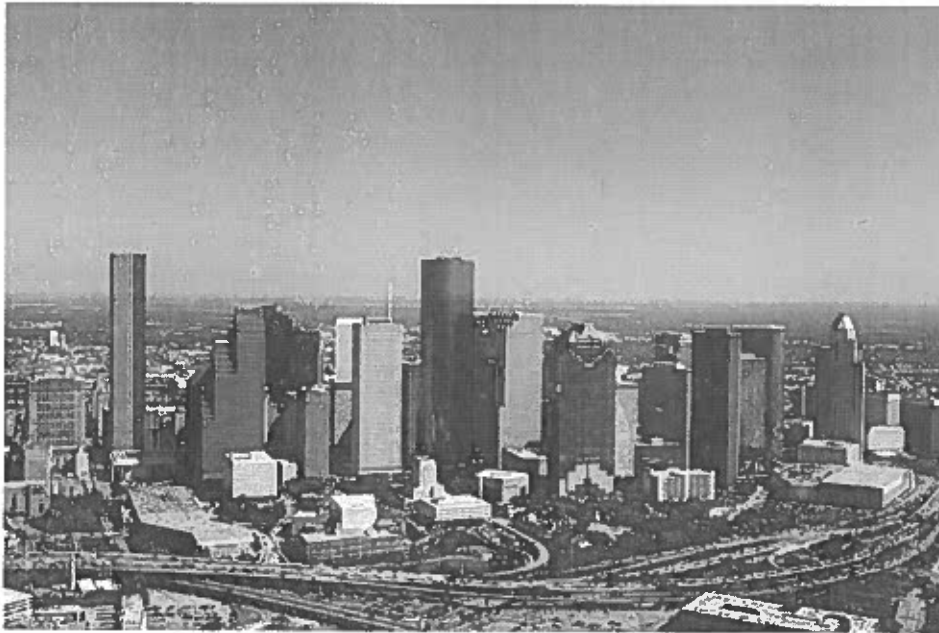
Additionally, Musk believes the Hyperloop could be completely powered by the sun-making it more environmentally friendly than cars, airplanes, or train systems. Someday it could possibly move people between the East and West Coasts of the United States in less than an hour, which is faster than any other mode of transportation that exists. Eventually, the Hyperloop would be able to move people around the world.

The Hyperloop could even run 24/7, be cheap, and allow people to travel on their own schedule. People could show up at the Hyperloop station whenever they want and be quickly sent on their way.

Musk is not the first person outside of science fiction novelists to dream up vacuum tube technology for moving people. The idea has been around for some time, and inventors in other countries, including China, are reportedly working on similar technology.

Predicting the Future

by ReadWorks



Houston, Texas

Garry Golden sits in a small cafe in Brooklyn, New York. In front of him, sheets of paper with diagrams litter the table. He rapidly sketches trains, cars and highways as he explains his ideas. Garry Golden has one passion: transportation. The science of how to move people from place to place fascinates him. He spends his days studying the relationships between cars, subways, and trains. But he's most excited about imagining the way these relationships will change in the next 20 years.

Golden is a futurist. Futurists are scientists who analyze the way the world is today and use that information to make predictions about what the world will be like in the future. In this way, they are the opposite of historians, who try to better understand the present through studying the past. Futurists hope that by making scientific predictions about the future, we can make better decisions today.

Some futurists study the environment. Some study human society. Golden focuses on the study of transportation. He earned his graduate degree in Future Studies from the University of Houston. Living in Houston for those two years changed the way he viewed transportation in the United States.

Many public transportation advocates dislike Houston. They argue the city is too sprawling (it can take more than three hours to drive from one side of the city to the other during rush hour) and that there aren't enough buses and subways. However, Houston was a source of inspiration for Golden.

"Houston is a really interesting place, and their transportation is a fascinating story-it's worth watching. When you think about it, what is the U.S. like? It's more like Houston. So you need to understand how Houston approaches things to understand the country as a whole. New York City is the exception," said Golden in an interview with *The New York Times*.

Golden points out that people in New York City own fewer cars and walk much more than anywhere

else in the United States. "It's a unique environment," says Golden. "Very different from the rest of the country."

However, Golden believes American cities will become more similar to New York City in several ways over the next 20 years. He sees a trend toward fewer cars in the future. He explains, "Cities have a cost of car ownership that is a challenge. All these vehicles cost the city: in services, in having to repair roads and all of the other things." Cars also take up a lot of space. Houston, for example, has 30 parking spaces for every resident. That's 64.8 million parking spaces in only one city.

Golden points out that having so many parking spaces is inefficient. Much of the time the parking spaces sit empty. At high-use times—for example, Saturday afternoon when everyone is running errands—every parking space at a shopping center is full. But at 3 a.m. on a Monday, no one is at the shopping center. What is the solution? "I think cities are going to start to legislate cars in very new ways," says Golden. He explains that cities will make new laws to limit the number of cars people can have within city limits. Instead, people will use taxis, subways and buses. New technology, like smartphones, can make these forms of public transportation even better.

Buses have the same problem of inefficiency as parking spaces, explains Golden. Sometimes they are full, and sometimes they are empty. But imagine if everyone had a smartphone and used them to signal when they wanted to ride the bus. Buses could change their route, depending on who wanted to ride.

How soon would these changes come? Golden admits that it will take several years. Cities can be slow to change. Also, new systems of transportation can be expensive. "But it's coming," he says. "The trend of the empowered city will be here soon."

The other trend that excites Golden is electric cars. "We need to reduce the amount of fuel we consume," says Golden. "Everyone agrees on this. The question is how to do it." Golden especially believes in the future of electric cars that have sensors to understand the world around them. "If we have cars that can communicate with one another, they can adjust speeds to eliminate traffic jams," he says. Rush hour in Houston would suddenly be much less painful.

One challenge related to the production of electric cars is that it is hard to cheaply produce batteries that are strong enough for these cars. This is partially because cars are so heavy. But Golden argues you could also make cars out of strong plastic composites. The cars would then be much lighter and much cheaper to make. "This could revolutionize the highways," he says. When could electric smart cars become the norm? Golden argues as soon as 2030.

As a futurist, Golden shares his predictions with other scholars at conferences across the country. He also provides advice to companies that want to know what the future will be like so that they can make better strategies. Golden remains optimistic about the future. "There are so many exciting developments," he says. "In thirty years we will live a very different world."

Name: _____ Date: _____

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