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Level 6 – 9th October 2023

UK government in geography of England fail

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

The UK government has issued a report on its rail network that contains mistakes and questionable promises. The 36-page prospectus is titled "Network North". It was issued in the wake of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak scrapping the major HS2 infrastructure project – a high-speed rail link connecting the northern city of Manchester to the south. The front cover of the publication seems to have relocated Manchester 70 km north-west. Network North also committed to upgrading a road called the A259. However, this road is on the south coast of England. Among other bloopers, the report vowed to extend a tram network to Manchester airport. The airport link actually opened in 2014.

Government critics were dumbfounded and dismayed at the scrapping of the HS2 rail link. The line was announced with great fanfare by the Conservative government in 2012. HS2 was a major component in efforts to "level up" the north. Abandoning the link is seen as Mr Sunak's latest U-turn on a policy initiative. Just a year ago, he was committed to the project. Many people say it shows the government's disregard for the north of England. They lament railway lines in the north being "Victorian" – over a century old. The High Speed Rail Group said: "Every other major European country has managed to build a high-speed rail network, recognizing it's a vital part of a modern society and economy."

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/05/ten-problems-with-rishi-sunaks-network-north-announcement>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/10/05/economy/hs2-railway-uk-economy/index.html>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/hs2-london-euston-sadiq-khan-b2425623.html>

WARM-UPS

1. GEOGRAPHY: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about geography. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

report / rail network / mistakes / promises / infrastructure / publication / airport / critics / fanfare / government / level up / U-turn / policy / vital / society / economy

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. RAIL: Students A **strongly** believe rail is the best form of transport; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. TRAIN TRAVEL: What are the good and bad things about travelling by train? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

| | Good | Bad |
|----------|------|-----|
| Price | | |
| Seats | | |
| Speed | | |
| Comfort | | |
| Stations | | |
| Staff | | |

5. MISTAKES: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "mistakes". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. TRANSPORT: Rank these with your partner. Put the best forms of transport at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Rail
- Airplane
- Ferry
- Subway
- Tram
- Bus
- Bicycle
- E-scooter

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. questionable | a. A printed booklet giving details of something new for interested people. |
| 2. prospectus | b. The basic physical structures and facilities (e.g. buildings, roads, power supplies) of a company or business. |
| 3. in the wake of | c. Doubtful as regards truth or validity. |
| 4. infrastructure | d. Promised or bound to a certain course or policy. |
| 5. publication | e. A book or journal issued for the public. |
| 6. committed | f. Raising (something) to a higher standard by adding or replacing components. |
| 7. upgrading | g. Following. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. critic | h. Absolutely necessary; essential. |
| 9. dumbfounded | i. Great media attention. |
| 10. dismayed | j. A part or element of a larger whole. |
| 11. fanfare | k. A person who expresses an unfavourable opinion of something. |
| 12. component | l. Greatly astonished or amazed. |
| 13. initiative | m. An act or strategy to resolve a difficulty or improve a situation. |
| 14. vital | n. Caused (someone) to feel concern and distress. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. A transport report from the UK government contains 36 mistakes. **T / F**
2. The UK's prime minister woke up to a project called HS2. **T / F**
3. The report wants to extend the city of Manchester by 70 km. **T / F**
4. The government promised a tram network that has already been built. **T / F**
5. The government announced HS2 at a funfair in 2012. **T / F**
6. The rail link HS2 was meant to level up the north of England. **T / F**
7. Many railway lines in the north of England are a hundred years old. **T / F**
8. All other major European countries have a high-speed rail network. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1. issued | a. improving |
| 2. in the wake of | b. part |
| 3. connecting | c. promised |
| 4. upgrading | d. bemoan |
| 5. vowed | e. following |
| 6. dumbfounded | f. essential |
| 7. fanfare | g. published |
| 8. component | h. astonished |
| 9. lament | i. publicity |
| 10. vital | j. linking |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. The 36-page | a. and dismayed |
| 2. the major HS2 infrastructure | b. a tram network |
| 3. this road is on the | c. opened in 2014 |
| 4. the report vowed to extend | d. modern society |
| 5. The airport link actually | e. south coast |
| 6. Government critics were dumbfounded | f. on a policy initiative |
| 7. announced with great | g. century old |
| 8. Mr Sunak's latest U-turn | h. prospectus |
| 9. over a | i. project |
| 10. a vital part of a | j. fanfare |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

The UK government has (1) _____ a report on its rail network that contains mistakes and (2) _____ promises. The 36-page prospectus is titled "Network North". It was issued in the (3) _____ of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak scrapping the major HS2 infrastructure project – a high-speed rail link (4) _____ the northern city of Manchester to the south. The front cover of the publication seems to have (5) _____ Manchester 70 km north-west. Network North also committed to (6) _____ a road called the A259. However, this road is on the south coast of England. Among other (7) _____, the report vowed to (8) _____ a tram network to Manchester airport. The airport link actually opened in 2014.

bloopers
wake
relocated
issued
extend
questionable
upgrading
connecting

Government critics were dumbfounded and (9) _____ at the scrapping of the HS2 rail link. The line was announced with great (10) _____ by the Conservative government in 2012. HS2 was a major (11) _____ in efforts to "level up" the north. Abandoning the link is seen as Mr Sunak's latest U-turn on a policy initiative. Just a year ago, he was (12) _____ to the project. Many people say it shows the government's (13) _____ for the north of England. They lament railway lines in the north being "Victorian" – over a (14) _____ old. The High Speed Rail Group said: "Every other (15) _____ European country has managed to build a high-speed rail network, recognizing it's a (16) _____ part of a modern society and economy."

vital
committed
fanfare
century
component
major
dismayed
disregard

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

- 1) The UK government has issued a report on its rail network _____
 - a. that contents mistakes
 - b. that contains mistake
 - c. that contains mistakes
 - d. that contains mistook
- 2) The 36-page prospectus is _____
 - a. entitled "Network North"
 - b. tithed "Network North"
 - c. title "Network North"
 - d. titled "Network North"
- 3) a high-speed rail link connecting the northern city of Manchester _____
 - a. to a south
 - b. to the south
 - c. to the southern
 - d. to this oath
- 4) The front cover of the publication seems to _____
 - a. have replicated Manchester
 - b. have resuscitated Manchester
 - c. have relocated Manchester
 - d. have invocated Manchester
- 5) However, this road is on _____
 - a. the south boast
 - b. the south roast
 - c. the south ghost
 - d. the south coast
- 6) The line was announced _____
 - a. with great fanfare
 - b. with great affair
 - c. with great funfair
 - d. with great welfare
- 7) HS2 was a major component in efforts to level _____
 - a. down" the north
 - b. in" the north
 - c. up" the north
 - d. on" the north
- 8) Abandoning the link is seen as Mr Sunak's latest U-turn on _____
 - a. a policy initiation
 - b. a policy initiative
 - c. a policy initial tiff
 - d. a policy inertia tiff
- 9) They lament railway lines in the north being "Victorian" – over _____
 - a. a century old
 - b. a centurion old
 - c. a sanctuary old
 - d. a centurion old
- 10) managed to build a high-speed rail network, recognizing it's _____
 - a. a bite all part
 - b. a vital part
 - c. a vie tall part
 - d. a bye tall part

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

The UK government has issued a report (1) _____ network that contains mistakes and questionable promises. The 36-page prospectus is titled "Network North". It was issued in (2) _____ Prime Minister Rishi Sunak scrapping the major HS2 infrastructure project – a high-speed rail link connecting the northern city of Manchester to the south. The front cover of the publication seems (3) _____ Manchester 70 km north-west. Network North (4) _____ to upgrading a road called the A259. However, this road is on the (5) _____ England. Among other bloopers, the report vowed to extend a tram network to Manchester airport. The airport link (6) _____ 2014.

Government critics were dumbfounded (7) _____ the scrapping of the HS2 rail link. The line was announced (8) _____ by the Conservative government in 2012. HS2 was a major component in efforts to "level up" the north. Abandoning the link is seen as Mr Sunak's latest U-turn on (9) _____. Just a year ago, he was committed to the project. Many people say it shows the government's (10) _____ north of England. They lament railway lines in the north being "Victorian" – (11) _____ old. The High Speed Rail Group said: "Every other major European country has managed to build a high-speed rail network, recognizing it's a (12) _____ a modern society and economy."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

1. What does a UK government report contain besides mistakes?
2. How long is the report?
3. What was the name of the rail project?
4. Where is the road the A259?
5. What opened in 2014?
6. How did government critics feel about the scrapping of a project?
7. When was the rail project first announced?
8. What is the abandoning of the project by Mr Sunak seen as?
9. How many years old are many railway lines in the north of England?
10. What did a group say a high-speed railway was a vital part of?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

- 1) What does a UK government report contain besides mistakes?
 - a) quiz questions
 - b) questionable promises
 - c) a plan for London transport
 - d) climate commitments
- 2) How long is the report?
 - a) 34 pages
 - b) 32 pages
 - c) 36 pages
 - d) 38 pages
- 3) What was the name of the rail project?
 - a) Prospect
 - b) A259
 - c) North Network
 - d) HS2
- 4) Where is the road the A259?
 - a) London
 - b) on the south coast of England
 - c) Manchester
 - d) in the north of England
- 5) What opened in 2014?
 - a) a tram link to Manchester airport
 - b) Manchester railway station
 - c) new ticket offices
 - d) a subway system
- 6) How did government critics feel about the scrapping of a project?
 - a) dumbfounded and dismayed
 - b) happy
 - c) furious and irate
 - d) nonplussed
- 7) When was the rail project first announced?
 - a) 2009
 - b) 2010
 - c) 2011
 - d) 2012
- 8) What is the abandoning of the project by Mr Sunak seen as?
 - a) a necessary evil
 - b) a white elephant
 - c) a U-turn
 - d) progress
- 9) How many years old are many railway lines in the north of England?
 - a) nobody knows
 - b) 50 years old
 - c) dozens of years old
 - d) over 100 years old
- 10) What did a group say a high-speed railway was a vital part of?
 - a) a country's backbone
 - b) a modern society and economy
 - c) progress
 - d) 22nd-century travel

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

Role A – Train

You think trains are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): airplane, bus or bicycle.

Role B – Airplane

You think airplanes are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): trains, buses or bicycles.

Role C – Bus

You think buses are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): airplanes, trains or bicycles.

Role D – Bicycle

You think bicycles are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): airplanes, buses or trains.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'geography' and 'fail'.

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| geography | fail |
|------------------|-------------|

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• issued• wake• connecting• seems• road• vowed | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• critics• major• seen• shows• major• vital |
|---|--|

GEOGRAPHY SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

Write five GOOD questions about geography in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

| | STUDENT 1 _____ | STUDENT 2 _____ | STUDENT 3 _____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. | | | |
| Q.2. | | | |
| Q.3. | | | |
| Q.4. | | | |
| Q.5. | | | |

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

GEOGRAPHY DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'geography'?
3. What do you think of the geography of your country?
4. What do you know about the geography of the UK?
5. What's your country's rail network like?
6. What major infrastructure project is your country building?
7. What do you think of your country's leader?
8. How important is high-speed rail?
9. How are the transport links in your country?
10. What's your image of transport in the UK?

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GEOGRAPHY DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'fail'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of the UK scrapping a major rail project?
15. What parts of your country need levelling up?
16. What regional differences are there in your country?
17. What will transport of the future be like?
18. How is your knowledge of world geography?
19. How modern is your country?
20. What questions would you like to ask the UK leader?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

The UK government has issued a report (1) _____ its rail network that contains mistakes and (2) _____ promises. The 36-page prospectus is titled "Network North". It was issued in the (3) _____ of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak scrapping the major HS2 infrastructure project – a high-speed rail link connecting the northern city of Manchester to the south. The front cover of the (4) _____ seems to have relocated Manchester 70 km north-west. Network North also committed to (5) _____ a road called the A259. However, this road is on the south coast of England. Among other bloopers, the report (6) _____ to extend a tram network to Manchester airport. The airport link actually opened in 2014.

Government critics were dumbfounded and dismayed at the scrapping of the HS2 rail link. The line was announced with great (7) _____ by the Conservative government in 2012. HS2 was a major component (8) _____ efforts to "level up" the north. Abandoning the link is seen as Mr Sunak's latest (9) _____ on a policy initiative. Just a year ago, he was committed to the project. Many people say it shows the government's disregard (10) _____ the north of England. They lament railway lines in the north (11) _____ "Victorian" – over a century old. The High Speed Rail Group said: "Every other major European country has managed to build a high-speed rail network, recognizing it's a (12) _____ part of a modern society and economy."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) at | (b) in | (c) on | (d) by |
| 2. | (a) questionable | (b) questions | (c) question | (d) questioned |
| 3. | (a) fake | (b) bake | (c) wake | (d) sake |
| 4. | (a) publication | (b) replication | (c) duplication | (d) fabrication |
| 5. | (a) retrograding | (b) downgrading | (c) grading | (d) upgrading |
| 6. | (a) cowed | (b) bowed | (c) wowed | (d) vowed |
| 7. | (a) fanfare | (b) funfair | (c) welfare | (d) affair |
| 8. | (a) on | (b) up | (c) as | (d) in |
| 9. | (a) U-turn | (b) U-bend | (c) U-lock | (d) U-boat |
| 10. | (a) at | (b) for | (c) on | (d) by |
| 11. | (a) been | (b) being | (c) be | (d) is |
| 12. | (a) vital | (b) retail | (c) pivotal | (d) toil |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

Paragraph 1

1. osaibtneugle promises
2. The 36-page prcoutesp
3. the major HS2 ntrefutsuarci project
4. The front cover of the unlpacbtioi
5. iomtemtcd to upgrading a road
6. Among other sprelobo

Paragraph 2

7. critics were mufbdddeoun
8. yddmisae at the scrapping of the HS2 rail link
9. announced with great nearfaf
10. a major netoncmop
11. a policy inieivitt
12. grisdarde for the north

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak scrapping the major HS2 infrastructure project – a high-speed rail
- () promises. The 36-page prospectus is titled "Network North". It was issued in the wake
- () for the north of England. They lament railway lines in the north being "Victorian" – over a century
- (**1**) The UK government has issued a report on its rail network that contains mistakes and questionable
- () a high-speed rail network, recognizing it's a vital part of a modern society and economy."
- () to extend a tram network to Manchester airport. The airport link actually opened in 2014.
- () link connecting the northern city of Manchester to the south. The front cover of the publication seems to have
- () year ago, he was committed to the project. Many people say it shows the government's disregard
- () old. The High Speed Rail Group said: "Every other major European country has managed to build
- () Government critics were dumbfounded and dismayed at the scrapping of the HS2 rail link. The line was
- () called the A259. However, this road is on the south coast of England. Among other bloopers, the report vowed
- () efforts to "level up" the north. Abandoning the link is seen as Mr Sunak's latest U-turn on a policy initiative. Just a
- () relocated Manchester 70 km north-west. Network North also committed to upgrading a road
- () announced with great fanfare by the Conservative government in 2012. HS2 was a major component in

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

1. high-speed rail link A connecting the city . northern
2. the called upgrading a to A259 . road Committed
3. this on is the south However, coast . road
4. report The network . vowed extend a to tram
5. 2014 . link airport in actually The opened
6. of at scrapping link . the rail Dismayed the
7. announced with The great was fanfare . line
8. A in level efforts up . to major component
9. government's shows the disregard It for north . the
10. vital of a a It's society . part modern

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

The UK government has issued a report on its rail network that *contents* / *contains* mistakes and questionable promises. The 36-page *prospect* / *prospectus* is titled "Network North". It was issued in the *wake* / *woke* of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak *scraping* / *scrapping* the major HS2 infrastructure project – a high-speed rail link connecting the northern city of Manchester to the south. The front cover of the *publishing* / *publication* seems to have relocated Manchester 70 km north-west. Network North also *committed* / *commit* to upgrading a road called the A259. However, this road is on the south *coast* / *coastal* of England. Among *other* / *another* bloopers, the report vowed to *extend* / *intend* a tram network to Manchester airport. The airport link *factually* / *actually* opened in 2014.

Government critics were dumbfounded and *dismal* / *dismayed* at the scrapping of the HS2 rail link. The line was announced with great *funfair* / *fanfare* by the Conservative government in 2012. HS2 was a major component *in* / *on* efforts to "level up" *the* / *a* north. Abandoning the link is seen as Mr Sunak's latest U-turn on a policy *initiative* / *initiation*. Just a year ago, he was committed *of* / *to* the project. Many people say it shows the government's disregard *on* / *for* the north of England. They *lament* / *comment* railway lines in the north being "Victorian" – over a century old. The High Speed Rail Group said: "*Every* / *All* other major European country has managed to build a high-speed rail network, recognizing it's a *vitality* / *vital* part of a modern society and economy."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

Th_ _K g_v_rnm_nt h_s _ss_d _ r_p_rt _n _ts r__l
n_tw_rk th_t c_nt__ns m_st_k_s _nd q__st__n_bl
pr_m_s_s. Th_ 36-p_g_ pr_sp_ct_s _s t_tl_d "N_tw_rk
N_rth". _t w_s _ss_d _n th_ w_k_ _f Pr_m_ M_n_st_r
R_sh_ S_n_k scr_pp_ng th_ m_j_r HS2 _nfr_str_ct_r_
pr_j_ct - _ h_g_h sp__d r__l l_nk c_nn_ct_ng th_
n_rth_rn c_ty _f M_nch_st_r t_ th_ s__th. Th_ fr_nt
c_v_r _f th_ p_bl_c_t__n s__ms t_ h_v_ r_l_c_t_d
M_nch_st_r 70 km n_rth-w_st. N_tw_rk N_rth _ls_
c_mm_tt_d t_ _pgr_d_ng _ r__d c_ll_d th_ _259.
H_w_v_r, th_s r__d _s _n th_ s__th c__st _f _ngl_nd.
_m_ng _th_r bl__p_rs, th_ r_p_rt v_w_d t_ _xt_nd _
tr_m n_tw_rk t_ M_nch_st_r __rp_rt. Th_ __rp_rt l_nk
_ct__lly _p_n_d _n 2014.

G_v_rnm_nt cr_t_cs w_r_ d_mbf__nd_d _nd d_sm_y_d _t
th_ scr_pp_ng _f th_ HS2 r__l l_nk. Th_ l_n_ w_s
_nn__nc_d w_th gr__t f_nfr_ by th_ C_ns_rv_t_v_
g_v_rnm_nt _n 2012. HS2 w_s _ m_j_r c_mp_n_nt _n
_ff_rts t_ "l_v_l _p" th_ n_rth. _b_nd_n_ng th_ l_nk
_s s__n _s Mr S_n_k's l_t_st _-t_rn _n _ p_l_cy
_n_t__t_v_. J_st _ y__r _g_, h_ w_s c_mm_tt_d t_ th_
pr_j_ct. M_ny p__pl_ s_y _t sh_ws th_ g_v_rnm_nt's
d_sr_g_rd f_r th_ n_rth _f _ngl_nd. Th_y l_m_nt
r__lw_y l_n_s _n th_ n_rth b__ng "V_ct_r__n" - _v_r
_ c_nt_ry _ld. Th_ H_g_h Sp__d R__l Gr__p s__d:
"_v_ry _th_r m_j_r __r_p__n c__ntry h_s m_n_g_d t_
b__ld _ h_g_h-sp__d r__l n_tw_rk, r_c_gn_z_ng _t's _
v_t_l p_rt _f _ m_d_rn s_c__ty _nd _c_n_my."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

the uk government has issued a report on its rail network that contains mistakes and questionable promises the 36page prospectus is titled network north it was issued in the wake of prime minister rishi sunak scrapping the major hs2 infrastructure project a high-speed rail link connecting the northern city of manchester to the south the front cover of the publication seems to have relocated manchester 70 km northwest network north also committed to upgrading a road called the a259 however this road is on the south coast of england among other bloopers the report vowed to extend a tram network to manchester airport the airport link actually opened in 2014 government critics were dumbfounded and dismayed at the scrapping of the hs2 rail link the line was announced with great fanfare by the conservative government in 2012 hs2 was a major component in efforts to level up the north abandoning the link is seen as mr sunaks latest uturn on a policy initiative just a year ago he was committed to the project many people say it shows the governments disregard for the north of england they lament railway lines in the north being victorian over a century old the high speed rail group said every other major european country has managed to build a highspeed rail network recognizing its a vital part of a modern society and economy

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2310/231009-uk-geography.html>

The UK government has issued a report on its rail network that contains mistakes and questionable promises. The 36-page prospectus is titled "Network North". It was issued in the wake of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak scrapping the major HS2 infrastructure project – a high-speed rail link connecting the northern city of Manchester to the south. The front cover of the publication seems to have relocated Manchester 70 km north-west. Network North also committed to upgrading a road called the A259. However, this road is on the south coast of England. Among other bloopers, the report vowed to extend a tram network to Manchester airport. The airport link actually opened in 2014. Government critics were dumbfounded and dismayed at the scrapping of the HS2 rail link. The line was announced with great fanfare by the Conservative government in 2012. HS2 was a major component in efforts to "level up" the north. Abandoning the link is seen as Mr Sunak's latest U-turn on a policy initiative. Just a year ago, he was committed to the project. Many people say it shows the government's disregard for the north of England. They lament railway lines in the north being "Victorian" – over a century old. The High Speed Rail Group said: "Every other major European country has managed to build a high-speed rail network, recognizing it's a vital part of a modern society and economy."

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. GEOGRAPHY: Make a poster about the geography of your country. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. HIGH-SPEED RAIL: Write a magazine article about all countries moving to high-speed rail instead of cars. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on the geography of your country. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c 2. a 3. g 4. b 5. e 6. d 7. f
8. k 9. l 10. n 11. i 12. j 13. m 14. h

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 F 3 F 4 T 5 F 6 T 7 T 8 T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. g | 2. e | 3. j | 4. a | 5. c |
| 6. h | 7. i | 8. b | 9. d | 10. f |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Questionable promises
2. 36 pages
3. HS2
4. On the south coast
5. A tram link to Manchester airport
6. Dumbfounded and dismayed
7. 2012
8. A U-turn
9. Over 100 years old
10. A modern society and economy

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. A high-speed rail link connecting the northern city.
2. Committed to upgrading a road called the A259.
3. However, this road is on the south coast.
4. The report vowed to extend a tram network.
5. The airport link actually opened in 2014.
6. Dismayed at the scrapping of the rail link.
7. The line was announced with great fanfare.
8. A major component in efforts to level up.
9. It shows the government's disregard for the north.
10. It's a vital part of a modern society.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. a 7. d 8. c 9. d 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)