While you prepare for your flight by checking in your bags and walking to the gate, your pilot files a flight plan with the control tower. All pilots must file a flight plan after inspecting the plane, at least 30 minutes prior to pushing back from the gate. Your pilot reviews the weather along the intended route, maps the route, and files the plan. The flight plan includes:

• airline name and flight number;

• type of aircraft and equipment;

• intended airspeed and cruising altitude;

• route of flight (departure airport, centres that will be crossed, and destination airport).

Your pilot transmits this data to the control tower. In the tower, a controller called a flight data person reviews the weather and flight plan information and enters the flight plan into the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) host computer. The computer generates a flight progress strip that contains all of the necessary data for tracking your plane during its flight and is constantly updated.

Once the flight plan has been approved, the flight data person gives clearance to your pilot (clearance delivery) and passes the strip to the ground controller in the tower. The ground controller is responsible for all aircraft taxiing from the gates to take-off runways and from landing runways to the gates.

When the ground controller determines that it is safe, he or she directs your pilot to push the plane back from the gate (airline personnel operate the tugs that actually push the aircraft back and direct the plane out of the gate area).

As your plane taxis to the runway, the ground controller watches all of the airport's taxiways and uses ground radar to track all of the aircraft (especially useful in bad weather), ensuring that your plane does not cross an active runway or interfere with ground vehicles. The ground controller communicates with your pilot by radio and gives him instructions, such as which way to taxi and which runway to go to for take-off.

Once your plane reaches the designated take-off runway, the ground controller passes the strip to the local controller. The local controller in the tower watches the skies above the airfield and uses surface radar to track aircraft. He or she is responsible for maintaining a safe distance between planes as they take off. The local controller gives the pilot final clearance for take-off when it is safe, and provides the new radio frequency for the departure controller.

Once clearance is given, the pilot must decide if it is safe to take off and, in this case, he accelerates the plane down the runway. As the plane leaves the ground, the local controller hands it over electronically to the departure controller of the departure airport, but still monitors the plane until it is 5 miles from the airport. The pilot now communicates with the departure controller.

**I Answer the following questions about the text, choose one answer – A, B, C, or D.**

1) What is the first thing that the pilot has to do according to the text?

a) file a flight plan

b) review the weather and map the route

c) examine the plane

d) push back from the gate

2) What does a flight data person not do?

a) checks if the plan of the flight is correct

b) makes sure the weather data is accurate

c) gives authorization to the pilot

d) creates a plan for the flight progress

3) What is the ground controller responsible for?

a) airplanes’ movements when not in the air

b) airplanes’ movements from the gates to the runways

c) airplanes’ movements from the runway to the gates

d) airplanes’ movements affecting ground vehicles

4) What do local controllers do?

a) ensures the safety of the aircraft

b) approves the departure of the aircraft

c) transfers the aircraft contact further through the system

d) all of the above

5) Choose the correct order of responsibilities:

a) pilot – flight data controller – ground controller – local controller – departure controller

b) pilot – flight data controller – ground controller – local controller – pilot – departure controller

c) pilot – ground controller – flight data controller – local controller – pilot – departure controller

d) pilot – ground controller – flight data controller – local controller – departure controller

**II Find the synonyms of these words in the text:**

investigating (paragraph 1): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

broadcasts (paragraph 2): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

permission (paragraph 3): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

intrude (paragraph 5): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

chosen (paragraph 6): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

observes (paragraph 7): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**III Write questions for the following sentences, so that the answer to the question is the underlined part of the sentence:**

1) A controller called a flight data person reviews the weather information.

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2) The ground controller communicates with your pilot.

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