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ANGLAIS

Late Improvements on Toyota’s Tacoma TS3

Toyota is the brand to beat in many automobile segments — reliable family sedans, fuel-sipping hybrids, luxury crossovers¹, etc. — but Toyota has not ruled more supremely as compact pickups¹. Some seven million compact/mid-size Toyota trucks have been sold in the U.S. since 1964, and for the last two decades, all of them have been named Tacoma, or “Taco,” by its legions of enthusiasts.

In recent years, thanks in part to Toyota’s hegemony as well as the dwindling number of mini-truck competitors as the Big Three² focused on full-sizers¹, the Tacoma has only galvanized its lead in the small truck arena. So why change anything?

Well, because no car or truck can remain fresh after more than a decade on the market, no matter what its competitive landscape looks like. And not insignificantly, the Chevy Colorado and GMC Canyon reappeared for 2015, looking and driving better than ever. Suddenly, with its defective old engine and four- and five-speed transmissions, the Tacoma has become a dinosaur.

Fortunately, Toyota is just about ready with a replacement, due in showrooms by the end of 2015 as a 2016 model and which has just made its debut at the 2015 Detroit auto show. At first blush, it’s clear that Toyota’s designers took a cautious approach to the Tacoma’s styling, resulting in a truck that looks more like it was refreshed than completely redesigned. But, every body panel is new, all the way from the raised hood back to its locking, easy-close tailgate³...

Customers will be able to have their 2016 Tacoma five ways: SR (think work truck), mid-grade SR5, TRD Sport, TRD Off-road¹, and Limited, the latter getting leather seating, JBL sound, and a host of other creature comforts. Other available amenities include wireless device charging, keyless engine starting, dual-zone climate control, a moonroof, and more. All Tacoma models will come with a Go-Pro mount near the rearview mirrors, for you adventure-seekers...

Toyota gave few details about the Tacoma’s defects, but did say that high-strength steel was added to the Tacoma’s frame, with ultra-high strength steel used in the body shell.

Footnotes:

- 1. types of vehicles
- 2. General Motors, Ford and Chrysler (biggest American car manufacturers)
- 3. door at the back of a pick-up

READING COMPREHENSION

(9 marks)

A. Find in the text the words corresponding to the definitions.

(2 marks)

DEFINITIONS

WORDS

1. Places where vehicles are displayed to the public.	a.
2. Unshared leadership in a particular field.	b.
3. They are car parts allowing the driver to look backward.	c.
4. Combining two different systems in a car.	d.

B. Read the text and choose the best option (circle a, b, or c) (1.5 marks)

5. **“Toyota is the brand to beat”** means
- a. Toyota is designing a new prototype.
 - b. Toyota is a declining leader in car manufacturing.
 - c. Toyota is the top car maker.
6. **“The dwindling number of mini-truck competitors”** means mini-trucks were getting:
- a. more numerous in the market.
 - b. lower in number in the market.
 - c. more competitive in the market.
7. **“Tacoma has become a dinosaur”** suggests that Tacoma is
- a. much stronger.
 - b. old-fashioned now.
 - c. Strange.

C. Complete the chart with information from the text. (2 marks)

Toyota’s most popular model.	8.
Model privileged by the major car manufacturers.	9.
Models in competition with the Tacoma.	10. 11.
Part improved with new technological development.	12.
Material used to improve the part.	13.
Accessories related to the Tacoma motor and battery.	14. 15.

D. Say if the statements are TRUE or FALSE. Justify by quoting from the text. (3 marks)

16. The replacement for the Tacoma is now available to the public.
.....
.....
17. Toyota and the Big Three have the same focus.
.....
.....
18. The Chevy Colorado and the GMC Canyon were no match to the Tacoma.
.....
.....

E. Which idea appears in the text? Circle the number corresponding to the correct answer. (0.5 marks)

- 19. At first, Toyota didn't want to replace the Tacoma because other car companies didn't produce many trucks.
- 20. The Chevy Colorado and the GMC Canyon lost their competitiveness in 2015.
- 21. There are aspects of the Tacoma which reminds of the old one.

LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE (7 marks)

F. Complete the paragraph with the appropriate form of the verbs in brackets. (2marks)

At last, Toyota -----²² (DESIGN) a new truck model to replace the Tacoma. In fact, it -----²³ (EXHIBIT) a few weeks ago at the Detroit Auto Show. But consumers -----²⁴ (ONLY, HAVE) it at the end of 2015, and enthusiasts are looking forward to -----²⁵ (GET) one whatever the cost.

G. Reformulate each statement using the prompts given. (2 marks)

26. **The** Tacoma remained competitive on the mini-track arena because the Big Three concentrated on full size cars.

Owing to the Big Three -----

27. A piece of technology may remain popular, but it has to be replaced at a certain age.

Although -----

H. Fill in the blanks with the right form of the words in brackets. (3 marks)

Age is a real enemy of technology. In fact, any equipment, whatever its -----²⁸ (POPULAR), is likely to lose its -----²⁹ (COMPETITIVE) after a given time. This -----³⁰ (APPLICATION) to all manufactured items. Think of Apple, a computer and phone -----³¹ (PRODUCE); in a few years, it has made a lot of different devices perhaps to bring significant -----³² (INNOVATE) in the field. That's the law of the -----³³ (TECHNOLOGY) world.

WRITING (4 marks)

Choose one of the following topics and write a passage of not more than 150 words.

Topic One:

The number of cars has dramatically increased in urban areas. How negatively does this situation impact on people's quality of life?

Topic Two:

Car manufacturers have introduced electric cars in the market. What do you think are the main reasons for this introduction? Give your opinions.