



# Safety and Rules

Short-answer questions: Sweden's Vision Zero | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

## 1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. What makes a road dangerous for pedestrians or cyclists?
2. Should drivers or road designers have more responsibility for safety?
3. What road rule do people often ignore?
4. How can a city reduce serious accidents?

### Exercise 1 at a glance

Read one factual text. Answers are in the text. Copy exact words and check the question carefully before choosing your answer.

## 2. Read for overall understanding

Read the text. How does Vision Zero change the way people think about road safety?

### Sweden's Vision Zero

Vision Zero is Sweden's approach to road safety. In 1997, the Swedish parliament adopted it as the basis for road safety work. The central idea is simple but ambitious: no one should be killed or seriously injured in road traffic. This does not mean that no accidents will ever happen. It means the road system should be designed so that human mistakes do not lead to death or serious injury.

Traditional road safety campaigns often focus on individual behaviour. They tell drivers to slow down, wear seat belts and avoid alcohol. Vision Zero still expects road users to behave responsibly, but it also places responsibility on the people who design and manage roads, vehicles and transport systems. If people make mistakes, the system should help protect them.

This approach can change practical decisions. Roads may be redesigned to separate cars from cyclists and pedestrians. Speed limits may be lowered in places where people are likely to be hurt badly in a crash. Barriers can be used to prevent head-on collisions, and safer crossings can help children or older people cross busy roads.

A key idea is that the human body can only survive a limited amount of crash force. This means speed matters. A person hit by a fast-moving vehicle is much more likely to be killed or seriously injured than someone hit at a lower speed. Vision Zero therefore encourages planners to match road design and speed limits to the people using the space.

The policy can also influence how streets are judged. A road is not successful only because many cars move through it quickly. It also has to be safe for people walking, cycling, using public transport or driving. This can lead to decisions such as narrower lanes, traffic calming, better lighting and more protected cycle routes.

Vision Zero treats serious road injury as a public health problem, not only a transport problem. A crash can affect families, hospitals, emergency services and workplaces. Preventing deaths and serious injuries therefore has social and economic benefits as well as personal ones.

The policy has influenced other countries and cities, including places far from Sweden. However, copying the slogan is easier than changing the whole system. A city may announce a Vision Zero plan, but it still needs safe street design, reliable data, enforcement and public support.

Vision Zero also involves difficult choices. Lower speed limits or street redesigns may be unpopular with some drivers. Yet supporters argue that convenience should not be valued above human life. The approach asks a clear question: if people will always make mistakes, how can roads be designed so those mistakes are not fatal?

### 3. Strategy focus

#### Check the exact aim

Some questions ask about the aim of a project, not every detail connected to it. Read the whole sentence before copying your answer.

### 4. Exam-style short-answer questions

Answer the questions using words from the text.

1. What is the central idea of Vision Zero? [1]

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2. What should human mistakes not lead to? [1]

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3. Who shares responsibility besides road users? [1]

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4. Where might speed limits be lowered? [1]

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5. What is easier than changing the whole system? [1]

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6. According to the text, what are three practical ways roads may be made safer? [3]

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### 5. Vocabulary notebook

Underline five useful words or phrases. Check their meaning, then record them in your vocabulary notebook.

### 6. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: Which road near your school needs a safety improvement?

2. Summary: Summarise Vision Zero in about 50 words.

3. Creative task: Design a road-safety sign for young cyclists.

4. Research: Find one road safety campaign in another country.

# Safety and Rules

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## 4. Exam-style short-answer questions

1. no one should be killed or seriously injured in road traffic
2. death or serious injury
3. the people who design and manage roads, vehicles and transport systems
4. places where people are likely to be hurt badly in a crash
5. copying the slogan
6. Any three from: separate cars from cyclists and pedestrians; lower speed limits; barriers; safer crossings; safe street design; enforcement.

## Notes for checking

1. Answers should be short and clearly based on the text.
2. Accept bracketed or optional wording if the meaning is clear.
3. For the final question, learners need three separate details.