

21st August 2023 – Higher B2+/C1

A new type of traffic camera that detects noisy vehicles has been **trialled** in the UK. The “noise cameras” catch illegally-loud sounds coming from **modified exhausts** or supercars and motorbikes revving their engines. The acoustic cameras have microphones specially fitted and capture the **numberplate** and sound level of the vehicle. If the sound detected exceeds the legal limit of 74 decibels, then a **fine** is automatically sent to the driver. Alongside the trial was a **survey** commissioned by the RAC (Royal Automobile Club) to gather drivers’ thoughts on the cameras. Of those polled, almost 60% were in favour of them, but around 20% were against the new detection cameras, while the last 20% were undecided. Those who fail to **comply** with the legal noise limit face a £50 fine, which around 40% of drivers felt was in proportion to the offence committed. Others felt that **motorists** should face a steeper fine and a temporary ban if they breach the rules. The survey revealed that around a third of the UK regularly hear **unnecessarily** loud vehicle noises. According to the government up to £10 billion a year is lost in **productivity** at work due to disturbed sleep and other resulting health problems. The RAC said they want the trialled cameras in the worst areas affected, and “the sooner effective camera **enforcement** can be put in place the better”.

Q1. _____

How many parts of a car can you name?

Make a list of the top 3, 5, or 10 most annoying sounds.

Q2. _____

Which bolded words in the text mean:

1. quiz
2. pointlessly
3. application
4. respect
5. vehicle ID
6. charge
7. tested
8. drivers
9. changed
10. effort

Q3. _____

Which word below doesn’t belong?

exceed - modify - acoustic - breach

Q4. _____

Reading comprehension questions:

1. What kinds of sounds do noise cameras catch?
2. What did the RAC do?
3. What do drivers get if they exceed the noise limit?
4. What do companies lose because of the problem?
5. What do the RAC want to see from the trial?

Q5. _____

Link the five synonym pairs:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. detect | A. study |
| 2. disturb | B. catch |
| 3. survey | C. sound |
| 4. acoustic | D. not sure |
| 5. undecided | E. trouble |

Q6. _____

Spell the words correctly:

1. y c p m o l
2. h e a c b r
3. c e d t s e t
4. o u a t c i c s
5. i n f e

Q7. _____

Discussion questions / Writing practice:

What is the loudest thing you’ve ever heard or listened to?

What are some examples of noise pollution?

Why is sleep important?

Q8. _____

15 C1 lesson keywords: underlined in text.