

Sports equipment manufacturer Adidas presented a soccer ball called miCoach, which will provide coaches and fans with exciting information.

Another smart device called Skulpt Chisel can measure up to 24 individual muscles in the human body.

Virtual reality is also getting more affordable as well as mobile. A simple device called Wearality Sky can turn any smartphone into virtual reality goggles.

And this is only a preview of what we can expect to see at the world's biggest Consumer Electronics Show.

1. What is the news mainly about?
2. What is the name of the virtual reality device mentioned in the news?

Part III Test yourself

Questions 1 and 2 will be based on the following news item.

Scientists have found strong evidence of salt water on the planet Mars, the US space agency NASA announced Monday.

NASA has found lines of “hydrated” salt minerals on Mars. Scientists say these minerals would require liquid water to be created. And where there’s liquid water, they say, there could be life.

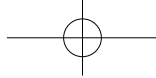
Jim Green is the director of planetary science at NASA Headquarters. He said during a news conference that “today, we are revolutionizing our understanding of this planet.”

NASA has found evidence of water on Mars in the past. In March, NASA said there was once more water on Mars than in Earth’s Arctic Ocean. They said more than four billion years ago, Mars was covered with water 137 meters deep, but nearly all of it has since evaporated into space.

1. What have scientists found on the planet Mars?
2. What do we learn about Mars?

Questions 3 and 4 will be based on the following news item.

The long-awaited take-off of the *Solar Impulse* was greeted with delight by those who have spent the last seven years working on it. The solar-powered plane has the wing-span of a jumbo jet, but weighs less than a family car. It doesn’t use a single drop of aviation fuel,



instead its giant wings are covered with solar cells.

The project is the brainchild of Swiss adventurer Bertrand Piccard—he sees the *Solar Impulse* as a sign of things to come. But the *Solar Impulse* won't replace conventional air travel. Its top speed is just 44 miles an hour (70kph). Nevertheless Bertrand Piccard hopes to fly the plane around the world in 2012, thus continuing a long family tradition.

Now Bertrand Piccard hopes to show the world just what can be achieved with a little bit of sunshine.

3. What is the news mainly about?
4. Who is the inventor of the *Solar Impulse*?

Questions 5 to 7 will be based on the following news item.

The town of Agbogbloshie in the West African country of Ghana has been called a digital dumping ground. Millions of tons of discarded electronics wind up there annually, so people can try to recover anything of value. It's therefore one of the most polluted places in the world because workers burn plastic coatings to get at the metal in the guts of gadgets.

But Agbogbloshie is about to get cleaner, thanks to the opening of a new facility for handling such e-waste. Four machines that can strip plastic will prevent the burning that produces hazardous smoke.

E-waste is a large and growing problem due to the large and growing appetite for electronics. Responsible recyclers exist, but too much e-waste still ends up being exported and improperly disposed of in places like Agbogbloshie.

The worst e-waste remains batteries. The most common type, lead-acid batteries, are classified as toxic waste once used. And more and more rechargeable lithium-ion batteries are finding their way into landfills and other unsafe disposal sites.

But the problem of e-waste can be solved with proper recycling. The new machines in Agbogbloshie should be able to strip enough wires to produce about 10 metric tons of copper a month. That's good news for livelihoods — and lungs — of local residents.

5. Why has the town of Agbogbloshie been called a digital dumping ground?
6. Why is e-waste a large and growing problem?
7. How can we solve the problem of e-waste?