



Topic: Budget Airlines

Read the definitions and complete the sentences using the words in bold.

1. **aviation**: the activity of flying aircraft, or of designing, producing, and keeping them in good condition
2. **fleet**: a number of buses, aircraft, etc. under the control of one person or organisation
3. **hub**: the central or main part of something where there is most activity
4. **swiftly**: quickly or immediately
5. **turnaround**: the amount of time taken for something to happen after a vehicle arrives at a place, is processed, and then sent out again
6. **onboard**: available or situated on a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle
7. **ancillary**: providing support or assistance; it's something that aids or supplements a primary function

1. Passengers can purchase meals and drinks _____ during the flight.
2. Airport staff worked hard to achieve an efficient _____ between flights.
3. Storm warnings caused several flights to be _____ cancelled across Europe.
4. Historic aircraft are often showcased in _____ museums around the world.
5. Budget airlines often operate a(n) _____ of identical aircraft to save costs.
6. Airlines generate extra revenue through _____ services like baggage and seat selection.
7. Singapore serves as a major _____ for Southeast Asian air travel.

Read the following passage and answer the questions below.

Budget Airlines

Low-cost carriers (LCCs), also known as budget or no-frills airlines, have transformed the global **aviation** industry. Today, they account for nearly one-third of the world's scheduled airline capacity, and their share continues to grow. These airlines attract travellers by offering significantly cheaper fares than traditional or 'legacy' carriers, primarily through cost-saving measures passed on to the customer.

LCCs minimise costs by simplifying operations. Many operate a single type of aircraft, such as the Boeing 737, which reduces training, maintenance, and staffing expenses. This uniformity allows for greater flexibility, as pilots and crew can be assigned across the **fleet** with ease. Moreover, LCCs typically use newer, more fuel-efficient planes to further reduce operating costs.

Unlike traditional airlines that rely on complex **hub** networks, LCCs adopt a point-to-point model. Each route is treated as an independent business unit, and underperforming routes are **swiftly** dropped. These airlines also tend to use secondary airports, which offer lower landing fees and quicker **turnaround** times, though they may be less convenient for passengers.

Onboard services are intentionally limited. LCCs often charge for meals, checked baggage, seat selection, and even printing a boarding pass. While the base fare may be low, these additional '**ancillary**' charges are a major source of revenue. In some cases, they account for nearly half of an airline's total income.

LCCs have also inspired change in legacy carriers, many of which have adopted similar cost-saving practices on short-haul routes. As the demand for affordable travel continues, the influence of low-cost carriers is expected to expand even further.

1. What is one key way LCCs keep operating costs low?
 - a. by offering free onboard services
 - b. by flying only long-haul international routes
 - c. by using a single type of aircraft
 - d. by partnering with luxury hotels

2. How do LCCs typically manage underperforming routes?
 - a. They are quickly removed from the schedule.
 - b. They are transferred to partner airlines.
 - c. They are subsidised by the government.
 - d. They are moved to larger airports.

3. What is the main difference between LCCs and legacy carriers in terms of network structure?
 - a. Legacy carriers use fewer aircraft types.
 - b. LCCs operate through international hubs.
 - c. LCCs use a point-to-point model.
 - d. Legacy carriers avoid short-haul routes.
4. According to the passage, what are 'ancillary' charges?
 - a. discounts given for early booking
 - b. government taxes added to flights
 - c. insurance charges required by budget airlines
 - d. extra fees for optional onboard services
5. What trend is mentioned in the final paragraph regarding legacy airlines?
 - a. They are eliminating all in-flight services.
 - b. They are adopting LCC strategies for short-haul routes.
 - c. They are merging with low-cost carriers.
 - d. They are reducing fuel use by cancelling flights.