**Why did the Kobe earthquake in January 1995 kill so many people?**

*Use all of the following sentences to help you write an answer to the above question. The sentences are currently in no particular order – so your first job is to sort them into a better order. Look for sentences that appear to be connected. Then rearrange them so the ideas lead on from one to the next. You will need to add connecting words or phrases to make your answer read well. Also, you must write some additional phrases or sentences to make your answer into an explanation, rather than just a series of descriptions.*

*There is no perfect solution, but some sentences go together better than with others!*

A Many survivors were taken immediately to a central building with stockpiles of food, water and blankets.

B Volunteers dug through the rubble with their bare hands to search for victims.

C Over 5 000 people died in the earthquake and 350 000 were made homeless.

D Gas pipes exploded and fires burnt all over the city.

E Many fire engines ran out of water before the fires were put out.

F With smoke from the fires the search for survivors was difficult.

G The port of Kobe, the world’s largest container port, was destroyed.

H The earthquake struck at 05:40, on Tuesday, 17 January 1995.

I Some buildings in central Kobe had structures that were computer-controlled and could adjust to earth movements.

J Many older houses were built with heavy concrete roofs.

K Underground water pipes were broken by the tremors.

L Southern Japan, where Kobe is situated, had not had a major earthquake since 1956.

M Many of the buildings were built before 1960.

N Japan is a rich country and it is one of the most technologically advanced countries in the world.

O Kobe was very close to the epicentre of the earthquake.

P Stress had built up in the rocks of the Pacific and Philippines plates either side of the plate boundary.

Q Since 1981, Japanese houses have been built to be earthquake-proof.

R Several hospitals in the old part of Kobe were destroyed in the earthquake.

S When the ground moved, many of the buildings did not follow and collapsed.

T Ambulances and fire engines were unable to reach damaged areas because the roads were blocked by collapsed buildings.

U Large areas of Kobe were blacked-out because electricity lines were cut.

V When stress is released from rocks at the plate boundaries by moving, waves travel through the earth’s crust.

W There is a Japanese saying: “The devil will pass over a house with a good roof and move on to the next one.”

X The Japanese government and people were greatly shocked by the death and disaster.

Y More than 600 aftershocks followed the earthquake.

Z Japan has a population of 124 million and a population density of about 310 people per square kilometre.