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Chào các bạn, mình tên Nam. Quyền E-book IELTS READING PRACTICE này là do mình tổng hợp các bài tập và Tips trên trang web của thầy Simon và phần answer keys (ở cuối E-book).

Bản thân mình cũng gặp khó khăn khi tìm kiếm những tài liệu luyện IELTS hằng ngày chất lượng, nên mình tổng hợp lại những tài liệu và bài giảng của thầy Simon (IELTS-SIMON.COM) để cho các bạn dễ học và đạt kết quả cao hơn ^^

Nếu thấy E-book hữu ích, các bạn hãy ủng hộ những bài viết của mình tại Dohoangnam.com nhé.

Chúc tất cả các bạn học thật vui và KILL THE IELTS ^^

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I. IELTS READING TIPS & ADVISES

IELTS Reading: techniques for matching names

Today I'm attaching a reading exercise that requires you to match names with statements. For this type of question, I'm going to recommend 3 things that contradict my normal advice:

1. First, *scan* the whole passage and underline the names. I don't normally recommend scanning, because students often miss the answers when they scan too quickly. However, scanning for names of people should be easy.
2. Second, underline keywords in *all* of the questions. I usually recommend doing just one question at a time, but I break this 'rule' for any type of question that involves matching.
3. Finally, instead of reading from the beginning of the passage (my usual approach), I recommend starting with the name that is accompanied by the *smallest amount of information*. In today's exercise, for example, I would start by reading the part about Karl Marx - only one sentence! Read that sentence and compare it with the question statements, looking for similar keywords as usual.

IELTS Reading Advice: read 'real' things!

It's frustrating to see students who rely on textbooks to teach them everything about the English language. Why read an article in an 'upper intermediate' textbook (that was probably written 10 years ago) when you could be reading 'real' articles in newspapers or on the Internet?

Read articles because you find them interesting, not because they have been written to demonstrate a particular grammar point.

A suggestion: if you've read anything interesting recently, put a link to it (and maybe a quick summary if you have time) in the comments area below this lesson.

IELTS Reading: time

'Not having enough time' is the biggest problem for most people taking the reading test. Here are some tips for dealing with this problem:

1. Go straight to the first question. Don't waste time reading the full passage or the first sentence of each paragraph, and don't read any of the other questions.
2. Do 'paragraph' questions last. Questions that ask you to match headings or statements with paragraphs are much easier if you are already familiar with the passage.
3. Don't get stuck on one question. As soon as you realise that you are having difficulties with a question, leave it and move to the next one. Return to difficult questions later if you have time.

4. Remember that the answers to most question sections are in order in the passage. You don't need to go back to the beginning of the passage to search for each answer.
5. Only skim or scan for numbers and names. Otherwise, read at normal speed.
6. Work with an alarm. You can't do this in an exam, but at home you could set the alarm (on your phone) for 2 minutes and try to do each question within this time.

Note:

When preparing for the reading test at home, try not to worry about time at first. Your first concern should be to get the score you need, even if it takes you 3 hours instead of 1 hour to do a full test.

IELTS Reading: multiple choice practice

The document attached below contains a multiple choice exercise from the official IELTS website, ielts.org. Here's some advice before you try the exercise:

1. First, underline the 'keywords' in the question. In the first question, for example, I would underline **research**, **1982**, **United States** and **soil erosion**.
2. Second, underline the keywords in each of the four choices e.g. **reduced productivity by 20%** in choice A, and **India and China** in choice B.
3. Next, search for the keywords from the question. I'd look for **1982** first, then find the other keywords.
4. Finally, read the relevant section of the text carefully, and compare what it says with the information in the four choices. In question 1, you'll need to think carefully about answers A and C.

IELTS reading and listening scores

Students often ask how many correct answers they need (out of 40) to get a band score of 7 in the reading and listening tests.

According to official IELTS guidelines:

- Band 6 is about 23 out of 40
- Band 7 is about 30
- Band 8 is about 35

Note:

The score needed for each band can change depending on the difficulty of each test. If you have a really difficult test, the score needed for band 7 might be 28 or 29. If the test is easier, you might need to score 31 or 32 to get a 7.

IELTS Reading: some sites for daily reading

People often ask about extra reading practice: Is it a good idea to read newspapers or magazines, and which ones are the best for IELTS practice?

Two good places to find articles are The Economist and National Geographic. Try to spend a few minutes every day reading something from one of these sites. Make a note of some new words or phrases, and gradually your reading will improve.

IELTS Reading: 3 study tips

Here are 3 study tips to help you improve your reading:

1. As I said in Saturday's lesson, the best way to get better at the reading test is by doing more reading. Do as many practice tests as you can, and read other things e.g. books, newspapers and online articles.
2. Try doing a reading test without a time limit, and with a dictionary. If you still can't get the score you need, you'll need to look carefully at what you are doing wrong.
3. Spend time analysing your mistakes and the correct answers. If you don't understand why an answer was right or wrong, ask a teacher to help you. You'll improve more quickly if you learn from your mistakes.

IELTS Reading: paragraph headings tips

Here are my top 4 tips for how to answer 'paragraph headings' questions:

1. Do these questions last

'Paragraph headings' questions are difficult, especially because the answers will not be in order in the text. For most other types of question, the answers will be in order in the text. So, do the other questions first, then you will be familiar with the text when you return to the 'paragraph headings' questions. You might even find that you are able to match some of the paragraphs really quickly because you remember what they were about.

2. Start with the shortest paragraphs

Instead of starting with the first paragraph, why not start with the shortest paragraph? If there is a really short paragraph, it should be easier to match it to a heading. Then you will have fewer headings to choose from for the longer paragraphs.

3. Look for similar words

As with most types of IELTS reading question, you should be able to find words in the paragraph that are similar to words in the heading.

4. Move on if you are spending too much time

'Paragraph headings' questions often take a long time. Don't allow yourself to use more than 20 minutes for each reading passage. If you haven't finished after 20 minutes, move on to the next passage.

IELTS Reading: notice the vocabulary

In all IELTS reading tests you'll find good vocabulary. When you read a good word or phrase, do you notice it, write it down, and try to use it?

Here's some good vocabulary from last week's reading exercise:

- the ease
- our modern workday
- come at the expense of
- longevity
- long stretches of time
- increases the odds of
- an untimely death
- engage in leisurely pursuits
- shortening their lifespan
- sedentary
- moderate to vigorous exercise
- mortality
- inactive
- fared the worst
- premature death
- lesser amounts of
- prolonged

This is the kind of "less common vocabulary" that could help you to get a band 7 or higher in the writing and speaking tests. Can you use these words and phrases in your own sentences?

IELTS Reading: 6 tips

How can you improve your reading? Here are 6 tips:

1. If you want to improve your reading, the first thing to do is read a lot. There are no shortcuts or secret techniques; you will only improve with time and practice.
2. Anything you read in English is good practice, so read about subjects that interest you. Try to enjoy reading in English.
3. English is the most used language on the Internet. Whenever you search for information on the net, try searching in English first.
4. Remember that "understanding is not the same as using". Keep a notebook with useful words and phrases that you find when you're reading, and try using them in your own sentences.
5. Apart from reading things that interest you, you also need to read lots of IELTS passages. If you've done all of the tests in the Cambridge books, read the passages again without doing the questions. Use a dictionary, take notes, and try to fully understand each passage.
6. Another way to use the Cambridge tests is to look at the correct answers to each question first. Your task is to find out why those answers are correct by analysing the passage carefully and finding the 'keywords'.

I'm sure you can think of other suggestions. Be creative with your reading practice, try to enjoy the learning process, and trust that you will improve if you persist.

IELTS Reading: work on vocabulary

If you want to improve your IELTS reading score, the most important thing to work on is your knowledge of vocabulary. Exam techniques are of little use if you don't understand the words that you are reading.

I tell my students to keep a vocabulary notebook, and to use a dictionary to find meanings and examples of usage. Here are some words and phrases that we noted in an IELTS reading lesson that I taught last week:

- exclusive of
- to dab
- to mimic
- a static image
- mastery
- cognitive
- a pitfall
- ground rules
- the likelihood

- to pick up a signal

To help my students, I tried to explain the meanings and to give some example sentences. Can you write your own sentences to show that you can use the vocabulary above?

IELTS Reading: improve your vocabulary

Whenever you practise doing an IELTS reading test, you should treat it as an opportunity to improve your vocabulary knowledge. Look carefully at the phrases used, and the way ideas are expressed.

For example, did you notice this vocabulary in last week's lesson?

- pose a challenge
- a pressing challenge
- meet the growing need for
- more mouths to feed
- sheer population growth
- the spread of prosperity
- driving demand
- boosting pressure
- the double whammy of... and...

Try making your own sentences to practise using some of these phrases.

IELTS Reading: try this technique

Here's an interesting way to use reading tests from the Cambridge IELTS books:

1. Choose a passage from one of the reading tests.
2. Get the correct answers from the back of the book.
3. Now read the first question, underline keywords, and search for the answer in the passage - you already know the correct answer, so your only aim is to find **where** it is in the passage.
4. Underline words in the passage that have the same meaning as the keywords in the question.
5. When you have done this for each question, make a keyword table.

This technique forces you to stop testing yourself. Instead, it makes you focus on finding key vocabulary and understanding the reason for each answer. You might be surprised at the improvements you make if you regularly practise in this way.

IELTS Reading: how to do 'multiple choice'

Try following these steps when doing multiple choice questions:

1. Read the question and underline the "keywords" - these are the words that you will try to find in the passage (the main words that give the meaning of the question).
2. Read the choices and underline one or two keywords for each one. Focus on words that make the difference between each choice.
3. Go to the passage and look for the keywords from the question.
4. When you have found the right part of the passage, look for keywords from the choices.
5. Read the relevant part of the passage carefully, comparing it to each choice.
6. To be sure you have the right answer, you should be able to show that the other answer choices are wrong.

IELTS Reading: when to skim or scan

From my experience practising IELTS reading with students, skimming and scanning are techniques that *don't* usually help. When students try to skim or scan, they often miss the answers completely.

For example, if you are scanning for the word "buy" but the passage contains the synonym "purchase", you probably won't find the answer.

So what is the solution? Instead of skimming or scanning, I tell my students to *read at normal speed*. Only scan quickly if you are searching for a name or a number.

IELTS Reading: make your own reading questions

The people who write the questions for IELTS reading do something like this:

1. They take a reading passage.
2. They read through the passage and stop when they find something interesting.
3. They make a question about that part of the passage, usually by paraphrasing it. For example, if the passage contains the phrase "elderly people", the question writer might create a question with the words "senior citizens".

Have you ever tried writing your own IELTS reading question? It's a good exercise to get you thinking like the question writer, and hopefully you'll see why the keyword technique is so useful.

IELTS Reading is a vocabulary test

You can't get a high score in the IELTS reading test without learning a lot of vocabulary.

For example, here are some words and phrases that my students needed to know for a reading test that we did:

- remained = stayed
- took a long time = slow
- of varying (size, price etc) = of different (size, price)
- virtually any = almost any
- non-stop = continuous
- unblemished = perfect, without a mark or scratch
- molten (glass or metal) = in liquid form due to heat
- instant commercial success = made a profit straight away
- flaws = faults, mistakes, weaknesses
- detecting = locating, finding, discovering

Write the new words and phrases that you read or hear in a notebook - that's the best way to improve your vocabulary knowledge.

IELTS Reading: which paragraph contains...?

"Which paragraph contains the following information?" This type of question is not the same as "match the headings to the paragraphs".

Here are some tips for "which paragraph contains?" questions:

- Instead of looking for the main idea of each paragraph, you need to find one piece of information.
- Some paragraphs might not contain any answers.
- The same paragraph might contain more than one answer.
- It's not usually difficult to *understand* the question or answer, but it is difficult to *find* the answer.
- Do these questions last. By doing other questions first, you will become familiar with the passage, and you might remember where some of the answers are.
- Look for the easiest information first: questions that contain names, numbers or big/unusual words might be easier to find.

IELTS Reading: underline key words

Hopefully you do this already, but it's worth pointing out why underlining is so important when you're doing an IELTS reading test. I tell my students to underline the main words in the question, then underline any similar words that they find as they read the passage.

There are 3 reasons why underlining is useful:

1. It encourages you to use the keyword technique to find the answers.
2. You don't lose your place in the passage when you're turning pages to check between the question and the text.
3. The same information may be relevant for a later question (e.g. when you do a 'paragraph headings' section last).

I can always tell when students have worked hard on a reading paper by the amount of underlining or highlighting they have done. If you don't usually underline things, start now!

IELTS Reading: when to 'skim' or 'scan'

Many IELTS books talk about 'skimming' and 'scanning' to find answers in the reading test. But the danger is that students focus more on these techniques than on the passage that they are reading, with the result that they often miss the answers by skimming or scanning past them!

Here's some simple advice:

Skimming basically means 'reading very quickly'. Only skim if you are looking for a distinctive word that doesn't have any synonyms e.g. "Manchester".

Scanning basically means 'looking for something without reading'. Only scan if you're searching for a number e.g. "1999".

For all other questions, forget about skimming and scanning; just read the passage carefully at normal speed.

IELTS Reading: my advice

Here is my list of advice and techniques for IELTS reading:

1. Don't read the whole text; you haven't got enough time. Just go straight to the questions.
2. 'Paragraph' questions are much easier if you do them last. Do other sections first.
3. The answers to most questions should be in the correct order in the text, so you don't need to go back to the beginning to start looking for the next answer.

4. Read all instructions carefully.
5. Look for 'keywords'. There are usually words in the questions that are similar to words you need to find in the text. For example, if the text contains the word "global", the question might use the word "international". If you find the similar words, you have probably found the answer.
6. You must get to the end and answer every question. If you don't finish, you might miss some easy points.
7. Some questions are difficult because their aim is to separate band 8 and band 9. Don't waste time on difficult questions. Miss them, finish the exam, and return to them at the end.

IELTS Reading: 2 questions about exam technique

1. Should you read the whole passage before looking at the questions?
2. Should you go to the questions first, then skim/scan to find the answers?

My answer to question 1 is **no**. You don't have time to read the whole passage unless your English is almost 'native speaker' level.

My answer to question 2 is **yes and no**.

Yes - go to the questions first.

No - don't skim or scan unless the question contains a name or number.

My advice is to do the questions one by one. Instead of skimming or scanning, read the passage carefully. The answers to most question sections will be in order in the passage, so ***you will gradually read the whole passage*** as you find the answers.

IELTS Reading: finding and understanding

IELTS reading is really a test of 2 things:

1. Can you ***find*** the part of the text that contains the answer?
2. Do you ***understand*** that part of the text?

Finding

You need to be able to find the right part of the text quickly. I practise this a lot with my students: we decide which words in the question we need to search for, then we try to locate those words (or words with the same meaning) in the text.

Understanding

When you have found where the answer is, you need to read that part of the text carefully. Read the sentences before and after the keywords that you found. Then it becomes a test of your vocabulary knowledge: if you don't understand the words that you are reading, it will be difficult to get the right answer.

IELTS Reading: paragraph questions

There are 2 types of questions that ask you about paragraphs:

1. Paragraph headings - match the sub-headings with the paragraphs.
2. Specific information - which paragraph contains the following information? Try an example: IELTS Reading: Which paragraph?
 - For 'paragraph headings' questions, you need to find the main idea of each paragraph. I usually recommend starting with the shortest paragraph first.
 - For 'specific information' questions, remember that one paragraph can contain more than one piece of information (e.g. "paragraph A" could be the answer for questions 1 and 2). Some paragraphs may not contain any information, so it doesn't help to start with the shortest one.

Both types of question are easier if you do the other question sections first (gap-fill, true/false/not given etc.). You will then be more familiar with the text, and you might even remember where some of the 'paragraph' answers are.

IELTS Reading: easy questions first

A good technique for the IELTS reading test is to do easy questions first. If you get stuck on difficult questions, miss them. Do the easy questions, then return to the tricky questions later.

What's the easiest type of question?

The easiest type of question is probably any question that contains a name, number or date. For these questions, it should be easy to scan the text to find where the answer is.

If you find it difficult to get started in the exam, look for a question with a name, number or date, and start there. An easy question will help you to start

IELTS Reading: skimming and scanning?

Many teachers and books talk about skimming and scanning as key techniques for IELTS reading.

I have stopped using the words 'skimming' and 'scanning' in my lessons because I find that they confuse students. In fact, many students get the wrong answers because they 'skim' too quickly and miss the words that they are looking for.

So, forget 'skimming' and 'scanning' and focus on 'finding' and 'understanding'.

1. **Finding:** read the text to find words from the question.
2. **Understanding:** when you have found some key words from the question, read that part of the text carefully in order to understand it and get the right answer.

IELTS Reading: don't 'over-think' the answer

I've noticed that many students get the wrong answer because they think too much! They worry about small differences in meaning. For example, look at the following part of a reading passage:

The two week planned study into the psychological impact of prison life...

Now decide whether the following statement is true, false or not given:

The study aimed to investigate the mental and behavioural effects of life in prison.

The statement is true, but many students put *not given* because they "over-think" the meaning of 'psychological'. They think that the definition of psychological must be more complex than 'mental and behavioural'.

Don't think too hard about small differences in meanings. 'Mental and behavioural' might not be a perfect definition of 'psychological', but the overall meaning is the same (a simple definition of psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour).

II. IELTS READING: KEY WORDS TABLES

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
invitation	being asked to
express appreciation	thank the audience
visual excitement	interesting to watch / make it come alive
increase	a burst of
without restriction	valid for all
cheapest ticket	unbeatable price
cannot get money back	non-refundable

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
inconvenient for car owners	no space for parking nearby
if you like surfing the web	(it has) Broadband Internet
a new option	recent initiative
organise parking a year at a time	parking for the academic year
does not belong to the college	a privately-owned residence
do not have your own bathroom	communal bathrooms

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
reasons for the expansion of tourism	market is booming, requires little investment
disruptive effects of wilderness tourism	effects on local community, physical impact is another problem
low financial cost	little or no investment
throughout the year	(opposite of) limited to parts of the year
fall in food produced locally	decline in farm output
revived production	renaissance in production

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
he got up every day	he rose every morning
he allowed	he was willing
interrupt his routine	deviate from this routine
human civilisation	human settlement
exploration preparation	test exploration techniques
global partnerships	unites nations, common objectives

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
a scientific measure	a measure in the scientific sense
in the early 1800s	in the early 19th century
measure weather conditions	made weather observations
the original scale	the initial scale
wind description	winds are described

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
nutritional value of seaweeds	seaweed is a wholesome food
range of products	cosmetics, confectionary, toothpastes
under-use	were not much utilised
appearance and location	colour and position
how seaweeds reproduce	propagation of seaweeds
don't sink or dry out	stay on the surface, keep moist

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
elderly women	older women
effects of sitting	sitting increases...
serious health problems	heart disease and cancer
our growing understanding	recent research reveals
role of the unconscious	unconscious brain... an active player in...

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
scientists believe	according to research / scientists found
link between television and mental ability	watching television makes... stupider
young children	toddlers
many people were skeptical	many suspected that... were faked
he took legal action	he was quick to sue anyone
who tried to copy him	who pirated his stunts

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
instruction	be taught by another person
we tend to regard geniuses	a genius is seen by others
solitary figures	disconnected from society
has the ability	possesses unique qualities
exceptional contribution to society	especially valuable to society

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
achievement	success
distinctive	different
previous events	past experience
traps	pitfalls
new experiences	novelty
psychological illness	mental disorder
decide on an action	decision making

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
a military impact	used on a battlefield
brings together separate research areas	encompassed disparate fields
become a common topic of conversation	ignited public debate
the expression was first used	the term was coined
at its lowest point	(opposite of) it peaked
the problems have not changed	(opposite of) moving the goal-posts
expectations not justified	there was undue optimism
new investment priorities	investors are now looking for

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
aim	objective
present a professional image	project the professional image
must be in good condition	torn, dirty... is unacceptable
brightly coloured	flashy
avoid wearing too much	wear in moderation
are allowed	are permitted
is recommended	is strongly encouraged
if advice is repeatedly ignored	if the problem persists

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
aim	objective
present a professional image	project the professional image
must be in good condition	torn, dirty... is unacceptable
brightly coloured	flashy
avoid wearing too much	wear in moderation
are allowed	are permitted
is recommended	is strongly encouraged
if advice is repeatedly ignored	if the problem persists

Keywords in questions	Similar words from the passage
effect of recording	people talk abnormally when being recorded
taking notes	written comments
body language	non-verbal behaviour
influenced by social situation	social background... known to influence
helped to be less self-conscious	make the speaker forget about the recording
various methods	structured sessions, translation, interview
camera might miss things	camera cannot be everywhere
comment objectively	make unbiased statements
focus on	deals only with

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
banana cultivation	tropical fruit growing
cattle farming	agriculture... beef and dairy
recreation programs	fitness courses
elderly care	aged support
infant illness	early childhood nursing
beach protection	coastal management
fish farming	marine industry

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
construction	building
more expensive than predicted	costs far exceeding initial estimates
plans	proposals
allow vehicles to use the tunnel	accommodate wheeled vehicles
the tunnel is considered to be	the structure was listed in recognition of
a significant work of architecture	its architectural importance

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
location of the first site	first station to be installed
bringing power back into Britain	power re-imported into Britain
a previous attempt	originally developed then abandoned
tidal power is more reliable than wind	unlike wind, tides are predictable
cut air pollution	reducing emissions
closure of power stations	close power plants
increasing national income	a big export earner to nations
in the vicinity of coastlines	around coasts
can be raised	designed to be lifted
sea life	fish and other creatures
not in danger	unlikely to be at risk

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
taking notes on	written comments on
body language	non-verbal behaviour
social situation	social setting
various methods	several direct methods
necessary	unavoidable
allows claims to be checked	enables claims to be checked
the camera might miss things	the camera cannot be everywhere
comment objectively	make unbiased statements
focus on	deals only with
additional information	supplemented by data
those who speak the language	native speakers of the language

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
ancient water supplies	Roman Empire... pipes and sewers
environmental effects	destroyed river ecosystems
surprising downward trend	unexpectedly... demand has fallen
the need to raise standards	must be built to higher specifications
feeding increasing populations	food production... soaring populations
due primarily to	mainly because of
industrial growth	industrial output... continued to soar
modern technologies	new technologies
domestic water consumption	water in homes

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
conflicting theories	a matter for disagreement
widespread destruction of life	wiped out three quarters of species
existed all over the world	colonised all continents
clear proof	establishing definitely
hunted from the air	catching fish over open water
concrete evidence	proof of this
have been discovered	are known today

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
research completed	measurements have been done
20 per cent	one-fifth
causing significant damage	diminish productivity
by the mid-1980s	in the period 1960-1985
used twice as much fertiliser	fertiliser use doubled
farm diversification increased	farms began to diversify

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
national policy initiative	New Zealand strategy
global team effort	international working party
a hypothesis	researchers have suggested
worldwide regulations	international standards
more at risk than others	extremely vulnerable
auditory problems	hearing loss / hearing impairment
current teaching methods	modern teaching practices
cooling systems	air-conditioning units

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
most dangerous mountain	climbers have died
an infamous history	since 1935... climbers have died
was conquered	was successfully climbed
fined climbers	threatened to fine
world's most challenging climb	a formidable challenge

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
negative effects on well-being	impact on people's health
respect for... grows	much more credibility
understanding remains limited	still huge gaps in our knowledge
problems	hardships
as a means of sustenance	surviving by
present inhabitants	descendants
life is a struggle	life is harsh
a few	a handful of
to give up	to abandon

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
using the Internet	on-line
someone accompanying	and one companion
receives a discount	half-price seats
can get tickets 45 minutes before	on sale from one hour before
a group of adults	parties of twelve or more
get their money back	refund money

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
many experts regard Faraday as	historians of science refer to him as
the foremost experimentalist	the best experimentalist
of all time	in the history of science
recommended to him	?? (not given)
a famous chemist	the eminent English chemist
a book based on the chemist's lectures	a book based on notes taken during these lectures

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
responded to climate change	adapted to global warming
relevance today	help shape the modern world
a thousand years	ten centuries
enough food to last	self-sufficient in grain and livestock
human impact on climate	land clearance released carbon dioxide... triggering global warming
documentation is limited	incomplete written accounts
rather than	far from
some periods of	cycles of
no rain at all	droughts

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
smell is damaged	smell is impaired
we become aware of	we begin to realise
the importance of	essential role
without realising	not consciously considered
common belief	reason often given
yet to be defined	still to decide
recognise	distinguish
they lack	doesn't exist
do not smell	odourless
not unpleasant	acceptable

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
pessimistic view of the world	the world seems to be getting worse
linked to	associated with
slow down	accelerating (opposite of 'slow down')
the selection of areas to research	funding goes mainly to areas...
exaggerate their claims	overstate their arguments
meet readers' expectations	provide what the public wants
long-term	extend well into our future
more urgent health problem	most pressing health problem

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
creative writing	writing good fiction
a new study	new research
parents	mothers and fathers
conducting tests	carried out tests
allowing for	taking into account
genetics	heritability element

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
it is generally believed	the conventional picture is
large numbers of people	thousands of slaves
it was possible to use kites	could have used kites
to raise very heavy stones	to lift massive stones
large pieces of	massive blocks of
use the energy of the wind	harnessing the wind
an object which resembled	artefact looks uncannily like
used for sending messages	using them to deliver messages

Keywords in the questions	Similar words in the passage
it is predicted	scientists believe
many lives will be saved	preventing thousands of deaths
prototypes... tested successfully	prototypes already work
motorways... used more efficiently	increasing lane capacity by up to 500pc
the impact on rail and plane	reducing demand for train and plane
drawbacks for certain professions	threaten some existing jobs

Keywords in the questions	Similar words in the passage
investigative work	work of the scientific analyst
give a realistic picture	(opposite of) far from reality
define culture in more than one way	culture includes... also use the term...
history has been documented	historical sources... written records
subdivided for study purposes	broken down into smaller disciplines
evolutionary patterns	characteristics and how they evolved
shape of domestic buildings	why are some dwellings round?
make and use objects	use material culture... make tools

Keywords in the questions	Similar words in the passage
ignored by the media	(opposite of) frequent media coverage
children accept ideas	children will have formed opinions
mistaken views	misconceptions
easier to change	accessible to modification
yes/no questions	(opposite of) open-form questions
animals would have nowhere to live	provide animals with habitats
people are responsible	human activities are destroying...
for their continuing existence	to survive
the world gets warmer	global warming

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
differed from many Western countries	unusual in the Western world
reluctant to accept	having a conservative attitude to
consulted therapists more often	made more visits to therapists
in increasing numbers	has seen the popularity climb
over the past 20 years	during the past 20 years
had a higher opinion than they do today	public has become disillusioned
retraining	taking courses
long-term medical complaints	chronic illnesses

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
prioritise your work	tackle the most significant tasks first
create a working space	have a space for studying
catalogue references	log (titles and authors) alphabetically
photocopy important material	copy relevant pages
take a break	a period away from the task
talk about your work	bring your topic up in conversations

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
can recognise perspective	can appreciate perspective
surprised	taken aback
representing movement	show motion
understanding of symbols representing movement	figured out meanings for each line of motion
abstract shapes	shapes that do not directly represent their meaning
assigned a circle to 'deep'	linked deep to circle
similar choices	choices closely resembled
comprehend visual metaphors	interpret abstract shapes

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
identifying problems	problems had to be understood
co-operation of district officials	support of district authorities
a future model	a reference for future work
almost inaccessible	virtually totally isolated
20%... outside the local area	80% was within the locality
breakdown of buses and trucks	motorised vehicles broke down
isolation was no longer a problem	accessible throughout the year

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
the majority of	most of
on a daily basis	each day
conscious decisions	well-considered decision making
saving money	whether we save or spend
at least 40 percent	40 percent or more
the things we do	the actions people performed

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
financial incentives	give \$200
who is responsible?	are doctors to blame?
not persuaded	not influenced
open to criticism	highly criticised
information is of little use	(opposite of) much-needed information
it is legitimate to make money	have every right to make a profit
drug companies	pharmaceutical companies

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
about 1900	the early years of the twentieth century
records date from	began keeping records
intensive burst of energy	explosive release of energy
growing international importance	increasing global participation
recognised at a younger age	identified early
aims to develop power	focuses on increasing power
inadequate diet	deficiencies in minerals
links to	can lead to
current knowledge is basic	our understanding is fundamental

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
by the beginning of the 16th century	by 1500
in use	in operation
in several different countries	throughout Western Europe
rise in the number of	sharp increase in
people who could read and write	literacy
negative effect on middle classes	(opposite of) bolstered the middle class

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
exchange of expertise between sports	applying skills learnt in one sport to others
a reason for narrowing the scope of research	we can't waste time looking at questions that don't help performance
ideas have been reproduced	other countries copying
obstacles to achievement	factor that might have an impact on ability
before an event	before a championship
how performance requirements are calculated	they prepare a model based on what they expect will be the winning times
cameras - used by Australians	Australian competitions - digital cameras
sensors will be used in future	they are developing sensors
protein tests are currently used	developed a test that measures protein

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
there is plenty of scientific evidence	the amount of experimental evidence is considerable
types of bird	species of bird
scientists have yet to determine	it is not yet known
the trigger for	the cue for
temperatures are unpredictable	temperatures fluctuate greatly
longer days	increasing day lengths
the availability of food	adequate food resources
depend on insects	require fertilisation by insects
there is no limit	never reach a maximum

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Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
nerves linked to	nerves serving
underdeveloped	rudimentary
vision is exceptional	extremely keen vision
hearing	acoustic sense
involved in mating	part of the courtship ritual
follow	track

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
traditional	historically
lexicographical methods	the compiling of dictionaries
alternative expressions	related phrases
accurate word frequency counts	find out how frequently it is used
non-verbal	pauses and noises
a cooperative project	an initiative carried out by several groups
the portrayal of feelings	to convey emotion

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
people power	local pressure groups
increases in travelling time	commuting times far higher
higher incomes	wealthier
avoiding an overcrowded centre	pushing everyone into the city centre was not the best approach
benefits of working together	valuable to place people working in related fields together
improve the quality of life	creating a better place to live
only averagely good	reasonable but not special

III. IELTS PRACTICES: 76 EXERCISES

1. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following text about "green taxes" in Britain.

According to a survey, most Britons believe "green" taxes on 4×4s, plastic bags and other consumer goods have been imposed to raise cash rather than change our behavior, while two-thirds of Britons think the entire green agenda has been hijacked as a ploy to increase taxes.

The UK is committed to reducing carbon emissions by 60 per cent by 2050, a target that most experts believe will be difficult to reach. The results of the poll by Opinion, a leading research company, indicate that maintaining popular support for green policies may be a difficult act to pull off and attempts in the future to curb car use and publicly fund investment in renewable resources will prove deeply unpopular.

The findings were released as the Prince of Wales yesterday called on Britain's business leaders to take "essential action" to make their firms more sustainable. Speaking in central London to some of the country's leading chief executives, Prince Charles said: "What more can I do but urge you, this country's business leaders, to take the essential action now to make your businesses more sustainable. I'm exhausted with repeating that there really is no time to lose."

Are the following statements true, false, or not given in the text?

1. Most Britons think that the Government wants to change people's behavior.
2. By the year 2050 the Government will have imposed higher green taxes.
3. The survey predicts that it will be difficult to change people's dependence on cars.
4. The Prince of Wales believes that most businesses are not sustainable.

2. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Look at the following extract from a text about a psychology experiment:

In the year 1971, Zimbardo accepted a tenured position as professor of psychology at Stanford University. There he conducted the Stanford prison study, in which 21 normal college students were randomly assigned to be "prisoners" or "guards" in a mock prison located in the basement of the psychology building at Stanford. The two week planned study into the psychological impact of prison life ended only after 6 days due to emotional trauma being experienced by the participants.

Are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. The participants in the study were all psychology students.
2. They were given the choice of playing the role of prisoner or guard.
3. A real prison was used in the experiment.
4. The study aimed to investigate the mental and behavioral effects of life in prison.

3. IELTS Reading: Gap-Fill

Read the following text about universities.

Religion was central to the curriculum of early European universities. However, its role became less significant during the 19th century, and by the end of the 1800s, the German university model, based on more liberal values, had spread around the world. Universities concentrated on science in the 19th and 20th centuries, and became increasingly accessible to the masses. In Britain, the move from industrial revolution to modernity saw the arrival of new civic universities with an emphasis on science and engineering.

The funding and organization of universities vary widely between different countries around the world. In some countries, universities are predominantly funded by the state, while in others, funding may come from donors or from fees which students attending the university must pay.

Complete the sentences below with NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the passage.

1. The German university model, which became popular in the 19th century, promoted _____.
2. Over the last 200 years, a university education has become _____ the general public.
3. Depending on the country, universities may be funded by the state, by donors, or by fee-paying _____.

4. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the text below about Issac Newton.

Sir Isaac Newton was an English physicist, mathematician, astronomer, natural philosopher, alchemist, and theologian. His *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (Latin for "Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy"; usually called the *Principia*), published in 1687, is one of the most important scientific books ever written. It lays the groundwork for most of classical mechanics.

Newton is considered by many scholars and members of the general public to be one of the most influential people in human history. French mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange often said that Newton was the greatest genius who ever lived. Newton himself had been rather more modest of his own achievements, famously writing in a letter to Robert Hooke in February 1676: "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."

Are the following statements TRUE, FALSE or NOT GIVEN?

1. Newton's *Principia* is recognized as a groundbreaking text in its field.
2. Many experts regard Newton as the greatest genius the world has seen.
3. Newton wrote that he had achieved everything without the help of others.

5. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following text about photosynthesis in plants.

Although some of the steps in photosynthesis are still not completely understood, the overall photosynthetic equation has been known since the 1800s.

Jan van Helmont began the research of the process in the mid-1600s when he carefully measured the mass of the soil used by a plant and the mass of the plant as it grew. After noticing that the soil mass changed very little, he hypothesised that the mass of the growing plant must come from the water, the only substance he added to the potted plant. His hypothesis was partially accurate—much of the gained mass also comes from carbon dioxide as well as water.

In 1796, Jean Senebier, a Swiss pastor, botanist, and naturalist, demonstrated that green plants consume carbon dioxide and release oxygen under the influence of light. Soon afterwards, Nicolas-Théodore de Saussure showed that the increase in mass of the plant as it grows could not be due only to uptake of CO₂, but also to the incorporation of water.

According to the text, are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. We now fully understand the process of photosynthesis.
2. Van Helmont's hypothesis did not take into account that plants consume carbon dioxide.
3. De Saussure demonstrated that both carbon dioxide and water contribute to an increase in mass in plants as they grow.

6. IELTS Reading: don't 'over-think' the answer

I've noticed that many students get the wrong answer because they think too much! They worry about small differences in meaning. For example, look at the following part of a reading passage:

The two week planned study into the psychological impact of prison life...

Now decide whether the following statement is true, false or not given:

The study aimed to investigate the mental and behavioural effects of life in prison.

The statement is true, but many students put *not given* because they "over-think" the meaning of 'psychological'. They think that the definition of psychological must be more complex than 'mental and behavioral'.

Don't think too hard about small differences in meanings. 'Mental and behavioral' might not be a perfect definition of 'psychological', but the overall meaning is the same (a simple definition of psychology is the study of the mind and behavior).

7. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the text below about the Stanford marshmallow experiment.

The Stanford marshmallow experiment was a study on deferred gratification. The experiment was conducted in 1972 by psychologist Walter Mischel of Stanford University. It has been repeated many

times since, and the original study at Stanford is regarded as one of the most successful experiments in the study of human behaviour. In the study, a marshmallow was offered to each child. If the child could resist eating the marshmallow, he was promised two instead of one. The scientists analysed how long each child resisted the temptation of eating the marshmallow, and whether or not doing so had an effect on their future success. The results provided researchers with great insight on the psychology of self-control.

Are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. When repeated by other researchers, the experiment was less successful.
2. Children were offered a second marshmallow if they managed not to eat the first one.
3. Scientists found a correlation between resisting temptation and future success.

8. IELTS Reading: difficult paragraph headings

Sometimes it's difficult to decide between two paragraph headings. Look at this example from Cambridge IELTS 6.

Paragraph:

It was once assumed that improvements in telecommunications would lead to more dispersal in the population as people were no longer forced into cities. However, the ISTP team's research demonstrates that the population and job density of cities rose or remained constant in the 1980s after decades of decline. The explanation for this seems to be that it is valuable to place people working in related fields together. 'The new world will largely depend on human creativity, and creativity flourishes where people come together face-to-face.'

Which paragraph heading would you choose and why?

1. The impact of telecommunications on population distribution
2. The benefits of working together in cities

9. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following passage from a text about linguistics.

Before the twentieth century, the term "philology" was commonly used to refer to the science of language, which was then predominantly historical in focus. However, this focus has shifted and the term "philology" is now generally used for the "study of a language's grammar, history and literary tradition", especially in the United States. The term "linguistics" is now the usual academic term in English for the scientific study of language.

Linguistics concerns itself with describing and explaining the nature of human language. Relevant to this are the questions of what is universal to language, how language can vary, and how human beings come to know languages. Humans achieve competence in whatever language is spoken around them when growing up, with apparently little need for explicit conscious instruction.

Linguists assume that the ability to acquire and use language is an innate, biologically-based potential of human beings, similar to the ability to walk. It is generally agreed that there are no strong genetic differences underlying the differences between languages: an individual will acquire whatever language(s) he or she is exposed to as a child, regardless of parentage or ethnic origin.

According to the text, are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. Up until the 1900s, the science of language was usually referred to as 'philology'.
2. In order to learn a language, children need a significant amount of instruction.
3. Research has shown that humans have an inbuilt capacity for language learning.

10. IELTS Reading: similar paragraph headings

Sometimes two paragraph headings are very similar, making it difficult to decide which one is correct. Look at this example from Cambridge IELTS 1.

Paragraph:

For the first time, dictionary publishers are incorporating real, spoken English into their data. It gives lexicographers (people who write dictionaries) access to a more vibrant, up-to-date vernacular language which has never really been studied before. In one project, 150 volunteers each agreed to discreetly tie a Walkman recorder to their waist and leave it running for anything up to two weeks. Every conversation they had was recorded. When the data was collected, the length of tapes was 35 times the depth of the Atlantic Ocean. Teams of audio typists transcribed the tapes to produce a computerised database of ten million words.

Which paragraph heading would you chose, and why?

1. New method of research
2. The first study of spoken language

11. IELTS Reading: paragraph headings

Read the following paragraphs, taken from The Guardian newspaper.

A) The hunt for intelligent species outside Earth may be a staple of literature and film – but it is happening in real life, too. Nasa probes are on the lookout for planets outside our solar system, and astronomers are carefully listening for any messages being beamed through space. How awe-inspiring it would be to get confirmation that we are not alone in the universe, to finally speak to an alien race. Wouldn't it?

B) Well no, according to the eminent physicist Stephen Hawking. "If aliens visit us, the outcome would be much as when Columbus landed in America, which didn't turn out well for the Native Americans," Hawking has said in a forthcoming documentary made for the Discovery Channel. He argues that, instead of trying to find and communicate with life in the cosmos, humans would be better off doing everything they can to avoid contact.

C) Hawking believes that, based on the sheer number of planets that scientists know must exist, we are not the only life-form in the universe. There are, after all, billions and billions of stars in our galaxy alone, with, it is reasonable to expect, an even greater number of planets orbiting them. And it is not unreasonable to expect some of that alien life to be intelligent, and capable of interstellar communication.

Match each paragraph with one of the headings below.

1. A pessimistic prediction.
2. The probability of life existing on other planets.
3. Astronomers send messages through space.
4. How to avoid contact with aliens.
5. The search for alien life-forms.
6. Life-forms exist on other planets.

12. IELTS Reading: similar words

IELTS Reading is basically a test of your vocabulary knowledge. You need to be able to find words in the text that are similar to words in the questions.

Read the following text about single-sex education (educating boys and girls separately).

You might have thought that boys brought up in a single-sex environment would find relationships with girls difficult to handle. Now research due to be published tomorrow proves it. It shows that boys taught in single-sex schools are more likely to be divorced or separated from their partner than those who attended a mixed school by their early 40s.

The findings, taken from studying a cohort of all those born in a single week of 1958, will be presented by Professor Diana Leonard, from London University's Institute of Education. The research covered 17,000 adults who had been taught in a range of institutions from private boarding schools to state comprehensives. The majority had been brought up in day schools.

Dr Leonard's findings have fuelled claims from teachers' leaders and education psychologists that boys brought up in a single-sex environment are less able to relate to the opposite sex than those taught in a co-educational school.

Find words in the text that are similar to the words/phrases below.

- Raised
- to cope with
- co-educational
- a group
- a variety of
- high schools
- added weight to

13. IELTS Reading: choose the best title

Read the following article and choose the best title from the list below.

A new survey reveals that a family sit-down at dinnertime may reduce a teenager's risk of trying or using alcohol, cigarettes and drugs. The study surveyed more than 1,000 teens and found that those who dined with their families five to seven times a week were four times less likely to use alcohol, tobacco or marijuana than those who ate with their families fewer than three times a week.

A recent UK survey also found that dining together as a family is a key ingredient in ensuring a child's happiness. Children in the survey reported higher levels of happiness when they dined together with their families at least three times a week. "Contrary to the popular belief that children only want to spend time playing video games or watching TV," said researcher Dr. Maris Iacovou of the University of Essex, "we found that they were most happy when interacting with their parents or siblings."

- A) Children's happiness
- B) why teenagers use alcohol, cigarettes and drugs
- C) What teenagers really want
- D) why families should dine together

14. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following text about last year's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The *Deepwater* Horizon oil spill is making Americans think more about a clean energy future – but not yet to the extent of having to pay for it, or to tackle climate change, one of the leading US thinkers on global warming policy said yesterday.

US citizens are "horrified" by the pollution in the Gulf of Mexico, and are starting to think more about cleaner energy sources such as wind and wave power, said Eileen Clausen, president of America's foremost climate think-tank, the Washington-based Pew Center on Global Climate Change.

However, she said, when consumers are asked by pollsters if they would be willing to pay more for such a future, they say no, and say the government should pay. Furthermore, Ms Clausen said, the Gulf disaster was giving US energy policy "a nudge rather than a shift" in the direction of clean energy, but it would probably not be enough to bring forward legislation to curb carbon emissions, at least for the present.

(The Independent, 21.6.10)

Are the following statements true, false or not given according to the text?

1. The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was the result of a human error.
2. US citizens accept that they will need to pay for a clean energy future.
3. In spite of the disaster, the government is unlikely to introduce laws to reduce carbon emissions.

15. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following text and answer true, false or not given.

The killer whale, commonly referred to as the orca, and less commonly as the blackfish, is a toothed whale belonging to the oceanic dolphin family. Killer whales are found in all oceans, from the frigid Arctic and Antarctic regions to tropical seas. As a species they have a diverse diet, although individual populations often specialize in particular types of prey. Some feed exclusively on fish, while others hunt marine mammals such as sea lions, seals, walruses and even large whales. Killer whales are regarded as apex predators, lacking natural predators and preying on even large sharks.



Killer whales are highly social; some populations are composed of family groups which are the most stable of any animal species. Their sophisticated hunting techniques and vocal behaviors, which are often specific to a particular group and passed across generations, have been described as manifestations of culture.

1. Killer whales are predominantly found in cold water areas.
2. Some killer whale groups only eat fish.
3. They may even eat large sharks.

4. Killer whales are able to pass on skills to their young.

16. IELTS Reading: paragraph headings

Match two of the following headings with the paragraphs below. I'll reveal the correct answers tomorrow.

1. Rapid sales of printing presses.
2. The revolutionary impact of the printing press.
3. New information and ideas.
4. The printing boom.

From a single point of origin, Mainz, Germany, printing spread within several decades to over two hundred cities in a dozen European countries. By 1500, printing presses in operation throughout Western Europe had already produced more than twenty million volumes. In the 16th century, with presses spreading further afield, their output rose tenfold to an estimated 150 to 200 million copies. The operation of a press became so synonymous with the enterprise of printing that it lent its name to an entire new branch of media, the press.

In Renaissance Europe, the arrival of mechanical movable type printing introduced the era of mass communication which permanently altered the structure of society. The relatively unrestricted circulation of information and ideas transcended borders and threatened the power of political and religious authorities. The sharp increase in literacy broke the monopoly of the literate elite on education and learning and bolstered the emerging middle class.

17. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Today's questions are about the passage that I used last week. This time you need to decide whether the statements below are true, false or not given.

Read the following text about the printing press:

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Answer TRUE, FALSE or NOT GIVEN:

1. By the beginning of the 16th century, the printing press was in use in several different countries.
2. The printing press was popular because it was so easy to operate.
3. Movable type printing can be linked to a rise in the number of people who could read and write.
4. Printing had a negative effect on the middle classes.

18. IELTS Reading: paragraph headings

Read the following paragraph and choose the best heading.

‘Phonics’ refers to a method for teaching speakers of English to read and write that language. Young learners are taught to associate the sounds of spoken English with letters or groups of letters. For example, they might be taught that the sound /k/ can be represented by the spellings c, k, ck, ch, or q. Using phonics, the teacher shows the learners how to blend the sounds of letters together to produce approximate pronunciations of unknown words. Phonics is a widely used method of teaching children to read and decode words. Children begin learning to read using phonics usually around the age of 5 or 6.

- A) new method for language learning
- B) How phonics benefits children in the UK
- C) Children learn to link sounds with spellings
- D) Children learn the rules of spelling



19. IELTS Reading: find the similar words

In the IELTS Reading test, you need to be able to match words in the questions with words in the passage. Read the following text, and then try the exercise below.

What is an 'elevator pitch'?

An “elevator pitch” is an overview of a product, service, person, group, organization or project, and is often part of a fund-raising, marketing, brand or public relations program. The name "elevator pitch" reflects the idea that it should be possible to deliver a short but effective presentation in the time span of an elevator ride from the ground floor to the directors' boardroom on the top floor of a building.

An elevator pitch is often used by an entrepreneur pitching an idea to an investor to receive funding. Venture capitalists often ask entrepreneurs to give an elevator pitch in order to quickly weed out bad ideas and weak teams. Other uses include job interviewing, dating and professional services. Proposals for books, screenplays, blogs and other forms of publishing are often delivered via an elevator pitch, which may be presented in oral, written or video formats.

Which words or phrases in the passage are similar to those below?

1. a summary
2. succinct
3. gain financial backing
4. eliminate
5. spoken

20. IELTS Reading: multiple choice

Read the following text and answer the multiple choice questions below.

In linguistics, a corpus (plural corpora) is a large and structured set of texts (now usually electronically stored and processed). A corpus may be used to help linguists to analyse a language, or for the purpose of dictionary writing or language teaching. The British National Corpus (BNC) is a 100-million-word text corpus of samples of written and spoken English from a wide range of sources. The corpus covers British English of the late twentieth century from a wide variety of genres with the intention that it be a representative sample of spoken and written British English of that time.

1. What is a corpus?

- A) A type of large dictionary.
- B) A single written text.
- C) A tool for language analysis.

2. Why was the BNC compiled?

- A) For the purpose of language teaching.
 - B) To document written and spoken English from a particular period in time.
 - C) To document the history of the English language.
-

21. IELTS Reading: paragraph heading

Choose the correct heading for the paragraph from the list below.

- A) The environmental impact of estuaries
- B) The human impact on certain coastal areas
- C) Why estuaries will disappear

An estuary is a partly enclosed coastal body of water with one or more rivers or streams flowing into it, and with a free connection to the open sea. Estuaries are amongst the most heavily populated areas throughout the world, with about 60% of the world's population living along estuaries and the coast. As a result, estuaries are suffering degradation by many factors, including overgrazing and other poor farming practices; overfishing; drainage and filling of wetlands; pollutants from sewage inputs; and diking or damming for flood control or water diversion.

22. IELTS Reading: multiple choice exercise

Read the following passage about 'learning styles'.

The term 'learning styles' refers to a variety of ways of learning. The 'learning styles' theory is based on the observation that most people prefer an identifiable method of interacting with, taking in, and processing stimuli or information. The idea of individualized 'learning styles' originated in the 1970s, and acquired enormous popularity. Proponents say that teachers should assess the learning styles of their students and adapt their classroom methods to best fit each student's preference.

The basis and efficacy of these proposals are extensively criticized. Although children and adults express personal preferences, there is no evidence that identifying a student's learning style produces better outcomes, and there is significant evidence that the hypothesis (that a student will learn best if taught in a method deemed appropriate for his or her learning style) may be invalid.

Choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for questions 1 and 2 below.

1. The idea that people should learn according to their preferred learning style

- A) Has influenced all teachers.
- B) became popular around 40 years ago.
- C) Has never been disputed.

2. There is no evidence that

- A) People have learning preferences.
- B) The hypothesis might be wrong.
- C) It is beneficial to identify students' preferred learning styles.

23. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Look at the following extract from a text about diaries:

Many diaries of notable figures have been published and form an important element of autobiographical literature. Samuel Pepys (1633-1703) is the earliest diarist who is well-known today; his diaries, preserved in Magdalene College, Cambridge, were first transcribed and published in 1825. Pepys was amongst the first who took the diary beyond mere business transaction notation, into the realm of the personal.

According to the text, are the following statements true, false, or not given?

1. Samuel Pepys is more famous today than he was during his own lifetime.
2. Pepys kept a diary for purely business reasons.

24. IELTS Reading: choose the best summary

Yesterday I recommended reading descriptions and reviews on amazon.com. Here's an example description, with a quick exercise below.

Description of the book what are Universities for?

Across the world, universities are more numerous than they have ever been, yet at the same time there is unprecedented confusion about their purpose and scepticism about their value. What Are Universities For? offers a spirited and compelling argument for completely rethinking the way we see our universities, and why we need them.

Stefan Collini challenges the common claim that universities need to show that they help to make money in order to justify getting more money. Instead, he argues that we must reflect on the different types of institution and the distinctive roles they play. In particular we must recognise that attempting to extend human understanding, which is at the heart of disciplined intellectual enquiry, can never be wholly harnessed to immediate social purposes - particularly in the case of the humanities, which both attract and puzzle many people and are therefore the most difficult subjects to justify.

At a time when the future of higher education lies in the balance, What Are Universities For? offers all of us a better, deeper and more enlightened understanding of why universities matter, to everyone.

Which statement best summarizes the book's message?

- A) We do not necessarily need universities nowadays
- B) Universities should be harnessed for social purposes

- C) Universities must justify the money they are given
D) We need to change our understanding of the role of universities

25. IELTS Reading: yes, no, not given

Read the following passage about 'habits'.

“All our life, so far as it has definite form, is but a mass of habits,” William James wrote in 1892. Most of the choices we make each day may feel like the products of well-considered decision making, but they’re not. They’re habits. And though each habit means relatively little on its own, over time, the meals we order, what we say to our kids each night, whether we save or spend, how often we exercise, and the way we organize our thoughts and work routines have enormous impacts on our health, productivity, financial security, and happiness. One paper published by a Duke University researcher in 2006 found that 40 percent or more of the actions people performed each day weren’t actual decisions, but habits.

Do the statements below agree with the ideas expressed by the author? Write YES, NO or NOT GIVEN.

1. The majority of choices we make on a daily basis are conscious decisions.
2. Saving money is the key to financial security.
3. Habits account for at least 40 percent of the things we do each day.

26. IELTS Reading: paragraph headings

Match the correct headings with the paragraphs below.

1. The causes of stress among employers and employees
2. The increase in work-related stress.
3. The increase in visits to physicians.
4. Stress has wide-ranging effects on the body and on behavior

A) The number of stress-related disability claims by American employees has doubled according to the Employee Assistance Professionals Association in Arlington, Virginia. Seventy-five to ninety percent of physician visits are related to stress and, according to the American Institute of Stress, the cost to industry has been estimated at \$200 billion-\$300 billion a year.

B) It is clear that problems caused by stress have become a major concern to both employers and employees. Symptoms of stress are manifested both physiologically and psychologically. Persistent stress can result in cardiovascular disease, a weaker immune system and frequent headaches, stiff muscles, or backache. It can also result in poor coping skills, irritability, jumpiness, insecurity, exhaustion, and difficulty concentrating. Stress may also perpetuate or lead to binge eating, smoking, and alcohol consumption.

27. IELTS Reading: paragraph heading

Read the following paragraph about the inventor Thomas Edison.

Thomas Edison was an American inventor and businessman. He developed many devices that greatly influenced life around the world, including the phonograph, the motion picture camera, and a long-lasting, practical electric light bulb. He was one of the first inventors to apply the principles of mass production and large-scale teamwork to the process of invention, and because of that, he is often credited with the creation of the first industrial research laboratory. Edison is the fourth most prolific inventor in history, holding 1,093 US patents in his name, as well as many patents in the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. He is credited with numerous inventions that contributed to mass communication and, in particular, telecommunications.

Choose the best heading for the paragraph from the list below.

- A) The creator of the first industrial research laboratory.
- B) A pioneering and prolific inventor.
- C) Edison's contribution to mass communication.

28. IELTS Reading: multiple choice

Read the following short text, and answer the question below.

The Eiger is a mountain in the Bernese Alps in Switzerland. Since 1935, at least sixty-four climbers have died attempting the Eiger's north face, earning it the German nickname Mordwand, literally "murder wall" - a pun on its correct title of Nordwand (North Wall). Before it was successfully climbed, in 1938, most of the attempts on the face ended tragically and the Bernese authorities even banned climbing it and threatened to fine any party that should attempt it again. Since the first successful attempt, the north face has been climbed many times, but even today it is regarded as a formidable challenge.



Which TWO of the following statements are true according to the text?

- A) The Eiger is the most dangerous mountain in the Bernese Alps.
- B) The north face of the mountain has an infamous history.
- C) The Nordwand was finally conquered in 1938.
- D) The Bernese authorities fined climbers who attempted the north face.
- E) Climbers consider the north face to be the world's most challenging climb.

29. IELTS Reading: gap-fill

Read the following passage about creative writing.

New research, prompted by the relatively high number of literary families, shows that there may be an inherited element to writing good fiction. Researchers from Yale in the US and Moscow State University in Russia launched the study to see whether there was a scientific reason why well-known writers have produced other writers.

The study analysed the creative writing of 511 children aged eight to 17 and 489 of their mothers and 326 fathers. All the participants wrote stories on particular themes. The stories were then scored and rated for originality and novelty, plot development and quality, and sophistication and creative use of prior knowledge. The researchers also carried out detailed intelligence tests and analysed how families functioned in the Russian households.

Taking into account intelligence and family background, the researchers then calculated the inherited and the environmental elements of creative writing. They found what they describe as a modest heritability element to creative writing.

Fill each gap in the summary below using a maximum of 2 words.

Creative writing ability may be _____ from parents, according to a new study. Researchers compared _____ written by children and their parents, looking at elements such as originality and use of _____. After conducting intelligence tests and allowing for _____, they concluded that there is a _____ link between genetics and creative writing.

30. IELTS Reading: multiple choice

Read the following text and choose the best answer for each question.

The term "IQ" comes from German "Intelligenz-Quotient", coined by the German psychologist William Stern in 1912, who proposed a method of scoring children's intelligence tests. Since the early 20th century, scores on IQ tests have increased in most parts of the world. The phenomenon of rising score performance means that if test-takers are scored by a constant standard scoring rule, IQ test scores have been rising at an average rate of around three IQ points per decade. This phenomenon was named the Flynn effect in the book *The Bell Curve* after James R. Flynn, the author who did the most to bring this phenomenon to the attention of psychologists.

1. "IQ" refers to

- A) a type of intelligence test for children
- B) a means of rating intelligence tests
- C) an area of psychology

2. Flynn noticed that

- A) IQ scores were constant around the world
- B) IQ was a global phenomenon
- C) intelligence scores had gradually risen over several decades

31. IELTS Reading: multiple choice

Read the passage and choose the correct answers to the questions below.

A new ‘super-Earth’ has been discovered that could have a life-supporting climate and water. The planet, given the catchy name HD 40307g, was discovered in a multi-world solar system 42 light years from the Sun and lies at exactly the right distance from its star to allow liquid surface water. It orbits well within the star's “habitable” or “Goldilocks” zone - the region where temperatures are neither too hot nor too cold to sustain life.

Professor Hugh Jones, from the University of Hertfordshire said: “The longer orbit of the new planet means that its climate and atmosphere may be just right to support life. Just as Goldilocks liked her porridge to be neither too hot nor too cold but just right, this planet or indeed any moons that is has lie in an orbit comparable to Earth, increasing the probability of it being habitable.” The ‘super earth’ is one of six planets believed to circle the dwarf star HD 40307 in the constellation Pictor. All the others are located outside the habitable zone, too close to their parent star to support liquid water.

(Taken from [this article](#) in The Independent)

1. Why is it thought that the planet may be able to support life?

- A) It has been shown to have water.
- B) It is 42 light years from the Sun.
- C) It orbits its own star at the perfect distance.
- D) It has several moons.

2. Which statement is true of the “Goldilocks” zone?

- A) It is the region of a planet which has a habitable climate.
- B) It refers to a zone which is too close to the parent star.
- C) It refers to a planet with several moons and a long orbit.
- D) It is an orbit region which is comparable to the Earth's.

32. IELTS Reading: gap-fill summary

Read the following passage about the discovery of penicillin.

The discovery of penicillin is attributed to Scottish scientist Alexander Fleming. Fleming recounted that the date of his breakthrough was on the morning of September 28, 1928. It was a lucky accident: in his laboratory in the basement of St. Mary's Hospital in London, Fleming noticed a petri dish containing *Staphylococcus* culture that he had mistakenly left open. The culture had become contaminated by blue-green mould, and there was a halo of inhibited bacterial growth around the mould. Fleming concluded that the mould was releasing a substance that was repressing the growth of the bacteria. He grew a pure culture and discovered that it was a *Penicillium* mould, now known to be *Penicillium notatum*. Fleming coined the term "penicillin" to describe the filtrate of a broth culture of the *Penicillium* mould.

Fill the gaps in the summary below using words from the passage.

Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin by _____ on September 28, 1928. He found that the growth of bacteria on a petri dish was _____ by a blue-green mould that had contaminated the culture. He realised that the mould was producing a substance that was responsible for _____ bacterial growth.

33. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following passage about the scientist Michael Faraday.

Michael Faraday, (1791 - 1867) was an English scientist who contributed to the fields of electromagnetism and electrochemistry. Although Faraday received little formal education he was one of the most influential scientists in history, and historians of science refer to him as having been the best experimentalist in the history of science.

The young Michael Faraday, who was the third of four children, having only the most basic school education, had to educate himself. At fourteen he became the apprentice to George Riebau, a local bookbinder and bookseller. During his seven-year apprenticeship he read many books, including Isaac Watts' *The Improvement of the Mind*, and he enthusiastically implemented the principles and suggestions contained therein.

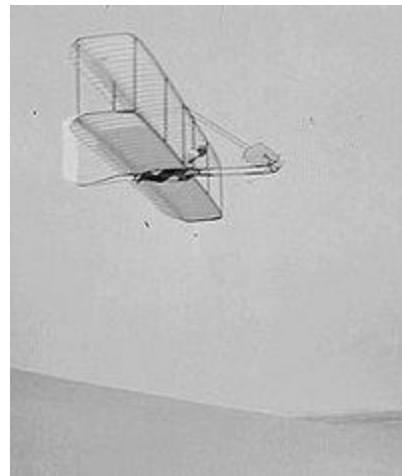
In 1812, at the age of twenty, and at the end of his apprenticeship, Faraday attended lectures by the eminent English chemist Humphry Davy. Faraday subsequently sent Davy a three-hundred-page book based on notes that he had taken during these lectures. Davy's reply was immediate, kind, and favourable. When one of the Royal Institution's assistants was sacked, Davy was asked to find a replacement, and appointed Faraday as Chemical Assistant at the Royal Institution.

Are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. Many experts regard Faraday as the foremost experimentalist of all time.
2. Faraday educated himself by reading books that were recommended to him by George Riebau.
3. Faraday came to the attention of a famous chemist after he wrote a book based on the chemist's lectures.

34. IELTS Reading: fill the gaps

The Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, were two American brothers, inventors, and aviation pioneers who were credited with inventing and building the world's first successful airplane and making the first controlled, powered and sustained heavier-than-air human flight, on December 17, 1903. In the two years afterward, the brothers developed their flying machine into the first practical fixed-wing aircraft.



The brothers' fundamental breakthrough was their invention of three-axis control, which enabled the pilot to steer the aircraft effectively and to maintain its equilibrium. This method became standard and remains standard on fixed-wing aircraft of all kinds. From the beginning of their aeronautical work, the Wright brothers focused on developing a reliable method of pilot control as the key to solving "the flying problem". This approach differed significantly from other experimenters of the time who put more emphasis on developing powerful engines. Using a small homebuilt wind tunnel, the Wrights also collected more accurate data than anyone had before, enabling them to design and build wings and propellers that were more efficient than rival models.

They gained the mechanical skills essential for their success by working for years in their shop with printing presses, bicycles, motors, and other machinery. Their work with bicycles in particular influenced their belief that an unstable vehicle like a flying machine could be controlled and balanced with practice.

Fill each gap in the summary below with a maximum of 2 words.

In 1903, the Wright brothers completed development of the first airplane that was capable of sustaining controlled _____. The key to their success was a system that gave the pilot the means to control and _____ the airplane. This set them apart from other inventors who had focused on building _____. The brothers had previous experience with a wide variety of _____, but it was their work with _____ that had the greatest influence on their ideas.

35. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following passage about a method for music teaching.

The Suzuki method is a method of teaching music conceived and executed by Japanese violinist Shin'ichi Suzuki (born 1898, died 1998), dating from the mid-20th century. The central belief of Suzuki is that all people are capable of learning from their environment. The essential components of his method spring from the desire to create the "right environment" for learning music. He also believed that this positive environment would also help to foster character in students.

As a skilled violinist but a beginner at the German language who struggled to learn it, Suzuki noticed that children pick up their native language quickly, and even dialects adults consider "difficult" to learn are spoken with ease by 5-year-olds. He reasoned that if children have the skill to acquire their mother tongue, then they have the necessary ability to become proficient on a musical instrument. He pioneered the idea that pre-school age children could learn to play the violin if learning steps were small enough and if the instrument was scaled down to fit their body.

Decide whether the following statements are true, false or not given.

1. Suzuki believed that environment is crucial for anyone learning a musical instrument.
2. His method helped him to learn German.
3. Suzuki compared language learning with learning to play an instrument.
4. He introduced new ideas about teaching music to infants.

36. IELTS Reading: paragraph headings

Read the following passage about a chess-playing computer.

A) On February 10, 1996, Deep Blue became the first machine to win a chess game against a reigning world champion (Garry Kasparov) under regular time controls. However, Kasparov won three and drew two of the following five games, beating Deep Blue by a score of 4–2. Deep Blue was then heavily upgraded and played Kasparov again in May 1997, winning the six-game rematch 3½–2½. Deep Blue won the deciding game six, becoming the first computer system to defeat a reigning world champion in a match under standard chess tournament time controls.

B) After the loss, Kasparov said that he sometimes saw deep intelligence and creativity in the machine's moves, suggesting that during the second game, human chess players had intervened on behalf of the machine, which would be a violation of the rules. IBM denied that it cheated, saying the only human intervention occurred between games. The rules provided for the developers to modify the program between games, an opportunity they said they used to shore up weaknesses in the computer's play that were revealed during the course of the match. This allowed the computer to avoid a trap in the final game that it had fallen for twice before. Kasparov demanded a rematch, but IBM refused and dismantled Deep Blue.

Choose the best heading for paragraphs A and B from the list below.

1. The first chess-playing computer
2. Developers' intervention is questioned
3. Chess champion accepts defeat

4. Program developers caught cheating
5. A victory for artificial intelligence

37. IELTS Reading: gap-fill

Read the following text about pedestrian zones in cities.

A large number of European towns and cities have made part of their centres car-free since the early 1960s. These are often accompanied by car parks on the edge of the pedestrianised zone, and, in the larger cases, park and ride schemes. Central Copenhagen is one of the largest and oldest examples: the auto-free zone is centred on Strøget, a pedestrian shopping street, which is in fact not a single street but a series of interconnected avenues which create a very large auto-free zone, although it is crossed in places by streets with vehicular traffic. Most of these zones allow delivery trucks to service the businesses located there during the early morning, and street-cleaning vehicles will usually go through these streets after most shops have closed for the night.

In North America, where a more commonly used term is pedestrian mall, such areas are still in their infancy. Few cities have pedestrian zones, but some have pedestrianised single streets. Many pedestrian streets are surfaced with cobblestones, or pavement bricks, which discourage any kind of wheeled traffic, including wheelchairs. They are rarely completely free of motor vehicles.

Fill the gaps below with NO MORE THAN 3 WORDS from the text.

1. In some cases, people are encouraged to park _____ of the town or city centre.
2. The only vehicles permitted in most pedestrian zones are those used for _____ or _____ cleaning.
3. Certain types of road surface can be used to _____ traffic.

38. IELTS Reading: choose the title

Read the following passage and choose the best title from the list below.

Future Shock is a book written by the futurist Alvin Toffler in 1970. In the book, Toffler defines the term "future shock" as a certain psychological state of individuals and entire societies. His shortest definition for the term is a personal perception of "too much change in too short a period of time". The book became an international bestseller, selling over 6 million copies, and has been widely translated.

Toffler argued that society is undergoing an enormous structural change, a revolution from an industrial society to a "super-industrial society". This change overwhelms people, he believed, the accelerated rate of technological and social change leaving people disconnected and suffering from "shattering stress and disorientation" - future shocked. Toffler stated that the majority of social problems are symptoms of future shock. In his discussion of the components of such shock he popularized the term "information overload."

- A) A shocking vision of the future.
- B) What is “future shock”?
- C) The career of the futurist Alvin Toffler.
- D) A changing society.

39. IELTS Reading: multiple choice

Read the following text and answer the questions below.

The ethos of the aristocracy, as exemplified in the English public schools, greatly influenced Pierre de Coubertin. The public schools subscribed to the belief that sport formed an important part of education, an attitude summed up in the saying 'mens sana in corpore sano', a sound mind in a sound body. In this ethos, a gentleman was one who became an all-rounder, not the best at one specific thing. There was also a prevailing concept of fairness, in which practising or training was considered tantamount to cheating.

1. De Coubertin agreed with the idea that:

- A) sport is an activity for gentlemen.
- B) schooling should promote both physical and mental health.
- C) sport is the most important part of a child's education.

2. In De Coubertin's view:

- A) It is easier to be good at many sports, rather than the best at one sport.
- B) Training is necessary if you want to be an all-rounder.
- C) Training gives the athlete an unfair advantage.

40. IELTS Reading: choose the heading

Choose the best heading for the following paragraph from the list below.

“Big data” is a term being used more and more by politicians. It refers to the concept that any problem – from underperforming pupils to failing hospitals – can be solved by collecting some tightly focused data, crunching it and making tweaks, such as moving pupils or changing nurses’ shifts, rather than dealing with bigger issues, such as poverty or spending cuts. This is an approach that focuses narrowly on “what works” without ever troubling to ask: “works for whom?” Its watchword is “smart”, which can easily be appreciated, rather than “right”, which can’t. Putting trust in highly educated technocrats, it is naturally less interested in public debate.

- A) How data can be used to improve society.
- B) Big data: a smart approach to politics that works for everyone.
- C) A sceptical perspective on “big data”.
- D) Why the public trusts technocrats more than politicians.

41. IELTS Reading: multiple choice

Read the following text, and chose the best answer to the questions below.

The Placebo Effect

A placebo is a sham or simulated medical intervention. Sometimes patients given a placebo treatment will have a perceived or actual improvement in a medical condition, a phenomenon commonly called the placebo effect.

A study of Danish general practitioners found that 48% had prescribed a placebo at least 10 times in the past year. The most frequently prescribed placebos were antibiotics for viral infections, and vitamins for fatigue. Specialists and hospital-based physicians reported much lower rates of placebo use.

1. The placebo effect refers to

- A) a simulated medical treatment
- B) an improvement in a patient's health as a result of a simulated medical treatment
- C) a common medical phenomenon

2. According to a study, placebos were prescribed in Denmark

- A) Mainly by doctors working in hospitals
- B) instead of antibiotics
- C) for fatigued patients or those suffering with viruses

42. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following text about sharks, and then answer the questions below.

Contrary to the common wisdom that sharks are instinct-driven "eating machines", recent studies have indicated that many species possess powerful problem-solving skills, social skills and curiosity. The brain- to body-mass ratios of sharks are similar to those of mammals and birds, and migration patterns in sharks may be even more complex than in birds, with many sharks covering entire ocean basins. However, shark behavior has only begun to be formally studied, so there is much more to learn.

A popular myth is that sharks are immune to disease and cancer; however, this remains to be proven. The evidence that sharks are at least resistant to cancer and disease is mostly anecdotal and there have been few, if any, scientific or statistical studies that show sharks to have heightened immunity to disease.

According to the text, are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. Research shows that sharks are more intelligent than most people think.
2. Relative to their body size, sharks have bigger brains than birds.
3. There is no real evidence proving that sharks are resistant to diseases.

43. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following passage and answer the questions below.

A Stradivarius is one of the violins, cellos, and other stringed instruments built by members of the Stradivari (Stradivarius) family, particularly Antonio Stradivari, during the 17th and 18th centuries. According to their reputation, the quality of their sound has defied attempts to explain or equal it, though this belief is disputed. The name "Stradivarius" has become a superlative often associated with excellence, and the fame of Stradivarius instruments is widespread, appearing in numerous works of fiction.

Depending on condition, instruments made during Stradivari's "golden period" from 1700 to about 1725 can be worth millions of dollars. In 2011, his "Lady Blunt" violin from 1721, which is in pristine condition, was sold at Tarisio auctions for £9.8 million.

These instruments are famous for the quality of sound they produce. However, the many blind tests from 1817 to the present have never found any difference in sound between Stradivari's violins and high-quality violins in comparable style of other makers and periods, nor has acoustic analysis. In a particularly famous test on a BBC Radio programme in 1977, the violinists Isaac Stern and Pinchas Zukerman and the violin expert and dealer Charles Beare tried to distinguish between the "Chaconne" Stradivarius and three other violins, including one made in 1976, played behind a screen by a professional soloist. None of the listeners identified more than two of the four instruments. Two of the listeners identified the 20th-century violin as the Stradivarius.

Are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. The superior reputation of Stradivarius instruments has never been questioned.
2. The "Lady Blunt" Stradivarius is the most expensive violin every sold.
3. Tests have shown that experts are able to distinguish the famous Stradivarius sound.

44. IELTS Reading: paragraph heading

Read the following paragraph and choose the best heading.

Melbourne has topped the list of the best cities in the world to live in, according to a new report by The Economist Intelligence Unit. Vienna in Austria and Vancouver in Canada came in second and third place respectively on the Global Livability Ranking. Cities across the world are awarded scores depending on lifestyle challenges faced by the people living there. Each city is scored on its stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure. This is the third time that the Australian city has topped the list. Unfortunately, UK cities fared worse on the list with London coming 55 out of 140 cities while Manchester was ranked 51. The report also shows that livability across the world has fallen by 0.6 per cent.

- A) Livability survey produces some surprising results.
B) How cities are ranked.

- C) Results of the latest “Most Livable Cities Index”.
D) Melbourne is top city for tourists.

45. IELTS Reading: environment gap-fill

Fill the gaps in the text using the 10 words below.

A _____ report says scientists are 95% certain that humans are the "dominant _____" of global warming since the 1950s. The report by the UN's climate panel details the physical _____ behind climate change. On the ground, in the air, in the oceans, global warming is "_____", it explained. The panel warns that continued _____ of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and changes in all aspects of the climate system. To contain these changes will require "substantial and sustained _____ of greenhouse gas emissions".

After a week of intense negotiations in the Swedish capital, the summary for policymakers on the physical science of global warming has finally been released. For the future, the report states that warming is _____ to continue under all _____. Prof Sir Brian Hoskins, from Imperial College London, told BBC News: "We are performing a very dangerous _____ with our planet, and I don't want my grandchildren to suffer the _____."

Emissions, experiment, cause, unequivocal, landmark, consequences, reductions, scenarios, projected, evidence

46. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

The Paper Clip

According to the Early Office Museum, the first patent for a bent wire paper clip was awarded in the United States to Samuel B. Fay, in 1867. This clip was originally intended primarily for attaching tickets to fabric, although the patent recognized that it could be used to attach papers together. Although functional and practical, Fay's design along with the 50 other designs patented prior to 1899 are not considered reminiscent of the modern paper clip design known today.



The most common type of wire paper clip still in use, the Gem paper clip, was never patented, but it was most likely in production in Britain in the early 1870s by "The Gem Manufacturing Company", according to the American expert on technological innovations, Professor Henry J. Petroski.

Are the following statements true, false, or not given in the text?

1. Samuel B. Fay's paper clip was only patented for one specific use.
2. Fay's paper clip was not as practical as those we use today.

3. Nobody has a patent on the paper clip that most people use today.

47. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following text about volcanoes in Iceland.

Iceland has a high concentration of active volcanoes due to unique geological conditions. The island has about 130 volcanic mountains, of which 18 have erupted since the settlement of Iceland, circa 900 CE. Over the past 500 years, Iceland's volcanoes have erupted a third of the total global lava output.

Geologists explain this high concentration of volcanic activity as being due to a combination of the island's position on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and a volcanic hotspot underneath the island. The island sits astride the boundary between the Eurasian and North American Plates, and most volcanic activity is concentrated along the plate boundary, which runs across the island from the south-west to the north-east of the island. Some volcanic activity occurs offshore, especially off the southern coast. This includes wholly submerged submarine volcanoes and even newly formed volcanic islands such as Surtsey and Jólnir.

The most recent volcanic eruption in Iceland was that of Eyjafjallajökull, which started on April 14, 2010. The Eyjafjallajökull eruption closely followed an eruption in Fimmvörðuháls, which had erupted on March 20.

Are the statements below true, false or not given?

1. People first settled in Iceland around the beginning of the 10th century.
2. The island is situated at the point where two of the earth's plates meet.
3. Volcanic activity also takes place in the ocean near Iceland.

48. IELTS Reading: multiple choice

Read the following passage about a tunnel in London.

The Thames Tunnel is an underwater tunnel that was built beneath the River Thames in London between 1825 and 1843. It is 396 metres long, and runs at a depth of 23 metres below the river surface. It was the first tunnel known to have been constructed successfully underneath a navigable river.

Although it was a triumph of civil engineering, the Thames Tunnel was not a financial success, with building costs far exceeding initial estimates. Proposals to extend the entrance to accommodate wheeled vehicles failed, and it was used only by pedestrians. However, the tunnel did become a major tourist destination, attracting about two million people a year, each of whom paid a penny to pass under the river.

The construction of the Thames Tunnel showed that it was indeed possible to build underwater tunnels, despite the previous scepticism of many engineers. Its historic importance was recognised on 24th March 1995, when the structure was listed Grade II* in recognition of its architectural importance.

*Which **THREE** of the following statements are correct?*

- A) The Thames Tunnel was the world's first ever tunnel.
- B) Construction of the tunnel was more expensive than predicted.
- C) There were plans to allow vehicles to use the tunnel.
- D) Tourism eventually made the tunnel profitable.
- E) Many engineers had already tried to build underwater tunnels.
- F) The Thames Tunnel is now considered to be a significant work of architecture.

49. IELTS Reading: paragraph headings

Read the following passage about cognitive behavioural therapy:

A) Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is a psychotherapeutic approach: a talking therapy. CBT aims to solve problems concerning dysfunctional emotions, behaviours and cognitions through a goal-oriented, systematic procedure in the present.

B) The particular therapeutic techniques vary, but commonly may include keeping a diary of significant events and associated feelings, thoughts and behaviours; questioning and testing cognitions, assumptions, evaluations and beliefs that might be unhelpful and unrealistic; gradually facing activities which may have been avoided; and trying out new ways of behaving and reacting. Relaxation, mindfulness and distraction techniques are also commonly included.

C) Going through cognitive behavioural therapy is not an overnight process for clients; a typical course consists of 12-16 hour-long sessions. Even after clients have learned to recognise when and where their mental processes go awry, it can in some cases take considerable time or effort to replace a dysfunctional process or habit with a more reasonable and adaptive one. CBT is problem-focused and structured towards the client. It requires honesty and openness between the client and therapist, as a therapist develops strategies for managing problems and guiding the client to a better life.

Choose the best headings for paragraphs A, B and C from this list:

1. A slow process
2. A new type of therapeutic approach
3. The benefits and drawbacks of CBT
4. A goal-oriented therapeutic approach
5. CBT therapists are always honest with their clients
6. The range of CBT interventions

50. IELTS Reading: choose the title

Read the following passage.

The cinematograph is a motion picture film camera which also serves as a film projector and developer. It was invented in the 1890s, but there is much dispute as to the identity of its inventor.

Some argue that the device was first invented and patented as "Cinématographe Léon Bouly" by French inventor Léon Bouly on February 12, 1892. Bouly coined the term "cinematograph", which translates in Greek to "writing in movement". It is said that Bouly was not able to pay the rent for his patent the following year, and that the brothers Auguste and Louis Lumière bought the licence.

A more popular version of events is that Louis Lumière was the first to conceptualise the idea. The Lumière brothers shared the patent, and they made their first film, *Sortie de l'usine Lumière de Lyon*, in 1894.



Choose the best title for the whole passage from the list below.

- A) How the cinematograph was invented
- B) The first film projector
- C) Who invented the cinematograph?
- D) What is a cinematograph?

51. IELTS Reading: paragraph heading

Read the paragraph below and choose the best heading from the list.

Reading underwent serious changes in the 18th century. Until 1750, reading was done "intensively": people tended to own a small number of books and read them repeatedly, often to a small audience. After 1750, people began to read "extensively", finding as many books as they could, and increasingly reading them alone. Libraries that lent out their material for a small price started to appear, and occasionally bookstores would offer a small lending library to their patrons. Coffee houses commonly offered books, journals and sometimes even popular novels to their customers.

- 1. The appearance of the first public libraries.
- 2. Intensive and extensive reading habits.
- 3. The reading revolution.

52. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following excerpt from a [book review](#):

What constitutes the good life? What is the true value of money? Why do we work such long hours merely to acquire greater wealth? These are some of the questions that many asked themselves when the financial system crashed in 2008. This book tackles such questions head-on. The authors begin with the great economist John Maynard Keynes. In 1930, Keynes predicted that within a century people's basic needs would be met, and no one would have to work more than fifteen hours a week.

Clearly, he was wrong: though income has increased as he envisioned, our wants have seemingly gone unsatisfied, and we continue to work long hours. The authors explain why Keynes was mistaken. Then, arguing from the premise that economics is a moral science, they trace the concept of the good life from Aristotle to the present and show how our lives over the last half century have strayed from that ideal. Finally, they issue a call to think anew about what really matters in our lives and how to attain it.

Are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. Before 2008, people were less concerned about economics.
2. Keynes' prediction about working hours was wide of the mark.
3. The book asks us to consider what is important in life.

53. IELTS Reading: choose the title

Read the following passage, and choose the best title from the list.

Using a laser scan of Bourges cathedral in France, teams led by John Ochsendorf of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have 3D-printed thousands of bricks and are building an exact 1:50 replica. The researchers hope to use the mock-up to devise a way to gauge the stability, and thus safety, of historical buildings built of brick and stone.

Building the replica is painstaking work, but Ochsendorf thinks the process itself may be as valuable as the mechanics uncovered. For students of architecture and structural engineering, hands-on experience has largely given way to computer modelling. Techniques like 3D printing could be a way of reconnecting them with the craft behind the science, he says.

(New Scientist, 14.2 14.)

- A) 3D printing a historical structure.
- B) The benefits of 3D printing.
- C) Computer modelling or hands-on experience?
- D) A damaged cathedral is rebuilt.

54. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following text and answer true, false or not given.

Coffee consumption has been shown to have minimal or no impact, positive or negative, on cancer development. However, researchers involved in an ongoing 22-year study by the Harvard School of Public Health state that "the overall balance of risks and benefits [of coffee consumption] are on the side of benefits."



Other studies suggest coffee consumption reduces the risk of being affected by Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, heart disease, diabetes mellitus type 2, cirrhosis of

the liver, and gout. A longitudinal study in 2009 showed that those who consumed a moderate amount of coffee or tea (3–5 cups per day) at midlife were less likely to develop dementia and Alzheimer's disease in late-life compared with those who drank little coffee or avoided it altogether.

1. Scientists have linked coffee consumption to accelerated cancer development.
2. Some scientists believe that the benefits of drinking coffee outweigh the drawbacks.
3. Recent research links coffee consumption with a reduced risk of some illnesses.

55. IELTS Reading: gap-fill from a useful website

The articles used in the IELTS reading test often come from magazines like The Economist or The New Scientist. Why not practise for the exam by reading articles from these magazines?

Here are a few paragraphs from an article about the use of wireless communications to improve health care. I've made it into a gap-fill exercise.

Fill the gaps with one of the following words: cutting, advances, track, coming, empower, chief, developing

Pundits have long predicted that _____ in genetics will usher in a golden age of individually tailored therapies. But in fact it is much lower-tech wireless devices and internet-based health software that are precipitating the mass customization of health care, and creating entirely new business models in the process.

The hope is that nimble new technologies, from smart-phones to health-monitoring devices, will _____ patients and doctors, and thus improves outcomes while _____ costs. The near ubiquity of mobile phones is the _____ reason to think this optimistic scenario may come true. Patients with smart-phones can certainly benefit from interactive “wellness” applications that track diet, exercise and vital signs.

Many companies are _____ up with “home health” devices embedded with wireless technology. Some are overtly clinical in nature: Medtronic, a devices giant, is _____ a bedside monitor that wirelessly tracks the blood sugar levels in diabetic children sleeping nearby. GE has come up with “body sensor networks”, tiny wireless devices that _____ the vital signs of those who wear them.

56. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following article about the effects of television on young children.

Watching television makes toddlers fatter and stupider at primary school, according to new research. Scientists who tracked the progress of pre-school children found that the more television they watched the worse they were at mathematics, the more junk food they ate, and the more they were bullied by other pupils.

The findings, which support earlier evidence indicating television harms cognitive development, prompted calls for the Government to set limits on how much children should watch. American pediatricians advise that under-twos should not watch any television and that older children should view one to two hours a day at most. France has banned shows aimed at under-threes, and Australia recommends that three to five year-olds watch no more than an hour a day. Britain has no official advice.

Researchers said that pre-school is a critical time for brain development and that TV watching displaced time that could be spent engaging in "developmentally enriching tasks". Even incremental exposure to TV delayed development, said the lead author Dr Linda Pagani, of Montreal University. (*The Independent*)

According to the article, are these statements TRUE, FALSE or NOT GIVEN?

1. Scientists believe that there is a link between the amount of television young children watch and their mental ability.
2. Shows aimed at under-twos are banned in the USA.
3. Children's television programming is more strictly controlled in France than in Britain.

57. IELTS Reading: topic research

The exercise below serves as both IELTS reading practice and topic research for this week's writing lesson (about 'telework').

Fill the gaps in the passage with the following words:
commute, mobility, instant, efficient, remote, smartphones, locations

Telecommuting, _____ work, or telework is a work arrangement in which employees do not _____ to a central place of work. A person who telecommutes is known as a "telecommuter", "teleworker", and sometimes as a "home-sourced," or "work-at-home" employee. Many telecommuters work from home, while others, sometimes called "nomad workers", use mobile telecommunications technology to work from coffee shops or other _____.

Telework is facilitated by tools such as groupware, virtual private networks, conference calling and videoconferencing. It can be _____ and useful for companies since it allows workers to communicate over long distances, saving travel time and cost. Furthermore, with their improving technology and increasing popularity, _____ are becoming widely used in telework. They substantially increase the _____ of the worker and the degree of coordination with their organization. The technology of mobile phones allows _____ communication through text messages, camera photos, and video clips from anywhere and at any time.

58. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following passage about the performer Houdini.

Harry Houdini (1874 to 1926) was a Hungarian-American illusionist and stunt performer, noted for his sensational escape acts. He first attracted attention as "Harry Handcuff Houdini" on a tour of Europe, where he challenged police forces to keep him locked up. Soon he extended his repertoire to include chains, ropes slung from skyscrapers, straitjackets under water, and having to hold his breath inside a sealed milk can.

In 1904, thousands watched as Houdini tried to escape from special handcuffs commissioned by London's Daily Mirror newspaper. Another stunt saw him buried alive and only just able to claw himself to the surface. While many suspected that these escapes were faked, Houdini presented himself as the scourge of fake magicians and spiritualists. As President of the Society of American Magicians, he was keen to uphold professional standards and expose fraudulent artists. He was also quick to sue anyone who pirated his stunts.

Are the following statements true, false, or not given in the text?

1. Houdini was more successful in Europe than in America.
2. Many people were skeptical about Houdini's escape acts.
3. He took legal action against those who tried to copy him.

59. IELTS Reading: choose the heading

Read the following passage and choose the best heading.

The environmental challenges posed by agriculture are huge, and they'll only become more pressing as we try to meet the growing need for food worldwide. We'll likely have two billion more mouths to feed by mid-century - more than nine billion people. But sheer population growth isn't the only reason we'll need more food. The spread of prosperity across the world, especially in India and China, is driving an increased demand for meat, eggs and dairy, boosting pressure to grow more corn and soybeans to feed more cattle, pigs and chickens. If these trends continue, the double whammy of population growth and richer diets will require us to roughly double the amount of crops we grow by 2050.

(Source: National Geographic, May 2014)

- A) Two key trends driving the demand for food worldwide.
- B) The impact of agriculture on the natural world.
- C) Growing populations and their need for food.

60. IELTS Reading: vocabulary exercise

Read the following text about bad behavior in schools.

The misbehavior of children is common in all schools, although most schools manage to maintain tolerable standards of discipline. Low levels of indiscipline can result in a detrimental working environment for children, while poor disciplinary management within a school can cause a more general breakdown in order.

Problems with school discipline have also led to a reduction in the number of people willing to become teachers, especially in schools regarded as difficult. Student misbehavior and rudeness is the leading cause of teacher resignations. In some areas and countries, this has led to a severe teacher shortage, with classes either not taught, or taught by an unqualified person. In some schools, a class may have up to a dozen different teachers in a single year, as the replacements decide to leave rather than deal with student behavior. Many countries are now trying to offer incentives to new teachers to remain in such schools, but with very limited success.

Find words or phrases in the text that are similar to those in the list below.

1. Sufficient levels
2. Negative
3. Resulted in
4. Main reason for
5. Serious
6. As many as twelve

61. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following paragraph about 'minority languages'.

Minority languages are occasionally marginalized within nations for a number of reasons. These include the small number of speakers, the decline in the number of speakers, and their occasional consideration as uncultured, primitive, or simple dialects when compared to the dominant language. Support for minority languages is sometimes viewed as supporting separatism. Immigrant minority languages are often also seen as a threat and as indicative of the non-integration of these communities. Both of these perceived threats are based on the notion of the exclusion of the majority language speakers. Often this is added to by political systems which do not provide support (such as education and policing) in these languages.

Are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. Minority languages sometimes disappear.
2. Minority languages are simpler to learn than majority languages.
3. Minority languages are sometimes considered to be harmful.

62. IELTS Reading: match the names

Read the following passage about the meaning of 'genius'.

A genius is a person who displays exceptional intellectual ability, creativity, or originality, typically to a degree that is associated with the achievement of an unprecedented leap of insight. Various philosophers have proposed definitions of what genius is.

In the philosophy of David Hume, a genius is seen by others as a person disconnected from society, who works remotely, away from the rest of the world. For Immanuel Kant, genius is the ability to independently arrive at and understand concepts that would normally have to be taught by another person. Arthur Schopenhauer defined a genius as someone in whom intellect predominates over "will". According to Bertrand Russell, a genius possesses unique qualities and talents that make him or her especially valuable to society.

Match each of the following statements to one of the philosophers below.

1. A genius is someone who does not require instruction.
2. We tend to regard geniuses as solitary figures.
3. A genius has the ability to make an exceptional contribution to society.

- A) Hume
- B) Kant
- C) Schopenhauer
- D) Russell

63. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following passage about a study into 'sitting'.

The ease of our modern workday could come at the expense of our longevity. A new study of older women in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine finds that sitting for long stretches of time increases the odds of an untimely death. The more hours women in the study spent sitting at work, driving, lying on the couch watching TV, or engaged in other leisurely pursuits, the greater their odds of dying early from all causes, including heart disease and cancer.

Even women who exercised regularly risked shortening their lifespan if most of their daily hours were sedentary ones. "Even if you are doing the recommended amount of moderate to vigorous exercise, you will still have a higher risk of mortality if you're spending too many hours sitting," says Dr. JoAnn Manson, one of the study's authors.

How much sitting can you safely do in a day? In the study, women who were inactive for 11 or more hours a day fared the worst, facing a 12% increase in premature death, but even lesser amounts of inactive time can cause problems. "Once you're sitting for more than 6 to 8 hours a day, that's not likely to be good for you," Dr. Manson says. You want to avoid prolonged sitting and increase the amount of moderate or vigorous exercise you do each day, she adds.

Are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. The study looked at the effects of sitting on elderly women only.
2. A link was found between hours spent sitting and serious health problems.
3. The warnings about sitting do not apply to people who exercise regularly.
4. Less than 6 hours a day is a safe amount of sitting.

64. IELTS Reading: choose the title

Read the following passage and choose the best title from the list below.

The attitude of the scientific community towards the unconscious mind has shifted dramatically in recent years. While once viewed as a lazy reservoir of memories and non-task oriented behaviour, the unconscious is now regarded as an active and essential component in the processes of decision making.

Historically, the unconscious mind was considered to be the source of dreams and implicit memory (which allows people to walk or ride a bicycle without consciously thinking about the activity), as well as the storing place for memories of past experiences. But recent research reveals that the unconscious brain might also be an active player in decision making, problem solving, creativity and critical thinking. One familiar example of the operation of the unconscious in problem solving is the well-known phenomenon of the "eureka moment", when a solution to a problem presents itself without the involvement of active thinking.

- A) Scientists present new findings about the unconscious mind
- B) our growing understanding of the role of the unconscious
- C) How humans solve problems
- D) What is a "eureka moment"?

65. IELTS Reading: multiple choice

Read the passage and choose the best answers to the questions below.

Ecotourism is a form of tourism where tourists visit fragile, pristine, and relatively undisturbed natural areas. Its purpose may be to educate the traveller, to provide funds for ecological conservation, to directly benefit the economic development and political empowerment of local communities, or to foster respect for different cultures and for human rights.

However, ecotourism operations occasionally fail to live up to conservation ideals. Even a modest increase in population puts extra pressure on the local environment and necessitates the development of additional infrastructure. The construction of water treatment plants, sanitation facilities, and lodges come with the exploitation of non-renewable energy sources and the utilisation of already limited local resources. The environment may suffer because local communities are unable to meet these infrastructure demands.

1. One aim of ecotourism is to

- A) allow people to visit areas that were previously restricted.
- B) educate local communities in fragile areas.
- C) raise money for environmental projects in natural areas.

2. However, ecotourism can cause problems when

- A) the local population does not welcome visitors.
- B) extra facilities and amenities are required to cope with a population increase.
- C) communities do not have the funds to improve local facilities.

66. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following passage about the extinction of species.

There are a variety of factors that can contribute directly or indirectly to the extinction of a species. Extinction may come suddenly when an otherwise healthy species is wiped out completely, such as when toxic pollution renders its entire habitat unlivable, or it may occur gradually over thousands or millions of years, such as when a species gradually loses out in competition for food to better adapted competitors. Extinction may occur a long time after the events that set it in motion, a phenomenon known as extinction debt.

Currently, environmental groups and some governments are concerned with the extinction of species caused by humanity, and they try to prevent further extinctions through a variety of conservation programmes. Humans can cause extinction of a species through over-harvesting, pollution, habitat destruction, introduction of invasive species (such as new predators and food competitors), and over-hunting.

Are the following statements true, false, or not given?

1. In most cases of extinction, the species slowly dies out over a period of many years.
2. 'Extinction debt' refers to cases of species dying out long after the initial event that triggered the extinction took place.
3. Human activity is the principal cause of the extinction of species.

67. IELTS Reading: multiple choice

Read the following passage about 'mindsets' and success.

According to Carol Dweck, individuals can be placed on a continuum according to their implicit views of where ability comes from. Some believe their success is based on innate ability; these are said to have a "fixed" theory of intelligence (fixed mindset). Others, who believe their success is based on having opposite mindset, which involves hard work, learning, training and doggedness are said to have a "growth" or an "incremental" theory of intelligence (growth mindset).

Individuals may not necessarily be aware of their own mindset, but their mindset can still be discerned based on their behaviour. It is especially evident in their reaction to failure. Fixed-mindset individuals dread failure because it is a negative statement on their basic abilities, while growth mindset individuals do not mind or fear failure as much because they realise their performance can be improved and learning comes from failure. These two mindsets play an important role in all aspects of a person's life. Dweck argues that the growth mindset will allow a person to live a less stressful and more successful life.

Which TWO of the following statements agree with the ideas of the writer?

- A) Dweck believes that success depends on inherited intelligence.
- B) Dweck classifies people according to their beliefs about ability and success.
- C) We do not always realise which mindset we have.
- D) Fixed-mindset individuals fail more often than those who have a growth mindset.

68. IELTS Reading: match the headings

The space agency NASA proposes six "lunar exploration themes" to answer the question, "Why should we return to the Moon?"

.....

Match each heading from the following list with one of the themes described below.

- A) Economic Expansion
- B) Scientific Knowledge
- C) Global Partnerships
- D) Human Civilisation
- E) Public Engagement
- F) Exploration Preparation

.....

1. Extend human presence to the Moon to enable eventual settlement.
2. Pursue scientific activities that address fundamental questions about the history of Earth, the solar system and the universe; and therefore, about our place in them.
3. Test technologies, systems, flight operations and exploration techniques to reduce the risks and increase the productivity of future missions to Mars and beyond.
4. Provide a challenging, shared and peaceful activity that unites nations in pursuit of common objectives.
5. Expand Earth's economic sphere, and conduct lunar activities with benefits to life on the home planet.
6. Use a lively space exploration program to engage the public, encourage students and help develop the high-technology workforce that will be required to address the challenges of tomorrow.

69. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following passage about the daily life of a philosopher.

For 27 years the philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer followed an identical routine. He rose every morning at seven and had a bath but no breakfast; he drank a cup of strong coffee before sitting down at his desk and writing until noon. At noon he ceased work for the day and spent half an hour practicing the flute, on which he became quite a skilled performer. Then he went out for lunch at his favourite restaurant. After lunch he returned home and read until four, when he left for his daily walk; he walked for two hours no matter what the weather. At six o'clock he visited the reading room of the library and read The Times. In the evening he attended the theatre or a concert, after which he had dinner at a hotel or restaurant. He got back home between nine and ten and went early to bed. He was willing to deviate from this routine in order to receive visitors.

Are the following statements true, false or not given in the passage?

1. Schopenhauer got up at the same time every day.
2. He dedicated the whole day to his work.
3. He ate the same meal every evening.
4. Schopenhauer allowed nothing to interrupt his daily routine.

70. IELTS Reading: choose the title

Choose the best title for the passage below.

- A) The story of a visionary cycling coach.
- B) Cycling's 'marginal gains' theory and its application in schools.
- C) The man behind Britain's Olympic cycling success.
- D) How cyclists implement the 'marginal gains' concept.
- E) Schools have improved since the Olympic Games.

One simple, but highly effective, lesson from the Olympics comes from the visionary British cycling coach, Dave Brailsford. Brailsford believes that by breaking down and identifying every tiny aspect of an athlete's performance and then making just a 1% improvement in each area, the athlete's overall performance can be significantly enhanced. His concept of 'the aggregation of marginal gains' has been making transformative ripples in classrooms and schools ever since the cycling team came to prominence a few years ago.

What is so brilliant about Brailsford's marginal gains concept is that it is so flexible. It provides an accessible, precise and useful language for achieving success in a school context in various ways: from students improving their learning, to teachers looking to enhance their pedagogy, and, more broadly, school leaders looking to make small, but highly significant improvements.

71. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following passage and answer the questions below.

‘Biometrics’ refers to the identification of humans by their characteristics or traits. Biometric identifiers are often categorised as physiological versus behavioural characteristics. Physiological characteristics are related to the shape of the body. Examples include fingerprint, face recognition, DNA, Palm print, hand geometry and iris recognition. Behavioural characteristics are related to the behaviour of a person, including typing rhythm, gait, and voice.

More traditional means of identification include token-based systems, such as a driver's license or passport, and knowledge-based systems, such as a password or personal identification number. Since biometric identifiers are unique to individuals, they are more reliable in verifying identity than token and knowledge-based methods; however, the collection of biometric identifiers raises privacy concerns about the ultimate use of this information.

Are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. There are two main types of biometric identifier.
2. Fingerprinting is the best known biometric identification system.
3. The use of a password is another example of biometric identification.
4. Some people may worry about how biometric data is used.

72. IELTS Reading: which paragraph contains...?

Read the following passage about the tutorial method of teaching, which is used in some universities.

A) The tutorial method of teaching, where students are taught individually or in very small groups of two or three, developed as the collegiate system in Oxford and Cambridge Universities established itself. Teaching has existed in Oxford since the 11th century, and the role of tutors was documented in the 15th century, when Oxford tutors were described as ‘having responsibility for the conduct and instruction of their younger colleagues’ (Moore, 1968). Thus, the early role of the tutor was both pastoral as well as academic.

B) One of the foundations of Oxford’s academic excellence is the dialectic of the individual, discussion-based tutorial which is reputed to have reached its unique status in the middle of the 19th century. Professor Benjamin Jowett, classicist and Master of Balliol College, Oxford, is traditionally credited with having been the guiding influence behind the establishment of the tutorial system based on the Socratic Method. His students said of Jowett, ‘his great skill consisted, like Socrates, in helping us to learn and think for ourselves’ (Markham, 1967). When Jowett took up the mantle of Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University in 1882, his teaching method of Socratic dialogue became established as a ‘pattern for the whole university’ (Markham, 1967).

C) In the last decade, multiple studies have been conducted exploring the unique learning benefits of the tutorial method. 130 years after it was formally established as the cornerstone of Oxford education, the tutorial method retains its prestige and effectiveness. As the present university website states, it is

through the tutorial system that 'students develop powers of independent and critical thought, analytical and problem-solving abilities, and skills in both written and oral communication and argument'.

(Source: <http://www.greenes.org.uk/our-history/the-history-of-the-tutorial/>)

Which paragraph contains the information in the statements below?

1. The tutorial is still a key part of the Oxford education system.
2. The tutorial method encourages students to learn independently.
3. The tutorial method features in Oxford University marketing.
4. Traditionally, Oxford tutors had more than just an academic role.

73. IELTS Reading: yes, no, not given

Read the following passage about 'uni-tasking' and 'multi-tasking'.

The human brain evolved to focus on one thing at a time. This enabled our ancestors to hunt animals, to create tools, and to protect their clan from predators or invading neighbours. In parallel, an attentional filter evolved to help us to stay on task, letting through only information that was important enough to deserve disrupting our train of thought.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the twenty-first century: The plethora of information and the technologies that serve our brain changed the way we use it. Increasingly, we demand that our attentional system try to focus on several things at once. Uni-tasking is getting harder and harder to do. The information age now buries us in data coming at us from every which way. We are bombarded with more information than at any time in history - the equivalent of 175 newspapers a day, five times as much information as we took in thirty years ago.

If we want to be more productive and creative, and to have more energy, the science suggests that we should tame the multi-tasking and immerse ourselves in a single task for sustained periods, say 30 to 50 minutes.

According to the author, are the following statements correct?

Answer YES, NO or NOT GIVEN.

- 1) The human brain is set up to perform many tasks at once.
- 2) The information age is characterized by our exposure to an abundance of data.
- 3) Multi-tasking may reduce human performance.

74. IELTS Reading: collocations

Read the following text about 'collocation':

Collocation is defined as a sequence of words or terms which co-occur more often than would be expected by chance. Collocation comprises the restrictions on how words can be used together, for example which prepositions are used with particular verbs, or which verbs and nouns are used together. An example of this (from Michael Halliday) is the collocation *strong tea*. While the same meaning could be conveyed through the roughly equivalent *powerful tea*, the fact is that English prefers to speak of tea in terms of being strong rather than in terms of being powerful. A similar observation holds for *powerful computers* which is preferred over *strong computers*.

If the expression is heard often, the words become 'glued' together in our minds. 'Crystal clear', 'middle management', 'nuclear family', and 'cosmetic surgery' are examples of collocated pairs of words. Some words are often found together because they make up a compound noun, for example 'text message' or 'motor cyclist'.

Are the statements below true, false or not given in the text?

1. It is possible, but not normal, to say 'powerful tea'.
2. It is equally acceptable in English to say 'powerful computers' or 'strong computers'.
3. Our brains remember some pairs of words better than others.

75. IELTS Reading: true, false, not given

Read the following passage about the 'Beaufort scale'.

The Beaufort scale is an empirical measure that relates wind speed to observed conditions at sea or on land. Its full name is the Beaufort wind forces scale, although it is a measure of wind speed and not of force in the scientific sense.

The scale was devised in 1805 by Francis Beaufort, an Irish Royal Navy officer. In the early 19th century, naval officers made regular weather observations, but there was no standard scale and so they could be very subjective. The initial scale of thirteen classes (zero to twelve) did not reference wind speed numbers but related qualitative wind conditions to effects on the sails of a frigate, then the main ship of the Royal Navy.

In 1916, to accommodate the growth of steam power, the descriptions were changed to how the sea, not the sails, behaved. The Beaufort scale was extended in 1946, when forces 13 to 17 were added. Today, hurricane force winds are sometimes described as Beaufort scale 12 to 16.

Are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. The Beaufort scale is a scientific measure of wind force.
2. In the early 1800s, naval officers demanded a more accurate way to measure weather conditions.
3. The original scale measured the effect of wind on a ship's sails.
4. Today, the Beaufort scale is still the predominant scale for wind description.

76. IELTS Reading: gap-fill from words in the box

Read the passage and complete the summary using words from the box below it.
NB You will not need to use all of the words.

Bilinguals and Personality

Many people believe that bilinguals have two different personalities, one for each of the languages they speak, and that switching between languages makes bilinguals act differently. Although this may seem unbelievable to some, research actually supports this idea.

According to various studies, bilinguals who are also bicultural and are actively involved in both of their cultures, interpret situations differently depending on which language they speak in. Although everyone, monolinguals and bilinguals alike, is able to change the way they feel and interpret events (a phenomenon known as frame-shifting), bicultural do this without realizing when switching between languages.

The changes are not only linguistic. As an English-Spanish bicultural myself I do find I act differently depending on which culture I'm immersed in at the time. I'm often aware of the fact that when I speak to other Spanish speakers my voice is slightly louder and I gesticulate more than when I talk to English speakers. Could we then say that bilinguals have two different personalities?
(Source: bilingualbicultural.com)

Summary

There is some _____ to show that people who are bilingual exhibit a different _____ depending on which language they are speaking. Some bilinguals also have two _____ cultural identities, meaning that they are able to _____ their behaviour effortlessly according to their cultural _____. This may involve changes in _____ of speech or in the use of _____ language.

noise	evidence	volume
persona	characteristics	body
distinct	surroundings	facts
adapt		

ANSWER KEYS

QUESTION 1

1. FALSE
(have been imposed to raise cash rather than change our behavior)
2. NOT GIVEN
(2050 is mentioned, but there is no mention of imposing higher taxes)
3. TRUE
(attempts in the future to curb car use... will prove deeply unpopular)
4. NOT GIVEN
(Prince Charles wants businesses to be MORE sustainable, BUT he does not say that most businesses are Unsustainable)

QUESTION 2

1. NOT GIVEN
(We only know that they were 'students')
2. FALSE
(Students were 'randomly assigned')
3. FALSE
(‘mock’ = not real)
4. TRUE
(‘psychological impact’ = mental and behavioral effects)

QUESTION 3

1. (More) liberal values
2. (Increasingly) accessible to
3. Students

QUESTION 4

1. TRUE
(‘lays the groundwork’ and ‘groundbreaking’ give the same idea (even if they don’t mean EXACTLY the same thing) - don’t “over-think” this question)
2. NOT GIVEN
(we only read about one expert who says Newton was the greatest genius - we don’t know what other experts think)
3. FALSE
(‘standing on the shoulders of giants’ means that his work depended on the previous work of other scientists (don’t “over-think” this question - Newton clearly relied on other people’s work, and this is a kind of help))

QUESTION 5

1. False
(not completely understood)
2. True
(His hypothesis was partially accurate—much of the gained mass also comes from carbon dioxide as well as water.)
3. True
(de Saussure showed that the increase in mass of the plant as it grows could not be due only to uptake of CO₂, but also to the incorporation of water.)

QUESTION 6

1. NOT GIVEN
(nothing is mentioned about how successful the repeats were)

2. TRUE

(If the child could resist eating the marshmallow, he was promised two instead of one.)

3. NOT GIVEN

(We know that they "analyzed" whether or not resisting temptation had an effect on future success, but we don't know if they "found" this to be the case)

QUESTION 7

2 - Benefits of working together in cities.

QUESTION 8

1. TRUE

(Means the same as line one of the text (typical IELTS paraphrasing))

2. FALSE

(See the last two lines of paragraph two (little need for instruction))

3. NOT GIVEN

(Was a trick! "Linguists assume" means they think language ability is inbuilt. However, no "research" is mentioned. So the answer is not given)

QUESTION 10

1 - "New method of research"

QUESTION 11

A = 5

(The search = the hunt)

B = 1

C = 2

(Probability = Hawking BELIEVES, but it is not certain)

QUESTION 12

- Raised = brought up

- to cope with = to handle

- co-educational = mixed

- a group = a cohort

- a variety of = a range of

- high schools = (state) comprehensives

- added weight = to fuelled

QUESTION 13

D

QUESTION 14

1. NOT GIVEN

2. FALSE

(They say no, and say the government should pay)

4. TRUE

(It would probably not be enough to bring forward legislation to curb carbon emissions)

QUESTION 15

1. NOT GIVEN

"predominantly" (= mainly) is the key word in the question. We know that they are found in all oceans, but we don't know where they are MAINLY found.

2. TRUE

only eat fish = feed exclusively on fish

3. TRUE

may even eat large sharks = preying on even large sharks

4. TRUE

pass on skills to their young = techniques and behaviours... passed across generations

QUESTION 16

- 4 - The printing boom
2 - The revolutionary impact of the printing press

QUESTION 17

1. TRUE (By 1500, printing presses in operation throughout Western Europe).
2. NOT GIVEN.
3. TRUE (The arrival of mechanical movable type printing....altered the structure of society...The sharp increase in literacy...)
4. FALSE (...bolstered the emerging middle class)

QUESTION 18

C

"Associate sounds with letters" means the same as "link sounds with spellings".

QUESTION 19

- a summary = an overview
2. succinct = short but effective
 3. gain financial backing = receive funding
 4. eliminate = weed out
 5. spoken = oral

QUESTION 20

1. C
(a corpus is a collection of texts used to help linguists analyse a language)
2. B
(the BNC was made to document British English from the 20th century as "a representative sample of spoken and written British English of that time")

QUESTION 21

- B "The idea of individualised 'learning styles' originated in the 1970s, and acquired enormous popularity."
2 - C "there is no evidence that identifying a student's learning style produces better outcomes"

QUESTION 22

1. NOT GIVEN

We don't know how famous he was in his own lifetime, so we can't compare.

2. FALSE

The opposite is true - he used his diary for MORE than just business. The key word is "beyond" (more than).

QUESTION 24

D

QUESTION 25

1. No
(Most of the choices...but **they're** not. They are Habits)
2. NG
(Impacts not only financial security other areas also.)
3. Yes
(Found that more than 40 percent)

QUESTION 26

- A = 2
(increase in work-related stress = stress related claims by employees has doubled)
- B = 4
(This paragraph is about the effects/symptoms of stress, NOT the causes)

QUESTION 27

B

(This is the overall idea of the paragraph. The other answers are too specific)

QUESTION 28

B and C

A is wrong because we don't know whether it's the MOST dangerous - there is no comparison with other mountains

B is correct. Infamous means 'famous for bad reasons' (e.g. the deaths, known as "murder wall" etc.)

C is correct - it was successfully climbed in 1938

D is wrong because we only know that they 'threatened' to fine people.

E is wrong - similar to 'A' - there is no comparison with other mountains.

QUESTION 29

1. inherited
2. stories
3. prior knowledge
4. family background
5. Modest

QUESTION 30

1. B

(A means of rating intelligence tests = a method of scoring (children's) intelligence tests)

2. C

(Intelligence scores had gradually risen over several decades = IQ test scores have been rising at an average rate of around three IQ points per decade)

QUESTION 31

1. C
2. D

In question 2, the answer "A" was a trick - the Goldilocks zone is not a region (on the surface) of a planet, it's a habitable region for the whole planet within a solar system.

QUESTION 32

Accident
inhibited
repressing

QUESTION 33

1) True

"experts" = historians of science

"the foremost experimentalist" = the best experimentalist

"in the history of science" = of all time

2) Not Given

"educated himself" = had to educate himself

"by reading books" = he read many books

3) True

"came to the attention of a famous chemist" = Davy's reply was immediate, kind, and favourable...Davy was asked to find a replacement, and appointed Faraday as Chemical Assistant at the Royal Institution.

"he wrote a book based on the chemist's lectures." = Faraday attended lectures by the eminent English chemist Humphry Davy. Faraday subsequently sent Davy a three-hundred-page book based on notes that he had taken during these lectures.

QUESTION 34

1. (human) flight
2. Steer
3. Powerful engines
4. machinery
5. Bicycles

QUESTION 35

1. (True)

The essential components of his method spring from the desire to create the "right environment" for learning music.

2. (NG)
3. (True)

(He reasoned that if children have the skill to acquire their mother tongue, then they have the necessary ability to become proficient on a musical instrument)

- 4) (True)

(He pioneered the idea that pre-school age children could learn to play the violin)

QUESTION 36

- A. 5
- B. 2

QUESTION 37

1. on the edge
2. Delivery, street
3. Discourage / discourage (any) wheeled

QUESTION 38

B is correct.

A is wrong because the passage is about people's reaction to the future, not a particular vision of the future.

C is wrong because there is nothing about his whole career.

D is too general - the passage is about a specific **reaction** to change. We really need something about Toffler or future shock in the title.

B is the best title because both paragraphs talk about future shock: the first paragraph contains a definition, and the second paragraph explains how future shock can occur.

QUESTION 39

1. B (physical and mental health = a sound mind in a sound body)
2. C (training gives an unfair advantage = practicing or training was considered tantamount to cheating)

"tantamount to" means "the equivalent of" or "almost the same as"

QUESTION 40

My answer is (C): 1st+2nd sentences: describing "big data"/defining it. 3rd+4th sentences: its drawbacks.

So

"A)How data can be used to improve society" is too general

"B) Big data: a smart approach to politics that works for everyone." obviously contrasts with the information presented in the text.

"D) Why the public trusts technocrats more than politicians." was not mentioned in the text.

The only suitable answer is (C)

QUESTION 41

B
C

QUESTION 42

1. TRUE

(Contrary to common wisdom' means 'the opposite to what most people think'. 'Problem-solving skills etc.' refers to 'intelligence')

2. FALSE

(Relative mass to body size is similar, not bigger. (You could say that 'mass' is not strictly the same as 'size' but this is too technical for IELTS)

3. TRUE

(‘This remains to be proven’)

QUESTION 43

1. False (this belief is disputed = some people question it)

2. Not given

3. False

QUESTION 44

C

QUESTION 45

1. landmark
2. cause
3. evidence
4. unequivocal
5. emissions
6. reductions
7. projected
8. scenarios

9. experiment

10. Consequences

QUESTION 46

1) False

"the patent recognized that it could be used to attach papers together."

2) Not given

The text doesn't say whether Fay's design was less or more practical than the subsequent ones.

3) True

"The most common type of wire paper clip still in use ... was never patented."

QUESTION 47

1. FALSE: circa 900 CE = around 10th century. Which is not the same that "at the beginning of the 10th century".

2. TRUE: "The island sits astride the boundary between the Eurasian and North American Plates"

3. TRUE: "Some volcanic activity occurs offshore, especially off the southern coast."

QUESTION 48

B - Construction of the tunnel was more expensive than predicted.(with building costs far exceeding initial estimates.)

C - There were plans to allow vehicles to use the tunnel. (Proposals to extend the entrance to accommodate wheeled vehicles failed.)

F - The Thames Tunnel is now considered to be a significant work of architecture. (when the structure was listed Grade II* in recognition of its architectural importance.)

QUESTION 49

A = 4

solve problems... through a goal-oriented, systematic procedure = a goal-oriented therapeutic approach

B = 6

the particular therapeutic techniques vary, but commonly may include... = The range of CBT interventions

C = 1

going through cognitive behavioural therapy is not an overnight process for clients; a typical course consists of 12-16 hour-long sessions = a slow process

QUESTION 50

C.

"D" is only mentioned in the first sentence. The main topic of the whole text is "C".

QUESTION 51

3. THE READING REVOLUTION

QUESTION 52

1. Not Given

"10 o'clock" is mentioned, but there is no information about when the campsite is locked. This is quite common with "Not Given" answers - you find one or two keywords from the question, but some of the information is missing.

2. False

If dogs must be kept on a lead, they are obviously not prohibited.

3. True

Don't be tricked into writing "Not Given" (just because food is not mentioned). If fires are

prohibited, it must mean that you can't cook food on them.

QUESTION 53

A - the cathedral is the historic structure that they are making into a 3D-printed model.

B is too general - the text isn't really about the benefits of 3D printing - it's about a specific example of 3D printing.

QUESTION 54

1. FALSE

(Coffee consumption has been shown to have minimal or no impact, positive or negative, on cancer development)

2. TRUE

(the overall balance of risks and benefits [of coffee consumption] are on the side of benefits)

3. TRUE

(...study in 2009 showed that those who consumed a moderate amount of coffee or tea were less likely to develop dementia and Alzheimer's)

QUESTION 55

advances

empower

cutting

chief

coming

developing

track

QUESTION 56

1-True

((a) the more television they watched the worse they were at mathematics. (b)The findings, which support earlier evidence indicating television harms cognitive development)

2-Not Given

(American paediatricians advise that under-twos should not watch any television and that older children should view one to two hours a day at most)

3-True

(France has banned shows aimed at under-threes; Britain has no official advice).

QUESTION 57

1. remote
2. commute
3. locations
4. efficient
5. smartphones
6. mobility
7. Instant

QUESTION 58

1. NG

(there isn't a comparison between Europe and America)

2. T

(people were skeptical = many suspected that these escapes were faked)

3. T

(legal action against those who tried to copy him = sue anyone who pirated his stunts)

QUESTION 59

A

The two trends are population growth and the spread of prosperity.

QUESTION 60

1. tolerable standards
2. detrimental
3. led to
4. leading cause of
5. severe
6. up to a dozen

QUESTION 61

1. NOT GIVEN

('disappear' is not mentioned, it only says 'marginalised', which means 'treated as less important')

2. NOT GIVEN

(there is nothing about how easy they are to learn)

3. TRUE

(considered to be harmful = seen as a threat)

QUESTION 62

1. B

does not require instruction = understand concepts that would normally have to be taught by another person

2. A

solitary figures = disconnected from society, who works remotely, away from the rest of the world

3. D

make an exceptional contribution to society = especially valuable to society

QUESTION 63

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. Not Given

QUESTION 64

B

The aim of this exercise was to show you how you can be tricked into choosing the wrong answer.

QUESTION 65

1. C
2. B

Note:

For question 2, nothing is mentioned in the passage about local communities not having 'funds'. It only says they are unable to meet demand. For this reason, we can't choose answer C.

QUESTION 66

Not given

True

Not given

QUESTION 67

B

(classifies people according to their beliefs about ability and success = individuals can be placed on a continuum according to their implicit views of where ability comes from. Some believe their success...)

C

(We do not always realise which mindset we have = Individuals may not necessarily be aware of their own mindset)

QUESTION 68

1. D
2. B
3. F
4. C
5. A
6. E

QUESTION 69

1. True

(got up at the same time = rose every day at seven)

2. False

(dedicated the whole day to work = FALSE = at noon he ceased work for the day)

3. Not given

(no information about the meals he ate)

4. False

(allowed nothing to interrupt his daily routine = FALSE = He was willing to deviate from this routine in order to receive visitors)

QUESTION 70

B

QUESTION 71

1. TRUE (2 types = physiological and behavioural)

2. NOT GIVEN (no information about 'best known')

3. FALSE ('password' is a knowledge-based system)

4. TRUE (people may worry = raises privacy concerns)

QUESTION 72

1. C

(still a key part of the Oxford education system = the cornerstone of Oxford education, the tutorial method retains its prestige and effectiveness)

2. B

(encourages students to learn independently = helping us to learn and think for ourselves)

3. C

(features in Oxford University marketing = As the present university website states)

4. A

(Oxford tutors had more than just an academic role = the early role of the tutor was both pastoral as well as academic)

QUESTION 73

1. NO

(perform many tasks at once = opposite of = focus on one thing at a time)

2. YES

(exposure to an abundance of data = buries us in data coming at us from every which way)

3. YES

(Multi-taking may reduce human performance = If we want to be more productive... the science suggests that we should tame the multi-tasking)

QUESTION 74

1. True

2. False

3. Not given

QUESTION 75

1. False

[although it is a measure of wind speed and not of force in the scientific sense.]

2. Not Given

(No information given about Navy's demand)

3. True

[The initial scale of thirteen classes did not reference wind speed numbers but related qualitative wind conditions to effects on the sails of a frigate(a warship)]

4. Not Given

QUESTION 76

1. evidence

2. persona

3. distinct

4. adapt

5. surroundings

6. volume

7. body

Notes:

1. 'Facts' is wrong. We can't write "there IS facts". It would need to be "there ARE facts". "Evidence" is uncountable, so "there is some evidence" is the correct answer.

2. 'Characteristics' is wrong because of the article "a". We can't write "a different characteristics" - we need a singular noun, so 'persona' is correct.