

Full ngày 4/5
TEST 3

READING PASSAGE 1: You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1-13, which are based on Reading Passage 1 on pages 2 and 3.

An important language development

Cuneiform, the world's first known system of handwriting, originated some 6.000 years ago in Summer in what is now southern Iraq. It was most often inscribed on palm- sized, rectangular clay tablets measuring several centimetres across, although occasionally, larger tablets or cylinders were used. Clay was an excellent medium for writing. Other surfaces which have been employed - for example, parchment, papyrus and paper - are not long-lasting and are easily destroyed by fire and water. But clay has proved to be resistant to those particular kinds of damage.

The word 'cuneiform' actually refers to the marks or signs inscribed in the clay. The original cuneiform signs consisted of a series of lines - triangular, vertical, diagonal and horizontal. Sumerian writers would impress these lines into the wet clay with a stylus a long, thin, pointed instrument which looked somewhat like a pen. Oddly, the signs were often almost too small to see with the naked eye. Cuneiform signs were used for the writing of at least a dozen languages. This is similar to how the Latin alphabet is used today for writing English, French, Spanish and German for example.

Before the development of cuneiform, tokens were used by the Sumerians to record certain information. For example, they might take small stones and use them as tokens or representations of something else, like a goat. A number of tokens, then, might mean a herd of goat. These tokens might then be placed in a cloth container and provided to a buyer as a receipt for a transaction, perhaps five tokens for five animals. It was not that different from what we do today when we buy some bread and the clerk gives us back a piece of paper with numbers on it to confirm the exchange.

By the 4th century BCE, the Sumerians had adapted this system to a form of writing. They began putting tokens in a container resembling an envelope, and now made of clay instead of cloth. They then stamped the outside to indicate the number and type of tokens inside. A person could then 'read' what was stamped on the container and know what was inside.

Gradually, Sumerians developed symbols for words. When first developed, each symbol looked like the concrete thing it represented. For example, an image which resembled the drawing of a sheep meant just that. Then another level of abstraction was introduced when symbols were developed for intangible ideas such as 'female' of

'hot' or 'God'. Cuneiform, in other words, evolved from a way used primarily to track and store information into a way to represent the world symbolically. Over the centuries, the marks became ever more abstract, finally evolving into signs that looked nothing like what they referred to, just as the letters 'h-o-u-s-e' have no visual connection to the place we live in. At this last stage in the evolution of cuneiform, the signs took the form of triangles, which became common cuneiform signs.

As the marks became more abstract, the system became more efficient because there were fewer marks a 'reader' needed to learn. But cuneiform also became more complex because society itself was becoming more complex, so there were more ideas and concepts that needed to be expressed. However, most linguists and historians agree cuneiform developed primarily as a tool for accounting. Of the cuneiform tablets that have been discovered, excavated and translated, about 75 percent contain this type of practical information, rather than artistic or imaginative work.

Cuneiform writing was used for thousands of years, but it eventually ceased to be used in everyday life. In fact, it died out and remained unintelligible for almost 2,000 years. In the late 19th century, a British army officer, Henry Rawlinson, discovered cuneiform inscriptions which had been carved in the surface of rocks in the Behistun mountains in what is present-day Iran. Rawlinson made impressions of the marks on large pieces of paper, as he balanced dangerously on the surrounding rocks.

Rawlinson took his copies home to Britain and studied them for years to determine what each line stood for, and what each group of symbols meant. He found that in the writing on those particular rocks every word was repeated three times in three languages: Old Persian, Elamite and Babylonian. Since the meanings in these languages were already known to linguists, he could thus translate the cuneiform. Eventually, he fully decoded the cuneiform marks and he discovered that they described the life of Darius, a king of the Persian Empire in the 5th century BCE.

Questions 1-5. Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1? In boxes 1-5 on your answer sheet, write **TRUE FALSE NOT GIVEN**

1. Cuneiform tablets were produced in different shapes and sizes.
2. Cuneiform was often difficult to read because of its size.
3. When Sumerian writers marked on the clay tablets, the tablets were dry
4. A number of languages adopted cuneiform.
5. Cuneiform signs, can be found in some modern alphabets.

Questions 6-13 Complete the notes below. Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer. Write your answers in boxes 6-13 on your answer sheet

The development and translation of cuneiform

Before cuneiform

- tokens, for example, **6**.....were often used
- the first tokens were kept in containers made of **7**.....
- tokens were used as a **8**..... to give when selling something

By 4th century BCE

tokens were put in a container that looked like a clay

9.....

Complex, abstract symbols developed

- at first, signs looked like what they indicated, e.g.
10.....
- then signs became more abstract
- eventually, cuneiform signs shaped like **11**.....
- according to experts, cuneiform was mainly used for **12**.....
were developed

19th-century translation of cuneiform inscriptions by Henry Rawlinson

- Rawlinson found cuneiform inscriptions in the Behistun mountains
- Rawlinson copied inscriptions onto **13**.....
- Rawlinson realised that each word of the inscriptions appeared in different languages
- When translated, Rawlinson found the writings were about a 5th-century BCE king

Passage 3

Global warming in New Zealand

A new study investigates the implications of global warming for New Zealand

New Zealand is expected to warm by about 3°C over the next century. The northern polar regions will be more than 6°C warmer, while the large continents - also the

largest centres of population will be 4°C or more warmer. In contrast, the Southern Ocean, which surrounds New Zealand, may warm by only 2°C. The sea will act as an air conditioner and in this respect New Zealand's location is comparatively fortunate.

Any predictions are complicated by the variability of New Zealand's climate. The annual temperature can fluctuate as much as 1°C above or below the long-term average. The early summer of 2006-7, for instance, was notably cool, thanks in part to the icebergs that drifted up the east coast. A few months later, warm water from the Tasman Sea helped make May 2007 unusually hot. These variables will continue unaffected so that, although the general pattern will be for rising temperatures, the warming trend may not be uniform.

The ocean to the south of New Zealand will have one important effect. As the world warms, the great band of west winds that circle Antarctica will become stronger. This has already been observed, and its impact on New Zealand is likely to be profound. Stronger, more frequent west winds will bring increased, sometimes catastrophic rainfall to the west coast of the country and create drier conditions in some eastern regions that are already drought-prone. At the same time, the general warming will spread south.

Furthermore, in the drier regions, the average moisture deficit - that is, the difference between the amount of water in soils available to plants and the amount plants need for optimum growth - will increase. Soils could go into moisture deficit earlier in the growing season and the deficits could last longer into autumn than at present. What we think of today as a medium-severity drought could be an almost annual occurrence by the end of the century.

One direct consequence of warmer - and shorter - winters will be a reduction in snow cover. The permanent snow line in the mountains will rise, while snow cover below this will be shorter-lived. The amount of snow that falls may actually increase, however, even in some northern centres, owing to the intensification of precipitation. Ski-field base stations may eventually have to be moved upwards to be within reach of the new snow line but there could still be plenty of the white stuff up there.

There will also be a marked impact on New Zealand's glaciers. Over the last 100 years, the glaciers have been reduced by 35%, although since 1978 increased snowfall has offset the effect of warming. The latest studies conducted by the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), however, suggest that by the end of the century, warming over the Southern Alps could be significantly greater than over the rest of the country. One model suggests that the Mt. Cook region could experience an average summer-temperature increase

Questions 33-35. Complete the summary using the list of words, A-G, below. Write the correct letter, **A-G**, in boxes 33-35 on your answer sheet.

Rising sea levels

The extent of future sea level rises around New Zealand is uncertain and may be determined in the **33**..... Another variable is sudden rises in sea level caused by bad weather. Higher sea levels can lead to reduced **34**..... and result in changes to the shape of **35**.....

A. agricultural production

B. tropical waters

C. tidal waves

D. polar regions

E. global warming

F. coastal land

G. high tides

Questions 36-40. Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading Passage 3? **YES NO/NOT GIVEN**

- 36.** The natural world is less responsive to challenges than humans.
- 37.** The agricultural sector is being too conservative and resistant to innovation.
- 38.** If global warming is slow, it will affect different regions in different ways.
- 39.** The tuatara is vulnerable to changes in climatic conditions.
- 40.** New Zealand must reduce its carbon emissions if global warming is to be slowed.