EduAbroad
Run by Harvard-Cambridge Alumni

PASSAGE 1

Sifting through the sands of time

When you're on the beach, you're stepping on ancient rocks or from gypsum, like the white sands of New Mexico. On Pacific islands jet black sands form from volcanic minerals. Other black beaches are magnetic. Some sand is very recent indeed, as is the case on the island of Kamoama in Hawaii, where a beach was created after a volcanic eruption in 1990. Molten lava spilled into the sea and exploded in glassy droplets.

Sand provides a mineral treasure-trove, a record of geology's earth-changing processes. Sand as children we play on it and as adults we relax on it. It is something we complain about when it gets in our food, and praise when it's moulded into castles. But we don't often look at it. If we did, we would discover an account of a geological past and a history of marine life that goes back thousands and in some cases millions of years.

Sand covers not just sea-shores, but also ocean beds, deserts and mountains. It is one of the most common substances on earth. And it is a major element in man-made items too – concrete largely sand, while glass is made of little else.

What exactly is sand? Well, it is larger than dust and smaller than shingle. In fact, according to the most generally accepted scheme of measurement devised by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, grains qualify if their diameter is greater than 0.06 of a millimetre and less than 0.6 of a millimetre.

Depending on its age and origin, a particular sand can consist of tiny pebbles or porous granules. Its grains may have the shape of stars or spirals, their edges jagged or smooth. They have come from the erosion of rocks, or from the skeletons of marine organisms which accumulate on the bottom of the oceans, or even from volcanic eruptions.

Colour is another clue to sand's origins. If it is a dazzling white, its grains may be derived from nearby coral outcrops, from crystalline quartz rocks or from gypsum, like the white sands of New Mexico. On Pacific islands jet black sands form from volcanic minerals. Other black beaches are magnetic.

Usually, the older the granules, the finer they are and the smoother the edges. The fine, white beaches of northern Scotland, for instance, are recycled from sandstone several hundred million years old. Perhaps they will be stone once more, in another few hundred million.

Sand is an irreplaceable industrial ingredient whose uses are legion: but it has one vital function you might never even notice. Sand cushions our land from the sea's impact, and geologists say it often does a better job of protecting our shores than the most advanced coastal technology.

Answer the questions below.
Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the passage for each answer.

#TIP: Make sure you use the exact words that are in the passage and that you spell them correctly.

1. **What TWO materials made by humans are mentioned in the passage?**
2. **Which part of a grain of sand has scientists measured?**
3. **What two factors determine the size and shape of a piece of sand?**

4. **Which event produced the beach on Kamoama island?**
5. **Where, according to the passage, can beaches made of very ancient sand be found?**
6. **Who claims that sand can have a more efficient function than coastal technology?**

PASSAGE 2

Everybody loves fish but do they love cooking it or know how to, for that matter?

List of Headings

i Trying it yourself
ii Buying the right ingredients
iii Mixing your seafood
iv Watching the experts at work
v A changing student base
vi Rationale for a seafood school
vii Picking the fish for your dish
viii How to enrol
ix A range of levels

The reading passage has six paragraphs, A–F.
Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings above.

#TIP: There is always at least one heading that you don't need to use.

Example
Paragraph A Answer vi

1 Paragraph B _____
2 Paragraph C _____
3 Paragraph D _____
4 Paragraph E _____
5 Paragraph F _____

A
The Seafood School, located in this fish market, first opened its doors in 1989 to provide advice to consumers on how to prepare a wide variety of seafood dishes at home. The School is now widely regarded as one of the country's leading cooking schools with over 10,000 students a year attending classes.

B
The classes were initially aimed at the local residents who regularly shopped at the fish market, but more recently the school has found a market in teaching visitors from other states, as well as from overseas.

C
While fish dishes are still the main focus of most classes, recipes involving mussels, octopus, crab and lobster are also very popular. Asian flavours are in high demand and on every popular class begins with a shopping expedition to Chinatown to find out where to purchase the best herbs and spices for each individual recipe.

D
All classes commence with a demonstration of how the dishes are prepared. As anyone who has ever observed a good chef knows, it may look easy in their skilled hands but prove much more difficult at home.

E
This is where the Seafood School is unique. After the demonstration, students roll up their sleeves, put on an apron and, in groups of five, prepare the dishes they have just seen being prepared. Under the watchful eye of the demonstrator and assistants, each student helps to create a meal to be proud of, and then they all sit down to sample their seafood feast.

F

The Seafood School conducts a wide range of classes for all degrees of competency, from the four-session course in seafood basics, to the more complex weekend workshops with some of the nation’s leading chefs taking the classes. A vast array of cuisines and cooking styles is covered, including the School’s most popular class, ‘Seafood BBQ’, which is scheduled up to four times a month to keep up with demand!

ANSWERS

PASSAGE 1

1. concrete and glass
2. (the/its) diameter
3. age and origin
4. (a) volcanic eruption
5. (in) northern Scotland
6. geologists

PASSAGE 2

1. V
2. ii
3. iv
4. i
5. ix