READING TEST 116 – KEY

READING PASSAGE 1

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. F
5. C
6. E
7. G
8. G
9. A
10. sea water / salt water / salt
11. swimming speed
12. coastal otters
13. small mammals

READING PASSAGE 2

14. iii
15. vi
16. i
17. ii
18. ix
19. v
20. iv
21. yellow fever
22. Finland
23. institutions / governments
24. Europe
25. einkorn wheat
26. Singapore

READING PASSAGE 3

27. B
28. C
29. A
30. A
31. YES
32. NOT GIVEN
33. NO
34. NOT GIVEN
35. YES
36. NO
37. F
38. B
39. A
40. D

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READING TEST 115 – KEY EXPLANATION

READING PASSAGE 1

QUESTION	ANSWER	EXPLANATION
1	B	PARAGRAPH B But they do have the ability to modify the shape of the lens in the eye to make it more spherical, and hence overcome the refraction of water.
2	A	PARAGRAPH A The Eurasian otter's nose is about the smallest among the otter species and has a characteristic shape described as a shallow "W". An otter's tail (or rudder, or stern) is stout at the base and tapers towards the tip where it flattens. This forms part of the propulsion unit when swimming fast under water.
3	B	PARAGRAPH B Scent is used for hunting on land, for communication and for detecting danger.
4	F	PARAGRAPH F Pesticides, such as dieldrin and aldrin, were first used in '1955 in agriculture and other industries—these chemicals are very persistent and had already been recognised as the cause of huge declines in the population of peregrine falcons, sparrowhawks and other predators. The pesticides entered the river systems and the food chain—micro-organisms, fish and finally otters, with every step increasing the concentration of the chemicals. From 1962 the chemicals were phased out, but while some species recovered quickly, otter numbers did not—and continued to fall into the 80s.
5	C	PARAGRAPH C A number of constraints and preferences limit suitable habitats for otters. Water is a must and the rivers must be large enough to support a healthy population of fish.

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6	E	PARAGRAPH E At five weeks they open their eyes—a tiny cub of 700g. At seven weeks they're weaned onto solid food. At ten weeks they leave the nest, blinking into daylight for the first time. After three months they finally meet the water and learn to swim. After eight months they are hunting, though the mother still provides a lot of food herself. Finally, after nine months she can chase them all away with a clear conscience, and relax—until the next fella shows up.
7	G	PARAGRAPH G This is almost entirely due to law and conservation efforts, slowing down and reversing the destruction of suitable otter habitat and reintroductions from captive breeding programs.
8	G	PARAGRAPH G Releasing captive-bred otters is seen by many as a last resort. The argument runs that where there is no suitable habitat for them they will not survive after release and when1 there is suitable habitat;, natural populations should be able to expand into the area.
9	A	PARAGRAPH A Sea water reduces the waterproofing and insulating qualities of otter fur when salt water gets in the fur. This is why freshwater pools are important to otters living on the coast:. After swimming, they wash the salts off in the pools and then squirm on the ground to rub dry against vegetation.
10	sea water/salt water/salt	
11	swimming speed	PARAGRAPH B they hunt for shrimps in ditches and paddy fields so they don't need the swimming speed.
12	coastal otters	PARAGRAPH C Coastal otters have a much more abundant food supply and ranges for males and females may be just a few kilometers of coastline.

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13	small mammals	PARAGRAPH C Apart from fish the most common prey are crayfish, crabs and water birds. Small mammals are occasionally taken, most commonly rabbits but sometimes even moles.

READING PASSAGE 2

QUESTION	ANSWER	EXPLANATION
14	iii	PARAGRAPH A Dr William Masters was reading a book about mosquitoes when inspiration struck.
15	vi	PARAGRAPH B The pair speculate that cold snaps have two main benefits — they freeze pests that would otherwise destroy crops, and also freeze organisms, such as mosquitoes, that carry disease. The result is agricultural abundance and a big workforce.
16	i	PARAGRAPH C Countries having five or more frosty days a month are uniformly rich, those with fewer than five are impoverished.
17	ii	PARAGRAPH D Climate, he feels, somehow combines with other factors such as the presence of institutions, including governments, and access to trading routes to determine whether a country will do well.
18	ix	PARAGRAPH E Instead of aid being geared towards improving governance, it should be spent on technology to improve agriculture and to combat disease.
19	v	PARAGRAPH F Jared Diamond, from the University of California at Los Angeles, pointed out in his book Guns, Germs and Steel that

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		Eurasia is broadly aligned east-west, while Africa and the Americas are aligned north-south.
20	iv	PARAGRAPH G But Masters cautions against geographical determinism, the idea that tropical countries are beyond hope: "Human health and agriculture can be made better through scientific and technological research," he says, "so we shouldn't be writing off these countries.
21	yellow fever	PARAGRAPH A "There was this anecdote about the great yellow fever epidemic that hit Philadelphia in 1793,"
22	Finland	PARAGRAPH C For example, Finland is a small country that is growing quickly, but Bolivia is a small country that isn't growing at all.
23	institutions / governments	PARAGRAPH D Climate, he feels, somehow combines with other factors such as the presence of institutions, including governments, and access to trading routes to determine whether a country will do well.
24	Europe	PARAGRAPH F So, in Europe, crops can spread quickly across latitudes because climates are similar. One of the first domesticated crops, einkorn wheat, spread quickly from the Middle East into Europe; it took twice as long for corn to spread from Mexico to what is now the eastern United States. This easy movement along similar latitudes in Eurasia would also have meant a faster dissemination of other technologies such as the wheel and writing, Diamond speculates.
25	einkorn wheat	
26	Singapore	PARAGRAPH G Take Singapore: without air conditioning, it wouldn't be rich."

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READING PASSAGE 3

QUESTION	ANSWER	EXPLANATION
27	B	PARAGRAPH 1 So I had high expecta-tions of Musicophilia, the latest offering from neurologist and prolific author Oliver Sacks. And I confess to feeling a little guilty reporting that my reactions to the book are mixed.
28	C	PARAGRAPH 2 He richly documents his own life in the book and reveals highly personal experiences.
29	A	PARAGRAPH 3 The reader can see that Sacks, who has been practicing neurology for 40 years, is torn between the "old-fashioned" path of observation and the new-fangled, high-tech approach: He knows that he needs to take heed of the latter, but his heart lies with the former.
30	A	PARAGRAPH 4 There are now more sensitive tests, but Cicoria has declined to undergo them; he does not want to delve into the causes of his musicality. What a shame!
31	YES	PARAGRAPH 1 And I confess to feeling a little guilty reporting that my reactions to the book are mixed.
32	NOT GIVEN	There is no mention of this information in the text.
33	NO	PARAGRAPH 3 The reader can see that Sacks, who has been practicing neurology for 40 years, is torn between the "old-fashioned" path of observation and the new-fangled, high-tech

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		approach: He knows that he needs to take heed of the latter, but his heart lies with the former.
34	NOT GIVEN	There is no mention of this information in the text.
35	YES	PARAGRAPH 7 And he tends to be rather uncritical in accepting scientific findings and theories.
36	NO	PARAGRAPH 10 Although Sacks recognises the existence of new tech-nologies, among them far more sensitive ways to analyze brain waves than the standard neu-rological EEG test, he does not call for their use.
37	F	PARAGRAPH 8 For example, he might have noted that the many specific dissociations among components of music comprehension, such as loss of the ability to perceive harmony but not melody, indicate that there is no music center in the brain.
38	B	PARAGRAPH 9 Another conclusion one could draw is that there seem to be no "cures" for neurological prob-lems involving music.
39	A	PARAGRAPH 10 In many of the cases described here the patient with music-brain symptoms is reported to have "normal" EEG results.
40	D	PARAGRAPH 10 Sacks expresses fear that "the simple art of observation may be lost" if we rely too much on new technologies. He does call for both approaches, though, and we can only hope that the neuro logical community will respond.

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