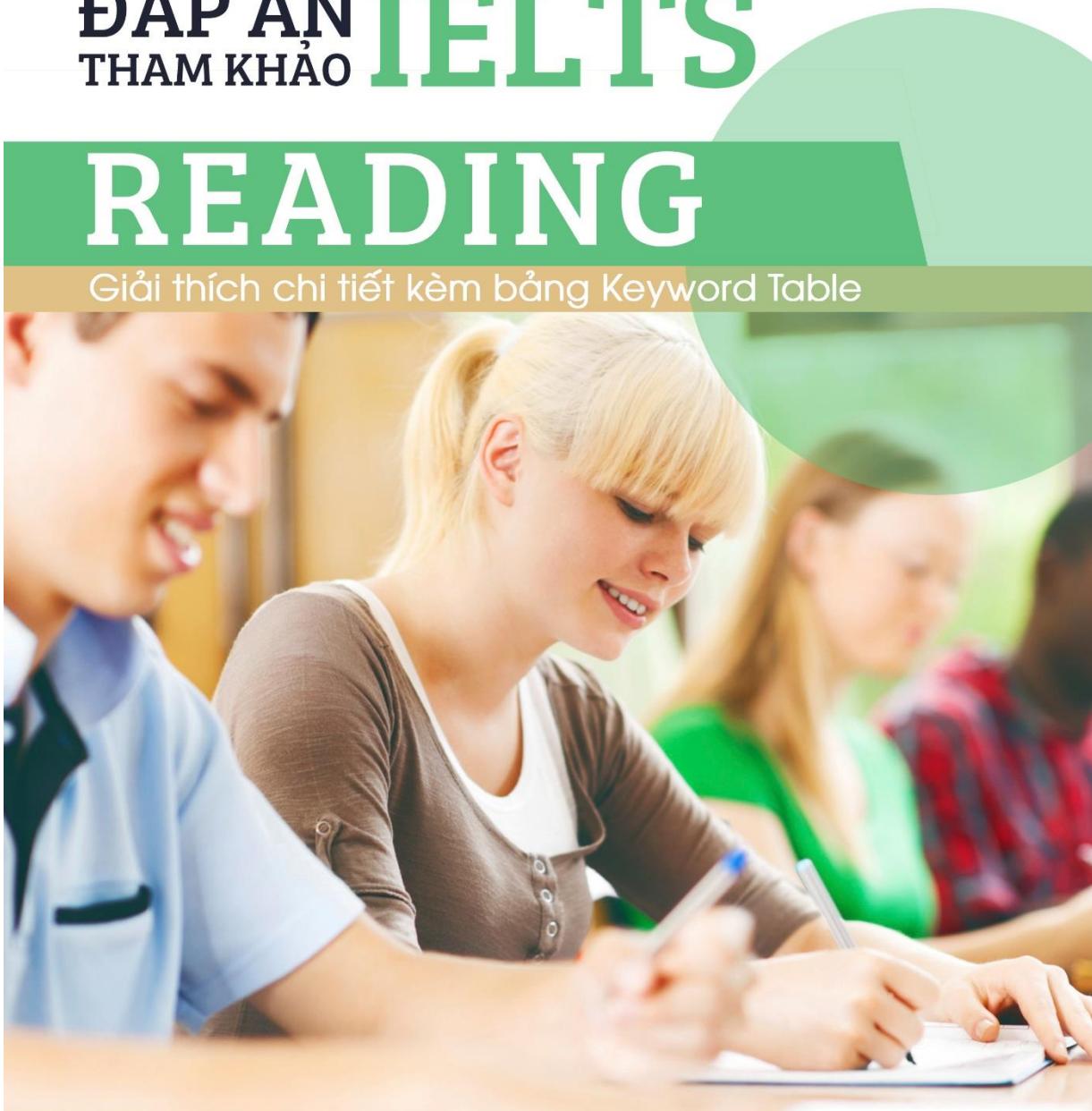


IELTS NGOC BACH

ĐÁP ÁN IELTS
THAM KHẢO

READING

Giải thích chi tiết kèm bảng Keyword Table



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GIỚI THIỆU

Mọi người đang có trong tay cuốn sách **IELTS Reading 2016 by NGOC BACH part 1 (part 2 là HƯỚNG DẪN GIẢI CHI TIẾT BỘ CAM 5-11)**

Với phần 1, sách tổng hợp tất cả các mẹo, phương pháp từ các giám khảo IELTS nổi tiếng trên mạng **Simon, Mike, Pete, Steve, Dominic Cole**. Một số thì là do mình trao đổi qua mail với giám khảo rồi tổng kết lại. Mình tin rằng đây là tài liệu đầy đủ nhất về phương pháp làm Reading các bạn có thể tìm thấy. Mình đã sắp xếp một cách khoa học nhất để các bạn theo dõi được dễ dàng

Cách học của mọi người đó là:

- + **Bước 1:** Xem hết các phương pháp, mẹo, kinh nghiệm làm bài IELTS Reading ở đây
- + **Bước 2:** Thực hành làm ngay các bài tập minh họa trong quyển này
- + **Bước 3:** Sau khi xem và làm bài tập thực hành xong, các bạn có thể bắt đầu làm bộ Cam từ 5-11 và đọc giải thích ở **part 2 sách Reading 2016 by Ngoc Bach**. Nhớ rằng đây là tài liệu sát với đề thi thật nhất nên các bạn có thể đê dành đến tầm 2 tháng trước khi thi hãy làm.

Nội dung trong sách, đặc biệt là part 2 mình tốn rất nhiều công sức, tâm huyết để soạn ra. Do vậy, mọi người **KHÔNG CHIA SẺ, SHARE, BÁN LẠI** sách dưới mọi hình thức.

Cám ơn các bạn !

-Ngọc Bách-

GENERAL TIPS

Basic Information

The Reading Test is immediately after the Listening Test at 10.40am. You do not get a break.

There are 3 sections in the Reading Test. Each section has 13 or 14 questions, making 40 questions in total. The test lasts 60 minutes, and in that time you must write your answers on an answer sheet.

Here are some of the problems students have with IELTS Reading:

- Time is the biggest problem. Many students don't manage to finish the test.
- The texts are long and contain some difficult vocabulary.
- Students find "paragraph headings" questions difficult.
- Students find "true/ false/ not given" questions difficult.

IELTS Reading is really a test of your vocabulary. If your knowledge of English words and phrases is good, you will do well.

There are techniques that can help you to work faster and cope with the difficult question types. However, the best way to improve your IELTS Reading score is by doing a lot of reading and vocabulary work.

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. [Click here](#) to see the banding guide on the official IELTS website.

Link:

http://www.ielts.org/researchers/score_processing_and_reporting.aspx

6 tips to improve your reading

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.

Reading to get ideas

You shouldn't think that reading practice is only useful for the reading test. Reading articles in newspapers, magazines or online is also a great way to improve your vocabulary knowledge and collect ideas for the writing and speaking tests.

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For example, a recent question in the writing test asked whether or not it's useful to study history. I did a quick search online and found this article:

[Click here for the article "Why Study History?"](#)

You don't need to read the full article, but it would be useful to note down some of the main ideas. Can you find 3 arguments *against* studying history, and 3 reasons why we *should* study it?

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.

List of advice and techniques for IELTS reading

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.

Top 6 tips to remember in the IELTS reading test

I asked some of my students to list the most important things to remember in the IELTS reading test. Here are their top 6 tips:

- “**Keyword**” technique: search for words in the passage that have the same meaning as words in the question
- Always underline keywords in the questions and passage - this helps you to search
- Go straight to the first question. Don’t read the whole passage or all of the questions first
- Most questions are in order in the passage
- Time is a big problem in IELTS reading - move on quickly if you find one question difficult: miss it, and return to it later
- Some questions are easier to search for, usually those that contain numbers, names or distinctive words

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.

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.

When to 'skim' or 'scan'

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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.

When to skim or scan (continued)

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.

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.

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.

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 confidently.

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!

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).

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.

Tip: If you try this, start by writing your own 'true, false, not given' questions.

KEY WORDS TABLE

"Keywords" 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: a good study technique

When practising with the Cambridge IELTS books, try this study technique:

1. Choose a reading passage.
2. Go to the back of the book and get the correct answers.
3. Study the passage with the aim of proving why those answers are correct.
4. Make a keyword table.

When you know what the answers are, you can focus on exam technique: ***searching for keywords***, then ***reading the relevant part of the passage carefully***. You might find this helps you more than simply testing yourself would.

Tables

1. IELTS Reading: test practice

A student recently asked me about the reading test on **page 40 of Cambridge IELTS book 6**. Find a copy of this test, and use the vocabulary in the table below to help you find the answers.

For the 'paragraph headings' question, you should find it easier to start with the shortest paragraphs.

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

Note:

"Commuting" means travelling (into a city) to work. "Overcrowded" means there are too many people in one place.

2. **IELTS Reading: do tests without a time limit**

As I've said before, IELTS reading is a vocabulary test. When studying, make sure you learn some new vocabulary from each practice test that you do. Use a dictionary, and don't worry about the time.

Use the table below to help you with the test on **page 60-63 of Cambridge IELTS book 1** (buy or borrow this book, or look for it on the Internet).

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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

This test contains difficult words like "corpus" (a collection of written or spoken texts) and "lexicographical" (related to writing dictionaries). Here are some more words that you could look up in a dictionary:

- incorporate (e.g. they are incorporating spoken English into their data)
- verbal / non-verbal (e.g. a verbal warning, non-verbal communication)
- portrayal (e.g. the portrayal of feelings)
- convey (e.g. to convey feelings, convey a message)
- an initiative (e.g. a Government initiative)

3. IELTS Reading: practice test

Try doing the test on **page 50-53 in Cambridge IELTS book 4.**

Follow this advice for the 3 question sections:

1. Which paragraph contains: Always do these questions last. Do the other question sections first to become familiar with the text.
2. Which ideas are mentioned: Remember, you are looking for ideas that are *mentioned in the text*, not ideas that are true.
3. Match the names: This is a perfect task for scanning. Scan quickly to find and underline the names.

Here is the key vocabulary that will help you to find the answers:

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Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
unusual connections in the brain	link-ups between brain areas that might not normally communicate
recording how much time	if you plot the amount of time
young animal	a juvenile
mental activities	cognitive involvement
rehearsal for adult activities	develop the skills they will need to hunt, mate and socialise as adults
build up strength	get in shape
adulthood	adult life
a specific substance	a particular chemical
input concerning physical surroundings	environmental data
a wide range of activities	jumping rapidly between activities

4. IELTS Reading: practice test

Below I've made a table of key vocabulary from a reading test in **Cambridge IELTS Book 1** (page 40-43).

Try doing the test using the vocabulary table below to help you.

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
when they first developed language	evolution of speech
society is prejudiced against left-handed people	in a world designed to suit right-handed people
boys are more likely to be left-handed	there are more left-handed males than females
after a stroke	if a person is brain-damaged
the left side of the brain	the left hemisphere
the two sides of the brain develop different functions	left-right asymmetry exists
a common feature	systematic

IELTS READING 2016 BY NGOC BACH PART 1

5. IELTS Reading: quite an easy one!

Last week my students and I looked at **Cambridge IELTS 4 (test 1, passage 2)**. This is quite an easy test, and most of my students got the answers right.

The table below shows some of the key vocabulary that helped us to get the correct answers.

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

If you have book 4, try doing this test. Hopefully you'll find it quite easy too.

6. IELTS Reading: look for keywords

Imagine the question asks about "longer days". If you read the text and find "increasing day lengths", you know you have found the answer.

In other words, the technique for finding answers in the IELTS Reading test is to look for keywords (similar words in the questions and in the text).

The table below shows keywords that helped my students to find the answers for one section of a reading test (**Cambridge IELTS 5, page 94-97**).

IELTS READING 2016 BY NGOC BACH PART 1

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

Did you know words like considerable, trigger, cue or adequate? If you don't know the vocabulary, it's very difficult to get the right answer.

7. IELTS Reading: keyword tables

When I do reading tests with my students, we always make a 'keyword table' with the words and phrases that helped us to get the answers.

Here's our table for **test 1, passage 1 in Cambridge IELTS book 6:**

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

Don't just test yourself. Study the answers, your mistakes, and the key vocabulary whenever you do a reading test. Try making a keyword table.

8. 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

(Text taken from *The Independent*)

ANSWERS

brought up

to handle

mixed

a cohort

a range of

(state) comprehensives
fuelled

9. 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, then try the exercise below.

What is an 'elevator pitch'?

An “elevator pitch” is an overview of a product, service, person, group, organisation 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

ANSWERS

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

IELTS READING 2016 BY NGOC BACH PART 1

10. IELTS Reading: keywords

Vocabulary is the key to doing well in IELTS Reading. Usually there are "keywords" in the questions that are similar to the words you need to find in the text. For example, if the text contains the word "global", the question might use the word "international".

The table below shows keywords for **Test 4 in Cambridge IELTS book 4:**

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

Try making your own keyword tables for other practice tests. It's a good way to improve your vocabulary, and it will help you to see how IELTS reading questions are made.

11. IELTS Reading: keywords

Here's a table showing the key vocabulary from last week's reading exercise. I recommend making a keyword table every time you practise a reading test.

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

bolster (verb) = support or strengthen

12. IELTS Reading: keyword table

The table below shows some of the keywords that help you to find the answers to **test 4, passage 1 in Cambridge IELTS book 6.**

If you have book 6, try the test using the table to help you.

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

13. IELTS Reading: keywords

Here's a table showing the keywords that helped us to get the correct answers to last week's Yes, No, Not Given exercise. (**bài 14** phần Yes, No, Not given)

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

Remember: you can only be sure that you have the correct answer when you can point to specific words in the passage that have a similar meaning to the words in the question.

IELTS READING 2016 BY NGOC BACH PART 1

14. IELTS Reading: more keywords

Last week I did a reading test from **Cambridge IELTS 7** (page 48-52) with one of my classes. Here is some of the vocabulary that helped us to get the answers:

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

The fifth row of the above table is interesting: "20% outside the local area" means the same as "80% was within the local area".

Another question confused some of my students: If a survey showed that "households spent seven hours a day on transporting themselves and their goods", does this mean that it was "a survey of household expenditure on transport"?

15. IELTS Reading: another keyword table

Here's my keyword table for **test 1.3 in Cambridge IELTS book 4**:

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

IELTS READING 2016 BY NGOC BACH PART 1

This test also contains some tricky words to describe shapes and movement. Look them up in a dictionary if you don't understand them. Line shapes: curved, wavy, bent, dashed. Movement: spinning, wobbling, jerking.

16. IELTS Reading: collecting vocabulary

Whenever you read something in English, it's a good idea to write useful vocabulary in a notebook. But don't just write individual words, write the related words too. For example, do you know which verb is usually used with the noun "commitment"?

As an example, read the following short text:

A New Year's resolution is a commitment that an individual makes to a personal goal, project, or the reforming of a habit in the coming year. Some examples include resolutions to lose weight, learn something new, or give up a habit such as smoking.

Recent research shows that while 52% of participants in a resolution study were confident of success with their goals, only 12% actually achieved their goals. A separate study in 2007 at the University of Bristol showed that 78% of those who set New Year's resolutions fail.

Men achieved their goal 22% more often when they engaged in goal setting, a system where small measurable goals are set, while women succeeded 10% more when they made their goals public and got support from their friends.

Here is some key vocabulary from the text:

- make a commitment to something
- give up a habit
- be confident of something
- set measurable goals
- make something public
- get support from

Remember: understanding the meaning of a word is not the same as being able to use it correctly.

IELTS READING 2016 BY NGOC BACH PART 1

17. IELTS Reading: academic and general

There is a difference between the types of articles used in the academic and general reading tests. However, the types of questions and the techniques for answering them are the same. For this reason, I recommend using both types of exam paper for practice.

The main technique for finding answers in both reading tests is the 'keyword' technique: search in the passage for the key words in each question.

Here's a table of keywords from the GT test in **Cambridge book 6, page 118**:

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

18. IELTS Reading: the importance of vocabulary

IELTS Reading is basically a vocabulary test. If you don't understand words or phrases in the text, it will be difficult to get the right answers.

Try doing the test on **page 46-49 of Cambridge IELTS book 4**. Here is some of the key vocabulary from this test:

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

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When I did this test with my students, nobody knew that a "chronic" illness means a "long-term" illness. The words "disillusioned" and "sceptical" also caused problems.

If you didn't know these words, look them up and write them down in your notebook. If you don't have a vocabulary notebook, you should start one now!

19. IELTS Reading: how questions are made

The people who create the IELTS reading tests do so by paraphrasing parts of the passage for each question. In other words, they choose a word or phrase in the passage that they want to test you on, and they write a question using words which have a similar meaning.

The table below shows the similar words from [last week's](#) exercise:

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

Note:

The words highlighted in blue were the correct answers because the same meaning was expressed in the passage and the question.

The phrases in black do not express exactly the same meaning (e.g. the fact that climbers have died does not mean that it is the most dangerous mountain). These answers were therefore wrong.

20. IELTS Reading: similar words

Here are some of the key words and phrases that helped my students to get the answers to **reading test 4.1 in Cambridge IELTS book 7:**

IELTS READING 2016 BY NGOC BACH PART 1

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

uncannily: means strangely or extraordinarily

21. IELTS Reading: vocabulary

Did you note down the key vocabulary from last week's [gap-fill](#) exercise? (**Bài 2** phần "Gap fill") Here's my keyword table in case you didn't:

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

22. IELTS Reading: matching similar words

To find answers in the reading test, look for words or phrases in the passage that are similar to words in the questions.

In the test mentioned below, you need to know that 'exaggerate' is similar to 'overstate', or that 'urgent' is similar to 'pressing'.

IELTS READING 2016 BY NGOC BACH PART 1

The table below shows similar words/phrases for the test on **page 24 of Cambridge IELTS book 5**.

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

23. IELTS Reading: more vocabulary!

My students and I did **test 2, passage 2 in Cambridge IELTS book 8 ('The Little Ice Age')**. This is quite a tricky test because one or two of the questions are not in order in the passage. Here are some of the keywords that helped us to get the correct answers:

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

Note: 'far from' can be used to mean 'the opposite of' e.g. "I am far from happy" means "I am not happy at all".

24. IELTS Reading: more key vocabulary

On Saturday I taught an IELTS reading and writing course here in Manchester. My students and I did **reading test 2, passage 3 in Cambridge IELTS book 8.**

Here are some of the keywords that helped us to find the correct answers:

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

25. IELTS Reading: matching similar words

To find answers in the reading test, look for words or phrases in the passage that are similar to words in the questions.

In the test mentioned below, you need to know that 'exaggerate' is similar to 'overstate', or that 'urgent' is similar to 'pressing'.

The table below shows similar words/phrases for the test on **page 24 of Cambridge IELTS book 5.**

IELTS READING 2016 BY NGOC BACH PART 1

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

26. IELTS Reading: keywords

Here's my keyword table for last week's [true, false, not given](#) exercise: (**bài 15** phần true, false, not given)

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

Notice how the questions almost always paraphrase parts of the passage, using synonyms or words with a similar meaning (e.g. regard - refer to, foremost - best, famous - eminent). If you do enough practice, you'll get used to finding and recognising these similar words, and your scores should improve!

27. IELTS Reading: easy keywords

Here are some easy 'keywords' that helped my students to get the answers for the General reading test on [page 116 of Cambridge IELTS 6](#):

IELTS READING 2016 BY NGOC BACH PART 1

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

28. IELTS Reading: more keywords

Here's my keyword table for **test 1, passage 3 in Cambridge IELTS 6**:

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

Note:

Did you study this table carefully? Did you know the words *credibility, hardships, sustenance, struggle, harsh, abandon*?

29. IELTS Reading: more keywords

My students and I did **test 1, passage 1 in Cambridge IELTS book 4**. The table below shows some of the keywords that helped us to find the correct answers:

IELTS READING 2016 BY NGOC BACH PART 1

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

This table shows how important it is to look for similar words in the reading test. It also shows that IELTS reading is a test of your vocabulary knowledge. For example, do you know the difference between 'yes/no questions' and 'open-form questions'? Do you know what 'coverage' and 'misconceptions' mean?

30. IELTS Reading: more vocabulary

The table below shows the key vocabulary for **test 4, passage 2 in Cambridge IELTS book 4**. Try this test if you have a copy of it. My table should help you to get the correct answers.

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

31. IELTS Reading: always review vocabulary

Even if you find a reading exercise easy, it's always useful to review the key vocabulary that helped you to get the answers.

Here's my review of the vocabulary from last week's exercise: (**Bài 2** phần which paragraphs contain ?)

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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

32. IELTS Reading: keywords (**book 9, test 2**)

Here's my first keyword table for **Cambridge book 9**:

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

Even if you don't have a copy of the book, I think you can still learn something from this table. Look at the use of synonyms and similar words (e.g. worldwide / international, regulations / standards, current / modern).

Also, did you know the meanings of words like vulnerable, auditory and impairment? Look these words up in a dictionary, and see if you can use them in your own sentences.

33. IELTS Reading: keyword technique

What do I mean by the 'keyword' technique?

By 'keywords' I mean: words in the text that have a similar meaning to words in the questions.

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The table below shows the keywords that helped my students to find the answers to the test on **page 122 of Cambridge IELTS 6.**

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

Note: this comes from a General Training test, but the technique is the same for both general and academic tests.

34. IELTS Reading: more keywords

Here's my keyword table for **test 1, passage 2 in Cambridge IELTS 7:**

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

Do you make keyword tables like this when you do IELTS reading tests at home? The more practice you do, the better you'll get at noticing the keywords and finding the answers.

IELTS READING 2016 BY NGOC BACH PART 1

35. IELTS Reading: practice test

Find the reading test on **page 74-77 in Cambridge IELTS book 4.**

Use the key vocabulary in the table below to help you with the test. Don't worry about the time; just try to get all of the answers right.

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

36. IELTS Reading: more keywords!

My students and I worked through **passage 2 of test 3 in Cambridge IELTS book 9 (page 67).** Here's a table of the keywords that gave us the answers:

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

37. IELTS Reading: how we get the answers

The answers to last week's [reading exercise](#) were B, C and F (**Bài 9, multiple choice**). We get those answers by doing two things:

1. First, we search for keywords in the passage (see the table below).
2. Then we read the relevant part of the passage carefully, checking and comparing with the question until we are sure of the answer.

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

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38. IELTS Reading: another keyword table

The table below shows the keywords that my students found in **reading test 3, passage 3 in Cambridge IELTS book 4.**

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

39. IELTS Reading: more keywords

My students and I did a quick exercise from the general reading test on **page 109 of Cambridge IELTS book 9**. It's a good example of the importance of searching for 'keywords'.

Here's our keyword table:

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

IELTS READING 2016 BY NGOC BACH PART 1

40. IELTS Reading: another keyword table

Here's a table of key vocabulary from **Cambridge IELTS 8 (test 1, passage 1)**.

Remember that there are always words in the passage that are similar to words in the questions. If you find the similar words, you've found the answers.

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the text
affected by cold temperatures	could not be depended on in freezing weather
farming communities	where agriculture was practised
civil calendar	municipal calendar
months were equal in length	12 months of 30 days
divided the day into two equal halves	split the day into two 12-hour periods
a new cabinet shape	a new floor-standing case design
to organise public events	to co-ordinate communal activities

41. IELTS Reading: keyword table

Here's a keyword table for **test 3, passage 3 in Cambridge IELTS book 5**.

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

Notice the expressions "to coin a term" (to invent a new term) and "to move the goal-posts" (to change the aim). My students didn't know these phrases.

Note: the "opposite of" phrases were from 'false' answers.

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42. IELTS Reading: general and academic

If you are preparing for the academic IELTS test, you might never have tried a general reading paper. I recommend that you do. The techniques that you'll need to use are the same for both papers, and because the general test is easier, it serves as good practice.

Here's my keyword table for the general test questions on **page 122 of Cambridge book 4:**

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

Notice how the people who write the IELTS reading test use paraphrasing to make the questions. When you see 'keywords' like *cultivation* = *growing*, *elderly* = *aged*, or *beach* = *coastal*, you know you have the answer.

43. IELTS Reading: keywords from recent exercises

The table below contains keywords from two recent exercises here on the blog. The first three rows of the table refer to [this exercise](#) (**bài 32 phần true, false, not given**) about the effects of television, and the last three rows refer to [this passage](#) (**bài 26 phần true, false, not given**) about the performer Houdini.

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

44. IELTS Reading: vocabulary exercise

Read the following text about bad behaviour in schools.

The misbehaviour 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 misbehaviour 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 behaviour. 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

ANSWER :

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

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45. IELTS Reading: another keyword table

Here's the key vocabulary that helped my students to get the answers to **reading test 2, passage 3 in Cambridge IELTS book 9.**

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

46. IELTS Reading: more keywords

Here are some keywords from **a General Reading test in Cambridge IELTS book 9.** You don't need to do this test; just look at the vocabulary and make sure it's part of your '[repertoire](#)'.

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

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47. IELTS Reading: it's a vocabulary test!

Here's my keyword table for a general reading test section in **Cambridge IELTS book 5 (page 121-122)**.

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

IELTS reading is really a vocabulary test.

For example, if you know that 'communal bathrooms' means 'shared bathrooms', you'll be able to match that with 'do not have your own bathroom'. If you don't know the meaning of 'communal', it will be difficult to get the right answer.

48. IELTS Reading: keyword table

Here's another keyword table with vocabulary from **Cambridge IELTS 5, test 4, passage 1**. Look carefully at the paraphrasing used.

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

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49. IELTS Reading: keywords

The following question demonstrates the 'keyword technique' perfectly.

Question (true, false or not given?)

If you return unwanted shoes straightaway, with a receipt, the shop will probably give you a refund.

Passage

Go back to the shop with proof of purchase. If you return faulty shoes at once, you have a right to insist on a refund. It is also likely that you will get one if you change your mind about the shoes and take them back immediately.

Task

The correct answer is 'true', but can you complete the keyword table below to show how we found this answer?

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
1	take them back
2	you change your mind about the shoes
straightaway	3
with a receipt	4
will probably give you	5
a refund	6

ANSWER:

1. return (...shoes)
2. unwanted (shoes)
3. immediately
4. with proof of purchase
5. it is likely that you will get
6. one / a refund

Note:

The correct answer is 'true'. The part about "faulty shoes" does not give you the answer. The answer comes from the part that says "if you change your mind about the shoes" - this means the shoes are "unwanted".

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50. IELTS Reading: recent vocabulary

Here's another keyword table with some of the vocabulary from recent lessons here on the blog. It's always useful to make keyword tables, no matter how easy the vocabulary might seem.

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

51. IELTS Reading: keywords

Did you make a keyword table for last week's [paragraph matching](#) task? (**bài 3 dạng "which paragraph contains..**)

Here's mine:

Keywords in questions	Similar words in the passage
a key part	the cornerstone
is still	retains
learn independently	think for ourselves
features in university marketing	the university website states
more than just an academic role	role was pastoral as well as academic
traditionally	the early role

52. IELTS Reading: difficult vocabulary

Some IELTS reading questions cause problems because of difficult vocabulary.

Read the following sentences from **Cambridge IELTS 4, page 46.**

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- We've had a tradition of doctors being fairly powerful and I guess they are pretty loath to allow any pretenders to their position to come into it.
- A better educated and less accepting public has become disillusioned with the experts in general, and increasingly sceptical about science.
- Those surveyed had experienced chronic illnesses, for which orthodox medicine had been able to provide little relief.

Find the words in the sentences above which have the following meanings:

1. long-term or persistent
2. having doubts or reservations
3. reluctant or unwilling
4. conventional or normal
5. disappointed when something is not as good as you thought it was

ANSWER:

1. chronic
2. sceptical
3. loath (to...)
4. orthodox
5. disillusioned

Tables for Actual tests 2007-2011

IELTS Reading Test 2007-2011

	Test 1	
No.	Question	Paragraph
Passage 1	He was a famous doctor.	He was a very successful and eminent doctor.
	He is less famous than he should be	He is less well-known than he deserve.
	at different distances from the Earth	not equidistant from the Earth
Passage 3		
27	a competition	a betting contest
37	not reliable	full of problems
40	raise awareness	drive home message
	Test 2	
Passage 1	Question	Paragraph
1	all living animals	all living things
	lie	deception
2	self-preservation	save their own skins
5	good liar	successful liar
	understand	accurately assess
	Test 3	
	Question	Paragraph
Passage 1	bottom to top	base to tip
	Test 4	
Passage 1	Question	Paragraph
9	brain performance	intelligence performance
13	There is not enough evidence in support.	There has not been a surge of support.
Passage 2 - 22	increasingly expensive	as cost soared
	Test 5	
Passage 2	Question	Paragraph
23	set good examples	instructive and uplifting
26	should appeal to both A and B	recommended to the attention of A as well as B
	Test 6	
Passage 1	Question	Paragraph
5	international expansion	expanding overseas

GAP FILL

Tips

A reading gap fill is one task you may get in the IELTS test.

You have to fill in the gaps of a summary of part of the text using words from a box.

There may be more words than you need to use so you need to find the part of the reading that refers to the summary and make sure that you work out which word will fit.

You also need to think about the grammar as the word you put in the reading gap fill must fit grammatically as well. Here are some general strategies

Strategies for reading gap fill tasks

Looking at question 1, these are the strategies you can try following:

1. Read through the summary carefully to make sure you understand it.
2. Work out which section of the reading the summary comes from
3. Carefully read the sentence with the first gap and think about what form will fit i.e. should it be an adjective, noun, infinitive, present participle etc? And what type of word is needed i.e. is it an amount, a change, an action?
4. You should have worked out that for questions 1 you are looking for a noun because 'an' comes before it.
5. Then look at the words that are in the box - which ones have the right form to fit and the right type?
There are several nouns.
6. Look at the correct part of the full reading that refers to the reading gap fill section you are looking at and decide what happened for the first time to do with air rage in the 1940s?
7. Use this information to help you choose the correct word for the reading gap fill..

Exercises

1. 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 organisation 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 _____.

2. 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 _____.

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After conducting intelligence tests and allowing for _____, they concluded that there is a _____ link between genetics and creative writing.

3. Read the following passage about the discovery of penicillin.

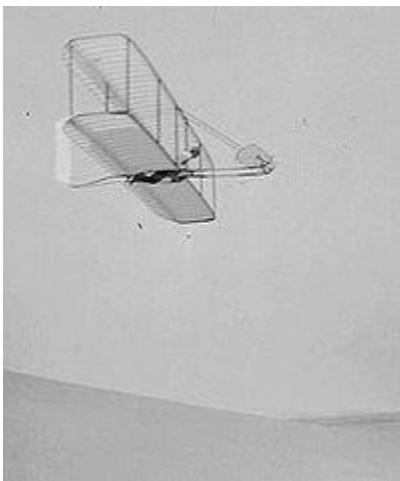
The discovery of penicillin is attributed to Scottish scientist Alexander Fleming. Fleming recounted that the date of his breakthrough was on the morning of September 28, 1928. It was a lucky accident: in his laboratory in the basement of St. Mary's Hospital in London, Fleming noticed a petri dish containing *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.

4. 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.

5. 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,

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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.

6. 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

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Text adapted from BBC website, 27.9.13

7. 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 customisation 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 improve 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.

Full article: [Apr 8th 2010, From The Economist](#)

8. 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

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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.

Easy reading practice, but good vocabulary for the 'teleworking' topic!

Key to "gap fill"

Ex1.

- 1) (more) liberal values
- 2) (increasingly) accessible to
- 3) students

Ex2.

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

Ex3.

accident
inhibited
repressing

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Ex4.

1. (human) flight
2. steer
3. powerful engines
4. machinery
5. bicycles

Ex5.

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

Ex6.

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

Ex7.

1. advances
2. empower
3. cutting
4. chief
5. coming

- 6. developing
- 7. track

Ex8.

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

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Tips:

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.

Exercises

1. *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?*

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- 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.

2. 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 individualised '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 criticised. 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.

3. 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

4. multiple choice

Look at the following question (from Cambridge IELTS 5) and the section of text that contains the answer. I've underlined the key words.

Question:

The writer suggests that newspapers print items that are intended to

- A) educate readers
- B) meet their readers' expectations
- C) encourage feedback from readers
- D) mislead readers

Passage:

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A third source of confusion is the attitude of the media. People are clearly more curious about bad news than good. Newspapers and broadcasters are there to provide what the public wants. That, however, can lead to significant distortions of perception.

Task:

Which keywords in the passage match the keywords in the question? What is the correct answer? Why?

5. 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

6. 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

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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.

PS. If you don't know who Goldilocks is, click [here](#)!

7. 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.

8. 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

9. 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.

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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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

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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.

To download the exercise [click here](#).

Academic Reading sample task – Multiple choice

[Note: This is an extract from an Academic Reading passage on the subject of government subsidies to farmers. The text preceding this extract explained how subsidies can lead to activities which cause uneconomical and irreversible changes to the environment.]

All these activities may have damaging environmental impacts. For example, land clearing for agriculture is the largest single cause of deforestation; chemical fertilisers and pesticides may contaminate water supplies; more intensive farming and the abandonment of fallow periods tend to exacerbate soil erosion; and the spread of monoculture and use of high yielding varieties of crops have been accompanied by the disappearance of old varieties of food plants which might have provided some insurance against pests or diseases in future. Soil erosion threatens the productivity of land in both rich and poor countries. The United States, where the most careful measurements have been done, discovered in 1982 that about one-fifth of its farmland was losing topsoil at a rate likely to diminish the soil's productivity. The country subsequently embarked upon a program to convert 11 per cent of its cropped land to meadow or forest. Topsoil in India and China is vanishing much faster than in America.

Government policies have frequently compounded the environmental damage that farming can cause. In the rich countries, subsidies for growing crops and price supports for farm output drive up the price of land. The annual value of these subsidies is immense: about \$250 billion, or more than all World Bank lending in the 1980s. To increase the output of crops per acre, a farmer's easiest option is to use more of the most readily available inputs: fertilisers and pesticides. Fertiliser use doubled in Denmark in the period 1960-1985 and increased in The Netherlands by 150 per cent. The quantity of pesticides applied has risen too: by 69 per cent in 1975-1984 in Denmark, for example, with a rise of 115 per cent in the frequency of application in the three years from 1981.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s some efforts were made to reduce farm subsidies. The most dramatic example was that of New Zealand, which scrapped most farm support in 1984. A study of the environmental effects, conducted in 1993, found that the end of fertiliser subsidies had been followed by a fall in fertiliser use (a fall compounded by the decline in world commodity prices, which cut farm incomes). The removal of subsidies also stopped land-clearing and over-stocking, which in the past had

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been the principal causes of erosion. Farms began to diversify. The one kind of subsidy whose removal appeared to have been bad for the environment was the subsidy to manage soil erosion.

In less enlightened countries, and in the European Union, the trend has been to reduce rather than eliminate subsidies, and to introduce new payments to encourage farmers to treat their land in environmentally friendlier ways, or to leave it fallow. It may sound strange but such payments need to be higher than the existing incentives for farmers to grow food crops. Farmers, however, dislike being paid to do nothing. In several countries they have become interested in the possibility of using fuel produced from crop residues either as a replacement for petrol (as ethanol) or as fuel for power stations (as biomass). Such fuels produce far less carbon dioxide than coal or oil, and absorb carbon dioxide as they grow. They are therefore less likely to contribute to the greenhouse effect. But they are rarely competitive with fossil fuels unless subsidised - and growing them does no less environmental harm than other crops.

Academic Reading sample task – Multiple choice

Questions 10 – 12

Choose the appropriate letters A, B, C or D.

Write your answers in boxes 10-12 on your answer sheet.

- 10)Research completed in 1982 found that in the United States soil erosion
A reduced the productivity of farmland by 20 per cent.
B was almost as severe as in India and China.
C was causing significant damage to 20 per cent of farmland.
D could be reduced by converting cultivated land to meadow or forest.

- 11) By the mid-1980s, farmers in Denmark
A used 50 per cent less fertiliser than Dutch farmers.
B used twice as much fertiliser as they had in 1960.
C applied fertiliser much more frequently than in 1960.
D more than doubled the amount of pesticide they used in just 3 years.

- 12) Which one of the following increased in New Zealand after 1984?

- A farm incomes
- B use of fertiliser
- C over-stocking
- D farm diversification

Key to "multiple choice"

Ex1.

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".

...

Ex2.

1.B (In the 1970s the idea of learning style became popular and proponents say that teachers should assess the learning style of their students)

2.C (there is no evidence that identifying a student's learning style produces better outcomes)

Ex3.

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.

Ex4.

B

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meet readers' expectations = provide what the public wants

If you put 'D', please read some of the students' explanations above. Several people have explained why 'D' is wrong.

Ex5.

- 1.B
- 2. C

- 1. a means of rating intelligence tests = a method of scoring (children's) intelligence tests
- 2. 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

Ex6.

- 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.

Check again if you made any mistakes.

Ex7.

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

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

Ex8.

- B
- C

Most people seem to have got both answers right! If you got the wrong answer for either question, read some of the explanations by students in the comments above.

Ex9.

B
C
F

C is correct - there were plans / proposals, and it doesn't matter whether they failed or not.

D is wrong because there is no mention of profit being made.

Ex10

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.

Ex11.

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)

Ex12.

C
B
D

TRUE FALSE NOT GIVEN

Tips

This lesson explains how to answer True and False questions for IELTS.

You also have a Not Given option with this type of task.

Firstly, you will be presented with a list of facts.

You then have to look at the text in order to decide if the facts are true, false, or not given.

Below are some tips and strategies to help you answer this type of question.

Strategies to answer the questions

1. The questions follow the order of the text.
2. Read the question carefully to make sure you fully understand what it is saying.
3. Scan the text to find where the answer is using key words from the question
4. When you find where the answer is, read the text carefully to identify if you think it is T, F or NG.
5. The questions will probably use synonyms rather than the words in the text.
6. Look out for controlling words such as "only", "all", "never" etc. For example, if the fact in the question says 'some' and the fact in the text says 'all', then it is F.
7. Do not spend a long time looking for the answer to one question; it is probably NG, if you cannot find it.
8. Make sure you use the correct code; 'Yes', 'No', 'No Information' is sometimes used (these questions are slightly different and you look for opinions rather than facts).

These 3 questions illustrate the difference between 'true', 'false' and 'not given'.

- True = part of the passage expresses the same idea as the question. (the fact you are given is clearly in the reading)
- False = the passage expresses the opposite or a different idea. (the reading says the opposite of the fact you've been given)
- Not Given = some information is missing, so we cannot answer true or false (If it is not true or false, it is Not Given)

False or not given?

Students are often confused by the difference between 'false' and 'not given'.

You should choose *false* if the information in the passage directly contradicts the question statement; in other words, you need to be able to show that a different answer would be true. Choose *not given* only when there is no information, or not enough information.

See two example questions.

The answer to the first one is 'false', and the answer to the second is 'not given'. Hopefully my explanations will help you to see the difference.

Question 1:

Some languages develop your intelligence more than others.

Passage:

People who speak two languages have a clear learning advantage over their monolingual schoolmates. This depends on how much of each language they can speak, not on which language is used.

Answer:

The answer is false. The passage does mention something about languages developing intelligence (a clear learning advantage). However, it then says that it does not depend on which language is used; so it is not true that some languages are better for developing intelligence.

Question 2:

Most New Zealanders believe it is good to teach children a second language.

Passage:

If you speak another language to your children in New Zealand, there are some people who think that you are not helping them to become a member of society. But in fact, the general agreement among experts is that learning a second language is good for children.

Answer:

The answer is not given. We know what some New Zealanders think, but there is no information that conclusively tells us what most New Zealanders think. We can't assume that most people think the opposite of the 'some people' who are mentioned (the others might have a different view or no opinion at all). Also, we can't assume that most people agree with the experts. To put 'true' or 'false', we would need more information.

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(Source: Cambridge IELTS book 8, pages 125-127)

Exercises:

1. *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.

(Source: [Harvard Medical School](#))

2. *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 behaviour, 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 Opinium, a leading research company, indicate

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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 behaviour.
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.

(Text adapted from The Independent, 2nd May 2008)

3. 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 behavioural effects of life in prison.

Feel free to share your answers in the "comments" area below.

Note:

"prevailing concept of fairness" means that fairness was accepted as the most important concept/idea. We talk about a "prevailing wind" = the main direction of the wind. A prevailing view has the same idea i.e. the main/most common view among people in a society or group.

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4. Read the text below about Issac Newton.

Sir Isaac Newton was an English physicist, mathematician, astronomer, natural philosopher, alchemist, and theologian. His *Philosophiae 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 recognised 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. 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.

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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. *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.

7. *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

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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.
8. Read the following passage from a newspaper article about 'green tourism'.

A) Interested in making your holiday greener and more sustainable, ensuring that local people get a fair cut of the money you've handed over, and that no rivers are being dried up or forests felled to accommodate your trip? Congratulations – for being in a well-meaning minority.

B) A recent survey by the travel trade body, Abta, found that just 20 per cent of travel agents have ever been asked for such holidays or asked questions about sustainability, though they did report a "feeling" that interest in sustainability was growing. Despite apocalyptic warnings about climate change, water scarcity, pollution, and peak oil, there isn't exactly a stampede to the travel industry's door demanding it play its part.

C) "The industry feels there isn't a huge demand out there," says Sue Hurdle, chief executive of the independent charity The Travel Foundation. "They don't have a lot of people banging on the door asking for greener holidays."

D) Others are more specific, such as Professor Harold Goodwin, of the International Centre for Responsible Tourism (ICRT), an independent academic research centre. "There is a big shift in values and approach – it's not just travel, it's a general consumer trend," he says. "If you're worried about where your pork comes from at home, why wouldn't you worry about that when on holiday?"

E) For those of us who are bothered, working out when the travel industry is doing its bit, and when it isn't, and separating good operators from charlatans peddling greenwash, is a bewildering and frustrating experience. England alone usually has around 20 certification schemes or logos on the go at any one time, split into two categories: awards, where hotels and operators are judged independently; and certification schemes, where they generally pay to be included. It also helps to know what the industry is aiming for. We're not talking about genuine eco-tourism – which remains a niche and narrow market – but on what the industry prefers to call "sustainable", or "responsible" tourism.

F) "Many people make the mistake of thinking that when anyone describes a business or activity as being 'green' that they are environmentally friendly," says Jason Freezer, destinations manager

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for Visit England. "Being green, sustainable, or responsible is about ensuring economic viability, social inclusion and contributing to the natural environment. A sustainable business is doing its most to enhance its own success financially, while contributing to the local economy and minimising or negating the damage it might do to its environment or community."

(from The Independent, 9th October 2011)

Answer the following questions TRUE, FALSE or NOT GIVEN.

- 1) Travel agents report that few people express an interest in sustainability.
- 2) In England, certification schemes make it easy for consumers to judge whether or not hotels and operators are 'green'.
- 3) Sustainable businesses are more successful financially than businesses that are not environmentally friendly.

9. 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 Claussen, 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 Claussen 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.

10. 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.

11. Read the following text about the printing press:

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.

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.

12. More practice

The following exercise comes from Cambridge IELTS 5, page 43.

Here are the questions with the relevant part of the text below each one. Study the questions and the text sentences carefully. Decide whether the statements are true, false or not given.

1. Arthur Koestler considered laughter biologically important in several ways.
 - Arthur Koestler dubbed it the luxury reflex: 'unique in that it serves no apparent biological purpose'.
2. Plato believed humour to be a sign of above-average intelligence.
 - Plato expressed the idea that humour is simply a delighted feeling of superiority over others.
3. Kant believed that a joke involves the controlled release of nervous energy.
 - Kant felt that joke-telling relies on building up a psychic tension which is safely punctured.
4. Current thinking on humour has largely ignored Aristotle's view on the subject.

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- Most modern humour theorists have settled on some version of Aristotle's belief.

5. Graeme Richie's work links jokes to artificial intelligence.

- Graeme Richie studies the linguistic structure of jokes in order to understand not only humour but language understanding and reasoning in machines.

6. Most comedians use personal situations as a source of humour.

- A comedian will present a situation followed by an unexpected interpretation.

7. Chimpanzees make particular noises when they are playing.

- Chimpanzees have a 'play-face' - a gaping expression accompanied by a panting 'ah, ah' noise.

Note cho bài trên:

How to do 'T, F, NG' questions

Question 1 - False

The question says that "laughter is biologically important" but the passage says that laughter "serves no biological purpose". As you can see, the answer is false because the passage says the opposite to what the question says.

Question 5 - True

The question says that "Graeme Richie's work links jokes to artificial intelligence" and the passage says that "Graeme Richie studies... jokes in order to understand... reasoning in machines". There is definitely a link between his study of jokes and 'machine intelligence'.

Question 6 - Not Given

The answer to question 6 is 'not given' because the passage doesn't mention anything about comedians using personal situations. We know that comedians use situations in their jokes, but we do not know whether these situations are personal.

These 3 questions illustrate the difference between 'true', 'false' and 'not given'.

- True = part of the passage expresses the same idea as the question.
- False = the passage expresses the opposite or a different idea.

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- Not Given = some information is missing, so we cannot answer true or false.

13. 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.

Please share your answers in the "comments" section below. Can you explain your answers? I'll add the correct answers tomorrow.

14. 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.

Note:

The passage above comes from a book I read recently called [The Power of Habit](#). If you're looking for a book to read, I definitely recommend it.

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15. 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.

16. 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

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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.

17. IELTS Advice: don't overthink your answers

Question 4 in Monday's [reading lesson](#) caused some problems because many people fell into the trap of 'overthinking' the answer. They were worried about the precise meaning of the word "infants", and whether it meant the same thing as "pre-school age children".

In the reading test, you shouldn't worry about such precise distinctions. It's enough to recognise that both "infants" and "pre-school age children" are very young children. The answer would be 'false' if the question mentioned "teenagers" or "adolescents" - these are definitely not pre-school ages.

Remember that the people who write these questions rely on paraphrasing and synonyms; it wouldn't really test your English if every question contained the exact words from the passage. If the words have basically the same meaning, don't analyse them any further.

18. IELTS Reading: always review keywords

Every time you do a practice IELTS reading test, remember to keep a record of the 'keywords' that helped you to find the correct answers.

Did you make a keyword table for the exercise in [last week's lesson](#)?

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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

19. Read the following text about sharks, 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 behaviour 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.

20. 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.

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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.

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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

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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.

Note: The phrase "wide of the mark" means "not correct" and is quite a normal phrase / idiom in English.

24. Easy examples of T,F,NG

To demonstrate the difference between answering true, false or not given, I usually show my students some easy examples from a General Reading exam.

The following examples come from Cambridge IELTS 7, pages 119-120.

Question statements:

1. The entrance to the campsite is locked after 10 p.m.
2. No dogs are allowed on the campsite.
3. You are not allowed to cook food on open fires.

Passage:

Don't make any noise after 10 o'clock at night or before 7.30 in the morning. Dogs must be kept on a lead. Owners of dogs that disturb other campers by barking through the night will be asked to leave. The lighting of fires is strictly prohibited.

Task:

Decide whether the question statements are true, false or not given. Then try to explain what we can learn from this exercise about the differences between true, false and not given.

25. 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.

26. 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.

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27. Read the following paragraph about 'minority languages'.

Minority languages are occasionally marginalised 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.

IELTS Reading: keywords

Did you make a keyword table for last week's [reading exercise](#)? Here's mine:

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

IELTS Reading: always note keywords

It's always a good idea to note the 'keywords' whenever you do an IELTS reading exercise, even a short or easy one. Here are the keywords from the last two reading exercises that I put here on the site:

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...

28. IELTS Reading: both true, but why?

A student asked me about the following passage and questions from Cambridge IELTS 8. The answer to both questions is "true", but the student asked me to explain why. Can you help?

Part of the passage:

The nineteenth century saw considerable interest in the nature of genius, and produced not a few studies of famous prodigies... However, the difficulty with the evidence produced by these studies, fascinating as they are in collecting together anecdotes and apparent similarities and exceptions, is that they are not what we would today call norm-referenced. In other words, when, for instance, information is collated about early illnesses, methods of upbringing, schooling, etc., we must also take into account information from other historical sources about how common or exceptional these were at the time. For instance, infant mortality was high and life expectancy much shorter than today, home tutoring was common in the families of the nobility and wealthy, bullying and corporal punishment were common at the best independent schools and, for the most part, the cases studied were members of the privileged classes. It was only with the growth of paediatrics and psychology in the twentieth century that studies could be carried out on a more objective, if still not always very scientific, basis.

Questions (true, false or not given):

1. Nineteenth-century studies of the nature of genius failed to take into account the uniqueness of the person's upbringing.
2. Nineteenth-century studies of genius lacked both objectivity and a proper scientific approach.

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29. 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.

30. 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.

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31. 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 characterised by our exposure to an abundance of data.
- 3) Multi-tasking may reduce human performance.

32. 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 paediatricians 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

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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-twentys are banned in the USA.
3. Children's television programming is more strictly controlled in France than in Britain.

Key to "true, false not given"

Ex1.

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

Ex2.

1. FALSE

(have been imposed to raise cash rather than change our behaviour)

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)

Ex3.

1. NOT GIVEN - we only know that they were 'students'
2. FALSE - students were 'randomly assigned'

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3. FALSE - 'mock' = not real
4. TRUE - 'psychological impact' = mental and behavioural effects

Ex4.

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).

Ex5.

False

(not completely understood)

True

(His hypothesis was partially accurate—much of the gained mass also comes from carbon dioxide as well as water.)

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.)

Ex6.

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.)

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3. NOT GIVEN

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

Check carefully if you were tricked!

Ex7.

1. TRUE
2. FALSE
3. NOT GIVEN

Question 1 means the same as line one of the text (typical IELTS paraphrasing)

Question 2 - see the last two lines of paragraph two (little need for instruction)

Question 3 was a trick! "Linguists assume" means they think language ability is inbuilt. However, no "research" is mentioned. So the answer is not given.

Ex8.

- 1) TRUE (only 20%)
- 2) FALSE (20 certification schemes = a frustrating experience)
- 3) NOT GIVEN (no comparison is given)

Ex9.

1. NOT GIVEN
2. FALSE (they say no, and say the government should pay)
3. TRUE (it would probably not be enough to bring forward legislation to curb carbon emissions)

Ex10.

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.

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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

Ex11.

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)

Ex12.

1. FALSE (laughter has 'no apparent biological purpose')

2. NOT GIVEN ('a feeling of superiority' does not mean the same as 'a sign of intelligence')

3. TRUE (controlled release of nervous energy = building up a psychic tension which is safely punctured)

4. FALSE (they have 'settled on' Aristotle's view means they have decided to agree with it)

5. TRUE (artificial intelligence = reasoning in machines)

6. NOT GIVEN ('personal' situation is not mentioned)

7. TRUE (make particular noises = a panting 'ah, ah' noise)

Ex13.

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).

Ex14.

1. No
2. Not given
3. Yes

Ex15

1) True

Many experts regard Faraday as the foremost experimentalist of all time. (historians of science refer to him as having been the best experimentalist in the history of science.)

"experts" = historians of science

"the foremost experimentalist" = the best experimentalist

"in the history of science" = of all time

2) Not Given

Faraday educated himself by reading books that were recommended to him by George Riebau. (...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.)

"educated himself" = had to educate himself

"by reading books" = he read many books

(as you see, there has been no direct reference from the passage that the books read by Faraday were recommended to him by George Riebau)

3) True

Faraday came to the attention of a famous chemist after 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. 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.)

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"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.

Ex16.

1. TRUE
2. NOT GIVEN
3. TRUE
4. TRUE

Ex19.

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'.

Ex20.

1. False (this belief is disputed = some people question it)
2. Not given
3. False

Ex21.

1. True
2. False
3. Not given

Ex22.

1. False

Intended for attaching tickets to fabric + patent recognized that it could be used to attach papers together.
(Note: it doesn't say specifically only patented for one specific use, but I assume logically that it was patented for other uses as well).

2. Not Given

Although Fay's design was functional and practical, the design is not same as the modern paper clip.

3. True

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

Ex23.

1. NG

2. T

3. T

Ex24.

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.

Ex25.

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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)

Ex26.

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)

Ex27.

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)

Ex28.

Let's use the "keyword" technique to understand why both answers are TRUE.

1.

Nineteenth-century studies of the nature of genius = The nineteenth century... nature of genius... not a few studies (meaning 'many studies')

failed to take into account = they are not norm-referenced... we must also take into account

the uniqueness of the person's upbringing = information about how common or exceptional these were...

For instance...

2.

Nineteenth-century studies lacked objectivity = it was only... in the twentieth century that studies could be carried out on a more objective... basis

Ex29.

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)

Ex30

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)

Ex31

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)

Ex 32

1. T -> the more television they watched the worse they were at mathematics
2. NG -> "under-tuos should not watch any television". No information about "shows are banned"
3. F

In question 3: Children's television programming is more "strictly controlled" in France than in Britain.

Phrase :: France has "banned" shows aimed at under-threes. Banned means To prohibit. That means "Strictly controlled = not completely stopped"

PARAGRAPH HEADINGS TEST

"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.

'Paragraph headings' questions

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

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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.

Exercises:

1. IELTS Reading: paragraph headings test

Today I'm attaching a 'paragraph headings' question.

The best technique for these questions is to do the shortest paragraphs first. Do long paragraphs last when you have fewer headings to choose from.

Match the paragraphs below with one of the following headings

1. Parents' influence is a key factor
2. Encouragement to make their mark in society
3. The influence of friends
4. A difficult stage in life
5. Teenage culture
6. Trying to find out who they are Adolescent Psychology

A) Adolescent psychology is associated with notable changes in mood sometimes known as mood swings. Cognitive, emotional and attitudinal changes which are characteristic of adolescence, often take place during this period, and this can be a cause of conflict on one hand and positive personality development on the other. Because adolescents are experiencing various strong cognitive and physical changes, for the first time in their lives they may start to view their friends, their peer group, as more important and influential than their parents/guardians. Because of peer pressure, they may sometimes indulge in activities not deemed socially acceptable, although this may be more of a social phenomenon than a psychological one.

- B) The home is an important aspect of adolescent psychology. Home environment and family have a substantial impact on the developing minds of teenagers, and these developments may reach a climax during adolescence. Responsible parenting has a number of significant benefits for parents themselves, their communities, and most importantly, their children. For example, children who experience significant father involvement tend to exhibit higher scores on assessments of cognitive development, enhanced social skills and fewer behaviour problems.
- C) In the search for a unique social identity for themselves, adolescents are frequently confused about what is 'right' and what is 'wrong.' G. Stanley Hall denoted this period as one of "Storm and Stress" and, according to him, conflict at this developmental stage is normal and not unusual. Margaret Mead, on the other hand, attributed the behaviour of adolescents to their culture and upbringing.
- D) Positive psychology is sometimes brought up when addressing adolescent psychology as well. This approach towards adolescents refers to providing them with motivation to become socially acceptable and notable individuals, since many adolescents find themselves bored, indecisive and/or unmotivated.
- E) Adolescents may be subject to peer pressure within their adolescent time span, consisting of the need to have relationships with the opposite sex, consume alcoholic beverages, use drugs, defy their parental figures, or commit any act which other people, particularly adults, may not deem appropriate. Peer pressure is a common experience between adolescents and may result briefly or on a larger scale. It should also be noted that adolescence is the stage of a psychological breakthrough in a person's life when the cognitive development is rapid and the thoughts, ideas and concepts developed at this period of life greatly influence the individual's future life, playing a major role in character and personality formation.

2. 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.'

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Which paragraph heading would you choose and why?

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

Feel free to discuss this question in the "comments" area below this lesson. Why is your answer correct, and why is the other answer wrong?

3. 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

Feel free to discuss this question in the "comments" area below this lesson. I'll give you my answer and explanation tomorrow.

4. 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?

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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.

Share your answers in the "comments" area below. I'll reveal the correct answers tomorrow.

5. 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

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- C) What teenagers really want
 - D) Why families should dine together
- (article adapted from The Independent)

6. 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.

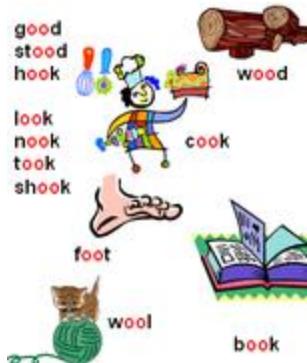
From a single point of origin, Mainz, Germany, printing spread within several decades to over two hundred cities in a dozen European countries. By 1500, printing presses in operation throughout Western Europe had already produced more than twenty million volumes. In the 16th century, with presses spreading 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.

7. 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) 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

8. 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.

9. 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 summarises 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

10. 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 behaviour

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.

11. 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.

12. 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 $3\frac{1}{2}$ – $2\frac{1}{2}$. 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.

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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

13. 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.

14. 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

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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.

15. 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.

16. IELTS Reading: paragraph headings

Try this 'paragraph headings' question from Cambridge IELTS 7, page 48-50.

Choose the correct heading for the paragraph below.

1. Co-operation of district officials.
2. Government authorities' instructions.

It would have been easy to criticise the MIRTP for using in the early phases a 'top-down' approach, in which decisions were made by experts and officials before being handed down to communities, but it was necessary to start the process from the level of the governmental authorities of the district. It would have been difficult to respond to the requests of villagers and other rural inhabitants without the support and understanding of district authorities.

Note:

Is it true that the answer is always in the first sentence of the paragraph?

17. 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

18. 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?

19. IELTS Reading: practice test with 'paragraph' questions

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Today I'm attaching part of a real IELTS reading test. You'll see that the first section asks "Which paragraph contains the following information?" Try doing these "paragraph" questions last; hopefully you'll find them easier when you've done the other questions and become familiar with the passage.

Sample Academic Reading B: Questions

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1-14, which are based on Reading Passage 1 on pages 1 and 2.

Investigating Children's Language

A) For over 200 years, there has been an interest in the way children learn to speak and understand their first language. Scholars carried out several small-scale studies, especially towards the end of the 19th century, using data they recorded in parental diaries. But detailed, systematic investigation did not begin until the middle decades of the 20th century, when the tape recorder came into routine use. This made it possible to keep a permanent record of samples of child speech, so that analysts could listen repeatedly to obscure extracts, and thus produce a detailed and accurate description. Since then, the subject has attracted enormous multi-disciplinary interest, notably from linguists and psychologists, who have used a variety of observational and experimental techniques to study the process of language acquisition in depth.

B) Central to the success of this rapidly emerging field lies the ability of researchers to devise satisfactory methods for eliciting linguistic data from children. The problems that have to be faced are quite different from those encountered when working with adults. Many of the linguist's routine techniques of enquiry cannot be used with children. It is not possible to carry out certain kinds of experiments, because aspects of children's cognitive development – such as their ability to pay attention, or to remember instructions – may not be sufficiently advanced. Nor is it easy to get children to make systematic judgments about language, a task that is virtually impossible below the age of three. And anyone who has tried to obtain even the most basic kind of data – a tape recording of a representative sample of a child's speech – knows how frustrating this can be. Some children, it seems, are innately programmed to switch off as soon as they notice a tape recorder being switched on.

C) Since the 1960s, however, several sophisticated recording techniques and experimental designs have been devised. Children can be observed and recorded through one-way-vision windows or using radio microphones, so that the effects of having an investigator in the same room as the child can be eliminated. Large-scale sampling programmes have been carried out, with children sometimes being recorded for several years. Particular attention has been paid to devising experimental techniques that fall

well within a child's intellectual level and social experience. Even pre-linguistic infants have been brought into the research: acoustic techniques are used to analyse their vocalisations, and their ability to perceive the world around them is monitored using special recording equipment. The result has been a growing body of reliable data on the stages of language acquisition from birth until puberty.

D) There is no single way of studying children's language. Linguistics and psychology have each brought their own approach to the subject, and many variations have been introduced to cope with the variety of activities in which children engage, and the great age range that they present. Two main research paradigms are found. E One of these is known as 'naturalistic sampling'. A sample of a child's spontaneous use of language is recorded in familiar and comfortable surroundings.

E) One of the best places to make the recording is in the child's own home, but it is not always easy to maintain good acoustic quality, and the presence of the researcher or the recording equipment can be a distraction (especially if the proceedings are being filmed). Alternatively, the recording can be made in a research centre, where the child is allowed to play freely with toys while talking to parents or other children, and the observers and their equipment are unobtrusive.

F) A good quality, representative, naturalistic sample is generally considered an ideal datum for child language study. However, the method has several limitations. These samples are informative about speech production, but they give little guidance about children's comprehension of what they hear around them. Moreover, samples cannot contain everything, and they can easily miss some important features of a child's linguistic ability. They may also not provide enough instances of a developing feature to enable the analyst to make a decision about the way the child is learning. For such reasons, the description of samples of child speech has to be supplemented by other methods.

G) The other main approach is through experimentation, and the methods of experimental psychology have been widely applied to child language research. The investigator formulates a specific hypothesis about children's ability to use or understand an aspect of language, and devises a relevant task for a group of subjects to undertake. A statistical analysis is made of the subjects' behaviour, and the results provide evidence that supports or falsifies the original hypothesis.

H) Using this approach, as well as other methods of controlled observation, researchers have come up with many detailed findings about the production and comprehension of groups of children. However, it is not easy to generalise the findings of these studies. What may obtain in a carefully controlled setting may not apply in the rush of daily interaction. Different kinds of subjects, experimental situations, and statistical procedures may produce different results or interpretations. Experimental research is therefore a slow, painstaking business; it may take years before researchers are convinced that all variables have been considered and a finding is genuine.

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Questions 1 – 5

Reading Passage 1 has eight paragraphs, A-H.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

Write the correct letter, A-H, in boxes 1-5 on your answer sheet.

NB You may use any letter more than once.

- 1 the possibility of carrying out research on children before they start talking
- 2 the difficulties in deducing theories from systematic experiments
- 3 the differences between analysing children's and adults' language
- 4 the ability to record children without them seeing the researcher
- 5 the drawbacks of recording children in an environment they know

Questions 6 – 9

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

In boxes 6-9 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE	<i>if the statement agrees with the information</i>
FALSE	<i>if the statement contradicts the information</i>
NOT GIVEN	<i>if there is no information on this</i>

- 6 In the 19th century, researchers studied their own children's language.
- 7 Attempts to elicit very young children's opinions about language are likely to fail.
- 8 Radio microphones are used because they enable researchers to communicate with a number of children in different rooms.
- 9 Many children enjoy the interaction with the researcher.

Questions 10 – 14

Complete the summary below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 10-14 on your answer sheet.

Ways of investigating children's language

One method of carrying out research is to record children's spontaneous language use. This can be done in their homes, where, however, it may be difficult to ensure that the recording is of acceptable 10 Another venue which is often used is a 11 , where the researcher can avoid distracting the child. A drawback of this method is that it does not allow children to demonstrate their comprehension.

An alternative approach is to use methodology from the field of 12 In this case, a number of children are asked to carry out a 13 , and the results are subjected to a 14

20. 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.

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21. 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, a team 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.

22. IELTS Reading: find the keywords

The following exercise comes from a 'match the headings' question in Cambridge IELTS book 5. I have given you the correct heading for each description, but can you find the 'keywords' that prove why the two answers are correct?

Description 1:

This book describes the creativity of Aboriginal people living in the driest parts of Australia. Stunning reproductions of paintings, beautiful photography and informative text.

Answer:

Guide to the Art of the Australian Desert

Description 2:

Graphic artists have worked with researchers and scientists to illustrate how these prehistoric animals lived and died on the Australian continent.

Answer:

A Pictorial History of the Dinosaur in Australia

23. 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.

24. 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”?

25. IELTS Reading: match the phrases

The phrases below come from Cambridge IELTS 5 (test 3, passage 1). Match the similar phrases from the two lists, and look up any new vocabulary in a dictionary.

- 1) a cross-section of socio-economic status
 - 2) positive outcomes
 - 3) supplied support and training
 - 4) insufficient funding
 - 5) scored highly in listening and speaking
 - 6) bore little or no relationship to
-
- A) too little money was invested
 - B) had nothing to do with
 - C) a variety of poor and wealthy families
 - D) the results were phenomenal
 - E) guidance was provided
 - F) were more advanced in language development

26. 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.

(Source: [Wikipedia](#))

27. 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.

(Adapted from [The Guardian](#))

Key to "match the headings"

Ex1.

A=4

adolescence (a stage in life) changes in mood, cognitive... changes... take place during this period, can be a cause of conflict (difficult)

B=1

responsible parenting has a number of significant benefits

C=6

in the search for a unique social identity (find out who they are)

D=2

providing them with motivation (encouragement) to become notable individuals (notable = successful = make their mark)

E=3

peer pressure = the influence of friends

Check your answers carefully - this was a difficult test!

Ex2.

2 - benefits of working together in cities.

Be careful: the answer is NOT always in the first sentence. The first sentence is about what people "once assumed" (used to think), but the word "However" introduces the real topic of the paragraph.

Ex3

Number 1: "New method of research"

This is a tricky question as both headings are similar and seem to be correct.

However, the paragraph DOESN'T talk about the first study of spoken language. It talks about the first time spoken English has been used when collecting data for dictionaries.

In other words, it's a new way of writing dictionaries, not the first study of spoken language.

Well done if you got this right!

Ex4.

A = 5 (the search = the hunt)

B = 1

C = 2 (probability = Hawking BELIEVES, but it is not certain)

A couple of the questions tricked some people, so check again if you got any answers wrong.

Ex5.

D

Most people seemed to have no trouble with this one!

Ex6

4 - The printing boom

2 - The revolutionary impact of the printing press

Ex7

- C

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

Ex8

B

- After "as a result" you can read a list of things that are affecting estuaries. Every factor in the list is related to human activity.

- There is nothing about the effect that estuaries have on the environment, and there is nothing about estuaries disappearing completely.

Ex9

D

Ex10.

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)

Ex11

B - this is the overall idea of the paragraph. The other answers are too specific.

Ex12

A) 5

B) 2

Ex13

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.

Ex14

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 to general

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"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)

Ex15

C.

A and D are only pieces of information of the whole paragraph.

B is just an explanation of how cities are ranked. It's also a piece of info, but not the main idea of this paragraph.

Ex16.

1.

The answer is in the last line: "support and understanding of district authorities".

support and understanding = co-operation

authorities = officials

Note:

Sometimes you can get the general idea of the paragraph from the first sentence, but NOT always.

Ex17

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

Ex18.

C.

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

Ex19.

1. C
2. H
3. B
4. C
5. E
6. TRUE
7. TRUE
8. FALSE
9. NOT GIVEN
10. acoustic quality
11. research centre/center
12. experimental psychology
13. (relevant) task
14. statistical analysis

Ex20.

3. THE READING REVOLUTION

Reading underwent serious changes... The text then explains these changes.

Ex21.

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.

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Ex22.

The questions come from General Reading test A on page 103 of Cambridge book 5.

Here are the keywords:

Question 1

Guide to = this book describes, informative text

Art = creativity, paintings

Australian desert = the driest parts of Australia

Question 2

Pictorial = graphic artists, illustrate

history = how... lived and died

Dinosaurs = prehistoric animals

in Australia = on the Australian continent

Ex23.

A

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

Ex24.

B

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

Answers A and B are very similar, but the passage isn't really about scientists "presenting" their new findings, so the more general answer (B) is the best choice.

Ex25

1 - C

2 - D

3 - E

4 - A

5 - F
6 - B

Ex26.

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

Ex27

B

I think most of you found this easy!

IELTS READING: WHICH PARAGRAPH CONTAINS...?

Tips

"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.

Exercises

1. Read the following passage from a newspaper article about 'green tourism'.

A) Interested in making your holiday greener and more sustainable, ensuring that local people get a fair cut of the money you've handed over, and that no rivers are being dried up or forests felled to accommodate your trip? Congratulations – for being in a well-meaning minority.

B) A recent survey by the travel trade body, Abta, found that just 20 per cent of travel agents have ever been asked for such holidays or asked questions about sustainability, though they did report a "feeling" that interest in sustainability was growing. Despite apocalyptic warnings about climate change, water scarcity, pollution, and peak oil, there isn't exactly a stampede to the travel industry's door demanding it play its part.

C) "The industry feels there isn't a huge demand out there," says Sue Hurdle, chief executive of the independent charity The Travel Foundation. "They don't have a lot of people banging on the door asking for greener holidays."

D) Others are more specific, such as Professor Harold Goodwin, of the International Centre for Responsible Tourism (ICRT), an independent academic research centre. "There is a big shift in values and approach – it's not just travel, it's a general consumer trend," he says. "If you're worried about where your pork comes from at home, why wouldn't you worry about that when on holiday?"

E) For those of us who are bothered, working out when the travel industry is doing its bit, and when it isn't, and separating good operators from charlatans peddling greenwash, is a bewildering and frustrating experience. England alone usually has around 20 certification schemes or logos on the go at any one time,

split into two categories: awards, where hotels and operators are judged independently; and certification schemes, where they generally pay to be included. It also helps to know what the industry is aiming for. We're not talking about genuine eco-tourism – which remains a niche and narrow market – but on what the industry prefers to call "sustainable", or "responsible" tourism.

F) "Many people make the mistake of thinking that when anyone describes a business or activity as being 'green' that they are environmentally friendly," says Jason Freezer, destinations manager for Visit England. "Being green, sustainable, or responsible is about ensuring economic viability, social inclusion and contributing to the natural environment. A sustainable business is doing its most to enhance its own success financially, while contributing to the local economy and minimising or negating the damage it might do to its environment or community."

(from The Independent, 9th October 2011)

Which paragraph contains the following information?

1. A difficult task for concerned consumers.
2. Confusion about what it means to be green.
3. Lack of interest despite some worrying predictions.

2. IELTS Reading: which paragraph contains?

Click on the link below to try today's reading exercise. The questions are at the end of the passage.

The Driverless Car Revolution

A) Some of the world's cleverest scientists and engineers are pioneering a new generation of driverless cars that will change our lives as much as the internet has already done.

B) The idea of self-driving vehicles will sound like science-fiction to many, but the prototypes already work, using 360-degree sensors, lasers, learning algorithms and GPS to navigate streets in an astonishingly precise fashion. They are likely to go mainstream in 15 to 20 years' time and are a genuinely exciting, game-changing breakthrough that refute the myth that our economy has ceased to spawn major technological innovations.

Google's vehicles have already driven more than 400,000 miles without an accident and are beginning to be legalised in US states.

C) The technology could trigger a burst of economic growth, transform transport around the world, free vast amounts of time, increase productivity, make us a lot wealthier and unleash drastic, unpredictable economic and cultural changes. By allowing people to relax or work as they commute, they will deal a devastating blow to public transport in all but the densest, most congested areas.

D) The biggest US think-tanks, universities, forecasters and corporations are busily trying

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to work out how, not if, the world will change as a result of driverless cars, and who the winners and losers will be.

E) Driverless cars will have huge advantages. Commuting will become useful, productive time, saving many people two or more hours a day that are currently wasted. The number of accidents will fall by at least 90pc, scientists believe, preventing thousands of deaths, by controlling distances between vehicles, braking automatically and eliminating human errors and reckless driving. The superior safety of driverless cars means that it ought to be possible to reduce their weight, cutting back on fuel consumption, and to redesign car shapes, making them more like living rooms. Even car sickness could be reduced, with smoother driving.

F) The dynamics of commuting will change as it will no longer be necessary to find a parking space on arrival: the driverless car could either park itself at some distance from the workplace or even return home, before picking up the passenger in the evening. Fewer people may want to own cars, with rental becoming more attractive. This could allow residential parking areas to be put to other uses.

G) The look and feel of roads and towns will drastically change. It will be possible to cram in far more cars into existing roads, driving at much faster speeds. Simulations of intelligently controlled intersections from the University of Texas suggest that they perform 200 to 300 times better than current traffic signals. Self-driving vehicles will have the ability to “platoon”, acting almost like train carriages on motorways, increasing lane capacity by up to 500pc, according to research from the US Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

H) Far more people will travel at night, sleeping at the same time, especially for longer trips such as holidays, reducing the demand for train and short-haul plane journeys.

Driverless cars will once again boost the value of suburbs and country living, and their house prices: far more people will be willing to commute much longer distances to work or school. This will encourage cities to become even more sprawling, putting massive

3. 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.greene.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.

Key to "which paragraph contains "

Ex1.

1. E (For those of us who are bothered.....bewildering and frustrating experience.)
2. F (Many people make the mistake of thinking that ...)
3. B (..... just 20 percent of travel agents have ever been asked.....Despite apocalyptic warnings about climate change,....)

Ex2.

1. E
2. B
3. G
4. H
5. I

I hope you also found the topic of the article interesting. I did!

PS. I agree with Bakr about how to do this type of question: it's probably best to highlight keywords in all of the questions first, then look for similar words in the passage. Start with the question that looks easiest (e.g. questions with distinctive words like 'prototype' or 'motorway').

Ex3.

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)

MATCH THE NAMES WITH A STATEMENT

Tips

Tip 1: IELTS Reading: techniques for matching names

For this type of question, I'm going to recommend 3 things that contradict my normal advice:

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.

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.

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.

Try following these 3 steps to do the exercise attached below.

You will see a list of people's names (often researchers or experts) and you have to match each name with a statement about what he/she did or said.

Tip 2. Here's some advice for this type of question:

1. Find all of the names in the passage first. Scan the whole passage quickly (don't read it, just search for the names) and underline all the names that the question asks you about.
2. Remember that academic articles often only use surnames. For example, if one of the names is Robert Smith, you might not see the first name 'Robert' in the passage. Just look for the surname 'Smith'.
3. Do difficult questions last. If one name is mentioned 3 times in 3 different paragraphs, it will be more difficult to match with a statement than a name that is only mentioned once. Start with the name that is only mentioned once.
4. When you find a match, put a cross next to the statement; you will only use each statement once.

5. As usual, look for "keywords" - words in the passage that are similar to words in the question statements.

Exercises

1. 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

2. Read the following passage .

Utopia

A utopia is a community or society possessing highly desirable or perfect qualities. The word was coined in Greek by Sir Thomas More for his 1516 book *Utopia*, describing a fictional island society in the Atlantic Ocean. Chronologically, the first recorded utopian proposal is Plato's *Republic*. It proposes a categorization of citizens into a rigid class structure of "golden," "silver," "bronze" and "iron" socioeconomic classes.

In the early 19th century, several "utopian socialist" ideas arose, in response to the belief that social disruption was created by the development of commercialism and capitalism. These ideas shared certain characteristics: an egalitarian distribution of goods, frequently with the total abolition of money, and citizens only doing work which they enjoy and which is for the common good, leaving them with ample time for the cultivation of the arts and sciences. One classic example of such a utopia was Edward Bellamy's *Looking Backward*. Another socialist utopia is William Morris' *News from Nowhere*, written partially in response to the top-down (bureaucratic) nature of Bellamy's utopia, which Morris criticized. However, as the socialist movement developed it moved away from utopianism; Karl Marx in particular became a harsh critic of earlier socialism he described as utopian.

Utopias have also been imagined by the opposite side of the political spectrum. For example, Robert A. Heinlein's *The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress* portrays an individualistic and libertarian utopia. Capitalist utopias of this sort are generally based on free market economies, in which the presupposition is that private enterprise and personal initiative without an institution of coercion, government, provides the greatest opportunity for achievement and progress of both the individual and society as a whole.

Answer questions 1 to 5 by choosing the correct letter A to F.

Which of the writers in the box below...

1. imagined a utopia based on individual freedom?
2. first used the word 'utopia'?
3. wrote about a bureaucratic socialist utopia?
4. first described a utopian society?
5. distanced himself from utopian socialism?

- A) Sir Thomas More
- B) Plato
- C) Edward Bellamy
- D) William Morris
- E) Karl Marx
- F) Robert A. Heinlein

Key to "match the names with a statement"

Ex1.

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

Ex2

1. F

2. A

3. C

4. B

5. E

EXPLAIN

The word was coined in Greek by Sir Thomas More for his 1516 book Utopia = first used the word 'utopia'?

The first recorded utopian proposal is Plato's Republic = first described a utopian society?

Another socialist utopia is William Morris'

News from Nowhere, written partially in response to the top-down (bureaucratic) nature of Bellamy's utopia, which Morris criticized. = wrote about a bureaucratic socialist utopia?

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However, as the socialist movement developed it moved away from utopianism; Karl Marx in particular became a harsh critic of earlier socialism he described as utopian. = Karl Marx

For example, Robert A. Heinlein's *The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress* portrays an individualistic and libertarian utopia.

Capitalist utopias of this sort are generally based on free market economies, in which the presupposition is that private enterprise and personal initiative without an institution of coercion, government, provides the greatest opportunity for achievement and progress of both the individual and society as a whole = Robert A. Heinlein