

READING PASSAGE 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 14–26**, which are based on Reading Passage 2 below.

Keeping the water away

New approaches to flood control

- A** Recently, winter floods on the rivers of central Europe have been among the worst for 600 to 700 years, and dams and dykes (protective sea walls) have failed to solve the problem. Traditionally, river engineers have tried to get rid of the water quickly, draining it off the land and down to the sea in rivers reengineered as high-performance drains. But however high they build the artificial riverbanks, the floods keep coming back. And when they come, they seem to be worse than ever.
- B** Engineers are now turning to a different plan: to sap the water's destructive strength by dispersing it into fields, forgotten lakes and flood plains. They are reviving river bends and marshes to curb the flow, and even plugging city drains to encourage floodwater to use other means to go underground. Back in the days when rivers took a winding path to the sea, floodwaters lost force and volume while meandering across flood plains and inland deltas, but today the water tends to have a direct passage to the sea. This means that, when it rains in the uplands, the water comes down all at once.
- C** Worse, when the flood plains are closed off, the river's flow downstream becomes more violent and uncontrollable; by turning complex river systems into the simple mechanics of a water pipe, engineers have often created danger where they promised safety. The Rhine, Europe's most engineered river, is a good example. For a long time engineers have erased its backwaters and cut it off from its plain. The aim was partly to improve navigation, and partly to speed floodwaters out of the Alps and down to the North Sea. Now, when it rains in the Alps, the peak flows from several branches of the Rhine coincide where once they arrived separately, and with four-fifths of the Lower Rhine's flood plain barricaded off, the waters rise. The result is more frequent flooding and greater damage. The same thing has happened in the US on the Mississippi River, which drains the world's second-largest river catchment into the Gulf of Mexico. Despite some \$7 billion spent over the last century on levees (embankments), the situation is growing worse.

- D** Specialists in water control now say that a new approach is needed — one which takes the whole landscape into consideration. To help keep London's feet dry, the UK Environment Agency is reflooding 10 square kilometres of the ancient flood plain of the River Thames outside Oxford. Nearer to London, it has spent £100 million creating new wetlands and a relief channel across 16 kilometres of flood plain. Similar ideas are being tested in Austria, in one of Europe's largest river restorations to date. The engineers calculate that the restored flood plain of the Drava River can now store up to 10 million cubic metres of floodwater, and slow down storm surges coming out of the Alps by more than an hour, protecting towns not only in Austria, but as far downstream as Slovenia and Croatia.
- E** The Dutch, for whom preventing floods is a matter of survival, have gone furthest. This nation, built largely on drained marshes and seabed, has had several severe shocks in the last two decades, when very large numbers of people have had to be evacuated. Since that time, the Dutch have broken one of their most enduring national stereotypes by allowing engineers to punch holes in dykes. They plan to return up to a sixth of the country to its former waterlogged state in order to better protect the rest.
- F** Water use in cities also needs to change. At the moment, cities seem to create floods; they are concreted and paved so that rains flow quickly into rivers. A new breed of 'soft engineers' wants cities to be porous; Berlin is one place where this is being done. Tough new rules for new developments mean that drains will be prevented from becoming overloaded after heavy rains. Architects of new urban buildings are diverting rainwater from the roofs for use in toilets and the irrigation of roof gardens, while water falling onto the ground is collected in ponds, or passes underground through porous paving. One high-tech urban development can store a sixth of its annual rainfall, and reuse most of the rest.
- G** Could this be expanded to protect a whole city? The test case could be Los Angeles. With non-porous surfaces covering 70% of the city, drainage is a huge challenge. Billions of dollars have been spent digging huge drains and concreting riverbeds, but many communities still flood regularly. Meanwhile, this desert city ships water from hundreds of kilometres away to fill its taps and swimming pool. Los Angeles has recently launched a new scheme to utilise floodwater in the Sun Valley section of the city. The plan is to catch the rain that falls on thousands of driveways, parking lots and rooftops in the valley. Trees will soak up water from parking lots; houses and public buildings will capture roof water to irrigate gardens and parks, and road drains will empty into old gravel pits to recharge the city's underground water reserves. Result: less flooding and more water for the city. It may sound expensive, until we realise how much is spent trying to drain cities and protect areas from flooding, and how little this method achieves.

Questions 14–19

Reading Passage 2 has seven paragraphs, **A–G**.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

Write the correct letter, **A–G**, in boxes 1–6 on your answer sheet.

- 14** how legislation has forced building designers to improve water use
- 15** two reasons why one river was isolated from its flood plain
- 16** how natural watercourses in the past assisted flood control
- 17** an example of flood control on one river, affecting three countries
- 18** a country which has partly destroyed one of its most typical features in order to control water
- 19** the writer's comment on the comparative cost-effectiveness of traditional flood control and newer methods

Questions 20 and 21

Choose **TWO** letters **A–E**.

Write the correct letters in boxes 20 and 21 on your answer sheet.

According to the article, which **TWO** of these statements are true of the new approach to flood control?

- A** It aims to slow the movement of water to the sea.
- B** It aims to channel water more directly into rivers.
- C** It will cost more than twice as much as former measures.
- D** It will involve the loss of some areas of land.
- E** It has been tested only in the Netherlands.

Questions 22–26

Complete the sentences below.

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

Write your answers in boxes 22–26 on your answer sheet.

- 22 Some of the most severe floods for many centuries have recently occurred in parts of _____.
- 23 The Rhine and the _____ river have experienced similar problems with water control.
- 24 An area near Oxford will be flooded to protect the city of _____.
- 25 Planners who wish to allow water to pass more freely through city surfaces are called _____.
- 26 A proposal for part of the city of _____ could show whether small-scale water projects could be applied on a large scale.

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题号	答案	题干翻译	原文定位 (段落 / 关键句)	详细解释
14	F	法律如何迫使建筑设计者改进城市用水	段落 F: “Tough new rules for new developments mean that drains will be prevented from becoming overloaded... Architects of new urban buildings are diverting rainwater from the roofs for use in toilets...”	“tough new rules (严格的新规)”即立法/法规, 直接推动建筑师采用收集与再利用雨水等做法。
15	C	说明某条河为何与其洪泛平原隔离的两个原因	段落 C: “The aim was partly to improve navigation, and partly to speed floodwaters out of Alps and down to the North Sea.”	两个目的=两大原因: ①改善航运; ②加快洪水外排, 因此把莱茵河与其洪泛平原切割。
16	B	过去的自然水路如何帮助防洪	段落 B: “Back in the days when rivers took a winding path to the sea, floodwaters lost force and volume while meandering across flood plains and inland deltas.”	蜿蜒入海、漫流洪泛平原→“lost force and volume (力量与体量衰减)”, 说明旧有自然水路可控洪。
17	D	在一条河上实施的防洪实例, 其影响波及三个国家	段落 D: 关于德拉瓦河 (Drava River): “... protecting towns not only in Austria, but as far downstream as Slovenia and Croatia.”	同一条河的治理让下游奥地利/斯洛文尼亚/克罗地亚三国受益, 满足题意。
18	E	一个国家为治水而部分破坏其最典型国土特征之一	段落 E: “...allowing engineers to punch holes in dykes. They plan to return up to a sixth of the country to its former waterlogged state...”	荷兰以堤坝著称, 如今打孔堤坝、恢复被水淹的地带, 等于部分“破坏”典型国土特征来控水。
19	G	作者对传统防洪与新方法成本效益的比较性评论	段落 G 末句: “It may sound expensive, until we realise how much is spent... and how little this method achieves.”	表面看贵, 但与长期巨额排水工程相比更划算/更有效, 这是明确的成本效益比较。
20	A	(7-8 合题) 新方法的哪两项表述为真: ——它旨在减缓水流入海的速度	段落 B: “sap the water's destructive strength by dispersing it... reviving river bends and marshes...”	“分散/弯曲/湿地”都让水路变慢、延缓入海=选项 A。
21	D	(7-8 合题)——它将导致部分土地的损失/出让	段落 E & D: “return up to a sixth of the country to its former waterlogged state”; “reflooding 10 square kilometres of the ancient flood plain”	重新淹没洪泛平原、恢复湿地意味着让出土地使用权, 对应 D。B/C/E 与文意相反或不符 (见下)。
22	central Europe	近几个世纪最严重的洪水之一最近发生在哪一地区	段落 A 首句: “winter floods on the rivers of central Europe have been among the worst for 600 to 700 years”	直接给出“central Europe”。(不超过两词)
23	Mississippi	莱茵河与哪条河经历了类似的治水问题	段落 C: “The same thing has happened in the US on the Mississippi river...”	明确点名“Mississippi”。题干语法为“the Rhine and the Mississippi rivers”。
24	London	牛津附近的一个地区将被蓄/淹以保护哪座城市	段落 D: “To help keep London's feet dry, the UK Environment Agency is reflooding... outside Oxford.”	近牛津处“reflooding”是为了保护 London。
25	soft engineers	允许城市表面更自由渗水的规划者被称作什么	段落 F: “A new breed of 'soft engineers' wants cities to be porous...”	直接同义替换题, 取短语原词。
26	Los Angeles	哪座城市的一个片区提案可检验小尺度项目能否大规模应用	段落 G: “The test case could be Los Angeles... a new scheme... in the Sun Valley section of the city.”	以洛杉矶“Sun Valley”片区为试点, 检验能否推广至全城。

关于第 20–21 题 (7–8 题) 错误项简析

- B: 把水更直接引入河道是“旧思路”(A、C 段批评的做法), 非新方法。
- C: 文中未说“成本是以往的两倍以上”, 反而暗示从长期看更划算 (G 段)。
- E: 并非只在荷兰测试, 英国、奥地利等都有实践 (D、E 段)。