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Passage 1 – Test 1 – Cambridge 12

Cork

1. Cork - the thick bark of the cork oak tree (*Quercussuber*) - is a remarkable material. It is tough, elastic, buoyant, and fire-resistant, and suitable for a wide range of purposes. It has also been used for millennia: the ancient Egyptians sealed their sarcophagi (stone coffins) with cork, while the ancient Greeks and Romans used it for anything from beehives to sandals.
2. And the cork oak itself is an extraordinary tree. Its bark grows up to 20 cm in thickness, insulating the tree like a coat wrapped around the trunk and branches and keeping the inside at a constant 20°C all year round. Developed most probably as a defence against forest fires, the bark of the cork oak has a particular cellular structure - with about 40 million cells per cubic centimetre - that technology has never succeeded in replicating. The cells are filled with air, which is why cork is so buoyant. It also has an elasticity that means you can squash it and watch it spring back to its original size and shape when you release the pressure.
3. Cork oaks grow in a number of Mediterranean countries, including Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece and Morocco. They flourish in warm, sunny climates where there is a minimum of 400 millimetres of rain per year, and no more than 800 millimetres. Like grape vines, the trees thrive in poor soil, putting down deep roots in search of moisture and nutrients. Southern Portugal's Alentejo region meets all of these requirements, which explains why, by the early 20th century, this region had become the world's largest producer of cork, and why today it accounts for roughly half of all cork production around the world.
4. Most cork forests are family-owned. Many of these family businesses, and indeed many of the trees themselves, are around 200 years old. Cork production is, above all, an exercise in patience. From the planting of a cork sapling to the first harvest takes 25 years, and a gap of approximately a decade must separate harvests from an individual tree. And for top-quality cork, it's necessary to wait a further 15 or 20 years. You even have to wait for the right kind of summer's day to harvest cork. If the bark is stripped on a day when it's too cold - or when the air is damp - the tree will be damaged.
5. Cork harvesting is a very specialised profession. No mechanical means of stripping cork bark has been invented, so the job is done by teams of highly skilled workers. First, they make vertical cuts down the bark using small sharp axes, then lever it away in pieces as large as they can manage. The most skilful cork- strippers prise away a semi-circular husk that runs the length of the trunk from just above ground level to the first branches. It is then dried on the ground for about four months, before being taken to factories, where it is boiled to kill any insects that might remain in the cork. Over 60% of cork then goes on to be made into traditional bottle stoppers, with most of the remainder being used in the construction trade, Corkboard and cork tiles are ideal for thermal and acoustic insulation, while granules of cork are used in the manufacture of concrete.

6. Recent years have seen the end of the virtual monopoly of cork as the material for bottle stoppers, due to concerns about the effect it may have on the contents of the bottle. This is caused by a chemical compound called 2,4,6-trichloroanisole (TCA), which forms through the interaction of plant phenols, chlorine and mould. The tiniest concentrations - as little as three or four parts to a trillion - can spoil the taste of the product contained in the bottle. The result has been a gradual yet steady move first towards plastic stoppers and, more recently, to aluminium screw caps. These substitutes are cheaper to manufacture and, in the case of screw caps, more convenient for the user.

7. The classic cork stopper does have several advantages, however. Firstly, its traditional image is more in keeping with that of the type of high quality goods with which it has long been associated. Secondly - and very importantly - cork is a sustainable product that can be recycled without difficulty. Moreover, cork forests are a resource which support local biodiversity, and prevent desertification in the regions where they are planted. So, given the current concerns about environmental issues, the future of this ancient material once again looks promising.

Questions 1-5

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

In boxes 1-5 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this.

1. The cork oak has the thickest bark of any living tree.

Key words: thickest bark

In paragraph 1 and paragraph 2, the author mentioned the thick bark of the cork oak tree as “a remarkable material” and “its bark grows up to 20 cm in thickness”. This information does not mean that it is “the thickest bark of any living tree”.

In addition, in True/ False/ Not given tasks, the questions follow the order of the text, so if you are not sure about your answer, you can find the answer to question 2. It is in the second sentence of paragraph 2. Therefore, you just need to pay attention to the previous parts. There is no statement showing any comparison between the cork oak’s bark with that of other living trees. We have no information about this statement.

➔ **Answer: NOT GIVEN**

2. Scientists have developed a synthetic cork with the same cellular structure as natural cork.

Key words: a synthetic cork, the same cellular structure, natural cork

In paragraph 2, the writer mentioned the cellular structure of the bark of the cork oak “the bark of the cork oak has a particular cellular structure - with about 40 million cells per cubic centimetre - that technology has never succeeded in replicating”. The technology can refer to the scientists here. The fact that they “never succeeded in replicating” means that they have not been able to make a copy of the natural cork, with all of the same qualities. So the answer is False.

- Develop with the same structure = replicate

➔ **Answer: FALSE**

3. Individual cork oak trees must be left for 25 years between the first and second harvest.

Key words: individual, 25 years, the first and second harvest

In paragraph 4, the author mentioned the harvesting of an individual cork oak tree. He/she wrote “From the planting of a cork sapling to the first harvest takes 25 years, and a gap of approximately a decade must separate harvests from an individual tree”. Therefore, the period of 25 years is the period from the planting to the first harvest, while the gap between the first and the second harvest is about 10 years (approximately a decade).

- Between = gap
- The first and second harvest = separate harvests

➔ **Answer: FALSE**

4. Cork bark should be stripped in dry atmospheric conditions.

Key words: stripped, dry atmospheric conditions

We need to find information about the cork bark being stripped. Following the order of the text, we can see in the paragraph 4, the author mentioned “If the bark is stripped on a day when it’s too cold - or when the air is damp - the tree will be damaged”. Therefore, the bark should not be stripped in damp atmospheric conditions; however, in contrast, it should be stripped in dry atmospheric conditions. The answer is True.

- The air = atmospheric conditions

➔ **Answer: TRUE**

5. The only way to remove the bark from cork oak trees is by hand.

Key words: only way, remove, by hand

In paragraph 5, the author claimed “No mechanical means of stripping cork bark has been invented, so the job is done by teams of highly skilled workers.” In this sentence, “stripping cork bark” means “remove the bark”. Since the author stated that “no mechanical means has been invented”, we can understand that they do not use any machines in removing the bark, so it has to be done by hand (the hands of highly skilled workers). The answer is True.

- Remove = strip
 - By hand = done by workers, no mechanical means
- **Answer: TRUE.**

Questions 6-13

Complete the notes below.

Choose ONE WORD ONLY from the passage for each answer.

Comparison of aluminium screw caps and cork bottle stoppers

Advantages of aluminium screw caps

Key words: aluminium screw caps

We have to find the part of the text which mentions the advantages of aluminium screw caps, and it is in paragraph 6 - “The result has been a gradual yet steady move first towards plastic stoppers and, more recently, to aluminium screw caps”.

6. do not affect the _____ of the bottle contents

Key words: affect, bottle contents

The author mentioned “Recent years have seen the end of the virtual monopoly of cork as the material for bottle stoppers, due to concerns about the effect it may have on the contents of the bottle.....The tiniest concentrations - as little as three or four parts to a trillion - can spoil the taste of the product contained in the bottle. The result has been a gradual yet steady move first towards plastic stoppers and, more recently, to aluminium screw caps.” It means that aluminium screw caps overcame one disadvantage of cork bottle stoppers, which is that they “spoil the taste of the product contained in the bottle”. Therefore, aluminium screw caps do not affect the taste of the product inside the bottle. The answer is “taste”.

- Affect = spoil
 - Bottle contents = the product contained in the bottle
- **Answer: taste**

7. are _____ to produce

Keyword: produce

8. are _____ to use

Key word: use

In the last sentence of paragraph 6, “These substitutes are cheaper to manufacture and, in the case of screw caps, more convenient for the user”. “These substitutes” refer to “aluminium screw caps” and “Manufacture” refers to “produce”, while “for the user”

means “to use”. So they are cheaper to produce and more convenient for the user. But the question requires “one word only”, so the answer for question 8 has to be “convenient”.

- Produce = manufacture
- To use = for the user

➔ **Answer: 7. Cheaper – 8. Convenient.**

Advantages of cork bottle stoppers

The first sentence of paragraph 7 mentioned the advantages of cork bottle stoppers – “The classic cork stopper does have several advantages”, so we have to pay attention to this paragraph.

9. Suit the _____ of quality products

Key words: suit, quality products

We find information about quality products in this sentence: “Firstly, its(the cork bottle stopper) traditional image is more in keeping with that of the type of high quality goods with which it has long been associated”. “in keeping with” means “suit”. So the blank has to be “traditional image”, but the answer allows one word only, so it has to be “image”

- Products = goods
- In keeping with = suit

➔ **Answer: image**

10. made from a _____ material

Key words: made from, material

11. easily _____

In the next sentence, the write mentioned “Secondly - and very importantly - cork is a sustainable product that can be recycled without difficulty”. Recycling often is associated with the material. So the author is referring to its material here. The answer is “sustainable” and “recycled”

- Easily = without difficulty

➔ **Answer: 10. Sustainable – 11. Recycled**

12. cork forests aid _____

Key words: cork forests, aid

13. cork forests stop _____ happening

Key words: cork forests, stop

The last sentence mentioned the cork forests – “Moreover, cork forests are a resource which support local biodiversity, and prevent desertification in the regions where they are planted. So, given the current concerns about environmental issues, the future of this ancient material once again looks promising”. “Support” means “aid” and “prevent” is equal to “stop”. So the answers have to be “biodiversity” and “desertification”

- aid = support

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- stop = prevent

➔ **Answer: 12. Biodiversity – 13. Desertification.**

The question	Words in the question	Words in the text	Meaning
2	Synthetic	Replicate	made from artificial substances, often copying a natural product
3	between	Gap	The period between 2 harvests
4	atmospheric conditions	The air	the mixture of gases that surrounds the earth and that we breathe
5	Remove	Strip	To take the bark off the tree
6	affect	spoil	To cause a change to the taste of bottle contents
6	Bottle contents	the product contained in the bottle	Which inside the bottles
7	produce	Manufacture	to make something or bring something into existence
9	products	goods	Something is made to be sold
9	In keeping with	suit	To match with the quality
11	easily	Without difficulty	Needing little effort
12	aid	support	To make a contribution to local biodiversity
13	stop	Prevent	To pause desertification

Passage 1 – Test 2 – Cambridge 12

The risks agriculture faces in developing countries

Synthesis of an online debate

A. Two things distinguish food production from all other productive activities: first, every single person needs food each day and has a right to it; and second, it is hugely dependent on nature. These two unique aspects, one political, the other natural, make food production highly vulnerable and different from any other business. At the same time, cultural values are highly entrenched in food and agricultural systems worldwide.

B. Farmers everywhere face major risks; including extreme weather, long-term climate change, and price volatility in input and product markets. However, smallholder farmers in developing countries must in addition deal with adverse environments, both natural, in terms of soil quality, rainfall, etc. and human, in terms of infrastructure, financial systems, markets, knowledge and technology. Counter-intuitively, hunger is prevalent among many smallholder farmers in the developing world.

C. Participants in the online debate argued that our biggest challenge is to address the underlying causes of the agricultural system's inability to ensure sufficient food for all, and they identified as drivers of this problem our dependency on fossil fuels and unsupportive government policies.

D. On the question of mitigating the risks farmers face, most essayists called for greater state intervention.

In his essay, Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, argued that governments can significantly reduce risks for farmers by providing basic services like roads to get produce more efficiently to markets, or water and food storage facilities to reduce losses. Sophia Murphy, senior advisor to the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, suggested that the procurement and holding of stocks by governments can also help mitigate wild swings in food prices by alleviating uncertainties about market supply.

E. Shenggen Fan, Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute, held up social safety nets and public welfare programmes in Ethiopia, Brazil and Mexico as valuable ways to address poverty among farming families and reduce their vulnerability to agriculture shocks. However, some commentators responded that cash transfers to poor families do not necessarily translate into increased food security, as these programmes do not always strengthen food production or raise incomes.

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Regarding state subsidies for agriculture, Rokeya Kabir, Executive Director of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha, commented in her essay that these ‘have not compensated for the stranglehold exercised by private traders.

In fact, studies show that sixty percent of beneficiaries of subsidies are not poor, but rich landowners and non-farmer traders.

F. Nwanze, Murphy and Fan argued that private risk management tools, like private insurance, commodity futures markets, and rural finance can help small-scale producers mitigate risk and allow for investment in improvements. Kabir warned that financial support schemes often encourage the adoption of high-input agricultural practices, which in the medium term may raise production costs beyond the value of their harvests.

Murphy noted that when futures markets become excessively financialised they can contribute to short-term price volatility, which increases farmers’ food insecurity. Many participants and commentators emphasised that greater transparency in markets is needed to mitigate the impact of volatility, and make evident whether adequate stocks and supplies are available. Others contended that agribusiness companies should be held responsible for paying for negative side effects.

G. Many essayists mentioned climate change and its consequences for small-scale agriculture . Fan explained that in addition to reducing crop yields, climate change increases the magnitude and the frequency of extreme weather events, which increase smallholder vulnerability. The growing unpredictability of weather patterns increases farmers’ difficulty in managing weather-related risks.

According to this author, one solution would be to develop crop varieties that are more resilient to new climate trends and extreme weather patterns. Accordingly, Pat Mooney, co-founder and executive director of the ETC Group, suggested that ‘if we are to survive climate change, we must adopt policies that let peasants diversify the plant and animal species and varieties/breeds that make up our menus.

H. Some participating authors and commentators argued in favour of community-based and autonomous risk management strategies through collective action groups, co-operatives or producers’ groups. Such groups enhance market opportunities for small-scale producers, reduce marketing costs and synchronise buying and selling with seasonal price conditions.

According to Murphy, ‘collective action offers an important way for farmers to strengthen their political and economic bargaining power, and to reduce their business risks’. One commentator, Giel Ton, warned that collective action does not come as a free good. It takes time, effort and money to organise, build trust and to experiment . Others, like Marcel Vernooij and Marcel Beukeboom, suggested that in order to ‘apply what we already know’, all stakeholders, including

business, government, scientists and civil society, must work together, starting at the beginning of the value chain.

I. Some participants explained that market price volatility is often worsened by the presence of intermediary purchasers who, taking advantage of farmers' vulnerability, dictate prices. One commentator suggested farmers can gain greater control over prices and minimise price volatility by selling directly to consumers.

Similarly, Sonali Bisht, founder and advisor to the Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education (INHERE), India, wrote that **community**-supported agriculture, where consumers invest in local farmers by subscription and guarantee producers a fair price, is a risk-sharing model worth more attention. Direct food distribution systems not only encourage small-scale agriculture but also give consumers more control over the food they consume, she wrote.

Questions 1-3

Reading Passage 1 has nine paragraphs, A-I.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

Write the correct letter, A-I, in boxes 1-3 on your answer sheet.

1. a reference to characteristics that only apply to food production

Keywords: characteristics, only, food production

We have to find paragraphs which contain information about “food production”. We can see this phrase (food production) in paragraph A and paragraph E. In paragraph E, “food production” is just mentioned as an example of the benefits of public welfare programmes, while in paragraph A, we can see the first sentence: “Two things distinguish food production from all other productive activities: first, every single person needs food each day and has a right to it; and second, it is hugely dependent on nature.” The verb “distinguish” means “to make one thing seem different from another”. Therefore, we can understand that these two things mentioned above only belong to food production. All of this information lies in paragraph A. The answer is A.

➔ **Answer: A.**

2. a reference to challenges faced only by farmers in certain parts of the world

Keywords: challenges, only, farmers in certain parts

Paragraph B mentions difficulties farmers have to face. The first sentence is about problems met in everywhere in the world. The second sentence is about challenges that only farmers in developing countries have to deal with: “However, smallholder farmers in developing countries must in addition deal with adverse environments, both natural, in terms of soil quality, rainfall, etc. and human, in terms of infrastructure, financial systems, markets, knowledge and technology”. The term “developing countries” refers to “certain parts of the world”. Therefore, the answer is B.

➔ **Answer: B.**

3. a reference to difficulties in bringing about co-operation between farmers

Keywords: difficulties, co-operation between farmers.

In terms of co-operation, the author mentions some kinds of co-operative groups of farmers such as collective action groups, co-operatives or producers’ groups in the second sentence of paragraph H. Collective actions mean actions shared by every member of a group of people, which refers to co-operation between people in a group. He/ she not only names the groups but also claims that those actions do “not come as a free good. It takes time, effort and money to organise, build trust and to experiment.” Those are considered as difficulties in taking collective actions. Therefore, the answer is H.

➔ **Answer: H.**

(Note: Matching Headings questions do not follow the order of the text).

Questions 4-9

Look at the following statements (Questions 4-9) and the list of people below.

Match each statement with the correct person, A-G.

Write the correct letter, A-G, in boxes 4-9 on your answer sheet.

NB You may use any letter more than once.

	List of people
A	Kanayo F. Nwanze
B	Sophia Murphy
C	Shenggen Fan

D	Rokeya Kabir
E	Pat Mooney
F	Giel Ton
G	Sonali Bisht

4. Financial assistance from the government does not always go to the farmers who most need it.

Keywords: financial assistance from the government

This is a difficult question since you have to know that “state subsidies” refers to “financial assistance from the government”. And this phrase lies in paragraph E. In this paragraph, the author mentions Rokeya Kabir as she claims that these state subsidies ‘have not compensated for the stranglehold exercised by private traders’. To make it more clear, the author writes: “sixty percent of beneficiaries of subsidies are not poor, but rich landowners and non-farmer traders.” (when the subsidies go to some people, those people are called beneficiaries. And the writer claims some are non-farmers). Therefore, this information is matched with Rokeya Kabir. The answer is D.

- State subsidies = financial assistance from the government.

➔ **Answer: D.**

5. Farmers can benefit from collaborating as a group.

Keywords: benefit, collaborate, as a group.

“Collaborate” means “to work with someone else for a special purpose”, which refers to collective actions of farmers. Therefore, we have to pay attention to paragraph H, which contains that information (as we already know when doing question 3). In the first sentence of this paragraph, the writer says that “According to Murphy, ‘collective action offers an important way for farmers to strengthen their political and economic bargaining power.’” “Strengthen their political and economic bargaining power” is a way of benefiting. Therefore, the answer is Murphy – B.

- Collective actions = collaborate as a group

➔ **Answer: B.**

6. Financial assistance from the government can improve the standard of living of farmers.

Keywords: financial assistance from the government, standard of living, farmers.

This question is about the same issue as question 4, so we turn back to paragraph E. The first sentence of this paragraph mentions Shenggen Fan, who considers “safety nets and public welfare programmes” as “valuable ways to address poverty among farming families and reduce their vulnerability to agriculture shocks”. “Public welfare programmes” are programmes that provide financial assistance. “Address poverty” means to “improve the standard of living”. Therefore, the answer is C - Shenggen Fan.

➔ **Answer: C.**

7. Farmers may be helped if there is financial input by the same individuals who buy from them

Keywords: financial input, same individuals, buy

In paragraph I, we find a reference to “One commentator suggested farmers can gain greater control over prices and minimise price volatility by selling directly to consumers”. This commentator is named as Sonali Bisht. Her experience is of India, where “consumers invest in local farmers by subscription and guarantee producers a fair price..” Selling directly to consumers means that the same individuals who buy from the farmers also pay the farmers. Therefore, the answer is G, Sonali Bisht.

➔ **Answer: G**

8. Governments can help to reduce variation in prices.

Keywords: governments, reduce, variation in prices.

In paragraph D, the author mentions the role of governments. While Kanayo F. Nwanze suggests governments can provide basic services, Sophia Murphy thinks that governments can “help mitigate wild swings in food prices”. “Mitigate” is the same meaning as “reduce the effect of something”, and “wild swings in prices” refers to “variation in prices”. Therefore, the answer is Sophia Murphy – B. (Note: You may use any letter more than once.)

- Mitigate = reduce
- Wild swings = variation

➔ **Answer: B.**

9. Improvements to infrastructure can have a major impact on risk for farmers.

Keywords: improvements to infrastructure, major impact, risk for farmers.

Regarding infrastructure and risks, we saw these issues in paragraph D when doing question 8. “Basic services like roads” refers to infrastructure. Kanayo F. Nwanze argues that by improving those services, they can “significantly reduce risks for farmers”, which means this way has “a major impact on risk for farmers”. The answer is A.

- Basic services = infrastructure
- Significantly = major

➔ **Answer: A.**

Questions 10-11

Choose TWO letters, A-E.

Write the correct letters in boxes 10-11 on your answer sheet.

Which TWO problems are mentioned which affect farmers with small farms in developing countries?

- A. lack of demand for locally produced food
- B. lack of irrigation programmes
- C. being unable to get insurance
- D. the effects of changing weather patterns
- E. having to sell their goods to intermediary buyers

Keywords: problems, affect, farmers with small farms, developing countries.

In the first sentence of paragraph G, the author mentions “climate change and its consequences for small-scale agriculture”. “Small-scale agriculture” refers to “farmers with small farms”. We can detect the first problem – climate change and its consequences, which are “the effects of changing weather patterns” – **D**. Next, “lack of demand for locally produced food” and “lack of irrigation programmes” are not mentioned in the whole passage. “Insurance” is mentioned once in paragraph F, but in terms of “private insurance” as a way to “help small-scale producers mitigate risk”. There is no information relating to “being unable to get insurance”. In paragraph I, the author mentions “the presence of intermediary purchasers”. “Purchasers” refers to “buyers”. Those people, “taking advantage of farmers’

vulnerability, dictate prices.” Because farmers have to sell their goods to these intermediary buyers, these buyers dictate prices. Therefore, the answer is D and E.

- small – scale agriculture = farmers with small farms
- purchasers = buyers

➔ **Answer: D, E.**

Questions 12-13

Choose TWO letters, A-E.

Write the correct letters in boxes 12-13 on your answer sheet.

Which TWO actions are recommended for improving conditions for farmers?

- A. reducing the size of food stocks
- B. attempting to ensure that prices rise at certain times of the year
- C. organising co-operation between a wide range of interested parties
- D. encouraging consumers to take a financial stake in farming
- E. making customers aware of the reasons for changing food prices

Keywords: recommended, improving, conditions for farmers

Answer A mentions “the size of food stocks”, but in the passage, the author only mentions the availability of “adequate stocks” (the fourth sentence of paragraph F). “reducing the size of food stocks” is not mentioned.

In terms of price control, the author suggests some solutions such as “by alleviating uncertainties about market supply” (paragraph D), “greater transparency in markets” (paragraph F), “selling directly to consumers” (paragraph I) and “synchronise buying and selling with seasonal price conditions.” (paragraph H). This method is to synchronise prices in certain times (seasonal), not to raise prices. Therefore, B is not the answer. Additionally, “making customers aware of the reasons for changing food prices” is not mentioned either. Hence, E is not the answer.

In paragraph H, the author suggests “all stakeholders, including business, government, scientists and civil society, must work together, starting at the beginning of the value chain.” “Work together” means “co-operation” and “all stakeholders, including business, government, scientists and civil society” refers to “a wide range of interested parties”. Hence, the first action which is recommended is C - C. organising co-operation between a wide range of interested parties. One of the answers is C.

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The only remaining answer is **D**. We can use exclusive method to know that this is the answer. When answering question 7, we found a reference to community-based agriculture: ‘where consumers invest in local farmers by subscription and guarantee producers a fair price, is a risk-sharing model worth more attention’. In this model, consumers and farmers share the risks. This confirms that the correct answer is **D**.

- Work together = co-operation
- Stakeholders = interested parties

➔ **Answer: C, D.**

The question	Words in the question	Words in the text	Meaning
4	financial assistance from the government.	state subsidies	the governments help to to pay part of the cost of something:
5	collaborate as a group	collective actions	to work with other people for a special purpose
8	reduce	mitigate	to make something less harmful, unpleasant, or bad
8	variation	wild swings	big changes in amount or level
9	infrastructure	basic services	the basic systems and services, such as transport and power supplies, that a country or organization uses in order to work effectively:
9	major	significant	noticeable, quite large
10-11	farmers with small farms	small-scale agriculture	
10-11	buyers	purchasers	the people who buy something
12-13	co-operation	work together	the act of working together with someone or doing what they ask you
12-13	interested parties	stakeholders	people involved financially or in other ways in a particular project

Passage 1 – Test 3 – Cambridge 12

Flying tortoises

An airborne reintroduction programme has helped conservationists take significant steps to protect the endangered Galapagos tortoise.

A. Forests of spiny cacti cover much of the uneven lava plains that separate the interior of the Galapagos island of Isabela from the Pacific Ocean. With its five distinct volcanoes, the island resembles a lunar landscape. Only the thick vegetation at the skirt of the often cloud-covered peak of Sierra Negra offers respite from the barren terrain below.

This inhospitable environment is home to the giant Galapagos tortoise. Some time after the Galapagos's birth, around five million years ago, the islands were colonised by one or more tortoises from mainland South America. As these ancestral tortoises settled on the individual islands, the different populations adapted to their unique environments, giving rise to at least 14 different subspecies. Island life agreed with them. In the absence of significant predators, they grew to become the largest and longest-living tortoises on the planet, weighing more than 400 kilograms, occasionally exceeding 1,8 metres in length and living for more than a century.

B. Before human arrival, the archipelago's tortoises numbered in the hundreds of thousands. From the 17th century onwards, pirates took a few on board for food, but the arrival of whaling ships in the 1790s saw this exploitation grow exponentially. Relatively immobile and capable of surviving for months without food or water, the tortoises were taken on board these ships to act as food supplies during long ocean passages. Sometimes, their bodies were processed into high-grade oil.

In total, an estimated 200,000 animals were taken from the archipelago before the 20th century. This historical exploitation was then exacerbated when settlers came to the islands. They hunted the tortoises and destroyed their habitat to clear land for agriculture. They also introduced alien species - ranging from cattle, pigs, goats, rats and dogs to plants and ants - that either prey on the eggs and young tortoises or damage or destroy their habitat.

C. Today, only 11 of the original subspecies survive and of these, several are highly endangered. In 1989, work began on a tortoise-breeding centre just outside the town of Puerto Villamil on Isabela, dedicated to protecting the island's tortoise populations. The centre's captive-breeding

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programme proved to be extremely successful, and it eventually had to deal with an overpopulation problem.

D. The problem was also a pressing one. Captive-bred tortoises can't be reintroduced into the wild until they're at least five years old and weigh at least 4,5 kilograms, at which point their size and weight - and their hardened shells - are sufficient to protect them from predators. But if people wait too long after that point, the tortoises eventually become too large to transport.

E. For years, repatriation efforts were carried out in small numbers, with the tortoises carried on the backs of men over weeks of long, treacherous hikes along narrow trails. But in November 2010, the environmentalist and Galapagos National Park liaison officer Godfrey Merlin, a visiting private motor yacht captain and a helicopter pilot gathered around a table in a small cafe in Puerto Ayora on the island of Santa Cruz to work out more ambitious reintroduction. The aim was to use a helicopter to move 300 of the breeding centre's tortoises to various locations close to Sierra Negra.

F. This unprecedented effort was made possible by the owners of the 67-metre yacht White Cloud, who provided the Galapagos National Park with free use of their helicopter and its experienced pilot, as well as the logistical support of the yacht, its captain and crew. Originally an air ambulance, the yacht's helicopter has a rear double door and a large internal space that's well suited for cargo, so a custom crate was designed to hold up to 33 tortoises with a total weight of about 150 kilograms. This weight, together with that of the fuel, pilot and four crew, approached the helicopter's maximum payload, and there were times when it was clearly right on the edge of the helicopter's capabilities. During a period of three days, a group of volunteers from the breeding centre worked around the clock to prepare the young tortoises for transport. Meanwhile, park wardens, dropped off ahead of time in remote locations, cleared landing sites within the thick brush, cacti and lava rocks.

G. Upon their release, the juvenile tortoises quickly spread out over their ancestral territory, investigating their new surroundings and feeding on the vegetation. Eventually, one tiny tortoise came across a fully grown giant who had been lumbering around the island for around a hundred years. The two stood side by side, a powerful symbol of the regeneration of an ancient species.

Questions 1-7

Reading Passage 1 has seven paragraphs, A-G.

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number, i-viii, in boxes 1-7 on your answer sheet.

	List of headings
i	The importance of getting the timing right
ii	Young meets old
iii	Developments to the disadvantage of tortoise populations
iv	Planning a bigger idea
v	Tortoises populate the islands
vi	Carrying out a carefully prepared operation
vii	Looking for a home for the islands' tortoises
viii	The start of the conservation project

1. Paragraph A

The first paragraph is about the inhospitable environment of the Galapagos Islands and explains that “the islands were colonised by one or more tortoises from mainland South America”. There is no heading about the environment. “Colonise” can be considered the same as “populate”. Moreover, the author claims “This inhospitable environment is home to the giant Galapagos tortoise.” Hence, “one or more tortoises from mainland South America” populated the islands. Heading v is most appropriate for this paragraph. The answer is v.

- Colonise = populate

➔ Answer: v

2. Paragraph B

In paragraph B, the author mentioned what happened to the tortoises after human arrival, and those are negative impacts for the tortoises such as “taken on board these ships to act as food supplies”, “they (humans) hunted the tortoises and destroyed their habitat to clear land for agriculture”, and so on. All of these can be considered as “the disadvantage of tortoise populations”, while “human arrival” and “settlers came to the islands” can be seen as “developments”. Therefore, the heading for this paragraph has to be heading iii – “Developments to the disadvantage of tortoise populations”. The answer is iii.

➔ Answer: iii.

3. Paragraph C

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Paragraph C is about a tortoise-breeding centre with its captive-breeding programme. “Work began” on this programme in 1989 and is “dedicated to protecting the island’s tortoise populations”. Hence, this programme was the starting-point for tortoise conservation. Heading viii – “The start of the conservation project” is the most appropriate.

- Start = begin
- Programme = project
- Protect tortoise populations = conservation

➔ **Answer: viii**

4. Paragraph D

Paragraph D told us about an exact point – about 5 years of age - at which “their size and weight - and their hardened shells - are sufficient to protect them from predators”. And the author claims: “But if people wait too long after that point, the tortoises eventually become too large to transport.”. That means we need to find the perfect timing for captive-bred tortoises to be reintroduced into the wild. Hence, heading i – “The importance of getting the timing right” is the answer.

➔ **Answer: i.**

5. Paragraph E

In this paragraph, the writer mentioned “repatriation efforts”, which refers to every endeavor to bring tortoises back to the islands. The author also tells us that at first, this work was done in small numbers, but then it was decided to “work out more ambitious reintroduction” – they brought 300 of the breeding centre’s tortoises back to their islands by helicopter. It was a much bigger number, based on a bigger idea. Therefore, heading iv – “Planning a bigger idea” is the heading of this paragraph.

Note: You may be confused between heading iv and heading vii – Looking for a home for the islands’ tortoises. However, this is “repatriation”, which means taking back to the place where they used to be, they are not “looking for” any other home. Hence, heading vii is inappropriate.

- More ambitious = bigger

➔ **Answer: iv.**

6. Paragraph F

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The 3 remaining headings are: “Carrying out a carefully prepared operation” (keywords: carefully prepared, operation), “Looking for a home for the islands’ tortoises” (look for, home), and “Young meets old” (young, old, meet). Paragraph F is about the preparation to use a helicopter to bring tortoises back to their islands. The author mentioned: “During a period of three days, a group of volunteers from the breeding centre worked around the clock to prepare the young tortoises for transport.” In addition, we are told that groups of volunteers spent some time on the islands before the tortoises arrived, clearing sites for the helicopter to land. There is no line about “looking for a home” or “young meets old”. Therefore, heading vi – “Carrying out a carefully prepared operation” is the most suitable one for this paragraph.

➔ **Answer: vi.**

7. Paragraph G

In the second sentence of this paragraph, the author mentioned “Eventually, one tiny tortoise came across a fully grown giant who had been lumbering around the island for around a hundred years.” “One tiny tortoise” refers to “young” while “a fully grown giant” means “old” – about 100 years old, in fact. And “came across” means “to meet by accident”. Hence, “Young meets old” is the heading for this paragraph.

- Come across = meet

➔ **Answer: ii**

Questions 8-13

Complete the notes below.

Choose ONE WORD ONLY from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 8-13 on your answer sheet.

The decline of the Galapagos tortoise

- Originally from mainland South America
- Numbers on Galapagos islands increased, due to lack of predators
- 17th century: small numbers taken onto ships used by 8 _____

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- 1790s: very large numbers taken onto whaling ships, kept for 9 _____ and also used to produce 10 _____
- Hunted by 11 _____ on islands
- Habitat destruction: for the establishment of agriculture and by various 12 _____ not native to the islands, which also fed on baby tortoises and tortoises' 13 _____

8. 17th century: small numbers taken onto ships used by _____

Keywords: 17th century, small numbers, taken, ships

“17th century” is mentioned in the second sentence of paragraph B, so we have to pay attention to this part - “From the 17th century onwards, pirates took a few on board for food”. “A few” refers to “small numbers” and “on board” refers to “on ships”. We can paraphrase this sentence like this “From the 17th century onwards, small numbers were taken onto ships for food by pirates”. Therefore, the answer is “pirates”.

- A few = small numbers
- ➔ **Answer: pirates**

9 + 10. 1790s: very large numbers taken onto whaling ships, kept for _____ and also used to produce _____

Keywords: 1790s, large numbers, whaling ships, kept, to produce

The next part of paragraph B is about what happened after “the arrival of whaling ships in the 1790s”. That is “Relatively immobile and capable of surviving for months without food or water, the tortoises were taken on board these ships to act as food supplies during long ocean passages.” The tortoises were taken onto ships “to act as food supplies”. That means they were kept for food. The answer for question 9 is “food”.

The author also mentioned “Sometimes, their bodies were processed into high-grade oil.” “processed into high-grade oil” means “used to produce high-grade oil”. However, they allow one word only, so we have to choose the most important word – “oil” - as the answer for question 10.

➔ **Answer: 9. Food 10. oil**

11. Hunted by _____ on islands

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Keywords: hunt, on islands

The author mentioned the word “hunt” later in paragraph B- “They hunted the tortoises and destroyed their habitat to clear land for agriculture”. We have to look at the previous sentences to find out who “they” refers to. “In total, an estimated 200,000 animals were taken from the archipelago before the 20th century. This historical exploitation was then exacerbated when settlers came to the islands.” Obviously, “they” are “settlers” who came to the islands”. Therefore, “settlers” is the answer.

➔ **Answer: settlers**

12 + 13. Habitat destruction: for the establishment of agriculture and by various _____ not native to the islands, which also fed on baby tortoises and tortoises’ _____

Keywords: Habitat destruction, not native, fed on, tortoises

They not only hunted tortoises and destroyed their habitat to clear land for agriculture, but settlers also “introduced alien species - ranging from cattle, pigs, goats, rats and dogs to plants and ants - that either prey on the eggs and young tortoises or damage or destroy their habitat.” (the last sentence of paragraph C). The word “alien” means “coming from a different country, race, or group”, which is the same as “not native to the islands.” The author referred to those alien species that “damage or destroy their habitat”, which means the same as “habitat destruction”. The answer for question 12 is “species”. Those species also “prey on eggs and young tortoises.” “Prey on” means “feed on”, and “young tortoises” refers to “baby tortoises.”. Hence, what remains is “tortoises’ eggs.” The answer is eggs.

- Alien = not native
- Destruction = damage or destroy

➔ **Answer: 12. Species 13. eggs**

The question	Words in the question	Words in the text	Meaning
1	populate	colonise	to live in the islands and make it their home
3	start	begin	
3	project	programme	plan, scheme
3	conservation	protect tortoise populations	the protection of tortoises, especially from the damaging effects of human activity
5	bigger	more ambitious	

7	meet	come across	to see and talk
8	small number	a few	
12 + 13	not native	alien	coming from a different country, race, or group
12 + 13	destruction	damage or destroy	to damage the tortoises' habitat so badly that it cannot be used

Passage 2 – Test 1 – Cambridge 12

Collecting as a hobby

Collecting must be one of the most varied of human activities, and it's one that many of us psychologists find fascinating.

1. Many forms of collecting have been dignified with a technical name: an archtophilist collects teddy bears, a philatelist collects postage stamps, and a deltiologist collects postcards. Amassing hundreds or even thousands of postcards, chocolate wrappers or whatever, takes time, energy and money that could surely **be put** to much more productive use. And yet there are millions of collectors around the world. Why do they do it?
2. There are the people who collect because they want to make money - this could be called an instrumental reason for collecting; that is, collecting as a means to an end. They'll look for, say, antiques that they can buy cheaply and expect to be able to sell at a profit. But there may well be a psychological element, too - buying cheap and selling dear can give the collector a sense of triumph. And as selling online is so easy, more and more people are joining in.
3. Many collectors collect to develop their social life, attending meetings of a group of collectors and exchanging information on items. This is a variant on joining a bridge club or a gym, and similarly brings them into contact with like-minded people. Another motive for collecting is the desire to find something special, or a particular example of the collected item, such as a rare early recording by a particular singer.
4. Some may spend their whole lives in a hunt for this. Psychologically, this can give a purpose to a life that otherwise feels aimless. There is a danger, though, that if the individual is ever lucky enough to find what they're looking for, rather than celebrating their success, they may feel empty, now that the goal that drove them on has gone.
5. If you think about collecting postage stamps another potential reason for it - or, perhaps, a result of collecting - is its educational value. Stamp collecting opens a window to other countries, and to the plants, animals, or famous people shown on their stamps.

6. Similarly, in the 19th century, many collectors amassed fossils, animals and plants from around the globe, and their collections provided a vast amount of information about the natural world. Without those collections, our understanding would be greatly inferior to what it is.
7. In the past - and nowadays, too, though to a lesser extent - a popular form of collecting, particularly among boys and men, was trainspotting. This might involve trying to see every locomotive of a particular type, using published data that identifies each one, and ticking off each engine as it is seen. Trainspotters exchange information, these days often by mobile phone, so they can work out where to go to, to see a particular engine. As a by-product, many practitioners of the hobby become very knowledgeable about railway operations, or the technical specifications of different engine types.
8. Similarly, people who collect dolls may go beyond simply enlarging their collection, and develop an interest in the way that dolls are made, or the materials that are used. These have changed over the centuries from the wood that was standard in 16th century Europe, through the wax and porcelain of later centuries, to the plastics of today's dolls. Or collectors might be inspired to study how dolls reflect notions of what children like, or ought to like.
9. Not all collectors are interested in learning from their hobby, though, so what we might call a psychological reason for collecting is the need for a sense of control, perhaps as a way of dealing with insecurity. Stamp collectors, for instance, arrange their stamps in albums, usually very neatly, organising their collection according to certain commonplace principles-perhaps by country in alphabetical order, or grouping stamps by what they depict -people, birds, maps, and so on.
10. One reason, conscious or not, for what someone chooses to collect is to show the collector's individualism. Someone who decides to collect something as unexpected as dog collars, for instance, may be conveying their belief that they must be interesting themselves. And believe it or not, there is at least one dog collar museum in existence, and it grew out of a personal collection.
11. Of course, all hobbies give pleasure, but the common factor in collecting is usually passion: pleasure is putting it far too mildly. More than most other hobbies, collecting can be totally engrossing, and can give a strong sense of personal fulfilment. To non-collectors it may appear an eccentric, if harmless, way of spending time, but potentially, collecting has a lot going for it.

Questions 14-21

Complete the sentences below.

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Choose ONE WORD ONLY from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 14-21 on your answer sheet.

14. The writer mentions collecting _____ as an example of collecting in order to make money.

Key words: collecting, make money

In the first sentence of paragraph 2, the author mentioned “There are the people who collect because they want to make money - this could be called an instrumental reason for collecting; that is, collecting as a means to an end.” With this statement, he/she referred to one purpose of collecting, that is making money. We will look for the next sentence to find out its example – “They'll look for, say, antiques that they can buy cheaply and expect to be able to sell at a profit.” He/she used antiques as an example of one object that is able to be collected to make money. Therefore, the answer is “antiques”.

- Because = in order to
➔ **Answer: antiques.**

15. Collectors may get a feeling of _____ from buying and selling items.

Key words: collectors, feeling, buying and selling

In paragraph 2, there is a sentence mentioning buying and selling items, that is: “But there may well be a psychological element, too - buying cheap and selling dear can give the collector a sense of triumph”. “A sense of” means “a feeling of”. So the answer is triumph.

- A sense of = a feeling of
➔ **Answer: triumph**

16. Collectors' clubs provide opportunities to share _____

Key words: collectors' clubs, share

In the first sentence of paragraph 3, the author mentioned “a group of collectors” - “attending meetings of a group of collectors and exchanging information on items.” We can consider these groups as “collectors' clubs”. While attending those clubs, they can exchange information on

items. But the question requires one word only, so we choose the most important word – “information”.

- A group of = a club
 - Exchange = share
- ➔ **Answer: information**

17. Collectors’ clubs offer _____ with people who have similar interests.

Key words: Collectors’ clubs, similar interests.

This question still mentions “collectors’ clubs” as in the question above, so we still pay attention to paragraph 3. In the second sentence, we see the phrase “like – minded people”. This phrase has the same meaning as “people who have similar interests”. And those clubs bring them into “contact” with other collectors, so the answer is “contact”. “Attending meetings” in clubs is one way in which collectors come into contact socially.

(Note: you can make an adjective by a combination which is Adj + N + Ed, such as Grey-haired, one-eyed, strong-minded and kind-hearted).

- Bring = offer
 - People who have similar interests = like – minded people.
- ➔ **Answer: contact/meetings.**

18. Collecting sometimes involves a life-long _____ for a special item.

Key words: collecting, life – long, special item.

Since the questions in IELTS Reading often follow the text’s order, we just need to look at the following sentences and find the similar words to the question we are doing. In the last sentence of paragraph 3, we can see another purpose of collecting – it is “the desire to find something special” (= special item). But the author does not mention something like “life-long”, so we have to continue reading to find the accurate answer. Fortunately, in the next sentence, the author writes “Some may spend their whole lives in a hunt for this” (“the whole lives = life – long”). We can understand that the writer wants to say “Collectors sometimes have a life-long desire/ spend their whole lives in a hunt for a special item.” The answer can be “desire” or “hunt”.

- Whole lives = life- long
- ➔ **Answer: hunt/desire**

19. Searching for something particular may prevent people from feeling their life is completely ____.

Key words: searching, prevent, their life.

In paragraph 4, the author writes “Some may spend their whole lives in a hunt for this(=the special item referred to in paragraph 3). Psychologically, this can give a purpose to a life that otherwise feels aimless.” “This” means “spend their whole lives in a hunt for a special item”. We can understand “a hunt” = “searching for”. The author claims if they are not searching for a special item, they will feel “aimless”. Therefore, the answer is “aimless”. Then, we are told, if the collector finds that special item, they may then “feel empty”, because the search has ended.

- A hunt for = searching for
- ➔ **Answer: aimless/empty**

20. Stamp collecting may be ____ because it provides facts about different countries.

Key words: stamp collecting, facts, different countries.

This question mentions “stamp collecting” as the main subject, so we have to find part of the passage which contains information about this type of collecting – paragraph 5. In this paragraph, the author writes “If you think about collecting postage stamps another potential reason for it - or, perhaps, a result of collecting - is its educational value. Stamp collecting opens a window to other countries, and to the plants, animals, or famous people shown on their stamps.” He/ she mentions the educational value of stamp collecting as it “opens a window to other countries” with things shown on their stamps. The answer is “educational”.

➔ **Answer: educational**

21. _____ tends to be mostly a male hobby.

Key words: male hobby.

We have to find the paragraph mentioning something related to “male”. In paragraph 7, the author mentions “trainspotting” as “a popular form of collecting, particularly among boys and men” (“In the past - and nowadays, too, though to a lesser extent - a popular form of collecting, particularly among boys and men, was trainspotting.”). The answer is “trainspotting”.

- Boys and men = male
- ➔ **Answer: trainspotting**

Questions 22-26

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the reading passage?

In boxes 22-26 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

22. The number of people buying dolls has grown over the centuries.

Keywords: the number of, buying dolls, grown.

We have to find every part of the text about “dolls”. The whole of paragraph 8 is about this topic. But it is about the things which interest doll collectors, but there is no information about the number of people buying dolls. Therefore, the answer is Not given.

(Note: If you are not sure enough, you can try doing the next question. Since the questions are in order, if you find out the sentence for the answer of next question, then the following sentences will not have the answer for this question)

➔ **Answer: Not given.**

23. Sixteenth century European dolls were normally made of wax and porcelain.

Keywords: 16th century, made of, wax and porcelain.

In the same paragraph about dolls: “Similarly, people who collect dolls may go beyond simply enlarging their collection, and develop an interest in the way that dolls are made, or the materials that are used. These have changed over the centuries from the wood that was standard in 16th century Europe, through the wax and porcelain of later centuries, to the plastics of today's dolls.” Therefore, in 16th century, European dolls were often made of wood. And the wax and porcelain dolls were popular in later centuries, which means the 17th century and the ones after. The answer is False.

- Materials that are used = made of

➔ **Answer: False.**

24. Arranging a stamp collection by the size of the stamps is less common than other methods.

Keywords: arranging, by the size, less common.

We have to pay attention to paragraph 9, which contains information about arranging a stamp collection. In this paragraph, the author only mentions the reason why some collectors like to arrange their collection and the types of arrangement. There is no reference to what kind of arrangement is more or less popular. Therefore, the answer is Not Given.

➔ **Answer: Not given.**

25. Someone who collects unusual objects may want others to think he or she is also unusual.

Keywords: unusual objects, think.

In paragraph 10, the author claims “One reason, conscious or not, for what someone chooses to collect is to show the collector's individualism”, and gives an example when someone collects something unexpected (which means unusual objects), they maybe conveying their belief (which means they want others to think) that they are interesting as well. The answer is True.

- Unusual = unexpected

➔ **Answer: True.**

26. Collecting gives a feeling that other hobbies are unlikely to inspire.

Keywords: other hobbies, inspire

In the last paragraph, there is a sentence that is “More than most other hobbies, collecting can be totally engrossing, and can give a strong sense of personal fulfillment.” This means collecting needs all your attention and makes you completely satisfied, while most other hobbies could not do the same (more than most other hobbies). The answer is True.

- Give a sense = give a feeling
- Inspire = fulfil

➔ **Answer: True.**

The question	Words in the question	Words in the text	Meaning
14	Because	In order to	The reason for doing something

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15 + 26	A feeling of	A sense of	An emotional feeling about something
16	Club	A group of	a number of people that meet together because they have the same interests
16	Share	Exchange	To give and receive things between people in order that everyone can use those things
17	Similar	Like-minded	People who have the same way of thinking
18	Whole life	Life- long	lasting for the whole of a person's life
19	Searching for	In a hunt for	Looking for something which is difficult for you to find
21	Male	Boys and men	
25	Unusual	Unexpected	different from others of the same type in a way that is surprising, interesting, or attractive
26	Inspire	Fulfil	To make somebody have a particular emotion about something – in this case, satisfaction about collecting things

Passage 2 – Test 2 – Cambridge 12

The Lost City

An explorer's encounter with the ruined city of Machu Picchu, the most famous icon of the Inca civilisation

A. When the US explorer and academic Hiram Bingham arrived in South America in 1911, he was ready for what was to be the greatest achievement of his life: the exploration of the remote hinterland to the west of Cusco, the old capital of the Inca empire in the Andes mountains of Peru. His goal was to locate the remains of a city called Vitcos, the last capital of the Inca civilization.

Cusco lies on a high plateau at an elevation of more than 3,000 metres, and Bingham's plan was to descend from this plateau along the valley of the Urubamba river, which takes a circuitous route down to the Amazon and passes through an area of dramatic canyons and mountain ranges.

B. When Bingham and his team set off down the Urubamba in late July, they had an advantage over travellers who had preceded them : a track had recently been blasted down the valley canyon to enable rubber to be brought up by mules from the jungle. Almost all previous travellers had left the river at Ollantaytambo and taken a high pass across the mountains to rejoin the river lower down, thereby cutting a substantial corner, but also therefore never passing through the area around Machu Picchu.

C. On 24 July they were a few days into their descent of the valley. The day began slowly, with Bingham trying to arrange sufficient mules for the next stage of the trek. His companions showed no interest in accompanying him up the nearby hill to see some ruins that a local farmer, Melchor Arteaga, had told them about the night before. The morning was dull and damp, and also seems to have been less than keen on the prospect of climbing the hill . In his book *Lost City of the Incas*, he relates that he made the ascent without having the least expectation that he would find anything at the top.

D. Bingham writes about the approach in vivid style in his book. First, as he climbs up the hill, he describes the ever-present possibility of deadly snakes , 'capable of making considerable springs when in pursuit of their prey'; not that he sees any. Then there's a sense of mounting discovery as he comes across great sweeps of terraces, then a mausoleum, followed by monumental staircases and, finally, the grand ceremonial buildings of Machu Picchu. 'It seemed like an unbelievable dream the sight held me spellbound ', he wrote.

E. We should remember, however, that Lost City of the Incas is a work of hindsight, not written until 1948, many years after his journey. His journal entries of the time reveal a much more gradual appreciation of his achievement. He spent the afternoon at the ruins noting down the dimensions of some of the buildings, then descended and rejoined his companions, to whom he seems to have said little about his discovery. At this stage, didn't realise the extent or the importance of the site, nor did he realise what use he could make of the discovery.

F. However, soon after returning it occurred to him that he could make a name for himself from this discovery. When he came to write the National Geographic magazine article that broke the story to the world in April 1913, he knew he had to produce a big idea.

He wondered whether it could have been the birthplace of the very first Inca, Manco the Great, and whether it could also have been what chroniclers described as 'the last city of the Incas'. This term refers to Vilcabamba the settlement where the Incas had fled from Spanish invaders in the 1530s. Bingham made desperate attempts to prove this belief for nearly 40 years. Sadly, his vision of the site as both the beginning and end of the Inca civilisation, while a magnificent one, is inaccurate. We now know, that Vilcabamba actually lies 65 kilometres away in the depths of the jungle.

G. One question that has perplexed visitors, historians and archaeologists alike ever since Bingham, is why the site seems to have been abandoned before the Spanish Conquest. There are no references to it by any of the Spanish chroniclers - and if they had known of its existence so close to Cusco they would certainly have come in search of gold.

An idea which has gained wide acceptance over the past few years is that was a country estate built by an Inca emperor to escape the cold winters of Cusco, where the elite could enjoy monumental architecture and spectacular views. Furthermore, the particular architecture of Machu Picchu suggests that it was constructed at the time of the greatest of all the Incas, the emperor Pachacuti (1438-71). By custom, Pachacuti's descendants built other similar estates for their own use, and so Machu Picchu would have been abandoned after his death, some 50 years before the Spanish Conquest.

Questions 14-20

Reading Passage 2 has seven paragraphs, A-G.

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number, i-viii, in boxes 14-20 on your answer sheet.

	List of Headings
i	Different accounts of the same journey
ii	Bingham gains support
iii	A common belief
iv	The aim of the trip
v	A dramatic description
vi	A new route
vii	Bingham publishes his theory
viii	Bingham's lack of enthusiasm

14. Paragraph A

The first paragraph is used to introduce Bingham's trip (his goal and his plan when making the trip). The second sentence is: "His goal was to locate the remains of a city called Vitcos, the last capital of the Inca civilization." "Goal" is the same as "aim". We can see the heading iv "the aim of the course" is the most relevant to this paragraph's content. The answer is iv.

If you are not sure enough, take note and do following questions before deciding what is the answer.

- Goal = aim
- ➔ Answer: iv.

15. Paragraph B

Paragraph B is quite short, so you should read it thoroughly to find the correct answer. This paragraph is about the advantage of Bingham and his team over other travellers – "a track had recently been blasted down the valley canyon to enable rubber to be brought up by mules from the jungle." "A track" means "a path, route or rough road" and "recently" means "not long ago, during the period of time that has just passed". Therefore, we can consider this advantage as a new route. The answer is vi – "A new route".

- Track = route
 - Recently = new
- ➔ Answer: vi.

16. Paragraph C

This paragraph describes some negative things during the trek. Bingham's team "showed no interest" in continuing this trek and Bingham himself claimed in his book "he made the ascent without having the least expectation that he would find anything at the top." We can see that Bingham and his companions were lacking expectation and were "less than keen on" going up the hill to look at the ruins mentioned by the local farmer. Therefore, the answer is viii – "Bingham's lack of enthusiasm". (Other headings do not mention something negative).

- Less than keen on = lack of enthusiasm

➔ **Answer: viii**

17. Paragraph D

In this paragraph, the author mentioned what Bingham described in his book, from "the ever-present possibility of deadly snakes" to "the grand ceremonial buildings of Machu Picchu". This paragraph does not mention anything related to "different accounts" (heading i), support (heading ii), belief (heading iii) or Bingham's theory (heading vii). What remains is heading v – a dramatic description and this heading is really relevant to this paragraph's content. The answer is v.

- Vivid = dramatic

➔ **Answer: v.**

18. Paragraph E

This paragraph shows that Bingham's journal reveals "a much more gradual appreciation of his achievement compared with his book. He spent the afternoon at the ruins noting down the dimensions of some of the buildings, then descended and rejoined his companions, to whom he seems to have said little about his discovery. At this stage, didn't realise the extent or the importance of the site, nor did he realise what use he could make of the discovery". However, in his book, Bingham makes the discovery of 'The Lost City of the Incas' appear much more dramatic than it seemed at the time. The most appropriate heading for this paragraph is "Different accounts of the same journey" (i).

➔ **Answer: i.**

19. Paragraph F

There are only 3 headings which remain: Bingham gains support, A common belief and Bingham publishes his theory. We just need to pay attention to these keywords “support”, “belief” and “theory” to find the correct answer to the remaining 2 questions.

In paragraph F, the author mentions the belief of Bingham. However, it is Bingham’s own belief and is inaccurate. It is not a common belief. Heading iii is not the answer. This paragraph is about Bingham’s big idea, “he knew he had to produce a big idea”. In this context, we can consider “his idea” as “his theory”, which he explained in an article which he wrote for publication in a magazine. The answer is vii - Bingham publishes his theory.

- A big idea = theory
- ➔ **Answer: vii.**

20. Paragraph G

The third sentence of this paragraph mentions “An idea which has gained wide acceptance over the past few years”. The expression “it gained wide acceptance” means “it is accepted/ believed by many people”. We can consider it as “a common belief”. It is also can be considered in terms of “gain support”. However, this idea does not belong to Bingham. Therefore, the heading “Bingham gains support” is inaccurate. The answer has to be iii – a common belief.

- Wide acceptance = common belief
- ➔ **Answer: iii.**

Questions 21-24

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 2?

In boxes 21-24 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

21. Bingham went to South America in search of an Inca city.

Keywords: South America, search, Inca city.

We have to find the names “South America” and “Inca city”. It is quite a simple task for which you can use skim or scan skills to find them. Fortunately, they lie in the first paragraph. “Hiram Bingham arrived in South America in 1911” and “His goal was to locate the remains of a city called Vitcos, the last capital of the Inca civilization”. “locate” means “to find or discover the exact position of something”, which is the same as “search”. Therefore, the answer is True.

- Locate = search

➔ **Answer: True.**

22. Bingham chose a particular route down the Urubamba valley because it was the most common route used by travellers.

Keywords: a particular route, down the Urubamba valley, most common.

When doing question 15, we already know Bingham used a new route which other travellers had not used. In case you do True – False questions first, you can find the answer’s location according to the keywords. In the second part of paragraphA, the author mentions the route down the Urubamba valley. However, from paragraphB, we know Bingham did not follow that route, he found a new route – “they had an advantage over travellers who had preceded them : a track had recently been blasted down the valley canyon to enable rubber to be brought up by mules”. Therefore, the answer is False.

➔ **Answer: False.**

23. Bingham understood the significance of Machu Picchu as soon as he saw it.

Keywords: significance of Machu Picchu, as soon as he saw it.

In paragraph E, the author claimed “At this stage, didn’t realise the extent or the importance of the site, nor did he realise what use he could make of the discovery.” “The site” referred to is the

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Lost City – Machu Picchu - and “the importance” means “significance”. According to this sentence, at that time Bing didn’t realize those things. Therefore, the answer is False.

- Significance = importance

➔ **Answer: False.**

24. Bingham returned to Machu Picchu in order to find evidence to support his theory.

Keywords: return, evidence, support his theory.

The paragraph about Bingham’s theory is paragraph F: (the second sentence – “he knew he had to produce a big idea”). In the second part of this paragraph, the author claims his theory is wrong, but he/ she does not mention what Bingham did after that. Therefore, the answer is Not given.

➔ **Answer: Not given.**

Questions 25-26

Complete the sentences below.

Choose ONE WORD ONLY from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 25-26 on your answer sheet.

25. The track that took Bingham down the Urubamba valley had been created for the transportation of ____.

Keywords: track, Bingham, Urubambavalley, created, transportation

This route is mentioned in many other questions so we easily find its location, which is in paragraphs A and B. In paragraph B, the author writes “a track had recently been blasted down the valley canyon to enable rubber to be brought up by mules from the jungle”. This can be understood as “for the transportation of rubber”. The answer is “rubber”.

➔ **Answer: rubber.**

26. Bingham found out about the ruins of Machu Picchu from a ____ in the Urubamba valley.

Keywords: ruins of Machu Picchu, from, Urubamba valley.

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“The ruins of Machu Picchu” is mentioned in paragraph C - “His companions showed no interest in accompanying him up the nearby hill to see some ruins that a local farmer, Melchor Arteaga, had told them about the night before.” It is when they reached the valley. Therefore, it is a local farmer in the Urubamba valley who told them about some ruins of Machu Picchu. The answer is “farmer”.

➔ **Answer: farmer.**

The question	Words in the question	Words in the text	Meaning
14	Aim	Goal	The purpose of Bingham’s journey
15	Route	Track	A rough road
15	New	Recently	Not long ago
16	Lack of enthusiasm	Less than keen on	Reluctance to do something
17	Dramatic	Vivid	Exciting and impressive
19	Theory	A big idea	A set of ideas to explain something
20	Common belief	Wide acceptance	Trusted by many people
21	Search	Locate	To find where something is
23	Significance	Importance	the quality of being important