

READING PASSAGE 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1–13**, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.

Ahead of its time

A chance discovery in New Zealand has challenged the country's recorded history.

One October afternoon, a young New Zealander, Sam Tobin, called his dogs and went for a walk down to the nearby Ruamahanga River. Having been very high for days, the river had at last fallen, and Tobin was eager to see what changes the floods had brought. The family farm borders the river, and a four-metre-high flood bank testifies to its natural tendency to flood.

Tobin stepped out onto a broad shoulder of river sand, where he noticed what he initially took to be a whitish rock, lit by the sun. Then, getting closer, he realised it was a bone. Such a thing was not uncommon in these parts - he had often come home with fragments, or even whole skeletons, of cows and sheep. But as he scraped aside a stone he realised that it was a human bone, something quite new in his experience. As he picked it up, he saw it was a skull, discoloured with age.

Tobin replaced the skull and hurried home to tell his mother what the river had delivered to their doorstep. It would prove to be a spectacular find, setting in motion an investigation by some of the country's most respected specialists, and ultimately challenging our most firmly held assertions about the human settlement of New Zealand.

The police were immediately called, but despite a thorough search they could find nothing that might shed light on the identity of the Ruamahanga skull, or the circumstances of its sudden appearance. The skull was then taken north to be examined by forensic pathologist Dr Fetvis at Auckland Hospital. Despite being hampered by its damaged and incomplete condition - the jawbone and lower left portion of the cranium were missing - Dr Fetvis determined that the skull was that of a female. He'd then consulted with a colleague, Dr Koelmeyer, who believed that the deterioration of the bone placed the time of death 'before living memory' and, most significantly as it would turn out, the skull appeared to be European in origin.

Wellington-based forensic anthropologist Dr Watt also examined the skull, and suggested it belonged to a 40–45-year-old. He believed that it could be the remains of an old farm burial, but was not certain, and proposed the use of radiocarbon dating to make sure it wasn't a recent death. As a result, the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) in Lower Hutt was contacted, and provided with a sample of bone that had originated in the top of the skull. In a little over three weeks, the seemingly astonishing results from the GNS laboratory came back. Cutting through the bewildering complexity of the scientific analysis was a

single line reading: conventional radiocarbon age approximately 296 years. This was staggering, for the skull was about 200 years older than Dr Koelmeyer had believed.

Of course, a skull of this age wasn't particularly unusual in New Zealand. The Maori people have been living in the country for at least 800 years and scientists frequently come across human remains of considerable age. The fascinating question, however, was how a skull of this race, let alone this gender, had reached these remote islands in the South Pacific at such a time, long before the arrival of the explorer Captain Cook in 1769, and perhaps even before the very first European landfall - the fleeting visit of the Dutch explorer Tasman in 1642 - neither of whom had women among their crews.

The first known European women in the Pacific came with a doomed colonising venture which sailed from Peru in 1595 under the command of Spanish captain Mendana. However, it is unlikely the Ruamahanga skull originated from this expedition because no evidence of Mendana's ships has ever been found in New Zealand, while a team of archaeologists working in the Solomon Islands in 1979 did discover the remains of European vessels dating from the 16th century.

Two centuries were to pass before the first recorded European females arrived in New Zealand, both having escaped from prison in Australia. Kathleen Hagerty and Charlotte Edgar are known to have reached the country in 1806. How then do we account for the Ruamahanga skull, which appears to be about 100 years older than that? It is impossible to say with certainty, but the most likely explanation is that a Spanish or Portuguese trading ship was washed onto these wild shores as a result of a shipwreck and a woman got ashore. Implausible, perhaps, but the Ruamahanga skull, today resting in the Wellington Museum, could be the kind of concrete evidence that demands such a drastic re-evaluation of history.

Questions 1–4

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

In boxes 1–4 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>

- 1 The Ruamahanga River often floods.
- 2 When Tobin first found the object in the river, he mistook it for something else.
- 3 Tobin could not decide what part of the body the bone came from.
- 4 Tobin's mother was surprised that the skull caused debate among specialists.

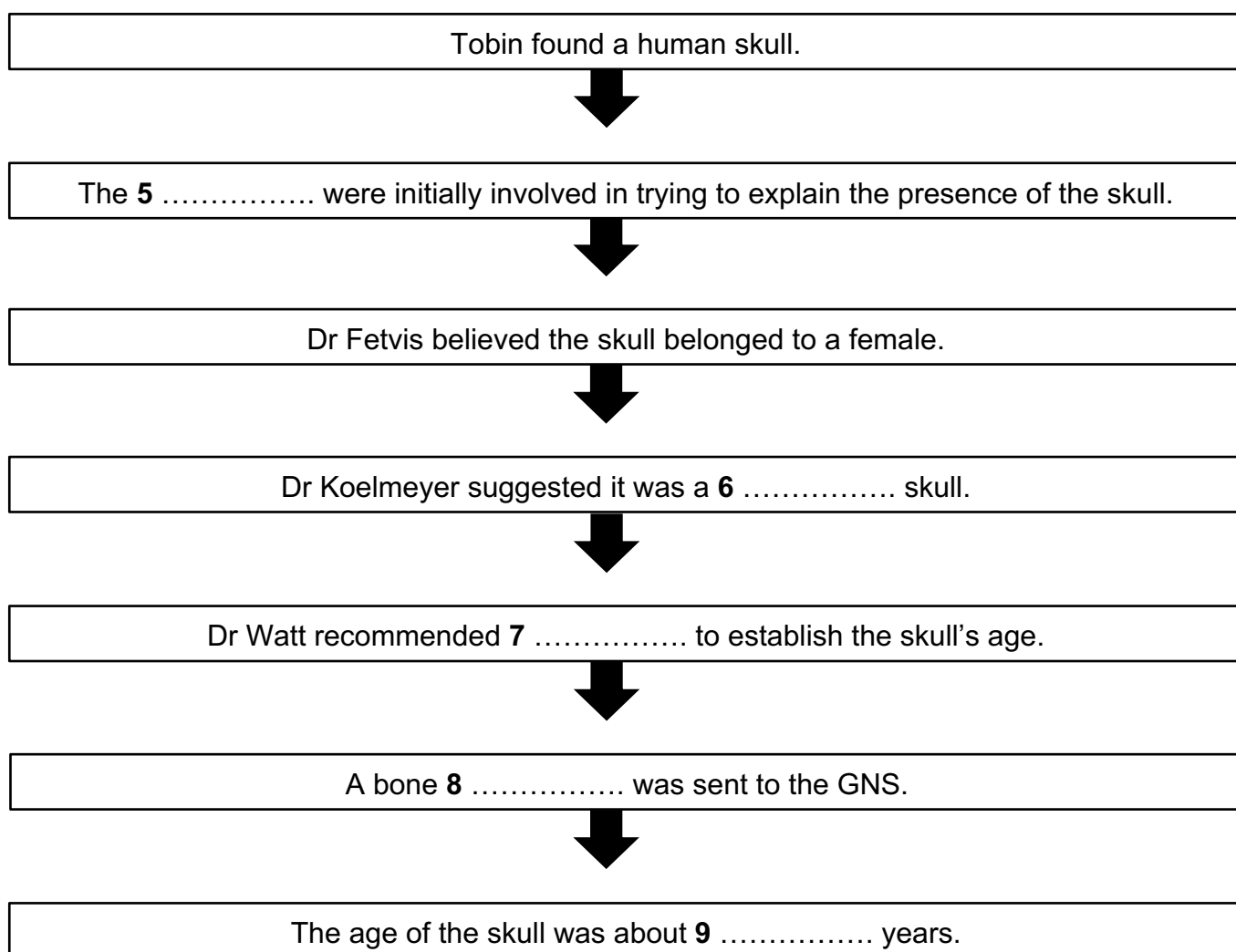
Questions 5–9

Complete the flow-chart below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 5–9 on your answer sheet.

The events after the river flooded



Questions 10–13

Complete the notes below.

Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 10–13 on your answer sheet.

Problem of the skull's origins

- old bones common in New Zealand
- Maori living there for 800 years
- Ruamahanga skull surprising because of its
 - age
 - **10**
 - gender

Mendana expedition

- possible source of skull
- but probably did not visit New Zealand
- evidence of this expedition found elsewhere by **11**

New Zealand

- first European explorer arrived in 1642
- Hagerty and Edgar arrived in 1806 from **12**, where they had been imprisoned

Possible solution

- Ruamahanga skull may have reached New Zealand in 17th century after a **13**

Disclaimer

Compiled, formatted, and lightly proofread by ZYZ Reading Walks.

All copyright in the underlying works remains with the original authors and publishers.

No affiliation with or endorsement by any rights holder (including IELTS® owners).

For non-commercial educational use only. This notice must remain intact in all copies.

Available free of charge from ZYZ Reading Walks. Resale or any paid distribution is prohibited.

Questions 1–4 判断题 (TRUE / FALSE / NOT GIVEN)

题号	题干翻译	答案	精确定位句 (英文)	定位句翻译 (中)	详细解释
1	Ruamahanga River 经常发生洪水。	TRUE	第1段: "...a four-metre-high flood bank testifies to its natural tendency to flood."	".....一条四米高的防洪堤证明它(这条河)天然就容易泛滥。"	"tendency to flood (容易泛滥)" + 甚至修了“四米高的防洪堤”来证明其泛滥倾向, 说明洪水并非偶发, 而是经常/典型特征, 符合 <i>often floods</i> 。
2	Tobin 第一次发现河里的那个物体时, 把它误认为别的东西。	TRUE	第2段: "...he noticed what he initially took to be a whitish rock... Then... he realised it was a bone."	".....他注意到一块起初被他当作灰白色岩石的东西.....随后他意识到那是一块骨头。"	题干关键是 "mistook... for something else (误认)"。原文明确说 <i>initially took to be a whitish rock</i> , 之后才发现是骨头, 直接对应。
3	Tobin 无法确定这块骨头来自身体的哪个部位。	FALSE	第2段: "As he picked it up, he saw it was a skull..."	"当他把它捡起来时, 他看出那是一个头骨....."	题干说“无法确定来自哪一部分”, 但原文恰恰相反: 他最终明确判断是 <i>a skull</i> (头骨), 而且过程是从“像石头→骨头→人的骨头→头骨”, 信息充足且确定, 所以与原文矛盾, 选 FALSE 。
4	Tobin 的母亲对这个头骨引发专家争论感到惊讶。	NOT GIVEN	第3段: "Tobin... hurried home to tell his mother..."	"Tobin.....匆忙回家告诉母亲....."	文中只说他去告诉母亲、此发现引发调查与挑战历史观点, 但没有提到“母亲是否惊讶/对专家争论的态度”。既不支持也不反驳, 只能 NOT GIVEN 。

Questions 5–9 流程图填空 (NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER)

题号	题干翻译	答案	精确定位句 (英文)	定位句翻译 (中)	详细解释
5	起初参与解释头骨为何出现的是_____。	police	第4段: "The police were immediately called..."	"警方立刻被叫来....."	流程图说 "initially involved", 原文最先介入的是 <i>police</i> 。满足不超过两词。
6	Koelmeyer 医生认为这是一具_____头骨。	European	第4段: "...the skull appeared to be European in origin."	".....这个头骨似乎是欧洲来源/欧洲人起源的。"	空格要修饰 skull, 原文直接给出 "European in origin", 所以填 European 。
7	Watt 医生建议用_____来确定头骨年代。	radiocarbon dating	第5段: "...proposed the use of radiocarbon dating to make sure it wasn't a recent death."	".....他提出使用放射性碳测年, 以确保这不是近期死亡事件。"	"establish the skull's age (确定年代)" 对应 <i>radiocarbon dating</i> 。两词, 符合限制。
8	一份骨头_____被送到 GNS。	sample	第5段: "...provided with a sample of bone that had originated in the top of the skull."	".....他们得到一份骨头样本, 这块骨头来自头骨顶部。"	题干结构是 "A bone ____ was sent...", 原文就是 <i>a sample of bone</i> , 因此填 sample 。
9	头骨年代大约为_____年。	296	第5段: "...conventional radiocarbon age approximately 296 years."	".....常规放射性碳测年年龄约为 296 年。"	数字题直接抄 296 。注意不是“约 300”, 原文给精确数值。

Questions 10–13 笔记填空 (ONE WORD ONLY)

题号	题干翻译	答案	精确定位句 (英文)	定位句翻译 (中)	详细解释
10	Ruamahanga 头骨令人惊讶的原因: 年代、____、性别。	race	第6段: "...how a skull of this race, let alone this gender..."	".....这样一种种族的头骨, 更不用说还是这种性别....."	题干三并列: age / ____ / gender。原文并列就是 <i>race</i> 与 <i>gender</i> , 一词限制也吻合。
11	该探险的证据在别处被_____发现。	archaeologists	第7段: "...a team of archaeologists... did discover the remains..."	".....一支考古学家团队.....确实发现了遗骸....."	"by ____" 问执行者, 原文是 <i>a team of archaeologists</i> , 一词填 archaeologists 。
12	Hagerty 和 Edgar 于1806年从_____来到新西兰, 在那里她们曾被监禁。	Australia	第8段: "...escaped from prison in Australia."	".....从澳大利亚的监狱逃出。"	"where they had been imprisoned (曾被监禁之地)" 就是 Australia。注意一词。
13	可能的解释: 17世纪该头骨在一次_____之后到达新西兰。	shipwreck	第8段: "...as a result of a shipwreck..."	".....由于一次沉船事故....."	"after a ____" 对应 "as a result of a shipwreck", 一词填 shipwreck 。