READING PASSAGE 3

*You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 27-40**, which are based on Reading Passage 3 below.*

Travelling Plants

A Plants need to produce more individuals of their own kind, and grow best away from their parent. So plants need to travel, and they do so in a variety of ways.

B In an English woodland, the blackberry puts out exploratory stems, which curve upwards, waving slowly as though searching. If they touch another plant, they begin to advance directly and purposefully. To us, their motion is invisible, but for a plant it's an extraordinary rate – around five centimetres a day. When a stem makes contact with the ground, it puts down small rootlets, and starts to extract nutriment.

C The silverweed is equally effective, putting out travelling stems that advance horizontally, creeping at low level through the mat of rootlets and dead vegetation formed by other plants.

D In meadows, fescue grass is notable for annexing land from other less robust and aggressive species. The genetic fingerprints of its leaves and stems taken two hundred metres apart have proved, in some instances, to be identical. This must mean that one particularly vigorous plant has increased its territory year after year until now, after perhaps a century, it has become the largest plant in the entire meadow.

E The bird-cage plant grows among sand dunes, in the deserts of the American west, and puts down long roots to search for water. But if the sand blows away, the plant's roots may shrivel up, the plant dies, and the stems form a hollow sphere. With no roots to anchor it, the wind blows it across the sand for several kilometres. Eventually it rolls into a sheltered site, allowing the seeds inside to germinate.

F A few plants don't need external assistance to distribute their seeds. The Mediterranean squirting cucumber fills with a slimy juice as it ripens. Eventually, the quantity of slime makes the cucumber burst off its stalk and shoot five or six metres through the air, leaving a trail of slime and seeds behind it.

G One of the most dramatic detonating seed-containers belongs to a Brazilian tree known as monkey's dinner-bell. The side of the seed pod facing the sun dries out, causing an explosion which can hurl the seeds over twelve metres. The bang is enough to convince nervous strangers in the forest that they're under attack.

H It's particularly important for trees that their seeds move far enough away to gain adequate light and nutriment. This is helped by the height of the tree, and in some cases by fitting their seeds with wings. Sycamore seeds, for instance, have a single wing, sprouting from one side. This makes the seed spin, and even in a light breeze, these tiny spinning helicopters can land far from their parent.

I Instead of using wind or water as carriers, many plants use animals. The South African grapple plant, a low-growing creeper, relies on its seeds being trodden on. Its seed capsules have arms ending in hooks that are so sharp and strong, and point in so many directions, that when the foot of an elephant or rhino descends on one, the capsule becomes attached, and is carried by the animal.

J Other plants reward their carriers instead of hurting them. Many plants that grow in the heathland of South Africa provide their seeds with an edible covering which ants find particularly attractive. These collect the seeds and carry them down to their underground nests, where they eat the covering, leaving the seeds themselves in an ideal position to germinate.

K Fruit seeds are completely enclosed with such a generous edible reward that the animal-carrier is encouraged to swallow both together. While the plant is constructing the seeds, the flesh of the unripe fruit is sour, and animals learn not to eat it. But once the seeds are fully developed, the sap becomes sweet, and the fruit signals the fact that the seeds are now ready for transport by changing colour. Animals understand the signals well. They now eat the fruit, and carry the seed away inside their stomachs, to be ejected at a distance.

L Not all seeds have to pass through the entire digestive tract to be transported, though. The quetzal, a Central American bird, feeds on the wild avocado, swallowing it whole. It eventually regurgitates the stone, which then has a chance to take root and produce a new plant.

M Passage through an animal's gut is essential for some seeds, however. When the acacia of East Africa produces its seed-bearing pods, beetles fly in, lay eggs, and as the grubs hatch, they feed on the acacia seeds. The seeds can only grow if an elephant, or other animal eats the pod, as its digestive juices kill the eggs. Eventually the seeds return to the outside world in the animal's droppings, and can germinate.

N While the seeds of pine trees are developing, they're protected inside cones. When the seeds are ripe, one bird, the nut-cracker, is particularly skillful at picking them out. Those it can't eat immediately it buries, providing the seed with ideal growing conditions. But two out of every three seeds that the bird buries, it never finds again, so the tree uses a strategy of sacrificing a few of its seeds and relying on the poor memory of the courier who takes and conceals them.

O So in one way or another, many seeds reach destinations where they can start their lives away from the environmental dominance of their parents.

Questions 27–33

Complete each sentence with the correct ending, ***A–I****, below.*

Write the correct letter, ***A–I****, in boxes 27–33 on your answer sheet.*

27 The blackberry

28 The silverweed

29 Fescue grass

30 The bird-cage plant

31 The Mediterranean squirting cucumber

32 Monkey's dinner-bell

33 The sycamore

A	can dominate its surroundings with a single plant.
B	explodes as a result of internal pressure.
C	has seeds which have a feature that increases the distance they travel.
D	colonises a new spot when it can no longer survive in another.
E	moves along close to the ground.
F	produces a loud noise when it distributes its seeds.
G	relies on human activity to distribute its seeds.
H	requires water every day.
I	produces branches that spread out very quickly into the air.

Questions 34–39

Complete the sentences below.

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

Write your answers in boxes 6–13 on your answer sheet.

34 South African heathland plants are covered with a substance that appeals to _____.

35 The seeds of South African heathland plants are carried into _____ in the earth.

36 Animals don't like to eat _____ that is unripe because of the taste.

37 The quetzal ejects the _____ of the wild avocado through its mouth.

38 Pine seeds are contained in their _____ until they are mature.

39 The pine tree benefits because the nut-cracker bird has a bad _____.

Question 40

*Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.*

Write the correct letter in boxes 40 on your answer sheet.

40 Which of the following best summarises Reading Passage 3?

A The movement of plants provides benefits for animals and other creatures.
B Plants can move much faster than is generally realised.
C The methods by which plants move are adapted to their surroundings.
D Animals play a significant role in the movement of plants.

一、Questions 27–33 句子配对（A–I）

题号	正确答案	题干中文（简译）	精准定位（段落 & 英文原句）	定位句翻译	详细解析
27	**I**	黑莓……产生向空中迅速伸展的枝条。	**B 段**："*the blackberry puts out exploratory stems, which curve upwards, waving slowly as though searching… for a plant it's an extraordinary rate – around five centimetres a day.*"	"在英格兰的林地里，黑莓伸出探测性的茎，它们向上弯曲，缓慢摇摆，仿佛在寻找什么…… 对于植物来说，这是一种非同寻常的速度——每天大约五厘米。"	题干说"产生向空中迅速伸展的枝条（branches spread out very quickly into the air）"。文中"stems… curve upwards" "extraordinary rate" 对应选项 I "*produces branches that spread out very quickly into the air*"：向上（into the air）+ 长得很快（extraordinary rate）。其他选项：E"贴近地面移动"对应银草；A"统治周围地区"对应羊茅草；因此本题选 I。
28	**E**	银草……贴近地面移动。	**C 段**："*putting out travelling stems that advance horizontally, creeping at low level through the mat of rootlets and dead vegetation formed by other plants.*"	"它伸出旅行的茎，水平前进，在其他植物形成的须根和枯枝落叶的垫层间**以很低的高度爬行**。"	关键词：*advance horizontally, creeping at low level* —— 水平前进、低位爬行，就是"close to the ground"。选项 E "*moves along close to the ground*" 完全同义改写。其余选项要么讲"统治周围"（A），要么讲"爆炸、噪音"等，都与银草无关。
29	**A**	羊茅草……可以凭借一棵植物就统治整个区域。	**D 段**："*This must mean that one particularly vigorous plant has increased its territory year after year until now, after perhaps a century,* ***it has become the largest plant in the entire meadow.***"	"这必然意味着，有一株特别强健的植株年复一年地扩张自己的领地，直到现在，经过也许一个世纪，**它已成为整片草地上最大的那株植物**。"	这里说明：从基因指纹一致推断，是"一株特别强健的植株（one particularly vigorous plant）"不断扩张，最后成为"整个草地上最大的一株"。这等于说**一棵植物就占领了周围的土地**，对应 A："*can dominate its surroundings with a single plant*"。其他选项如 D"无法生存时转移"明显讲的是 E 段鸟笼草。
30	**D**	鸟笼草……当在原地不能生存时，就在新地点定居。	**E 段**："*But if the sand blows away, the plant's roots may shrivel up, the plant dies, and the stems form a hollow sphere…. the wind blows it across the sand for several kilometres…. Eventually it rolls into a sheltered site, allowing the seeds inside to germinate.*"	"但是如果沙子被吹走，植物的根可能会干枯，植株死亡，而茎形成一个中空的球体…… 风把它吹着在沙地上滚行数公里…… 最终它滚进一个受保护的地方，让里面的种子得以发芽。"	逻辑：原来沙丘被吹走 → 根干枯、植物死 → 空心球被风吹走 → 滚进避风处，种子发芽，**在新地点繁殖**。这就是选项 D "*colonises a new spot when it can no longer survive in another*" 的意思：在旧地活不了，就去新地方"殖民"。
31	**B**	地中海射黄瓜……由于内部压力而爆开。	**F 段**："*fills with a slimy juice as it ripens. Eventually, the quantity of slime makes the cucumber* ***burst off its stalk and shoot five or six metres through the air****, leaving a trail of slime and seeds behind it.*"	"随着成熟，它里面灌满黏滑的汁液。最终这些黏液的量让这根黄瓜**从茎上爆裂脱落，射向空中五六米远**，身后留下了一道黏液和种子的轨迹。"	这里的 "fills with… juice" + "burst off" 表明是内部汁液产生的压力导致爆裂。与 B "*explodes as a result of internal pressure*" 完全对应。F 选项"发出巨响"则是猴子晚餐铃那一段的特征。
32	**F**	"猴子晚餐铃"树……在散播种子时会发出巨响。	**G 段**："*causing an* ***explosion*** *which can hurl the seeds over twelve metres.* ***The bang is enough*** *to convince nervous strangers in the forest that they're under attack.*"	"这会引发一次**爆裂**，能把种子抛出十二米远。**这一声巨响足以**让在森林里紧张的陌生人以为自己遭到了攻击。"	题干关键词 "loud noise" 与原文的 *bang* 强烈对应。选项 F "*produces a loud noise when it distributes its seeds*" 正是"爆裂时伴随巨响"。虽然 F 段射黄瓜也会爆，但并未提到声音，因此不能选 F，只能给 G 段。
33	**C**	悬铃木（sycamore）……它的种子带有一种增加传播距离的特征。	**H 段**："*in some cases by fitting their seeds with wings.* ***Sycamore seeds, for instance, have a single wing… This makes the seed spin, and… these tiny spinning helicopters can land far from their parent.***"	"在某些情况下，树会给种子装上**'翅膀'**。例如悬铃木的种子只有一个翅膀…… 这使得种子旋转，即便在微风中，这些旋转的小'直升机'也能落在离母树很远的地方。"	这里讲得很清楚：sycamore 的种子有单**翼**（single wing），使其旋转、飘得更远（land far from their parent）。选项 C "*has seeds which have a feature that increases the distance they travel*" 就是在概括"有个特征（翼）能让它们飞得更远"。

二、Questions 34–39 句子填空（ONE WORD ONLY）

题号	正确答案	题干中文（简译）	精准定位（段落 & 英文原句）	定位句翻译	详细解析
34	**ants**	南非荒原植物覆有一种让 _____ 喜欢的物质。	**J 段**："*Many plants that grow in the heathland of South Africa provide their seeds with an edible covering **which ants find particularly attractive**.*"	"许多生长在南非荒原的植物给种子披上一层可食用的外衣，**蚂蚁觉得这种外衣特别有吸引力**。"	题干里的 "a substance that appeals to …" 就是对 "an edible covering which … find attractive" 的同义改写，"appeals to"="find attractive"。唯一可填的名词是 **ants**。注意只写一个单词，且不能写成 *edible covering*（那是物质本身，不是 "who it appeals to"）。
35	**nests**	这些植物的种子被带进土里的 _____。	**J 段**："*These [ants] collect the seeds and carry them down to their **underground nests**, where they eat the covering…*"	"这些蚂蚁把种子收集起来，**搬进地下巢穴**，在那里啃食外层。"	题干中 "carried into _____ in the earth" = "被带进地里的某处"。原文是 *underground nests*，因此答案是 **nests**（巢穴）。"holes" 等词虽然也像 "地里的地方"，但原文没有出现，不符合 ONE WORD ONLY 的要求。
36	**fruit**	动物不喜欢吃未熟的 _____，因为味道不好。	**K 段**："*While the plant is constructing the seeds, **the flesh of the unripe fruit is sour, and animals learn not to eat it.***"	"在植物正在构建种子的时候，**未熟果实的果肉是酸的，动物就学会了不去吃它**。"	题干结构："Animals don't like to eat _____ that is unripe because of the taste."，空格后面紧跟 "未熟的"，明显指 "fruit"。原文把因果说得很清楚：unripe fruit is sour → animals learn not to eat it。故填 **fruit**。不要填 *flesh*，因为动物 "不喜欢吃未熟的果实" 而不是 "不喜欢吃果肉本身"。
37	**stone**	凤尾绿咬鹃通过嘴巴把野牛油果的 _____ 排出体外。	**L 段**："*The quetzal, a Central American bird, feeds on the wild avocado, swallowing it whole. It eventually **regurgitates the stone**, which then has a chance to take root…*"	"这种生活在中美洲的鸟以野牛油果为食，把果实整个吞下去。最后它会**把果核反刍出来**，那时果核就有机会生根。"	题干里的 "ejects … through its mouth" 对应原文的 "regurgitates"，都是 "从口中吐出/反刍"。被吐出的是 wild avocado 的 **stone**（果核、硬核）。所以答案为 **stone**。
38	**cones**	松树种子在它们的 _____ 里，直到成熟。	**N 段**："*While the seeds of pine trees are developing, they're protected **inside cones**. When the seeds are ripe, …*"	"当松树的种子正在发育时，它们**被保护在球果之中**。当种子成熟时……"	题干 "contained in their _____ until they are mature" = "在……里，直到成熟"。原文 "protected inside cones" 即 "被包在球果里"，完全对应。故填 **cones**。
39	**memory**	松树能从中得益，是因为坚果啄木鸟的 _____ 不好。	**N 段**："*two out of every three seeds that the bird buries, it never finds again, so the tree uses a strategy… relying on the **poor memory** of the courier who takes and conceals them.*"	"鸟埋藏的种子中有三分之二再也找不回来，因此树采取了一种策略…… **依赖这个搬运工糟糕的记忆力**。"	题干 "has a bad _____" 正好与原文 "poor memory" 同义。one-word 只能填 **memory**。意思是：鸟老忘记自己把种子埋在哪儿了，于是很多种子就有机会发芽，对松树来说这是 "受益"。

三、Question 40 主旨题

题号	正确答案	题干翻译	精准定位 & 依据	详细解析
40	**C**	哪一项最能概括第三篇阅读文章的内容？	**整体文章**：A 段提出 "植物需要远离母体生长，因此必须以多种方式移动 / 传播"；B–G 讲茎的移动和自我爆裂传播；H 讲高树 + 翅膀帮助种子飞远；I–M 大量例子说明动物如何作为 "工具/载体" 帮助种子传播；N–O 用松树例子收束，并总结："*So in one way or another, many seeds reach destinations where they can start their lives away from the environmental dominance of their parents.*"	选项 C："*The methods by which plants move are adapted to their surroundings.*" —— 最贴近全文主线：文章从头到尾在展示**植物/种子如何以各种方式移动和传播**，并且这些方式与其环境相适应，比如沙丘上的鸟笼草、沙漠中的金合欢、南非荒原的植物、热带雨林的鸟等。其他选项：**A** 强调 "植物移动给动物带来好处"，但文章中只是部分例子有 "奖励"（可食外衣），并非主旨；**B** 只抓住黑莓 "移动很快" 这一细节，与后面大量种子传播无关；**D** 只涵盖后半部分使用动物传播，对前半部分（风、爆裂、自身茎的运动）概括不全，因此都不如 C。