

READING PASSAGE 3

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

Questions 27–33

Reading Passage 3 has seven paragraphs, **A–G**.

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

Write the correct number, **i–viii**, in boxes 27–33 on your answer sheet.

List of Headings

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| i | A negative reaction to receiving flowers |
| ii | Some surprisingly strong responses to flowers |
| iii | A mutually beneficial relationship? |
| iv | Becoming more open about personal matters |
| v | Some common social functions of flowers |
| vi | Sensory appeal versus practical purpose of flowers |
| vii | Bridging the gap between strangers in an enclosed space |
| viii | An imperfect theory |

27 Paragraph **A**

28 Paragraph **B**

29 Paragraph **C**

30 Paragraph **D**

31 Paragraph **E**

32 Paragraph **F**

33 Paragraph **G**

Flower Power

- A** Why do we give people flowers? To offer condolence to those who are grieving. To celebrate. To woo. To ask for forgiveness. We all know intuitively that there is a universal emotional response. In the US alone, the flower industry is now worth about \$5 billion a year, which suggests that, at the very least, they service a compelling human need.
- B** Recent studies at the Department of Psychology at Rutgers State University of New Jersey investigated claims that flowers are unique among living organisms in their ability to induce profound changes in our emotional state. As the first part of their research, the Rutgers team visited 150 women in their homes. Each was presented with a variety of gifts such as flowers, fruit or sweets. The women were unaware that the study was about the effect of the flowers on their emotions. They were told that it was a study about their daily moods, and that they would receive a gift in return for taking part. Following the presentation of the gift, those receiving flowers were assessed as displaying a much more positive mood than those who got other gifts, and this effect lasted for several days. After receiving flowers, they were also more willing to answer questions concerning their social circle and intimate conversations with friends and family. The results suggest that flowers influence our secondary socio-emotional behaviours, as well as having a strong effect on our immediate emotional expression.
- C** In the second study, the psychologists observed participants being handed single flowers, or alternative gifts, in a constrained and stressful situation – inside an elevator. Contrary to predictions regarding gender differences, both men and women presented with flowers were more likely to smile, to stand closer and to initiate conversation. Several subjects who were given the alternative gift then learnt that flowers were also being handed out, and returned to the elevator and demanded a flower. The scientists used elevators for this study precisely because the most typical behaviour in sparsely occupied elevators is for people to retreat to opposite corners. The subjects who received flowers, however, closed up that space to a considerable extent – indicating that the flowers not only induced a strong positive mood, but brought a significant affiliation among people who had never previously met.
- D** The third study involved regularly sending flowers to a selected sample of men and women. The researchers found not only a profound elevation of mood, but also reliable improvements in other measures of cognitive function, like memory. In this series of experiments, some participants produced such extraordinary emotional displays that the psychologists were totally unprepared for them. Subjects gave spontaneous hugs and kisses to the people who delivered the flowers, and sent invitations to the psychologists to come to their homes for refreshments.

- E** Various evolutionary hypotheses attempt to explain the remarkably powerful psychological effect of flowers. One is that our aesthetic preferences for fertile locations and growing things stem from prehistory, when these clues in our environment could mean the difference between starvation and survival. We may have become hardwired to respond positively to flowers because for early man, finding them in a particular location predicted future food supplies and possibly a better place to rear children. Yet the flaw in this argument is that the showy flowers which humans seem to find most visually attractive are generally found on those plants which yield no edible products.
- F** The Rutgers psychologists' findings show that the various physical attributes of flowers combine to directly affect our emotions through multi-channel interactions. We have evolved preferences for the particular colours, textures, patterned symmetries and specific floral odours which influence our moods. Indeed, previous research has established that popular perfumes, which often have a floral 'top-note', will actually reduce depression. The origins of these inclinations may well be as the evolutionary theories suggest: the patterned symmetries of flowers can be detected easily as a recognisable signal within a wide variety of visual arrays, and a response to certain colour tones is important in finding ripe fruit against a leafy background. But, claim the Rutgers team, these preferences have long been separated from their primary evolutionary use, and become rewarding to us more generally. Thus plants with preferred colours, shapes and odours – despite having no other products – would therefore be protected and dispersed.
- G** The Rutgers study suggests that flowers may have actually evolved to exploit their peculiar impact on humans. The team's theory proposes a plant-human co-evolution, or even domestication, based on the intense emotional rewards that flowers provide. The idea that flowering plants, with no known food or other basic survival value to man, have co-evolved with us by exploiting an emotional niche instead, is very much like the scenario presented for the evolution of dogs. Flowers may be the plant equivalent of 'companion animals'. If this is true, then there is a very real sense in which, when you next give flowers, they are using you just as much as you are using them.

Questions 34-37

Look at the following statements (Questions 34–37) and the list of studies below.

Match each statement with the correct studies, **A**, **B** or **C**.

Write the correct letter, **A**, **B** or **C**, in boxes 34-37 on your answer sheet.

NB You may use any letter more than once.

34 The study focused on participants' short-term reaction to receiving flowers.

35 Participants were deliberately misled as to the aim of the study.

36 Receiving flowers had a notable effect on participants' mental capacities.

37 Male and female responses were more uniform than expected.

List of Studies

- A** the first study
- B** the second study
- C** the third study

Questions 38-40

Complete the summary below.

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

Write your answers in boxes 38-40 on your answer sheet.

A possible explanation for the appeal of flowers

It has been suggested that our intense response to flowers originates in prehistoric times. The presence of flowers might indicate a potential source of **38** _____ in a particular location, and primitive humans would search for such signs when looking for a suitable site to raise their **39** _____. The interpretation of these signs was essential for the survival of our ancestors. However, the problem with this idea is that the plants producing the most attractive flowers do not usually have fruit which is **40** _____.

一、匹配标题 (Q27–33)

题号	答案	题干翻译	精确定位句 (英文)	定位句翻译	详细解释
27 (A 段)	v	给第 A 段选标题	“Why do we give people flowers? To offer condolence. To celebrate. To woo. To ask for forgiveness. ”	“我们为什么送花? 安慰丧者、庆祝、求爱、求原谅……”	A 段逐条罗列花在社交中的用途, 正对 Some common social functions of flowers (常见社会功能)。
28 (B 段)	iv	给第 B 段选标题	“After receiving flowers, they were also more willing to answer questions concerning their social circle and intimate conversations ... ”	“收花后, 受试者更愿意回答有关社交圈与私密谈话的问题。”	主题是“更愿意谈私人话题”, 对应 Becoming more open about personal matters 。
29 (C 段)	vii	给第 C 段选标题	“...in a constrained situation — inside an elevator... those who received flowers closed up that space and brought a significant affiliation among people who had never previously met. ”	“.....在电梯里.....收花者拉近了人与人之间的距离, 让陌生人产生显著亲近感。”	关键词“电梯/陌生人/亲近”, 对应 Bridging the gap between strangers in an enclosed space 。
30 (D 段)	ii	给第 D 段选标题	“The researchers found not only a profound elevation of mood , but also reliable improvements in cognitive function, like memory... participants produced extraordinary emotional displays (spontaneous hugs and kisses).”	“研究发现情绪显著提升, 且记忆等认知也可靠改善; 出现强烈情绪反应 (自发拥抱、亲吻)。”	强烈而出人意料反应 → Some surprisingly strong responses to flowers 。
31 (E 段)	viii	给第 E 段选标题	“Various evolutionary hypotheses... Yet the flaw in this argument is that the showy flowers... are generally on plants which yield no edible products. ”	“多种进化假说.....但该观点的缺陷在于: 最醒目的花多生在无可食产物的植物上。”	点明理论“有缺陷/不完美”, 对应 An imperfect theory 。
32 (F 段)	vi	给第 F 段选标题	“The various physical attributes of flowers combine to directly affect our emotions... these preferences have long been separated from their primary evolutionary use... plants with preferred colours, shapes and odours — despite having no other products — would be protected and dispersed.”	“花的多种物理属性共同直接影响情绪; 这些偏好已脱离原本进化用途; 即便没有其他实用产物, 仍会被保护与传播。”	把“感官吸引力”与“实用目的”对照, 正是 Sensory appeal versus practical purpose of flowers 。
33 (G 段)	iii	给第 G 段选标题	“The team's theory proposes a plant–human co-evolution , or even domestication... ‘ they are using you just as much as you are using them. ’”	“团队提出植物—人类共同进化/驯化.....‘你在用花, 花也同样在利用你’。”	指向可能的“互利/互用”关系, 贴合 A mutually beneficial relationship? (问号表明假设)。

二、配对研究 (Q34–37)

List of Studies: A = 第一次研究 (第 B 段); B = 第二次研究 (第 C 段); C = 第三次研究 (第 D 段)

题号	答案	题干翻译	精确定位句 (英文)	定位句翻译	详细解释
34	B	研究关注参与者对收花的短期反应。	“psychologists observed participants being handed single flowers... inside an elevator. ” (第 C 段)	“研究者在电梯里观察被当场递花的受试者。”	电梯场景是当场即刻反应，研究的窗口极短，故为第二次研究。
35	A	参与者被刻意误导研究目的。	“The women were unaware that the study was about the effect of the flowers... They were told that the study was about their daily moods...” (第 B 段)	“受试者不知道研究与花有关；她们被告知研究的是日常情绪。”	明确的“掩饰真实目的”，对应第一次研究。
36	C	收花对参与者的心智能力有显著影响。	“found... improvements in cognitive function, like memory. ” (第 D 段)	“发现**认知功能 (如记忆) **得到改善。”	认知/记忆=心智能力，且这只出现在第三次研究。
37	B	男女性反应比预期更一致。	“ Contrary to predictions regarding gender differences , both men and women presented with flowers were more likely to smile, stand closer and initiate conversation.” (第 C 段)	“与关于性别差异的预测相反，男女收花后都更容易微笑、靠近、开启对话。”	直陈“与预测相反”，说明男女反应趋同 → 第二次研究。

三、摘要填空 (Q38–40)

(每空只填一个词)

题号	答案	题干翻译 (摘要提示)	精确定位句 (英文)	定位句翻译	详细解释
38	food	花可能指示该地潜在的食物来源。	“finding them in a particular location predicted future food supplies ...” (第 E 段)	“在某地发现花预示未来的食物供给.....”	原文是“food supplies”，题目限一词，规范填 food 。
39	children	原始人会找合适地点抚育孩子。	“and possibly a better place to rear children. ” (第 E 段)	“并可能是更适合抚养孩子的地方。”	“rear children”=抚养孩子 → 填 children 。
40	edible	问题在于最吸引人的花通常不结可食的果实。	“showy... flowers... are generally found on plants which yield no edible products. ” (第 E 段)	“最醒目的花一般长在不产可食用产物的植物上。”	“fruit which is ____”应填形容词“ edible (可食的)”。

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.