READING PASSAGE 1

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

Australia's cane toad problem

How a toad introduced in Australia to control pests has itself become a pest

In the north of Australia there are many sugar cane plantations, which early in the 20th century were being damaged by a particular pest. This was a species of beetle whose larvae, the infant form of the beetle, lived underground in the soil in the sugar cane fields. The sugar cane plants were weakened or died because their roots were eaten by the larvae. This had serious economic consequences for sugar cane farmers. Modern pesticides were not developed until the 1940s, so farmers had to use what was available at the time. Chemicals like arsenic and copper were used, but these were not only expensive but also stayed in the environment and were poisonous to people, plants and animals. It was generally acknowledged by government, farmers and scientists that cheaper and safer methods of pest control had to be found.

A promising replacement for copper and arsenic was the use of biological control. Farmers already used some forms of biological pest control in the form of predatory and parasitic wasps and flies, insect-eating birds, and plants from different regions or countries to control pests. Common practice was to release these introduced agents into new environments, the expectation being that they would destroy resident pests. Some species of toad already had successful records as agents of biological control in gardens. For example, in 19th-century France toads were sold to gardeners at markets in Paris to eat insect pests in their gardens. In the early 20th century French sugar cane farmers first took giant toads from South America to control pests in their Caribbean sugar cane plantations. Although there is no evidence that these toads did help to control pests, sugar cane scientists then carried some of these toads from Jamaica and Barbados to Puerto Rico and from there to Hawaii.

The idea of biological control of pests was not new to Australia. For example, in 1926 there had been a highly successful prevention of the increase of the exotic prickly-pear cactus by the introduction of a moth from Argentina. This success added strength to the argument that biological control was the answer to the sugar cane industry's pest problems. Accordingly, in the early 1930s a decision was taken to introduce the giant South American toads, which in Australia are now commonly called cane toads, into Australian sugar cane plantations.

In 1935, an Australian entomologist brought 101 cane toads from Hawaii and released them in sugar cane plantations in the north of Australia. However, over the following years it became clear that the cane toads were a failure. There was a fatal flaw in the plan to use them as a form of biological control. This was that earthbound cane toads were expected to eat the mostly flying adult beetles in order to eliminate the soil-dwelling beetle larvae that ate the roots of the cane sugar plants. This, of course, cane toads could not do.

Prior to their introduction in Australia, there had been very few opponents and only one made his views public. He was a retired former Chief Entomologist from the state government of New South Wales named Walter Froggatt. He forecast that cane toads might become as great a pest in Australia as rabbits. However, Froggatt's peers rebuked him and eminent scientists branded his views 'decidedly pessimistic'. It is estimated that today as many as a hundred million cane toads form a toxic infestation which is slowly spreading throughout the land.

Cane toads are large, heavily built amphibians. Average-sized adults are 10-15 cm long and weigh more than a kilo. They have large swellings on each shoulder from which they squirt poison when they are threatened. This venom contains 14 different chemicals, but they do not appear to be harmful to humans as no-one has died in Australia from cane toad poison. Until recently there was no understanding of the toxicity of cane toad poison, but it is now clear that freshwater crocodiles, goannas (large lizards) and dingoes (wild dogs) have died after eating cane toads. Cane toads compete with native Australian fauna for food, and eat the eggs and young of ground-nesting birds. As their numbers increase, they are taking over more and more of the land where native Australian fauna live.

The lesson that can be learned from the introduction of cane toads is important. It is wrong to think that such an awful biological event could not be repeated. In this instance, the catalyst was the overwhelming consensus of support for introducing cane toads to Australia. The error was that there was little or no testing of these biological agents before they were introduced to see what unplanned effects they might have on the environment.

Questions 1–7

Complete the notes below.

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

Write your answer in boxes 1–7 on your answer sheet.

Pest control

Early 20th-century problems in Australia

- The larvae of a type of **1** …… were a serious pest in sugar cane fields.
- Its larvae ate the **2** …… of the plant.
- Chemical pesticides were unsatisfactory because they were:
  - poisonous
  - **3** ……
  - difficult to remove from the ground

Experiences with biological pest control

- The use of insects, plants and birds was widespread.
- In the 19th century French **4** …… used toads.
- In Australia a **5** …… stopped the spread of prickly-pear cactus.
- Cane toads were brought to Australia from **6** …….
- Cane toads proved to be a **7** …… as pest control.

Questions 8–13

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

In boxes 8–13 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*

8 The outcome of the introduction of cane toads was immediately obvious.

9 Rabbits were introduced to Australia to control weeds.

10 Walter Froggatt was criticised for his efforts to stop the introduction of the cane toad to Australia.

11 The average size of cane toads has increased since their introduction.

12 Australian animals can eat cane toads safely.

13 In many places cane toads are gaining control of the habitats of Australian fauna.

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Questions 1–7（ONE WORD ONLY）

题号	答案	题干翻译	详细定位句（原文	第X段）	定位句翻译	详细解释
1	**beetle**	一种**____**的幼虫在甘蔗地里是严重害虫。	“This was a species of **beetle** whose larvae … lived underground …”（第1段）	这是一种**甲虫**，它的幼虫……生活在地下……	题干是 “The larvae of a type of ____”，原文结构是 “a species of **beetle** whose larvae…”：**beetle（甲虫）**是 “这种昆虫的种类”，larvae是它的幼虫。只填一个词，填 beetle 最精准。
2	**roots**	它的幼虫啃食植物的**____**。	“The sugar cane plants were weakened or died because their **roots** were eaten by the larvae.”（第1段）	甘蔗变弱或死亡，因为它们的**根部**被幼虫吃掉了。	题干 “Its larvae ate the ____ of the plant.” 直接对应原文 “roots were eaten”。语义与语法都完全匹配。
3	**expensive**	化学农药不理想，因为它们：有毒；____；难以从土壤中清除。	“…but these were not only **expensive** but also stayed in the environment and were poisonous…”（第1段）	……这些不仅**昂贵**，而且还会残留在环境中，并且对人、植物和动物有毒。	题干三点并列：poisonous / ___ / difficult to remove。原文给出三点：**poisonous**（有毒）、**expensive**（昂贵）、**stayed in the environment**（残留→对应 “难以从地里清除”）。所以空3填 **expensive**。
4	**gardeners**	19世纪法国的**____**使用蟾蜍。	“…in 19th-century France toads were sold to **gardeners** … to eat insect pests…”（第2段）	在19世纪的法国，蟾蜍被卖给**园丁**……让它们吃花园里的害虫。	题干 “French ____ used toads.” 原文明确买/用蟾蜍的人是 **gardeners**。注意只要一个词，不能写 people / farmers 之类。
5	**moth**	在澳大利亚，一种**____**阻止了仙人掌（prickly-pear cactus）的扩散。	“…the introduction of a **moth** from Argentina.”（第3段）	……通过引入一只来自阿根廷的**蛾**。	题干说 “stopped the spread”，原文是 “successful prevention of the increase … by the introduction of a **moth**”。moth（蛾）就是生物防治的 “引入物种”。
6	**Hawaii**	甘蔗蟾蜍从**____**被带到澳大利亚。	“In 1935, … brought 101 cane toads from **Hawaii** …”（第4段）	1935年……从**夏威夷**带来101只甘蔗蟾蜍……	题干问 “brought to Australia from ____”，原文直接写 from **Hawaii**。
7	**failure**	甘蔗蟾蜍作为害虫防治证明是一次**____**。	“…it became clear that the cane toads were a **failure**.”（第4段）	……后来很明显，甘蔗蟾蜍是一次**失败**。	题干 “proved to be a ____ as pest control” 对应原文 “were a **failure**”。注意这里要名词/表语：a failure（一次失败）最地道。

Questions 8–13（TRUE / FALSE / NOT GIVEN）

题号	答案	题干翻译	详细定位句（原文	第X段）	定位句翻译	详细解释（同义替换 / 逻辑判定）
8	**FALSE**	引入甘蔗蟾蜍的结果立刻就很明显。	“However, **over the following years it became clear** that the cane toads were a failure.”（第4段）	然而，在**接下来的几年里**才逐渐清楚……这是一次失败。	题干关键词 **immediately**（立刻）。原文是 **over the following years**（在随后的几年里才变清楚），明确否定 “立刻明显”。所以 **FALSE**（直接矛盾）。
9	**NOT GIVEN**	兔子被引入澳大利亚是为了控制杂草。	“He forecast that cane toads might become as great a pest in Australia as **rabbits**.”（第5段）	他预测甘蔗蟾蜍在澳大利亚可能会像**兔子**一样成为大害。	文中只提到 **rabbits** 作为 “害虫规模” 的类比，没有交代**兔子为什么被引入**（更没有说为控weeds）。既不支持也不反驳，信息缺失 → **NOT GIVEN**。
10	**TRUE**	Walter Froggatt 因为试图阻止引入甘蔗蟾蜍而受到批评。	“Prior … very few opponents and only one made his views public… named Walter Froggatt.” + “Froggatt’s peers **rebuked** him and … branded his views ‘decidedly pessimistic’.”（第5段）	在引入前反对者很少，只有一人公开表达观点……他叫 Walter Froggatt。后来他的同行**斥责**他，并把他的观点贴上 “明显悲观” 的标签。	题干的 “efforts to stop” 在文中不直接用 stop 这个词，但他被明确称为 **opponent**（反对者）且 **made his views public**（公开反对），这本质上就是 “试图阻止/反对引入”。同时他确实被 **rebuked / branded**（被批评、被贴负面标签）。因此 **TRUE**。
11	**NOT GIVEN**	甘蔗蟾蜍的平均体型自引入后变大了。	“Average-sized adults are 10–15 cm long …”（第6段）	平均体型的成体……长10–15厘米……	原文只给出**现在/一般**的平均尺寸（10–15cm），没有给出 “引入时的平均尺寸” 或 “过去 vs 现在” 的对比，因此无法判断 “是否增加”。→ **NOT GIVEN**。
12	**FALSE**	澳大利亚动物可以安全地吃甘蔗蟾蜍。	“…freshwater crocodiles, goannas … and dingoes … **have died after eating cane toads**.”（第6段）	……淡水鳄、巨蜥和野狗在吃了甘蔗蟾蜍后**死亡**。	题干说 can eat safely（能安全吃），原文说 **have died after eating**（吃了会死）。直接矛盾 → **FALSE**。
13	**TRUE**	在许多地方，甘蔗蟾蜍正在占据澳大利亚动物的栖息地。	“As their numbers increase, they are **taking over more and more of the land** where native Australian fauna live.”（第6段）	随着数量增加，它们正在**占据越来越多**本土动物生存的土地。	题干 “gaining control of habitats” ≈ 原文 **taking over … the land where native fauna live**（接管/占据本土动物生存的土地）。含义一致，所以 **TRUE**。