

## READING PASSAGE 1

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

### The history of the guitar

*An overview of the origins of the modern guitar*

The earliest stringed instruments currently known to archaeologists are bowl harps. For millennia, people made bowl harps using, for example, tortoise shells as resonators, with a bent stick for a neck and one or more gut or silk strings. The world's museums contain many such harps from the ancient Sumerian, Babylonian, and Egyptian civilisations. Around 2500-2000 BC, more advanced harps, such as the beautifully carved 11-stringed instrument found in the tomb of Queen Shub-Ad in ancient Mesopotamia, now modern-day Iraq, started to appear.

The *tanbur*\* probably developed from the bowl harp. It was different from the bowl harp in that its neck was straightened out to allow the strings to be pressed down to create more notes. Tomb paintings and stone carvings in Egypt indicate that harps and tanburs – plus flutes and percussion instruments – were being played together 3,500-4,000 years ago. Archaeologists have also found many similar relics amongst the ruins of the ancient Mesopotamian civilisation. Many of these instruments have survived into modern times in almost unchanged form, for example, folk instruments of the region such as the Turkish *saz* and Afghan *panchtar*.

At 3,500 years old, the tanbur which belonged to the Egyptian singer Har-Mose is the earliest known example of this instrument. Har-Mose's tanbur had three strings and a plectrum suspended from the neck by a cord. The soundbox, which increased the volume, was made of beautifully polished cedarwood and covered in rawhide. It can be seen today at the Archaeological Museum in Cairo.

In order to distinguish guitars from other stringed instruments, it is helpful to have a broad definition of the guitar. Music expert Dr Michael Kasha defines a guitar as having 'a long, fretted neck, flat wooden soundboard, ribs, and a flat back, most often with sides that curve inwards'. The oldest known visual representation of such an instrument is a stone carving at Alaca Huyuk in Turkey, which shows a 3,300-year-old instrument with a long neck and sides that clearly curve inwards.

---

*\*tanbur*: a long-necked stringed instrument with a small pear-shaped body

The name 'guitar' comes from the ancient Sanskrit word for 'string' – 'tar'. Many popular stringed instruments used in Central Asia today have existed in an unchanged form for several thousand years, as shown by archaeological finds in the area. Many have names that end in 'tar', with a prefix indicating the number of strings, such as the doter, a two-stringed instrument found in Turkestan, and the Persian three-stringed setar and four-stringed chartar. The Indian sitar almost certainly took its name from the setar, but over the centuries it evolved radically, following the Indians' own aesthetic and cultural ideals.

Tanburs and harps spread around the ancient world with travellers, merchants and seamen. The earliest guitar-like instruments to arrive in Europe had, most often, four strings. Many such instruments, and variations with from three to five strings, can be seen in mediaeval illustrated manuscripts. They were also carved in stone in European churches and cathedrals, from the first century AD through until the 13th century.

When the four-stringed Persian chartar arrived in Spain, however, it changed in form and construction, acquiring pairs of strings tuned to the same note instead of single strings. It became known as the chitarra. By the middle of the 14th century, the chitarra had become dominant, at least in most of Europe. The earliest known music for the eight-stringed chitarra was written in 16th-century Spain. The ten-string version first appeared in Italy at the same time, and gradually replaced the eight-stringed instrument. A further two strings first appeared in the 17th century, an innovation which guitar makers all over Europe quickly took up. However, this twelve-string arrangement gradually gave way to six single strings across the continent. The six-stringed guitar can thus be said to be a development of the twelve-string, rather than vice versa, as was thought previously.

At the beginning of the 19th century, the present-day guitar began to take shape, although bodies were still fairly small and narrow-waisted. The modern classical guitar first appeared in its current form in the mid-19th century, when the Spanish guitar maker Antonio Torres increased the size of the body, altered its proportions, and introduced the revolutionary *fan-braced top* \*\*. His design radically increased the volume and improved the tone of the instrument, and very soon became the norm. This design has remained essentially unchanged to this day.

At the time when Torres made his breakthrough, German immigrants to America – among them Christian Friedrich Martin – began making guitars with X-braced tops. Steel strings, which became widely available several decades later in the early 1900s, offered the promise of a much louder guitar, but the increased tension was too much for the fan-braced top. The stronger X-braced top proved equal to the job, and quickly became the industry standard.

At the end of the 19th century, guitar manufacturer Orville Gibson added steel strings to a body constructed like a cello, a combination which produced more volume. The electric guitar was born when pickups were fitted to Hawaiian and jazz guitars in the late 1920s, but met with little success until 1936, when Gibson introduced its famous ES150 model.

---

*fan-braced top* \*\*: a strengthening structure in the shape of a fan inserted into the soundbox

## Questions 1–6

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

*In boxes 1–6 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 instrument found in Queen Shub-Ad's tomb is the world's oldest known version of a harp.
- 2 Today's Afghan panchtar is very similar to an ancient Mesopotamian instrument.
- 3 The Egyptian singer Har-Mose was an excellent tanbur player.
- 4 The Cairo Archaeological Museum contains many historic musical instruments.
- 5 The instrument carved in stone at Alaca Huyuk is consistent with Dr Michael Kasha's definition of a guitar.
- 6 The different instruments that appeared in medieval literature had the same number of strings.

## Questions 7–13

Complete the table below.

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

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

### The development of the guitar

Date	Type of instrument	Notes
13th–19th century	Chitarra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>was a development of an earlier instrument called the 7 _____</li><li>extra strings added in the 16th century in Italy</li></ul>
from around the 1850s	Classical guitar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>its shape a result of modifications, including a larger 8 _____ introduced by Antonio Torres</li><li>changes produced better tone and greater 9 _____</li></ul>
—	X-braced top guitar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>first made in 10 _____ in the mid-19th century</li><li>strings made of 11 _____ became available around 1900</li></ul>
1920s onwards	Electric guitar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>in the 1920s, 12 _____ were added to guitars</li><li>a well-known version was brought out by 13 _____</li></ul>

#### 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.

### 判断题 (1–6)

题号	答案	题干翻译	精确定位 (段落/原句摘录)	详细解释 (同义改写/排除)
1	FALSE	在舒布-阿德王后墓中发现的那件乐器是世界上已知最古老的竖琴。	A 段: <i>The earliest stringed instruments ... are bowl harps ... 'Around 2500–2000 BC more advanced harps ... found in the tomb of Queen Shub-Ad'</i>	文中先说最早的弦乐器是“碗形竖琴 (bowl harps)”，而舒布-阿德墓中的那把是更先进的后期竖琴 (公元前 2500–2000 年) → 并非“最古老”。“world's oldest”与文本冲突，故 FALSE。
2	TRUE	现在的阿富汗 panchtar 与古代美索不达米亚的一种乐器非常相似。	B 段: <i>Many of these instruments have survived into modern times in almost unchanged form, for example ... the Afghan panchtar."</i>	“almost unchanged (几乎未变)” ≈ “very similar (非常相似)”。这些“几乎未变”的乐器来自美索不达米亚遗存，例子里含 panchtar，故 TRUE。
3	NOT GIVEN	埃及歌手 Har-Mose 是一位出色的坦布尔 (tanbur) 演奏者。	C 段: <i>the tanbur which belonged to the Egyptian singer Har-Mose is the earliest known example..."</i>	只说明这把坦布尔属于 Har-Mose，是现存最早样例；未提其演奏水平 (excellent)。无信息判断其是否“出色”，故 NOT GIVEN。
4	NOT GIVEN	开罗考古博物馆收藏有许多历史乐器。	C 段: <i>It can be seen today at the Archaeological Museum in Cairo."</i>	只说这件乐器可以在该馆看到 (单数 it)，未提“many/大量乐器”。数量信息缺失，故 NOT GIVEN。
5	TRUE	阿拉贾许育克 (Alaca Huyuk) 的石刻中的乐器与 Kasha 博士对吉他的定义一致。	D 段: 定义后接着说 <i>The oldest known visual representation of such an instrument is a stone carving at Alaca Huyuk..."</i>	“such an instrument”指代按 Kasha 定义的吉他 (长有品颈、内收侧板、平面面板与背板等)。石刻所示即符合该定义，故 TRUE。
6	FALSE	中世纪文献中出现的不同乐器拥有相同数量的琴弦。	F 段: <i>variations with from three to five strings can be seen in mediaeval illustrated manuscripts."</i>	清楚写明有 3–5 根不同弦数的变体，而非“相同”。故 FALSE。

### 表格填空 (7–13)

每空仅填一个词 (来自原文)。

题号	答案 (ONE WORD ONLY)	题干中文翻译 (对应空格)	精确定位 (段落/原句摘录)	详细解释 (同义改写/排除)
7	chartar	由更早的乐器——称为 _____ ——发展而来	G 段: <i>When the four-stringed Persian chartar arrived in Spain ... It became known as the chitarra."</i>	说的是 chitarra 的来源。抵达西班牙的 chartar 演变为 chitarra → earlier instrument 即 chartar。拼写注意 chartar (非 charter)。
8	body	其外形经过改动，其中包括更大的 _____ (由 Torres 引入)	H 段: <i>Antonio Torres increased the size of the body, altered its proportions, and introduced the ... fan-braced top."</i>	“modifications including a larger ... introduced by Torres” 对应“更大的 body”。(fan-braced top 是另一项创新，但题干用“including a larger ...” 明示要填“更大”的那个部件。)
9	volume	这些改变带来更好的音色与更大的 _____	H 段: <i>His design radically increased the volume and improved the tone."</i>	“better tone” = “improved the tone”；与之并列的是 “increased the volume”。
10	America	19 世纪中期首先在 _____ 制造 (X-braced top guitar)	I 段: <i>German immigrants to America ... began making guitars with X-braced tops."</i>	明确写在美国开始制作带 X 扶梁的面板。填 America (一词)。
11	steel	约 1900 年出现用 _____ 制成的琴弦	I 段: <i>Steel strings ... became widely available ... in the early 1900s."</i>	“strings made of ...” = “steel”。时间与题干 “around 1900” 相符。
12	pickups	20 世纪 1920 年代，在吉他上加装了 _____	J 段: <i>The electric guitar was born when pickups were fitted to Hawaiian and jazz guitars in the late 1920s."</i>	“were added to guitars” = “were fitted to” → 填 pickups。
13	Gibson	一个著名版本由 _____ 推出	J 段: <i>... met with little success until 1936, when Gibson introduced its famous ES150 model."</i>	“brought out by” = “introduced by” → 厂商名 Gibson (首字母大写，但按题型不区分大小写)。