

Ultimate IELTS Series Book 7

**COMPLETE
PRACTICE
TESTS**

————— for IELTS

*Complete practice
tests with answer key
and model answers*

Written and developed by Impact Learning

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Practice tests

Speaking tests

Speaking test 1

Part 1:

- "Do you enjoy cooking?"
- "Do you prefer home cooked meals or fast food?"
- "What would you typically eat for lunch? "
- "Let's talk about photographs. Do you take many photographs?"
- "Do you enjoy looking at photographs?"
- "Do you enjoy looking at photographs?"
- "When do you mostly take photographs?"
- "Now let's talk about transport. Do you often use public transport?"
- "Do you often walk anywhere?"
- "Have you ever been on a long journey?"
- "Do you prefer to travel alone or with other people?"

Part 2:

Talk about a business you would like to start.

You should say

- what it would be
- where it would be
- who your customers would be

You should also say why you would like to start this business.

Part 3:

- "What are the advantages and disadvantages of running your own business? "

- "What makes a successful business person?"
- "Do you think technology will affect the way we do business?"
- "What makes a good employer?"
- "Do you think life would be better if we all worked less?"

Speaking test 1 model answers

"Do you enjoy cooking?"

"Well, no, not really - I've never been very good at it. I don't really have the patience for all the preparation that needs to be done, and I really don't like the cleaning up afterwards. Occasionally, if I have friends coming over, I might make a few simple dishes, but it seems to take me much longer than it does for other people. Most of my friends are much better in the kitchen, so I normally buy the ingredients and they do the cooking!"

"Do you prefer home cooked meals or fast food?"

Hmm...that really depends on what mood I am in. If I have to get dinner, I often choose fast food, but I really enjoy eating a home cooked meal with vegetables. It's much healthier, and you can easily get bored of fast food. There aren't many different take away options near where I live, so after pizza, burgers or chips, the only other choice is home cooked food. I suppose one of the main reasons I prefer food cooked at home is that it's the only way to have the kind of traditional food I grew up with as a child.

"What would you typically eat for lunch? "

Well, if I'm at work, I don't have a lot of time so I might only have something quick like a sandwich or some noodles. Some days I might not even have anything for lunch - I know that's not good for you, but there isn't always the opportunity to sit down and have a break and something to eat. Weekends are different though - I like to have a large lunch and a smaller dinner, so I might go out and meet friends in a restaurant or get a take away. The only problem is that after eating a large lunch I often get tired in the afternoon and end up falling asleep!

"Let's talk about photographs. Do you take many photographs?"

I used to have my camera with me most of the time, taking all kinds of photographs of the garden, the house - even the dog. But recently I haven't really bothered. In fact, I can't remember the last time I took a photograph since I came back from holiday. I went to New Zealand for two weeks and took so many photographs! I like to keep all my pictures

together in an album; it helps me remember what I did and where I was. I even have a photograph album I started when I was 12, although cameras have improved a lot since then!

"Do you enjoy looking at photographs?"

Oh, yes - as I mentioned, I used to take a lot of photos to remind of places I'd been or things I'd seen, and it's nice to look back through them every now and again. The only problem is I get bored looking at other people's photographs. A friend of mine recently returned from a long holiday in Europe and brought back over *one thousand* photographs he had taken! Well, it took over an hour to look through them as he spent about five minutes on each one explaining where it was and who he was with. I was very interested in the beginning, but after about 20 minutes I wasn't really concentrating. I think photographs are very personal and I don't show anyone mine because they mean more to the person who took them than to anyone looking at them.

"Do you prefer photographs of people or places?"

Erm... I suppose that depends on who is in the photos. If it's people I know, then I don't mind looking at photographs of people, but I'm not that interested in seeing pictures of people I've never met. Generally, though, I'm much more interested in landscapes. They don't have to be recognisable or historic places - just so long as they are a little artistic. Unfortunately, I'm not very good at taking any kind of photo, but a friend of mine takes excellent pictures of places. She took photographs of her grandmother's house - it's a small cottage in the country - and the angles she took the pictures from, as well as the sunlight and shadows, made the pictures really interesting. She's actually entered a competition with those pictures, so I guess they must be good.

"When do you mostly take photographs?"

Well...I..I used to take photos all the time, but as I said, I don't take as many these days. I suppose the two occasions where I still take pictures would be my holidays and special events, like my brother's birthday party. A few months ago, a friend of mine got married and I must have spent half the day taking pictures of the bride and groom as well as the venue. I am planning to put the pictures into an album to give them for their first wedding anniversary.

"Now let's talk about transport. Do you often use public transport?"

Very rarely - I live a little way out of the main routes to the city, so the public transport system isn't really very convenient for me. The local council have a scheme where you drive to a large car park and the bus will take you the rest of the way into town - I think it's called the 'Park and Ride' - but I haven't used it yet. But it's not only that public transport doesn't really get near my home, it's also so expensive. I know running your own car is not cheap, but for me to get to work and back using the bus would cost almost as much as using my own car, but without the convenience.

"Do you often walk anywhere?"

Actually, I have recently started to walk a lot more than I used to. My nearest shop - it's only a local convenience store but that's where I do my basic shopping - is only about one kilometre away. I used to drive, but now I walk whenever it's not raining just so I get some exercise. I have a dog, so he comes with me for the exercise too - I think it does both of us some good! Like most people, though, I could do with walking even more - perhaps as far as the town, although that's over 5 kilometres.

"Have you ever been on a long journey?"

Err...yes, I have. I suppose my longest journey would be travelling to England to visit relatives last year. It's a 14 hour flight from here, and it was the longest I have ever been on an aeroplane. The journey out was fine - I thought it would be quite boring, but it was one of the newer aircraft with a movies, television and computer games available, so there was lots to do. The return trip wasn't so good though - there was a young child sitting in the row in front of me, and for most of the flight he was crying and screaming. I don't suppose he was much older than three. So that wasn't so good for me, although I did feel sorry for the parents - they look so tired by the time we landed!

"Do you prefer to travel alone or with other people?"

Well, there are benefits to both travelling with others and travelling solo. With other people around, the trip can be more fun, and you get to share experiences and talk about them with people that have seen and done what you have. On the other hand, I like the independence of travelling by myself. I choose when I stop, where I eat, where I go - and this is often better than having to get your travel companions to agree before you do anything. I guess the ideal way to travel would be with someone else who also likes to be independent sometimes, so you can travel together but also spend some time alone.

Part Two

Talk about a business you would like to start.

You should say

- what it would be
- where it would be
- who your customers would be

You should also say why you would like to start this business.

"Well, I've never really thought about becoming self employed, but if I did run my own company I think it would be something in the healthcare industry. I think it could be rewarding to run a retirement home for the elderly. I'm a nurse, so it would be a good way for me to continue using my training. Ideally, it would be somewhere in the country - I don't really like big cities, and a relaxed rural atmosphere would be good for the residents, I think. It would have to be quite near some facilities though - shops, a swimming pool, things like that. Oh, and there would have to be some type of public transport nearby.

Um... of course, the people using the home would be elderly, at least 65 years old, but they wouldn't have to be rich. I'd like to make the home profitable, but not be exploiting the residents and charging so much that only rich people can come.

As I mentioned, my experience as a nurse would be valuable, but I'd also be interested in this because the elderly are very often overlooked here. In my culture, most families look after older relatives and retirement homes are very rare, although they are increasing. So if I was to run this kind of business I would try and make it as homely as possible so that people enjoy living there."

Part 3

"What are the advantages and disadvantages of running your own business? "

Well, one of the main advantages would be the freedom that comes with being self employed. Choosing your own hours of work and the areas you will focus on would clearly have a great appeal to some. But then, of course, this has to be balanced with the consideration that you are never far from work when you are your own boss. The expectations are likely to be higher, and people often spend considerably more time on their business when they are self employed. The pressures are also different; an advantage of running your own business is that you are not pressured by peers or bosses to perform. This, of course, can also become a negative point if that means you are not driven to keep working.

"What makes a successful business person?"

Hmm, that's an interesting question. If you were to look at some of the world most successful business people - people like Richard Branson for example - I think there are a number of key elements that can be identified. They are entrepreneurial but also have the courage to follow an idea through, no matter how strange it may first seem. Of course, there is also the ability to make money, but successful can also be other means, not just the financial profit. Bill Gates, though apparently ruthless in business, is very generous in charity. Richard Branson has regular parties for all his staff and welcomes them personally to his mansion. To my mind, this is what makes success.

"Do you think technology will affect the way we do business?"

Oh definitely. In fact, I think technology has been affecting the way we interact in business for quite some time. Consider the use of video phones in conference calls and emails for communication and placing orders. As another example, courier companies can send a package from one continent to another and see not only the exact moment it was delivered, but also who signed for the package. Technology will continue to affect the way we do business as confidence increases with regards purchasing online. Over recent years, secure payments made on a website have allowed business to be transacted not only in the volume of sales and business done, but also in the markets now reached. Technology has made it cost effective to sell a single product to a customer thousands of miles away. Technology has also allowed us to present our product more visually - in the days of print media only, a

black and white photograph was the most common method of promoting goods and services , but now we have websites, flash media, social networking sites likes Facebook and Youtube and many other platforms for people to promote their business.

"What makes a good employer?"

I think one of the fundamental aspects of being a good employee would be the ability to motivate people, to get the best out of those that work for you. I think a large part of that would be recruiting the right kind of employee, choosing people that you think will fit well in the team but also be able to use their own initiative. In my experience, one of the worst kinds of employer are those that micromanage - they can't leave you alone to complete a task without looking over your shoulder This leads to people not being able to take pride in what they do, and in many cases leads to a high staff turnover.

"Do you think life would be better if we all worked less?"

Oh yes, definitely. I mean, although many people may enjoy their work, I think it is important to maintain perspective - that you work to live, not live to work. You are lucky if you find and can keep a job you enjoy doing; but even so, it should not interfere with the more important aspects in life - family, relationships, friendships. If the working week was reduced from 5 days down to say, three, or even four days, people would find time to do more of the things they often think about doing but don't get round to. I think most people - well, certainly me - would get out more if I could have three days away from work rather than just the weekend. Look how excited most people get when we have a long weekend because of a holiday on Friday or Monday, for example.

Speaking test 2

Part 1:

- "Do you often go shopping for clothes?"
- "Do you think it's important to dress well?"
- "Do you have particular national dress in your country?"
- "I'd like to talk about the news now. Do you often read newspapers?"
- "Where do you go to get news?"
- "Do you listen to news broadcasts on the radio?"
- "Let's move on to talk about holidays. Did you often go on holiday when you were a child?"
- "Would you prefer to travel overseas for a holiday?"
- "Do you have plans for a holiday in the future?"

Part 2:

Describe a place you'd like to live in the future

You should say:

- Where it would be
- What it would be like
- Who you would live with

You should also say why you would like to live there.

Part 3:

- "What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a rural area?"
- "Has the standard of living changed much in your country over the last ten years?"
- "Do you think more people will choose to leave their native country and live abroad in the future?"

- "Do you think students should be encouraged to study overseas? "
- Do you think that increased mobility has had a negative effect on communities?

Speaking test 2 model answers

Part 1

"Do you often go shopping for clothes?"

"Well, I like to dress well but I don't really enjoy going out to buy clothes. It can take such a long time to find something that I like, and then I have to go to the changing rooms to try it on and make sure it's a good fit, and even then sometimes when I get home I find that they are not as comfortable as I thought. I much prefer to go shopping for electronic goods – I can spend hours looking at things like laptop computers or iPods."

"Do you think it's important to dress well?"

I think that really depends on what you intend to do that day. As I mentioned, I like to look smart, but if it's a weekend or in the evening, it's much more important to dress comfortably. I wear smart clothes to work, of course, and many of my colleagues wear ties or dark business dresses. Our company has a policy that on Fridays it's OK to wear more casual clothes, so I might go into work wearing jeans but I would always wear a clean, ironed shirt – never just a t-shirt.

"Do you have particular national dress in your country?"

"Well, yes, we do. On certain days of the year, then men would wear black trousers and a white shirt, often with a thin red scarf. The women wear a black dress and a white shirt, but have a scarf that is more orange in colour. The clothing is a lot more elaborate than normal though, with a lot of embroidery and designs. Many people also have the shirts or blouses made of silk too, so they can look very striking."

"I'd like to talk about the news now. Do you often read newspapers?"

Well, not very often. There is a free local newspaper that gets delivered every week and I have a quick look through that, but I rarely buy a newspaper. If I do, it would be one of the national papers. I sometimes read The Tribune when I'm at work, in my coffee breaks, but

mostly just the headlines. I don't really have a lot of free time to sit and relax with a paper. If I do have time, I prefer to listen to music or watch television.

"Where do you go to get news?"

Hmmm... a lot of the time I would just find that out when I'm surfing the internet, or sometimes I watch the news on the television. I'm more interested in local news, so I can get some information from the free local paper. I think that sometimes newspapers and the television will sometimes sensationalise the pieces that they present and very often have a bias when they are reporting events, especially if they are political. A lot of what I know about the news actually comes from talking with my colleagues at work – they seem much more informed about events than me!

"Do you listen to news broadcasts on the radio?"

No, not really. Sometimes when I'm driving I might listen to the short news broadcasts that comes on every hour, but only because the radio is on. I wouldn't make a special effort to tune in just for the news. The problem with the news on the radio is that it is much less informative because it doesn't have any images to show what is happening. For instance, the recent tsunami was being described on the radio just a few days ago, and they were discussing the amount of damage caused, but it was only when I saw the images on the television that I really got a feel for the amount of destruction that had been caused.

"Let's move on to talk about holidays. Did you often go on holiday when you were a child?"

I wouldn't say often, as both my parents worked, but I do remember some family holidays we took together. They were always fun, even if the weather wasn't so good. We would go to the beach with a little caravan and spend about a week there – we always went to the same place. Sometimes it would be warm enough to go swimming in the sea, but if not, we would play games as a family, or go into the town to the cinema and somewhere nice to eat. The thing I remember most is that it was when we all got to spend the most time together, and everyone had fun.

"Would you prefer to travel overseas for a holiday?"

No, not particularly. Of course, it's always interesting to see other places and experience other cultures, but I think you can have a perfectly good holiday in your country. I guess it also depends on whether or not you have children to think about. Taking a family of four to another country, especially if that means flying, can be very expensive and can take a day or two off your holiday just travelling. Having said that, though, I think it's always good to be in warm country when you're on holiday and sometimes that does mean travelling abroad.

"Do you have plans for a holiday in the future?"

Yes, definitely! As soon as I have taken my IELTS test and got the results I need, I am going to France to visit my brother and his family. They moved over there a few years ago and I haven't been yet so I am going to treat myself to a 10 day break. I'm really looking forward to it, and it'll be nice to get away after having studied for this test for the last few months. After that holiday, though, I will be looking for a new job so probably won't have much time off for a while, so I'm going to make the most of my trip to Paris.

"Have you ever been on a long journey?"

Err...yes, I have. I suppose my longest journey would be travelling to England to visit relatives last year. It's a 14 hour flight from here, and it was the longest I have ever been on an aeroplane. The journey out was fine - I thought it would be quite boring, but it was one of the newer aircraft with a movies, television and computer games available, so there was lots to do. The return trip wasn't so good though – there was a young child sitting in the row in front of me, and for most of the flight he was crying and screaming. I don't suppose he was much older than three. So that wasn't so good for me, although I did feel sorry for the parents – they look so tired by the time we landed!

"Do you prefer to travel alone or with other people?"

Well, there are benefits to both travelling with others and travelling solo. With other people around, the trip can be more fun, and you get to share experiences and talk about them with people that have seen and done what you have. On the other hand, I like the independence of travelling by myself. I choose when I stop, where I eat, where I go - and this is often better than having to get your travel companions to agree before you do

anything. I guess the ideal way to travel would be with someone else who also likes to be independent sometimes, so you can travel together but also spend some time alone.

Part Two

Describe a place you'd like to live in the future

You should say:

- Where it would be
- What it would be like
- Who you would live with

You should also say why you would like to live there.

"Well, I'd really like to live somewhere that has a comfortable temperature, not too hot or too cold. I think New Zealand has the perfect climate for me – although there are 4 different seasons, it can still reach temperatures of over 25 degrees in the summer, and in some places it doesn't freeze in the winter, even overnight, so that would be good for me. I have heard that it's also a beautiful country – I've seen some photographs of the national parks and they look amazing. I think they have even used the landscapes in a lot of movies like Lord of the Rings.

Of course I would take my family with me, which is another reason to think New Zealand would be a good place to live – it has a reputation of being such a safe country, so would be perfect as I have two young children who are about to start school. My wife is a nurse, and like most countries, New Zealand is also in desperate need of more people with a medical background in the workforce, so I think it would be easier for her to get a job in a hospital. In addition to everything I have already mentioned, I have also heard that New Zealand has a relatively small population – I think there are about 5 million people – and they are a very welcoming and friendly nation. In my country, most people live in the city and it is often overcrowded, so moving to a country that has some open spaces would be perfect.

I would like to live somewhere near one of the larger cities. Maybe not right in the middle of the city, but close so that it's accessible if I need to go. But regardless of all of these positive

aspects of living in New Zealand, I don't think we would every actually move there. We have a wide circle of friends here, and our parents both live nearby, so we see them quite often. I think perhaps the ideal situation would be to live somewhere for a few months of the year, but not permanently. That wouldn't really work for the children though, as that would interrupt their school schedule a little too much."

Part 3

"What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a rural area?"

Hmmm.... There are a number of clear advantages when considering health implications. City life tends to be much more hurried, leading to greater degrees of stress and tension, so a clear advantage of living in the countryside is that people tend to live much more stress-free lives. They don't have to contend with traffic jams, queues and the sheer number of people. There is also the environmental factor. The air quality in the city I live in is particularly bad – a combination of exhaust fumes, industrial pollution and a number of other factors. In the countryside, the environment is cleaner and this has obvious health benefits. However, there are issues about living in the countryside that I would find a problem. Shopping, for example – I like the fact that I can get almost anything I need without travelling too far, but living in more rural areas you wouldn't have access to the array of shops you have in the city.

"Has the standard of living changed much in your country over the last ten years?"

Well, there are still significant differences between rich and poor people, with some people continuing to live well below the poverty line, but in general I think there has been a significant change. There has been an increase in tourism over recent years which has brought money into the country, and that has improved most people living conditions. There has also been a much greater focus on education, with an increasing number of children attending school, which of course will have a significantly positive effect on the standard of living here in the future. However, there has been only minimal progress with regards healthcare, so I would say the standards there haven't really improved very much.

"Do you think more people will choose to leave their native country and live abroad in the future?"

Well, I think that a greater number of people may choose to travel to other countries, and may find a location they would prefer to live in than their home country. However, many people are not emigrating permanently, and may choose to return to their country of birth. In the future, I think that this migration is probably going to continue, but the main difference will be that travel becomes more affordable so even lower income families will have the option to relocate overseas, so the numbers will increase. Of course, it's likely that some of the countries that are currently so heavily favoured, such as the USA or the UK, will be less popular destinations in the future, so an increasing number of people may choose to live in countries that at the moment we don't really think about for immigration.

"Do you think students should be encouraged to study overseas? "

That would very much depend on their course of study. I would say that the benefits of studying science related subjects overseas are limited. Although you may get to see how other countries conduct research or experimentation, the basic rules and operating procedures in science will not vary between countries. However, I would say that there would be substantial advantages for students on courses involving people or language. For example, if studying the English language, it can be extremely beneficial to spend some time living in an English speaking country. Also, for a student studying design related subjects, it could be extremely advantageous to see other countries to absorb other perspectives and influences. Having said that, however, studying overseas should only be encouraged if it could be offered equally to all students, not just to those whose families could afford the costs.

Do you think that increased mobility has had a negative effect on communities?

Hmmm...that's not something I've ever really thought about, but...I suppose there are changes to local communities when people leave and new people arrive, but I wouldn't agree that they were necessarily negative. New arrivals into a community may be able to offer new things that would definitely benefit the local people, but then there is also the

lack of long term bonds that can often be a significant part of smaller communities. Living in a city, there is less of a community feeling and that does have an effect on social behaviour, I think. We have problems with vandalism and graffiti that I imagine would be much less common in a community where everyone knows each other and people are easily recognised. However, I would say that on the whole an increase in people's ability to move to other communities is a positive thing.

Speaking test 3

Part 1:

- "Do you live in a house or a flat?"
- "What kind of facilities do you have in the surrounding area?"
- "Would you recommend this area to a friend?"
- "I'd like to move on to talk about music now. Do you often listen to music?"
- "Do you use music for certain events in your country?"
- "Can you play any musical instruments?"
- "Do you often have visitors to your house?"
- "Do you prefer entertaining at home or going out?"
- "What type of food would you serve to guests in your home?"

Part 2:

Talk about something you do to relax

You should say:

- What it is
- How often you do it
- Where you do it

You should also say if you would recommend it.

Part 3:

- "Are our lives becoming more stressful?"
- "Do you think that people take enough time to relax each day?"
- "Do you think technology will allow us to lead more relaxing lives in the future?"
- "How has what people do for relaxation in your country changed in the last ten years?"

- "Do you think that there will be changes in the age of retirement?"

Speaking test 3 model answers

Part 1

"Do you live in a house or a flat?"

At the moment I am sharing a house with two other people. I've only been living there for a few months - I used to have a flat of my own, but I needed to save some money whilst I was studying so I moved in with them. It's a good sized house though, with plenty of room for three of us, and it's near the centre of town so it suits me well.

"What kind of facilities do you have in the surrounding area?"

Well, there's a park right opposite the house, which is lovely this time of year as we can sit out there for lunch or to play a game of football. There are also plenty of shops, so it's easy to get most things we need without having to travel too far. There is a small library in the area, but it's not very well stocked so sometimes we have to go to the larger library in the centre of town.

"Would you recommend this area to a friend?"

Oh yes, definitely. It's quite quiet even though it's near town, and it's a very safe neighbourhood. As I mentioned, it has all the facilities needed so you don't need to go very far. The neighbours are friendly and there are one or two good places to eat within easy walking distance. I wouldn't recommend it to anyone with young children though, as it's quite a distance from the nearest school. Our neighbour has to drive his children to and from school each day and it takes about half an hour in the mornings and the same in the afternoons.

"I'd like to move on to talk about music now. Do you often listen to music?"

Yes, I do. I like classical music and I listen to that a lot. I go to a lot of classical concerts too. I don't really like rock music, although the people I live with often have it on so I don't have much choice. I usually listen to the radio when I'm in the car, too, so I hear a lot of different kinds of music there. The one type of music I really can't listen to is Jazz – I find it quite annoying, although I have some close friends that love it!

"Do you use music for certain events in your country?"

Well, I suppose so... let me think. Hmm... we have music for weddings, of course – I think most countries and cultures have that. We also have a specific kind of music for funerals. Also, a lot of people use guitars and sing when we have a party. And then we have the national anthem, which I guess is played in the same places as most other countries - before sports matches, for example.

"Can you play any musical instruments?"

No, not really. I used to be able to play the guitar a little, but I haven't tried for many years now so I have probably forgotten how to play. My brother is very musical though – he can pick up almost any instrument and play it. He had piano lessons as a child and took to it very well, but since then has taught himself the guitar and the violin, but only as a hobby. I do have a friend that plays the guitar professionally though – he's very talented!

"Do you often have visitors to your house?"

Oh yes, definitely. In our culture it is very common to invite people over to your house for a meal or to celebrate a special occasion. Most times guests will arrive early in the evening and stay until about 11 o'clock at night, although that's different for younger people – I

think their parties carry on much later into the night. Sometimes we have friends over for the weekend, but that's only if they have had to travel a long way to get to see us.

"Do you prefer entertaining at home or going out?"

Well, to be honest I would prefer to go out! There is always such a lot of preparation if people come over to your house. It's considered polite in my culture to provide a meal for any guest, so there's often a lot of cooking and then there's the cleaning up afterwards. It is becoming increasingly common, however, for people to arrange to meet in a restaurant, and then the person who invites the others will generally pay the bill. I guess it's because people are busier these days and don't always have time to prepare.

"What type of food would you serve to guests in your home?"

Oh... that's a difficult question because it depends on a lot of things. If the guest is a close friend, we may have something casual, sometimes even a takeaway meal, but if it's a little more formal – for example, parents-in-law, we would have to make something more traditional. I'm not a very good cook so that's always a little hard for me! Another point is the age of the guests – if it's younger people, we could settle for something relatively simple like a pasta dish. However, if the guests are a little older we generally try to cook something more traditional, and sit down at the table to eat rather than sitting more comfortably in the living room.

Part Two

Talk about something you do to relax

You should say:

- What it is
-

- How often you do it
- Where you do it

You should also say if you would recommend it.

Well, when I have time there are a couple of things I like to do to relax. Perhaps my favourite would be to read a good book, particularly thrillers. I like novels about crime, but I'm not very fond of science fiction. I try to read as many books as I can in English, because it's a great way to improve my reading speed and pick up new vocabulary, although sometimes I can get bored of reading in English and would prefer a book written in my own language.

With work and my studies, however, I don't really get a lot of time to read – sometimes it can take me more than a month to finish one book. That doesn't mean that I don't spend a lot of time reading – I have a lot to read for my work – but I don't have a lot of time for reading books for relaxation. The most common place to read for pleasure for me would be in bed, although most of the time I start reading and after a few pages I can't keep my eyes open – I quite often fall asleep with a book still in my hands! I think I have read the same pages of the book I'm on now quite a few times because I keep losing my place.

Apart from that, I guess I would read the most when I am on holiday. If I go away for a few days just to relax, I can easily sit on the beach or in the park and spend all day reading, sometimes getting through a book a day! If I have been really busy at work and I don't have any other plans, I might also spend half a day during the weekend just reading and relaxing – I might sometimes not get out of bed until after midday if I am engrossed in a good book! I would definitely recommend reading for relaxation for a number of reasons, perhaps the strongest being that it allows you to 'escape' for a while into a fictional world. Although you can also do this watching a good film, for me a book is better because you have to visualise the characters and locations, so it's a far more personal interpretation. Even in a good film you are still shown what the characters look like and where they are, so a lot less is left to the imagination. Another reason I would recommend it, even though this may not be so relaxing, is that it is a great way to expand your vocabulary, especially if you are reading in English. There are many times when I might need to use a dictionary just to understand a

single page, and as soon as I learn a new word I suddenly seem to hear the word being used in other situations a lot more.

Part Three

"Are our lives becoming more stressful?"

I would say that there are many parts of our lives that we need to be careful to avoid becoming overly stressful. For example, in my job I am often offered overtime and although I could always use the extra money, I think it's important to sometimes say no and keep some free time to unwind, otherwise life could become stressful. I think that there are also increased pressures on people these days that perhaps weren't so bad in the past. We are constantly advised by television and media reports, as well as health professionals, that certain foods are bad and should be avoided, that we should take regularly exercise and always look our best.

Although that is important, it is also important to be able to relax now and again. An example might be that although I generally eat well, have at least three meals a day and eat plenty of fruit and vegetables, it is important not to stress too much about the occasions where I might choose to have some fast food like a burger, or some take away food that might not be very healthy. I think that if we balance such things carefully, there's no real need to be more stressed these days.

"Do you think that people take enough time to relax each day?"

No, definitely not. As I mentioned, people worry a little too much about what they eat, but apart from that many people work too hard and don't take some time out of each day to do something they enjoy. I think it's very important to have some kind of hobby or interest that you can spend some time doing to relax, but many people work long hours and even bring work home at the weekend. This is commonly the case when people are studying for a

specific purpose; when they do take a break they often feel a little guilty, with the thought that they shouldn't really be taking this time off when they have work to do. In reality, of course, there is always work to do, but it has been proven that working long hours without a break is actually less productive than people who spend a little time every couple of hours doing something they enjoy, even if it's only doing a crossword for a few minutes.

"Do you think technology will allow us to lead more relaxing lives in the future?"

Hmm... in theory, yes, but I think in practice that doesn't quite work. It is very common to find employees checking emails or answering their mobile phones at weekends or in the evenings when they should be relaxing. This kind of technology has meant that we are often always available, and people have become impatient with delays. For example, if a customer orders a product on a Saturday, they often expect that order to be processed and sent that same day, meaning that someone needs to be working. On the other side, however, mobile phones and laptop computers have meant that we don't necessarily need to be in the office every day, with an increasing number of people now being able to work from home. This means that rather than getting up very early to get through the morning rush hour traffic, some people are able to get up later and then be at work almost immediately without wasting time in traffic jams.

"How has what people do for relaxation in your country changed in the last ten years?"

In many ways there haven't been any significant changes. People still read books, listen to music or exercise, as well as spending time with friends and family. I think what has changed is the way in which people are able to do these things. For example, there are those who have always enjoyed reading, but now buy audio books and listen to them being read. In a similar way, iPods and iPhones have changed the way most people listen to music. We can put headphones on and listen to hours of music all stored in a single device – there's no need to change discs or anything like that. Spending time with friends has in many ways not

changed, although it is possible to speak to people over the internet using video chat so you can see and hear other people without necessarily being physically near each other.

"Do you think that there will be changes in the age of retirement?"

Well... that's a good question. I think with the increasing number of older people, combined with better medical treatment, people are still able to work much later in life that they used to be able to. In my country, the age of retirement is still about 65 years old, but many people are still able and willing to work until well into their seventies.

The problem, of course, is that with people working later in life, there are possibly fewer opportunities for younger people trying to get started in a career, and often the employer is paying higher wages to the more senior staff members. Then there is also the situation for self employed people. My father intended to retire a few years ago when he turned 60, but has continued working because the pension he would get from the government is not actually sufficient to support him. The chances are that he will continue to work long after the current retirement age.

Listening tests

Note: all of the question types, timings and pauses between recordings in this free online IELTS listening test are EXACTLY what you can expect in the IELTS test. Our free online material has been designed to emulate the IELTS test as accurately as possible in every aspect.

Listening test 1

Play Listening test 1 audio file #1

SECTION 1

Questions 1-10

Questions 1-5

Complete the form below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Northern Rental Bookings

Name: William (1)

Contact number: (2) 07

Address: 10 (3) Nelson

Payment by credit card type: (4) card.

Card No. 4550 1392 8309 3221

Card expiry date: July 20XX

Rental period: (5) days

Questions 6 to 10

Answer the following questions **USING NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER**

6. How much is the car per day?
7. What does the price include?
8. Who will he be visiting?
9. What kind of car does the agent recommend?
10. What does he need to collect the car?

Play Listening test 1 audio file #2

SECTION 2

Questions 11-20

Questions 11-15

Complete the tables below. If there is no information given, write X.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Overlander	
Distance / km	(11)
Highlight	3 volcanoes
Time / hours	11

Transalpine	
Distance / km	223
Highlight	(12) 16

Time / hours	(13)
--------------	------------

Transcoastal	
Distance / km	(14)
Highlight	(15)
Time / hours	5

Questions 16 to 20

Complete the summary below **USING NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER.**

Taking three days to complete, the (16) is one of the world's longest train journeys. The Ghan is shorter, passing through towns built by the (17) There is also a sculpture designed to mark the laying of the (18) concrete sleeper. The Overland was the first train to travel between the capital cities in two (19) and it is also the oldest journey of its kind on (20)

Play Listening test 1 audio file #3

SECTION 3

Questions 21-30

Questions 21-25

Circle the correct letter A–C.

21 Lyn is having difficulty completing her project because
A she doesn't have enough information.

B she can't organise her presentation.

C she doesn't have enough time.

22 Her presentation is going to focus on

A solar power in America.

B solar-powered water heaters.

C alternative energy technology.

23 Why does Lyn think we should be looking for alternative sources of energy?

A Fossil fuels are expensive.

B Fossil fuels have an impact on the environment.

C Fossil fuels are limited.

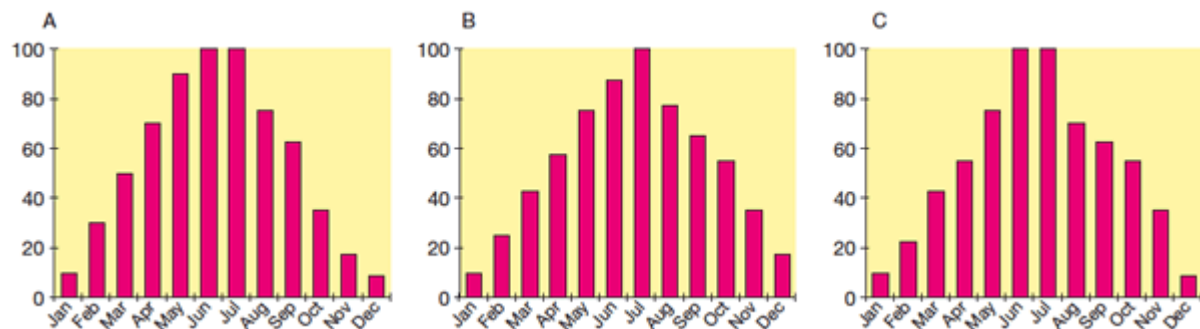
24 Solar power is a good form of alternative energy because

A it can be harnessed with simple technology

B it is infinite

C it can be applied equally well in any country.

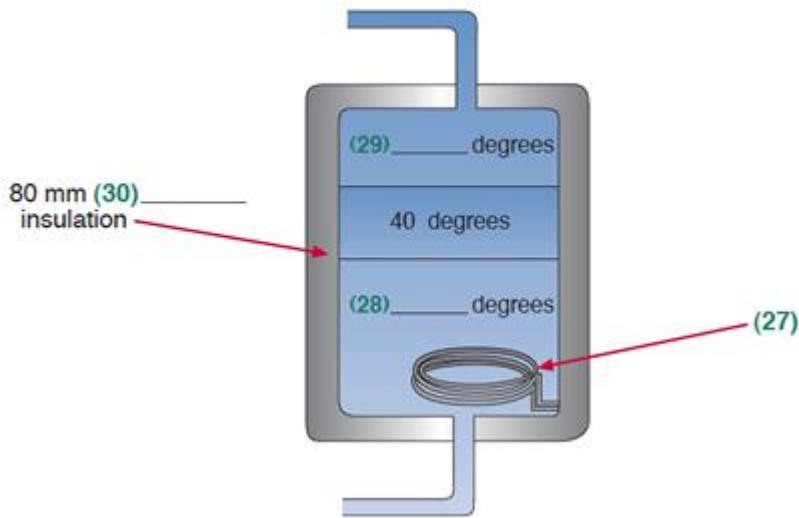
25 Which graph best indicates what Lyn is describing?



Questions 26 to 30

Label the following diagram USING NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND / OR A NUMBER

minimum tank capacity: (26) _____



26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

Play Listening test 1 audio file #4

SECTION 4

Complete the sentences below using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER**

Questions 31-40

Lecture on (31)

Examples: tourism and (32)

Common misconception is that marketing points to (33) in what is being provided.

Marketing is actually essential in maintaining (34)

Selling a product is easier because it is **(35)** and customers do not have such different **(36)**

Aim: offer service beyond hopes of **(37)**

Important to: (a) keep informed & (b) **(38)**

One way to achieve this: **(39)**

(40) must always be available for any queries or problems.

Listening test 1 answers

1. WADDELL (EXACT SPELLING REQUIRED FOR THIS POINT)
2. 263 8666 (IF YOU HAVE THIS NUMBER IN A DIFFERENT FORMAT, FOR EXAMPLE WITH DIFFERENT SPACING, IT WOULD STILL BE MARKED CORRECT)
3. ROBYN PLACE (EXACT SPELLING REQUIRED FOR THIS POINT)
4. VISA ('CREDIT' IS NOT ENOUGH TO GET THIS MARKED AS CORRECT)
5. 10 ('DAYS' IS NOT REQUIRED AS THIS IS INCLUDED IN THE QUESTION)
6. \$35
7. UNLIMITED KILOMETRES
8. RELATIVES
9. (AN) AUTOMATIC
10. DRIVING LICENSE ('A DRIVING LICENCE' WOULD BE INCORRECT AS THIS IS THREE WORDS WHEN THE INSTRUCTIONS STATE 'NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS')
11. 681
12. TUNNELS
13. 5
14. X (NOTE THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS STATED THAT 'IF THERE IS NO INFORMATION GIVEN, WRITE X.')
15. WHALE WATCHING
16. INDIAN PACIFIC
17. EARLIER / EARLY SETTLERS
18. MILLIONTH
19. STATES
20. THE CONTINENT
21. B
22. B
23. C
24. A
25. A
26. 40 LITRES (OR LITERS)
27. SOLAR COIL
28. 20
29. 65
30. RIGID FOAM
31. SERVICES MARKETING
32. LEGAL ADVICE
33. WEAKNESS
34. CUSTOMER NUMBERS
35. TANGIBLE
36. EXPECTATIONS
37. CLIENTS
38. CONSTANTLY IMPROVE
39. (CONDUCT) SURVEYS

40. A REPRESENTATIVE

Listening test 1 transcripts:

Listening test 1 Section 1

Receptionist	Good morning, Sir. How can I help you?
William	Hello. Is this Southern Rental Car?
Receptionist	Yes. it is.
William	I wonder if you could help me. I'm ringing from Nelson, but I'm coming over to Auckland for 12 days and I'd like to hire a car
Receptionist	Okay, I'll fill in a booking for you now. First, can I take your name?
William	Yes, it's William Waddell.
Receptionist	Sorry, could you spell your surname?
William	Yes, it's W A D D E L L
Receptionist	Thanks. Now, can I have an address and a phone number?
William	Sure. I live at 10 Robyn Place. That's R O B Y N Place.
Receptionist	And that's Nelson, isn't it?
William	That's right. Do you want my home number or my mobile?
Receptionist	Home number will be fine.

William	OK, it's
Receptionist	Great. Now, can I also have a credit card number?
William	Do I have to pay by credit card?
Receptionist	Well, we need to credit card number as a guarantee. It's a standard policy for car rentals.
William	OK, well I'll pay by Visa then. The card number is 4550...1392...8309...3221
Receptionist	And the expiry date?
William	Sorry?
Receptionist	Your card – when does it expire?
William	Oh, next July.
Receptionist	Right. Now, how long did you want the car for? Twelve days did you say?
William	No, I only need the car for 10 days, from the 2nd to the 11th of next month.

Receptionist	Now, what type of car are you looking to hire?
William	Well, I'm not too worried about the model of the car but I understand that you have rental cars from just \$25 a day. Is that correct?
Receptionist	We do sometimes have the \$25 deals, but only in the low season. For the period you are looking at, the cheapest we have is \$35. However, that price includes unlimited kilometres.

William	Sorry, did you say unlimited kilometres? What does that mean exactly?
Receptionist	That means that no matter how far you go, the cost is the same. Some companies charge for rental and then charge again for every kilometre you actually drive.
William	Well I am going to be travelling quite long distances – I'm visiting relatives and they live quite far apart from each other, so unlimited kilometres are probably a good idea.
Receptionist	If you're travelling long distances, you would be better off with an automatic. Changing gears in a manual can make it more expensive for petrol.
William	OK, I'll take an automatic then.
Receptionist	Right, so that's an automatic car for 10 days from the 2nd to the 11th. That's all booked. Is there anything else I can help you with?
William	No that's fine. Oh, sorry – what do I need to bring with me when I pick up the car?
Receptionist	All you need is your driving licence.
William	Right, well thanks very much. Bye.

Listening test 1 Section 2

When thinking about beautiful countryside or stunning views, it has long been accepted that Australia and New Zealand have few equals. What is perhaps slightly less well known is what

these countries can offer to the avid train enthusiast. Both countries have railways which pass through breathtaking scenery in the utmost of comfort.

In New Zealand you can travel from the country's biggest city, Auckland, to where a third of the population lives, its capital, Wellington, on the longest passenger rail service in the country – the Overlander. Crossing 681 kilometres, the train winds through the lush farmland of the Waikato and up the Rarimu Spiral onto an amazing 'volcanic plateau' surrounded by native bush. On a clear day you will be able to see three of New Zealand's most famous volcanoes — Mount Ruapehu, Mount Ngauruhoe and Mount Tongariro. The whole journey can be completed in 11 hours, but for those keen to see a little more of the country, the trip can be extended over three or four days. This gives travellers the opportunity of seeing the famous Waitomo caves, relaxing in the mud pools of Rotorua, or skydiving over Lake Taupo.

Moving on to the South Island, you can take the Transalpine through the Southern Alps, travelling from the South Pacific Ocean to the Tasman Sea. Climbing from Christchurch right into the alps, this 223 km trip is particularly impressive as the train passes through 16 tunnels before descending to Greymouth at the end of the line. Taking only five hours, this is a relatively short trip, but it is worth noting that this journey has been listed as the sixth most scenic rail route in the world. For those that are not so keen on mountains, the South Island has a second option —the Transcoastal. With the sea on one side and the mountains on the other, it again shows some of the best scenery New Zealand has to offer. Also taking five hours, one of the highlights of this journey is the opportunities for whale watching. The fortunate few that see whales are well rewarded, but there are more common sights which are just as enjoyable, such as penguins and seals.

Although these three train journeys are undeniably breathtaking, some travellers prefer the longer journeys on offer in Australia. The Indian Pacific, for example, which travels from Sydney through to Perth and has been dubbed 'the adventure that spans Australia'. With three nights on board, the train takes in the Blue Mountains and the Nullarbor Plains, and, as

the name implies, the Indian Pacific shows you two oceans. This train journey holds two world records: covering 4352 km, it is one of the world's longest train journeys. It also travels the world's longest straight stretch of railway track (478 km). For those who find these distances a little daunting, passengers can stretch their legs at a number of different stops such as Kalgoorlie, famous for gold, and Broken Hill, first founded as a silver mine.

If three days on board a train seems a little excessive, there are alternatives. The Ghan, for example, which travels from Adelaide in the south to Alice Springs in the centre of the continent, taking 20 hours. Passing through Crystal Brook, Port Augusta and Woomera, this journey gives an indication of what life was like for the earlier settlers as they discovered the country. Along the way, you can also see the Iron Man sculpture, which was constructed by railway workers to commemorate the one millionth concrete sleeper laid during construction of the line.

Finally, just a quick word about the Overland, which runs between Melbourne and Adelaide. As the first train to travel between the capitals of two states, it is a historic as well as relaxing way to travel, and is famous for being the oldest long-distance train journey on the continent.

With so many memorable journeys to choose from, the only problem you will have is knowing which one to do first.

Listening test 2

Play *Listening test 2 audio file #1*

SECTION 1

Example:

The customer went to South Africa

1. *last month*
2. *last week*
3. *last year. C*

Questions 1-10

Questions 1 and 2

Choose the correct letter A–C.

1 The travel agent:

- thinks Europe is a good destination
- can personally recommend Vancouver
- does not think America is a good choice.

2 The customer:

- is going to Europe next year
- knows people living in Canada
- wants to go to the warmest place.

Questions 3 to 6

Complete the form using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER**.

The Travel Depot flight reservations	
Customer's name:	Jim (3)
Address	10 Allen Road, Oldham
Destination	Vancouver, Canada
Contact number:	0151 (4) (home number)
Flight number	(5)
Length of stay (nights):	(6)

Questions 7 to 10

Complete the sentences below USING NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER

1. The travel agent recommends some form of (7) cover for peace of mind.
2. There are two types of cover, but the best cover is offered with the (8) Star policy.
3. The client can see a play at the theatre for \$ (9)
4. The flight and the insurance together costs £ (10)

SECTION 2

Play Listening test 2 audio file #2

Questions 11-20

Questions 11-15

Select the correct answers A-C.

11. Who is the speaker addressing?

- A. Property agents
- B. People selling houses
- C. People in the countryside
- D. People buying second homes

12. Rental property in the city...

- A. is very easy to find
- B. is becoming more difficult to find
- C. is an investment opportunity
- D. is often the only option

13. Lisa Brown believes...

- A. most people will own their own home at some time
- B. there is a psychological factor involved in owning your own home
- C. fewer people are interested in owning a house
- D. most young people need a deposit before they can buy a house.

14. Property in the countryside is becoming more popular because...

- A. people want to get away from the city
- B. some parts of the city are becoming overcrowded
- C. the concept of the home office means that some people don't need to go into work
- D. public transport is beginning to serve outlying areas.

15. What kind of properties does the speaker specialise in?

- A. Commercial
- B. Investment
- C. First homes
- D. Rural

Questions 16 to 20

Answer the following questions **USING NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER**

16. What end of the market are the properties?

17. What does the speaker compare buying houses with?

18. What kind of equity can be the result of buying a property when the market is high?

19. How does she describe the feeling of successful property investment?

20. How can you ask the speaker a question?

SECTION 3

Play Listening test 2 audio file #3

Questions 21-30

Questions 21 to 24

Answer the following questions **USING NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND / OR A NUMBER**

21. How long is the radio show?

22. What is the general focus of the programme?

23. Where is Professor Ripley from?

24. According to Professor Ripley, what animals do people most associate with the African bush?

Questions 25 to 28

Complete the table below using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER**.

	Threats	Natural habitat	Population
African lions		bush	Estimated to be (25)
Tigers	(26)	forests and plains	fewer than (27)
Snow leopards	Expansion of (28)	high-altitude pastures	

Questions 29 and 30

Circle the appropriate letter **A–D**.

29. Where is the WWF currently funding projects to help the snow leopard?

- A** Nepal, Pakistan and Bhutan
- B** Nepal and Pakistan
- C** Bhutan and Nepal
- D** Pakistan and Bhutan

30. Listeners should telephone

- A immediately if they want to put forward an opinion
- B during the commercial break
- C in 10 minutes if they have anything they want to ask the professor
- D if they have any information regarding pumas or jaguars.

SECTION 4

Play Listening test 2 audio file #4

Questions 31-40

Question 31

Circle the correct answer **A–C**.

31 The students were expecting

- 1. to hear a lecture on overpopulation
- 2. Mr Mackenzie
- 3. a guest speaker

Questions 32 to 36

Complete the table below using **TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER**.

42 million adults (32)			
50 million adults have the reading ability of a (33) year-old.			
Increasing by around (34) and a quarter million per year.			
	Unemployment	Unrealised earnings	Literacy programmes

cost (in billions of US dollars)	(35)\$	237	(36)\$
----------------------------------	--------------	-----	--------------

Question 37

Circle the appropriate letter **A–D**.

37. Illiteracy is increasing because many young learners are

- not being taught how to break words into sounds
- given word lists which are too long
- not challenged enough in the classroom.

Questions 38 to 40

Complete the summary below **USING NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS**.

English is made up of 26 letters, with 44 **(38)** and 70 ways of **(39)**
 Unsuccessful teaching practices persist, however, because reading is **(40)**

Listening test 2 answers

1. B
2. B
3. JACKSON
4. 433 398
5. VN217
6. 20 OR TWENTY
7. (TRAVEL) INSURANCE
8. GOLD
9. 54 OR FIFTY FOUR (THE CURRENCY SYMBOL IS NOT NEEDED AS IT IS IN THE QUESTION)
10. 433 (THE CURRENCY SYMBOL IS NOT NEEDED AS IT IS IN THE QUESTION)
11. D
12. B
13. B
14. C
15. B
16. (THE) CHEAPER (END)
17. (HAVING A) PENSION(S)
18. NEGATIVE
19. (ENORMOUSLY) SATISFYING
20. RAISE (YOUR / A) HAND
21. 1 HOUR ['WEEKLY' IS INCORRECT AS THIS IS HOW OFTEN, NOT HOW LONG]
22. CONSERVATION (ISSUES)
23. (THE) US
24. (PRIDES OF) LIONS
25. 50,000
26. HUNTERS/ HUNTING
27. 6000

28. AGRICULTURE

29. B

30. C

31. C – THE SPEAKER TOLD THE CLASS ON MONDAY THAT THE LECTURE ON OVERPOPULATION
WAS CANCELLED AS THEY HAVE A GUEST SPEAKER.

32. CANNOT READ

33. 10

34. 2

35. 6

36. 10

37. A

38. SOUNDS

39. SPELLING

40. BIG BUSINESS (BOTH WORDS NEEDED TO GET THE CORRECT ANSWER)

Listening test 3

Play *Listening test 3 audio file #1*

SECTION 1

Example:

She wants to study an MBA

Questions 1-10

*Questions 1-5. Complete the form below with the applicant's personal details using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER.***

Applicant information form:

Name: Ann (1)

D.O.B.: (2), 1991

Address: (3) Simon Street, Brighton

Contact number: (4) (01903)

Mobile: (5)

Questions 6 to 10

Answer the following questions using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS.**

6. What is the applicant's current job?
7. What university course has she already completed?
8. Why might the student not get on the MBA course?
9. What is her second choice?

10. Which department will contact the applicant?

SECTION 2

Play Listening test 3 audio file #2

*Questions 11- 15. Answer the questions using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS**.*

11. Whose lifestyle is the speaker talking about?

12. Which two examples of goods have now become thought of as necessities?

13. In addition to work, what have these goods given us more time for?

14. What do richer societies become?

15. What does the 'race of acquisition' encourage us to buy?

Questions 16 to 20

Answer the following questions by selecting the correct letter **A to C**.

- Who is mostly responsible for creating the demand for new products?
 - A. Wealthy, older people
 - B. Professionals
 - C. Models

- Why should we be concerned with the increasing number of unnecessary appliances?
 - A. The cost
 - B. The environment
 - C. The pace of technology

- What other risk does the speaker refer to?
 - A. A loss of traditional skills
 - B. Health factors of pre-packaged food
 - C. A negative impact on careers

- Active buying behaviour
 - A. will cause an increase in manufactured goods
 - B. causes stress within families
 - C. is a purely positive aspect of consumer behaviour

- What does the speaker recommend for the future?
 - A. Buy what is available
 - B. Educating companies about sustainable production
 - C. Purchase in moderation

SECTION 3

Play Listening test 3 audio file #3

Question 21.

Choose the correct letter **A–C**.

21. Helen became a vegetarian

- A. sixteen years ago.
- B. because of family influences.
- C. for personal reasons.

Questions 22-24.

Answer the following questions using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS**.

According to Helen,

22. what is the most important food source for vegetarians?

23. what do most countries do to vegetables?

24. it is a misconception people have that vegetarians are what?

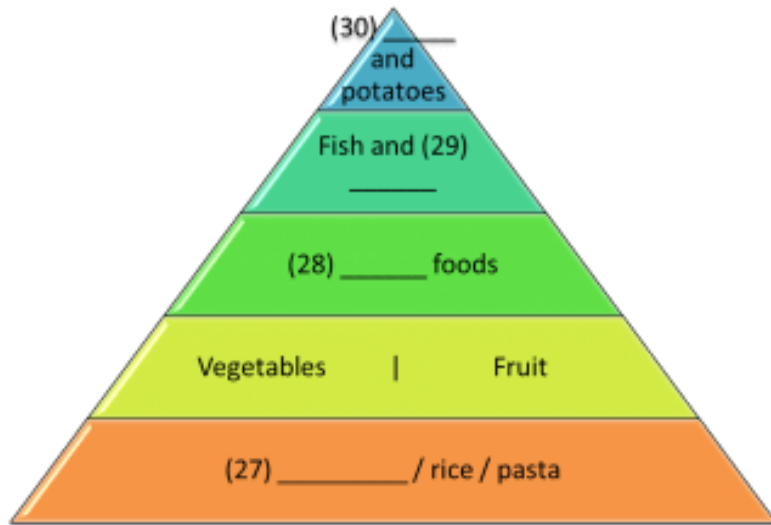
Questions 25-26

Complete the table below using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER**

	World	Europe	America
Beef consumption per head (in kilogrammes per year)	less than 11	(25)	(26)

Questions 27-30.

Label the following diagram using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS**.



27.

28.

29.

30.

SECTION 4

*Play **Listening test 3 audio file #4***

Questions 31 and 32. Complete the following sentence using **ONE WORD**.

31. East feels therapy is a better word than 'alternative'.

32. Osteopathy involves the manipulation of in order to remove stresses and strains.

Questions 33-36. Answer the following questions using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS**.

According to Matthew East,

33.what must be considered when treating a patient?

34. ...what was the original cause of the baby's discomfort?

35. How does East describe the use of drugs and operations?

36. According to East, what is the percentage cost of natural remedies compared to western medicine?

Questions 37-38. Circle the correct letter A-C

37. East believes western medicine

A. is not suitable for the young

B. has not had sufficient trials

C. is overly influenced by pharmaceutical companies

38. Natural remedies

A. are sometimes used indiscriminately

B. can be used with patients of any age

C. do not affect diet or lifestyle

*Questions 39-40. Answer the following questions using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS***

39. What examples does East give for the benefits of western medicine?

40. Who is next week's guest?

Listening test 3 answers

1. HAWBERRY
2. 22ND MAY
3. 26
4. 714721
5. NO MOBILE PHONE
6. SECRETARY
7. BUSINESS
8. GETS FULL QUICKLY / FILLS QUICKLY / IT FILLS QUICKLY
9. INTERNATIONAL MARKETING
10. ADMISSION(S) (DEPARTMENT)
11. WOMEN / WOMEN'S
12. DISHWASHERS AND MICROWAVES (AGAIN, BOTH WORDS ARE NEEDED FOR THE CORRECT ANSWER)
13. LEISURE PURSUITS
14. (MORE) DEMANDING
15. UNNECESSARY GOODS
16. B
17. B
18. A
19. A
20. C
21. C
22. SOYA OR SOYA BEAN OR SOYBEAN
23. OVERCOOK THEM
24. UNHEALTHY
25. 21
26. 24
27. CEREALS

28. DAIRY
29. WHITE MEAT
30. RED MEAT
31. NATURAL
32. MUSCLES
33. (THE) WHOLE BODY
34. A DIFFICULT BIRTH
35. INVASIVE
36. 10%
37. C
38. B
39. EMERGENCY SURGERY
40. DR MOORE

Academic Module Reading tests

Reading test 1

Section 1:

A very brief history of time

These days, time is everything. We worry about being late, we rush to get things done or to be somewhere and our daily schedules are often planned down to the minute. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the humble clock. The internationally accepted division of time into regular, predictable units has become an essential aspect of almost all modern societies yet the history of time keeping is almost as old as civilisation itself. Nearly 3000 years ago, societies were using the stars in order to keep track of time to indicate agricultural cycles. Then came the sundial, an Egyptian invention in which the shadow cast by the sun was used to measure the time not of the seasons but of the day.

The first manufactured clock, believed to have come from Persia, was a system which recreated the movements of the stars. All the celestial bodies which had been used to tell the time of year were plotted onto an intricate system in which the planets rotated around each other. Not being dependent on either sunlight or a clear night, this was one of the earliest systems to divide a complete day. Although ingenious for its time, this method suffered from incorrect astrological assumptions of the period, in which it was believed that the Earth was the centre of the universe.

The Greeks were next to develop a more accurate clock using water to power a mechanism that counted out the divisions of the day. The simplest water clock consisted of a large urn that had a small hole located near the base, and a graduated stick attached to a floating base. The hole would be plugged while the urn was being filled with water, and then the stick would be inserted into the urn. The stick would float perpendicular to the surface of the water, and when

the hole at the base of the urn was unplugged, the passage of time was measured as the stick descended farther into the urn.

Then, for nearly one thousand years, there was little in the way of progress in time keeping until the European invention of spring-powered clocks in the late fourteenth century.

Unreliable and inaccurate, the early models of these clocks were useful in that they gave direction to new advances. In 1656 Christiaan Huygens, a Dutch scientist, made the first pendulum clock, which had an error of less than one minute a day, the first time such accuracy had been achieved. His later refinements reduced his clock's error to less than 10 seconds a day. Some years later, Huygens abandoned the pendulum for a balance wheel and spring assembly which allowed for a whole new generation of time piece – the wristwatch. Still found in some of today's wristwatches, this improvement allowed portable seventeenth-century watches to keep time to 10 minutes a day.

While clock making and musical chime clocks became increasingly popular, it was the invention of the cuckoo clock, designed and made by Franz Anton Ketterer, which really caught people's imagination. The design was not particularly complex. The clock was mounted on a headboard, normally a very elaborate carving reflecting the tastes of the artist. Many of the original cuckoo clocks are still kept today because of the artwork on the headboard. Using the traditional circular pendulum design, the clock could run accurately for up to a week, using a weight to keep the pendulum in motion. Again, the weight was often carved with a design making it as much an art form as a timepiece. The most innovative feature of these cuckoo clocks, as the name implies, is that a small carved cuckoo came out of the clock to chime the hour.

Particularly ingenious was the placement of bellows inside the clock, which were designed to recreate the sound made by the bird, although later models included a lever on the bottom of the clock which could be used to stop this hourly chime.

Refinements to this original pendulum concept meant that by 1721 the pendulum clock remained accurate to within one second per day by compensating for changes in the pendulum's length due to temperature variations. Over the next century, further refinements reduced this to a hundredth of a second a day. In the 1920s, a new era of clock making began

which is still popular today – the quartz clock. When under pressure, quartz generates an electric field of relatively constant frequency, and it was discovered that this electric signal was sufficient to power a clock. Quartz crystal clocks were better because they had fewer moving parts to disturb their regular frequency. Even so, they still rely on a mechanical vibration and this depends on the size of the crystal, and as no two crystals can be exactly alike, there is a degree of difference in every quartz watch.

Comparing performance to price, it is understandable that quartz clocks still dominate the market. Yet they are no longer the most accurate. Scientists had long realised that each chemical element in the universe absorbs and emits electromagnetic radiation at its own specific frequencies. These resonances are inherently stable, thus forming the basis for a reliable system of time measurement, all the more so because no moving parts are needed to record these resonances. Yet the cost of these atomic clocks mean that such timekeeping precision is a long way from becoming common.

Questions 1 – 15

Questions 1 – 8

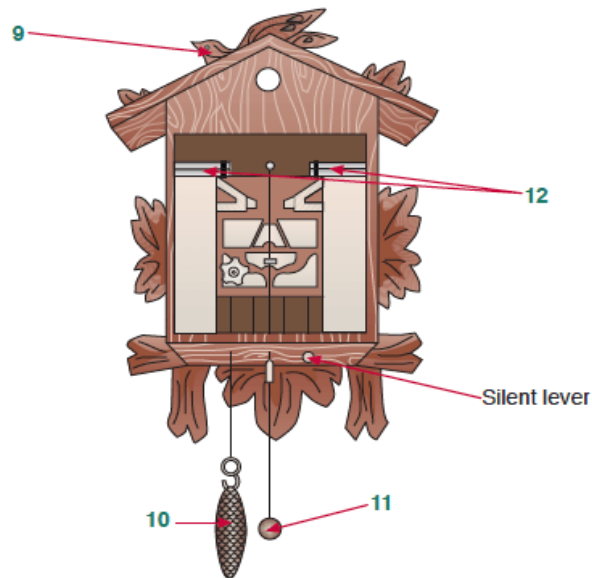
Match a type of clock to a description. Write a letter **A – H** in boxes **1 to 8** on your answer sheet.

- A** Relied on basic scientific principles
- B** was the first to replace the pendulum
- C** Is the most common method of timekeeping
- D** Is the most accurate clock
- E** Is the earliest known method of measuring time during the day
- F** Was inaccurate because of misconceptions of the age
- G** Was often highly ornamental
- H** Had only a 10-second margin of error per day

1. Quartz clock
2. Cuckoo clock
3. Sundial
4. Persian clock
5. Wristwatch
6. Pendulum
7. Atomic clock
8. Water clock

Questions 9 – 12

Label the diagram below using words from the text. Use **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD**.



9.

10.

11.

12.

Questions 13 – 15

Complete the following summary using words from the box below. Write A-F in boxes 13 to 15.

A: Cheaper	B: the least accurate	C: Accurate
D: More expensive	D: Precision	F: exactly the same
G:	H: Mechanical vibration	I: Moving parts

Although quartz clocks are (13) , the atomic clock is the most
(14) as it does not rely on any (15)

Section 2:

Holiday Blues

A. The holiday season has always been a cause for celebration around the world. The opportunity to take a break from work, be frivolous, go on holiday, meet family and friends – all good reasons to look forward to the holidays with enthusiasm and anticipation. Or at least that is what we are led to believe.

B. Research carried out in America suggests that these feelings of euphoria may be somewhat misplaced. A study recently carried out by New York University Child Study Centre has

concluded that one in three people of varying ages suffer 'holiday blues' to varying extents, from a mild feeling of sadness to severe, sometimes even suicidal, depression. The effects can manifest themselves in many ways, such as an inability to sleep or sleeping too much, overeating or undereating, headaches or drinking too much. The report also concluded that not only are there a number of complex causes that can trigger such depression (psychological and biological), there are an equal number of opinions as to the best solution.

C. According to Dr Frank Pittman, a leading family psychiatrist, the most significant cause for holiday depression actually stems from our concerns about our family. During the holiday season, families meet, often for the first time since the last holiday season, and try to make these reunions 'perfect'. In fact, says Pittman, we count on the holidays to compensate for the rest of the year. He himself comments that 'I wanted to make up to the family for not having been a good enough father and uncle all year'. However, such good intentions are often thwarted by old family arguments, feelings of not being appreciated or being used, all of which result in holiday stress. It seems that the idyllic picture of our family we wish to build in our minds cannot be sustained in reality.

D. Although Pittman holds family to be the source of much of the problem, others point to a more general social context. Gift shopping, for example, does not help reduce tensions – crowded shops, long queues, the pressure of choosing just the right present – all of these things contribute to a feeling of stress and anxiety. On the other end of the scale, there are those without family who experience a sense of extreme loneliness and isolation throughout this period, often spending the long holidays alone. Any feelings of inadequacy they may harbour throughout the year can often become unbearable at a time when friends are unavailable and enjoying an apparently cosy break with their loved ones. In fact, such is the extreme nature of this isolation that many organisations have been established to offer some help and support to those who feel most alone over what should be the 'festive' season.

E. Others, however, argue that more scientific explanations carry an equal weight in explaining holiday blues. Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD as it is more commonly known, is also held responsible for winter depression. A natural reaction to falling levels of sunlight, the pineal

gland secretes the hormone melatonin, which has the effect of slowing the body down. When days get shorter, more of the hormone is released causing sufferers to become lethargic and miserable. From being industrious people with plenty of energy, SAD sufferers find themselves increasingly weary and unable to sustain any prolonged activity, a situation which often leads to depression. In addition, for many people this has a major impact not only on their personal life but also on their professional life, as employers often see this lack of productivity in terms of laziness or unwillingness to work. As a result, SAD has been linked directly to the high rate of suicide in a number of Scandinavian countries during winter months, when there are often a few hours of sunlight a day.

F. The good news for SAD sufferers is that there is a cure, and as far as many medical cures go this is relatively simple. As the cause is lack of bright light, the treatment is to be in bright light every day. This can obviously be achieved by staying in a brightly lit climate, explaining why skiing holidays are so popular as they allow people to get plenty of sunlight as well as providing a stimulating activity. Another method is by using light therapy, in which patients sit in front of a lamp which acts in the same way as sunlight. To be more specific, the light should be about as bright as early morning sunshine, and the user should allow the light to reach the eyes for anything up to one hour a day in order to alleviate the symptoms. There are a number of companies currently manufacturing these lights as a health aid and they are even being prescribed by some doctors. In addition, they can be bought at considerably less than the cost of a holiday.

G. Whatever fundamental reason underpins holiday depression, it seems reasonable to argue that the phenomenon does indeed exist. Voluntary support services, offering counseling services to those who need the unbiased and friendly voice of a stranger to help them work through their unhappiness report a significant increased demand for their services during holiday periods such as Christmas and the New Year

Questions 16 – 26

Questions 16 – 17

Circle the correct answer **A – C**

16. Research has shown that

A we become more depressed during the holidays

B poor diet can lead to depression

C simple things can lead us to feel varying degrees of depression.

17. Dr Pittman believes holiday depression comes from

A feelings of inadequacy

B being alone

C over-compensation.

Questions 18 – 21

Answer the following questions using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the text.

1. What is the chemical that can cause for lethargy in SAD sufferers?
2. Which area is identified as having a problem with the connection between suicide and reduced sunlight?
3. What daily treatment can SAD sufferers benefit from?
4. For whom are the holiday periods the busiest time?

Questions 22 – 26

Choose the most suitable headings for sections **B–F** from the list below. Use each heading once only.

- I. Family cures
 - II. Addressing the problem
 - III. Impact of personality
 - IV. Psychological factors
 - V. Biological factors
 - VI. Avoiding stress
 - VII. Manifestations of depression
 - VIII. Depression in children
 - IX. Pressures of the holiday period
-
4. Section B
 5. Section C
 6. Section D
 7. Section E
 8. Section F

Section 3:

Weakness of the school system

A. By attempting to fit in as much as possible, the school day is continually being added to. In many ways, this would appear to be a good idea, as our knowledge and understanding of the world is always growing and it would seem logical to incorporate this into schools. The reality, however, has some decided drawbacks. There is a growing feeling amongst many that the modern school curriculum, in an effort to teach as many varied subjects as possible, is actually teaching students less. It seems that by constantly adding to what should be taught in the

classroom, the classes are less focused, not offering the deeper learning that institutions perhaps should.

B. With classes sometimes only 30 minutes long, the overwhelming amount of information teachers are required to present often only gives students time to learn facts, not to think in any great detail about what they are being presented with. The problem is that students are not getting the opportunity to absorb what they are being taught as the curriculum expands in order to keep what has already been taught and supplement it with everything new that comes along. The weaknesses of such a system are clear – well informed though such students may be, there is the risk of an increasing number of graduates who have no real creative or intellectual ability. By denying students the opportunity to sit and think their way through problems, or even consider their own opinion, some schools are not always providing a truly educational atmosphere. There are, of course, certain aspects of education which need to be taught by simply inputting the information. Basic mathematics, for example. But there are many other subjects which could be best learned by having an opportunity to think and discuss what is being taught. Literature, writing and the social sciences are good examples of subjects which cannot be considered as ‘covered’ by a mass of information without the opportunity to discuss, debate or consider meaning or implications. There are also important social skills to be learned during such periods of open discussion, skills which are not addressed by an endless flow of teacher-centred information.

C. Teachers themselves have also voiced concerns about the amount of information they are required to impress upon their students. There is a feeling in many educational establishments that students are no longer being educated, but taught how to pass tests. In a world where academic success is too often measured by examination results, this is a serious concern. If there is too much information to simply be memorised and not enough time to truly assimilate it, what happens to students who fail to meet the grade? By current standards, they are failures, yet they may have great potential in areas not covered by the test and there are many students who, despite clear intellectual ability, simply do not perform well in tests. Again, the

problem is one of focus, as education authorities are looking at the outcome of schooling rather than the content presented in the class.

D. It is here that many teachers feel the situation could be addressed at a local level. By giving more discretion to teachers, school courses could be tailored to suit the students rather than tailoring students to meet ever-expanding course requirements. In addition, by running a curriculum that gives options rather than defines an entire course, considerably more freedom would be possible. As it is, progression through most primary and secondary schools is regimented, and there is little room for students to identify and develop their own skills and strengths. If material could be chosen on the basis of its merits rather than simply because it has been put in the curriculum, then what is selected may be taught to a depth that would serve some purpose. There is, of course, a counter-argument, which claims that such open guidelines could lead to vast differences in standards between schools. What one teacher may see as essential for a student's education, another may see as irrelevant, and this will result in students with widely different educational strengths.

E. With such a high-pressure learning environment, there are also a number of social aspects to schooling which need to be considered. The increased student workload cannot be covered in the classroom alone for the simple reason that there is not enough time in the average school week, and much of this extra workload has been pushed into the realm of homework. At its best, homework should be the opportunity to look in greater detail at what has been studied. In other words, to actually think about it and its relevance. The reality, however, is often very different. Concerned parents and overextended students are finding that homework is taking an increasingly large part of a student's evening, cutting into time many feel should be spent as part of a child's social education. Other social pressures have compounded the situation, as many of the areas of educating a young child which should be the responsibility of the parents have ill-advisedly become the school's responsibility. Drug awareness and health issues, for example, are occupying an increasingly large part of the school day.

F. Many people believe that we should be teaching less, but teaching it better, and it is here that they think a solution can be found. Yet the process of rewriting a curriculum to incorporate

only that which is essential but can be well learned would take far longer than most educational authorities have, and would be considered by many to be a 'regressive' step. Changes in the curriculum have largely been motivated by changes in the nature of employment, as job mobility demands that people know something about considerably more areas than were traditionally necessary. A little about a lot allows for the job mobility which has become so common. No matter what the final verdict may be, one thing is for sure – change will be slow, and not always for the best.

Questions 27 – 40

Questions 27 – 32

Choose the most suitable headings for sections **A–F** from the list below. Use each heading once only.

- A question of time
 - Lack of teacher training
 - Student success
 - The argument for flexibility
 - Importance of teaching experience
 - Extra-curricular pressures
 - The benefits of a varied curriculum
 - Imbalanced focus
 - Over-reliance on examinations
 - Quality of quantity?
-
- Section A
 - Section B
 - Section C
 - Section D
 - Section E

- Section F

Questions 33 – 37

Do the following statements agree with the views of the writer?

In boxes 33 -37 on your answer sheet write

Write **YES** if the statement agrees with the writer

NO if the statement does not agree with the writer

NOT GIVEN if there is no information about this in the passage

- Classes are often too short.
- No subjects can be comprehensively learned without time to discuss and debate the facts.
- Tests are a fair measure of ability.
- Schools are trying to be responsible for too many aspects of a child’s education.
- Future changes in the curriculum will improve the situation.

Questions 38 – 40

Complete the summary below using words from the box from the text. Write the correct letter **A-I** in the boxes provided.

A. more discretion	B. in detail	C. differences in standards
D. the extra workload	E. job mobility	F. shorter classes
G. facts	H. a regimented progression	I. a weaker system

Too much emphasis is placed on learning (38) The modern school curriculum is largely a response to increased (39) for which graduates are expected to have a much broader general knowledge. One potential solution to this could be to give individual schools (40) regarding what is taught.

Reading test 1 answers

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. C | 21. VOLUNTARY SUPPORT SERVICES |
| 2. G | 22. VII |
| 3. E | 23. IV |
| 4. F | 24. IX |
| 5. B | 25. V |
| 6. H | 26. II |
| 7. D | 27. X |
| 8. A | 28. VIII |
| 9. HEADBOARD | 29. IX |
| 10. WEIGHT | 30. IV |
| 11. PENDULUM | 31. VI |
| 12. BELLOWS | 32. I |
| 13. CHEAPER | 33. NOT GIVEN |
| 14. ACCURATE | 34. NO |
| 15. MOVING PARTS | 35. NO |
| 16. A | 36. YES |
| 17. C | 37. NO |
| 18. MELATONIN | 38. G (FACTS) |
| 19. SCANDINAVIA OR SCANDINAVIAN
COUNTRIES | 39. E (JOB MOBILITY) |
| 20. LIGHT THERAPY | 40. A (MORE DISCRETION) |
-

Reading test 2

Section 1:

A running controversy

In 1988, Canadian athlete Ben Johnson set a new world record for the 100 metres sprint and set the Seoul Olympics alight. Just a few days later, he was stripped of his medal and banned from competing after having failed a drug test, highlighting what has since become an international problem – drug use in sport.

Those involved in sports face enormous pressure to excel in competition, all the more so as their careers are relatively short. By the time most sportspeople are in their forties, they are already considered to be past their prime, and as a result they need to earn their money as quickly as possible. In such a high-pressure environment, success has to come quickly and increasingly often drugs are playing a prominent role.

There are a number of specific effects that sportspeople are aiming to achieve by taking performance-enhancing drugs. Caffeine and cocaine are commonly used as stimulants, getting the body ready for the mass expenditure of energy required. In addition, there are those who are looking to build their body strength and turn to the use of anabolic steroids. Having worked so hard and needing to unwind, sportspeople may misuse other drugs as a relaxant in that it can help them cope with stress or boost their own confidence. Alcohol is commonly used for this purpose, but for sportspeople something more direct is often required, and this has led to an increase in the use of beta-blockers specifically to steady nerves.

Increasingly accurate drug testing is leading companies and suppliers to ever-more creative ways of avoiding detection, and there are a range of banned substances that are still taken by sportspeople in order to disguise the use of other, more potent drugs. Diuretics is a good example of this: in addition to allowing the body to lose excess weight, they are used to hide other substances.

Drugs or not, the working life of the average sportsperson is hard and often painful. Either through training or on the field, injuries are common and can lead to the use of narcotics simply to mask the pain. There are examples of champion motorcyclists taking local anaesthetics to hide the pain of a crash that should have seen them taken straight to hospital, and though this is not directly banned, use is carefully monitored.

Drug testing has since become an accepted feature of most major sporting events, and as soon as a new drug is detected and the user is banned from competitive sport, then a new drug is developed which evades detection. Inevitably, this makes testing for such banned substances even more stringent, and has in recent years highlighted a new and disturbing problem – the unreliability of drug tests.

Recent allegations of drug use have seen sportspeople in court attempt to overthrow decisions against them, claiming that they were unaware they had taken anything on the banned list. A test recently carried out saw three non-athletes given dietary substances that were not on the banned list, and the two who didn't take exercise tested negative. However, the third person, who exercised regularly, tested positive. This, of course, has left the testing of sportspeople in a very difficult position. Careers can be prematurely ended by false allegations of drug abuse, yet by not punishing those who test positive, the door would be open for anyone who wanted to take drugs.

The issue is becoming increasingly clouded as different schools of opinion are making themselves heard. There are some that argue that if the substance is not directly dangerous to the user, then it should not be banned, claiming that it is just another part of training and can be compared to eating the correct diet. Ron Clarke, a supporter of limited drug use in sport, commented that some drugs should be accepted as 'they just level the playing field'. He defended his opinion by pointing out that some competitors have a natural advantage. Athletes born high above sea level or who work out in high altitudes actually produce more red blood cells, a condition which other athletes can only achieve by drug taking.

Others claim that drug use shouldn't be allowed because it contravenes the whole idea of fairly competing in a sporting event, adding that the drugs available to a wealthy American athlete, for example, would be far superior to those available to a struggling Nigerian competitor.

Governing bodies of the myriad of sporting worlds are trying to set some standards for competitors, but as drug companies become more adept at disguising illegal substances, the procedure is an endless race with no winner. In the face of an overwhelming drug and supplement market, one thing is certain – drugs will probably be a significant factor for a long time to come.

Questions 1 – 10

Questions 1 – 4

Label the diagram below using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS**.



1.
2.
3.
4.

Questions 5 – 8 Answer the following questions using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the text.

- Why are sportspeople under such pressure to succeed quickly?
- What has subsequently become necessary in a number of sports?

- What does Ron Clarke claim drugs can balance?
 - What are drug companies becoming more able to do to avoid detection?
-

Questions 9 and 10

Complete the summary using words from the text. **USE NO MORE THAN ONE WORD.**

Despite being increasingly more accurate in some respects, tests for drugs can be flawed as those creating and supplying the drugs are also getting better at avoiding (9) in the face of creative drug companies. (10) of drug use have serious side effects on sportspeople even if they are subsequently proved wrong.

Section 2

The development of the magazine

In almost every kind of waiting room you can imagine, be it a dentist's or a car showroom, you will find them. No matter how much of a minority sport, interest or hobby you may have or take part in, you will almost certainly find one devoted to it. Over the past 20 years, magazines have become so popular that they are now outselling most newspapers.

The forerunners of magazines were nothing like the glossy, colourful affairs they are now. They were small printed pages announcing forthcoming events and providing a little local information. They became popular during the seventeenth century, when the idea was exported around Europe. Magazines became thicker, and were not only informative but also entertaining. In addition, literary magazines began to publish short literary works. Indeed, many classic authors of the period first published their material in magazines such as The Tatler and

Gentleman's Magazine. However, they remained more of a hobby than a business, generating only enough income to cover production costs.

The American Magazine, first published in 1741, was the aptly named first magazine to be available in America. Launched in Philadelphia, it was available for only a few short months, and was soon replaced by more popular (although in the early nineteenth century, the nature of magazines changed as illustrated magazines and children's magazines made their appearance. The illustrations were immediately popular, and within a few years every magazine was brightening its pages with them.

The Industrial Revolution that hit Europe around this time also had a great impact. With the advent of better quality printing processes, paper and colour printing techniques, magazines became lucrative as local businesses began to pay previously unimaginable prices for advertising space. This heralded a new era within the industry as magazines now represented a significant source of income for publishers.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, better standards of education were resulting in a higher degree of literacy, and this of course meant that there was an increasing number of markets to be exploited, and with better transportation, the means developed with which to reach these markets. The most conclusive factor, however, in the rise of magazines came about with the rise of national advertising. Previously, advertising in magazines had remained relatively local, but with the birth of the concept of national markets, where goods could be delivered to almost any destination and at previously unheard-of speeds, advertisers were willing to pay for as wide a coverage as possible in as many magazines as they thought would usefully promote their products.

Competition inevitably increased and this led to the development of new magazines. In the following years, magazines became more specialised, significantly rivalling newspapers as the dominant form of media and paving the way for the wealth of choices available today.

It was at this point that magazine owners and editors found another area which would guarantee a wider circulation. Attributed to Samuel S. McClure, editor of the American

magazine McClure's, the early 1900s saw the advent of the gossip column, in which the private lives of prominent political or social figures was investigated by those who became known as 'muckraking journalists'. They would invade the privacy of anyone they thought would interest the public, exposing secrets or even fabricating stories in order to raise the circulation of their magazine.

As the circulation of magazines increased, they began at first to reflect, then to influence, popular opinion. This led to them being heavily used by both sides during World War I and World War II as propaganda, inspiring people to join and fight against the enemy. Most people have, at some time in their life, seen the ubiquitous picture of the British General Kitchener pointing out of the poster with the slogan 'Your Country Needs You!' printed below, exhorting people to join the army during World War I. It was in magazines that this picture had such wide coverage.

In the 1950s, magazines took a heavy blow at the hands of the new medium of advertising – television. With sound and pictures now on offer, many magazines lost business and faced collapse as advertisers took their business to television studios. Magazines became even more specialised, hoping to still find new markets, and that is why today we find so many obscure titles on the shelves. There is no doubt that the magazine has come a long way from its humble beginnings, but when you can buy magazines devoted to the art of Body Painting or informing us of the latest Caravan Accessories, or read about the latest gossip from another Hollywood star, you have to wonder if magazines have actually come a long way in the right direction.

Questions 11 – 22

Questions 11 – 14

Choose the correct answer A–D

11. The earliest magazines

- E had a number of similarities with modern magazines
- F were intended for women
- G focused on hobbies
- H were very different from magazines today.

12. Magazines became a highly profitable business when

4. they were exported around Europe
5. they began including illustrations
6. advertisers began paying more for space
7. they included short stories.

13. How have magazines retained their popularity despite increased competition?

- By influencing popular opinion.
- By specialising.
- Because of the war.
- Through cooperation with television.

14. McClure's magazine

- was a respected political and social publication
- was the first publication to specialise in invasive journalism
- was the most popular American publication of 1900
- had the highest circulation of any magazine.

Questions 15 – 18

Look at the following statements and decide if they are right or wrong according to the information given.

Write:

TRUE if the statement is true

FALSE if the statement is false

NOT GIVEN if there is no information about this in the passage.

- A. Lady's Book was written by women.
 - B. After the Industrial Revolution, magazines sold more copies than newspapers.
 - C. Better education supported the rise of magazines.
 - D. Magazines began to influence popular opinion.
-

Questions 19 – 22

Answer the following questions using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the text

1. With what form of journalism did Samuel McClure guarantee more sales of his magazine?
 2. What allowed the exploitation of new markets in the late 1800s?
 3. Whose picture was in many magazines during World War I?
 4. What stopped the increasing rise of magazines?
-

Section 3

The dawn of culture

In every society, culturally unique ways of thinking about the world unite people in their behaviour. Anthropologists often refer to the body of ideas that people share as ideology. Ideology can be broken down into at least three specific categories: beliefs, values and ideals. People's beliefs give them an understanding of how the world works and how they should respond to the actions of others and their environments. Particular beliefs often tie in closely with the daily concerns of domestic life, such as making a living, health and sickness, happiness and sadness, interpersonal relationships, and death. People's values tell them the differences between right and wrong or good and bad. Ideals serve as models for what people hope to achieve in life.

There are two accepted systems of belief. Some rely on religion, even the supernatural (things beyond the natural world), to shape their values and ideals and to influence their behaviour. Others base their beliefs on observations of the natural world, a practice anthropologists commonly refer to as secularism.

Religion in its more extreme form allows people to know about and 'communicate' with supernatural beings, such as animal spirits, gods, and spirits of the dead. Small tribal societies believe that plants and animals, as well as people, can have souls or spirits that can take on different forms to help or harm people. Anthropologists refer to this kind of religious belief as animism, with believers often led by shamans. As religious specialists, shamans have special access to the spirit world, and are said to be able to receive stories from supernatural beings and later recite them to others or act them out in dramatic rituals.

In larger, agricultural societies, religion has long been a means of asking for bountiful harvests, a source of power for rulers, or an inspiration to go to war. In early civilised societies, religious visionaries became leaders because people believed those leaders could communicate with the supernatural to control the fate of a civilization. This became their greatest source of power, and people often regarded leaders as actual gods. For example, in the great civilisation of the Aztec, which flourished in what is now Mexico in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, rulers claimed privileged association with a powerful god that was said to require human blood to ensure that the sun would rise and set each day. Aztec rulers thus inspired great awe by

regularly conducting human sacrifices. They also conspicuously displayed their vast power as wealth in luxury goods, such as fine jewels, clothing and palaces. Rulers obtained their wealth from the great numbers of craftspeople, traders and warriors under their control.

During the period in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Europe known as the Age of Enlightenment, science and logic became new sources of belief for many people living in civilised societies. Scientific studies of the natural world and rational philosophies led people to believe that they could explain natural and social phenomena without believing in gods or spirits. Religion remained an influential system of belief, and together both religion and science drove the development of capitalism, the economic system of commerce-driven market exchange. Capitalism itself influences people's beliefs, values and ideals in many present-day, large, civilised societies. In these societies, such as in the United States, many people view the world and shape their behaviour based on a belief that they can understand and control their environment and that work, commerce and the accumulation of wealth serve an ultimate good. The governments of most large societies today also assert that human well-being derives from the growth of economies and the development of technology.

Rapid changes in technology in the last several decades have changed the nature of culture and cultural exchange. People around the world can make economic transactions and transmit information to each other almost instantaneously through the use of computers and satellite communications. Governments and corporations have gained vast amounts of political power through military might and economic influence. Corporations have also created a form of global culture based on worldwide commercial markets. As a result, local culture and social structure are now shaped by large and powerful commercial interests in ways that earlier anthropologists could not have imagined. Early anthropologists thought of societies and their cultures as fully independent systems, but today, many nations are multicultural societies, composed of numerous smaller subcultures. Cultures also cross national boundaries. For instance, people around the world now know a variety of English words and have contact with American cultural exports such as brand-name clothing and technological products, films and music, and mass-produced foods.

In addition, many people have come to believe in the fundamental nature of human rights and free will. These beliefs grew out of people's increasing ability to control the natural world through science and rationalism, and though religious beliefs continue to change to affirm or accommodate these other dominant beliefs, sometimes the two are at odds with each other. For instance, many religious people have difficulty reconciling their belief in a supreme spiritual force with the theory of natural evolution, which requires no belief in the supernatural. As a result, societies in which many people do not practice any religion, such as China, may be known as secular societies. However, no society is entirely secular.

Questions 23 – 40

Questions 23 – 29

Do the following statements agree with the opinion of the writer? Write

YES if the statement agrees with the writer

NO if the statement does not agree with the writer

NOT GIVEN if there is no information about this in the passage.

1. People from all around the world are united by the way they think about culture.
2. Our 'values' are the most important aspect of ideology.
3. Secularism is the most widely accepted system of beliefs, values and ideals.
4. Shamans act as intermediaries between spirits and the living. Agricultural societies benefited from religion.
5. In Aztec civilisation, fighters, craftspeople and traders demanded blood sacrifices from the rich.
6. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, European people began turning towards science.

Questions 30 – 34

Complete the summary of the reading text using words from the box.

belief	latter	religion	faith	ascendancy
former	rational	decline	secular	shaman

There are two main **(30)** systems which can contribute to our ideology – animism and secularism. The **(31)** can be said to dominate older civilisations and tribal societies, whereas larger, more contemporary societies have gone in a more **(32)** and scientific direction. One reason that explains the **(33)** of more secular beliefs is the importance given to other factors, such as free will and capitalism. Nonetheless, **(34)** remains at least to some degree even in the most secular of societies.

Questions 35 – 40

Answer the questions below using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS**.

- What are beliefs, values and ideals specific categories of?
- What was said to be necessary for the continuation of sunrise and sunset in ancient Mexico?
- In Europe, what title was given to the advance of science and logic?
- What two things influenced the development of capitalism?
- Before modern advances in technology, what did anthropologists consider societies to be?
- What theory is symbolic of the tensions between religion and science?

Reading test 2 answers

1. Cocaine
2. Anabolic steroids
3. Relaxants
4. Mask pain
5. Short careers / careers are short
6. Drug testing
7. Natural advantage
8. Disguise illegal substances
9. Detection
10. Allegations
11. D
12. C
13. B
14. B
15. not given
16. Not given
17. true
18. TRUE
19. Muckraking journalism
20. Better transportation (better education created new markets but it was better transportation that allowed for their exploitation)
21. (General) Kitchener
22. Television
23. No
24. Not Given
25. Not Given
26. Yes
27. Not Given
28. No (it was the wealthy and privileged that called for sacrifice, not the fighters, craftspeople and traders).
29. Yes
30. Belief
31. Former
32. Rational
33. Ascendancy
34. Religion
35. Ideology
36. Human sacrifice OR human blood
37. Age of Enlightenment
38. Religion and science
39. Fully independent systems
40. Natural evolution

Reading test 3

Section 1:

Studying in New Zealand

- A relatively small island with a population of less than a quarter of that of Tokyo, New Zealand has a huge overseas student population. With over half a million fee-paying foreign students, an ever-increasing range of academic, professional and vocational courses and English language services are being created or expanded. But why do so many people come from overseas to study in New Zealand? Primarily, there is the fact that it has an excellent education system, especially in English language teaching. With its many British connections as well as the adoption of language from America, New Zealand offers a very international language. Language students are also enticed to New Zealand as they can fully immerse themselves in the language. This is only possible in a country where English is the spoken language.
- There are also strict government controls and standards on the quality of education offered. The government controls the education system, and it has appointed the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, a Ministry of Education and an Education Review Office, to license and control schools. These government bodies ensure that standards are as high in New Zealand as anywhere in the world. In addition, they decide whether or not language schools have the credentials and quality to operate. This allows students to have some peace of mind when choosing a school, but there are other reasons to choose New Zealand first. Independent reports have proven New Zealand to be the most cost-effective country in the western world for study fees, accommodation, cost of living, and recreation. It also has a reputation for safety and security, perhaps the best amongst western countries. Auckland City

offers a multicultural and cosmopolitan place to shop, eat and be entertained. Less than an hour out of the city and you find yourself on beaches or mountains famous for their cleanliness and lack of pollution.

- Although a majority of international students spend some time in a language school, for those aged 13 to 18 New Zealand secondary schools provide a broad education. Other students take advantage of one of the many tertiary education institutions which form the New Zealand polytechnic system. These institutions are state-funded and provide education and training at many levels, from introductory studies to full degree programmes. University education was established in New Zealand in 1870 and has a similar tradition to the British university system. There are eight state-funded universities in New Zealand, all of them internationally respected for their academic and research performance. In addition to a centrally coordinated system of quality assurance audits at both institution and programme level, each university undertakes internal quality checks.
- All New Zealand universities offer a broad range of subjects in arts, commerce and science, but they have also specialised in narrower fields of study such as computer studies, medicine or environmental studies. Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate degrees are offered by all New Zealand universities. A range of undergraduate and postgraduate diplomas are also available, along with Honours programmes (usually requiring an additional year of study). The first degree a student is able to gain in New Zealand is, as elsewhere, a Bachelor's degree. With a completed Bachelor's degree, a graduate may be able to go on to a number of other options. There are Postgraduate Diploma courses, Master's degrees, Doctorates and even research positions available.
- The Postgraduate Diploma course takes one year on a full-time programme and is designed for graduates building on the academic field of their previous degree. The Master's degree, like the Postgraduate Diploma, builds on a Bachelor's degree but can take up to two years, by which time a thesis must be completed. The Master's is the conventional pathway to the next level of education – the Doctorate. For this course, graduates are required to produce a research-based thesis as part of a course that takes a minimum of two years, and is by far the most challenging.

- Finally there is the possibility of research in New Zealand universities. Research is the main characteristic that distinguishes a university as opposed to a polytechnic or other tertiary education institution. New Zealand remains justifiably proud of the quality of its research as a large number of awards are presented to researchers from New Zealand universities.

Questions 1-15

Questions 1-5

Choose the most suitable headings for sections **A and C –F** from the list below.

List of headings

- i. Why New Zealand?
- ii. Course requirements
- iii. Government funding
- iv. Cost of further education
- v. Further education options
- vi. Overseeing authorities
- vii. Specialisation
- viii. Prestigious contribution
- ix. Postgraduate choices

1. Section A

Example Section B vi

2. Section C

3. Section D

4. Section E

5. Section F

Questions 6 – 8

Complete the following sentences using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS**.

1. The field of study in which New Zealand excels is
2. Full immersion learning can only happen in an
3. Educational standards are monitored by three

Questions 9-11

Look at the following statements and decide if they are right or wrong according to the information given.

Write

TRUE if the statement is true

FALSE if the statement is false

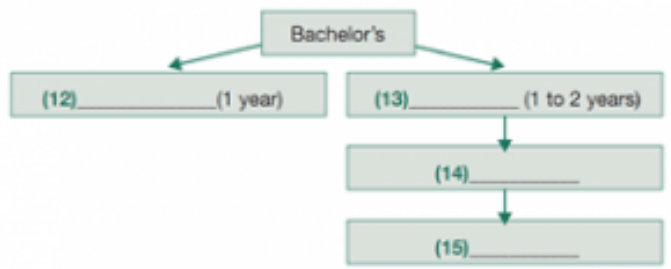
NOT GIVEN if the information is not given in the passage

Write the correct answer **TRUE, FALSE** or **NOT GIVEN** in boxes **9-11** on your answer sheet.

1. Most international students start their studies in a secondary school.
 2. Postgraduate students undertaking a diploma course extend what they have learned during their Bachelor's degree.
 3. All quality control at a tertiary level is done by the universities themselves.
-

Questions 12-15

Complete the flow chart below using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the text.



4.
5.
6.
7.

Section 2

Virtual culture

- Culture is defined as the ‘socially transmitted behaviour patterns, arts, beliefs, and institutions that are the expression of a particular class, community or period’ (www.dictionary.com). To most people, this is seen in terms of books, paintings, rituals and ceremonies, but recently there has been a new entrant in the field of what is considered to be ‘culture’ – the Internet.
- On the Internet, science and art, media and mind combine to create a modern culture which is far more widespread than any of its predecessors. Not referring to the casual user who has no particular interest in the Internet, active supporters of the Internet as a culture have given themselves nomenclature to reflect their cultural aspirations – they are the new cyberpoets. A cyberpoet can be defined as ‘one who

makes frequent trips to the edge of technology, society and traditional culture and strives to be artful in their use of virtual space’.

- Supporter or opponent of this new culture, there is little doubt that the Internet offers a lot to our traditional view of culture. In just a few minutes in front of a keyboard, we can read almost anything that has ever been written, yet no paper had to be made, no library had to stay open and thus the cost remains minimal. All of this encourages even the casual surfer to explore further than he or she otherwise would have. The same effect can be observed with works of art. Previously available to be viewed only in museums if they were not in the hands of private collectors, all but a few famous works are now replicated on the Internet.
- Yet the Internet is not merely a mirror of traditional culture – it is also a new culture in its own right. The medium of the Net allows for wider distribution and new platforms for most forms of art. ‘Kinetic art’ and other such computerised art forms occur with increasing regularity, both motivated by and generating an upsurge in popular and computer-mediated art.
- In addition, if culture is said to be ‘socially transmitted’, then the Internet is remarkable in its ability to share, on an almost global scale, all the factors that constitute culture. We have only to hear the influence of jargon as we visit dub-dub-dub dot sites and surf the web to see how international the Internet has become to the majority.
- Very few people would disagree that the cyberpoets are increasingly asserting themselves into popular culture. What is not so certain is how far this will go, as the Internet continues to assimilate more and more forms of culture, rising to a point where it is not inconceivable that our entire perception of culture will soon become cyber-focused.
- There is also a significant increase in transient imagery from photographs, videos and other media uploaded to many social networking sites. The rise of the term ‘selfie’, referring to a photograph taken by the person in the picture, is just one example – there are also applications for smartphones and tablet devices that allow instant video uploads, meaning that ‘looped’ videos lasting just a few seconds can be

created to great effect. The problem, of course, is wading through the many millions of hours of footage that cannot be classified as having any cultural significance.

- Reliance on the internet itself has inherent risks, as the authorship of online content is now far less moderated. It is possible to set up a website in as little as an hour, populated with content which may be presented as accurate, impartial information but is in reality an ill considered, poorly researched collection of opinions and incorrect facts. Even established websites which allow users to contribute content can quickly become unreliable sources. Not only is there wider room for error, there is now a heightened concern that web pages and social media can reduce popular culture into a series of illogical and often abusive arguments, which do not need to be supported with facts or even ascribed to a specific purpose. The anonymous nature of a large percentage of internet interactions means that even the most bigoted point of view can find a forum, even if reactions to it are negative.

Questions 16-27

Questions 16 -21

Do the following statements agree with the information given in reading passage 2?

TRUE If the statement agrees with the information

FALSE If the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN If there is no information on this

Write the correct answer **TRUE, FALSE** or **NOT GIVEN** in boxes 24-26 on your answer sheet.

- The majority of people consider 'culture' to be represented by traditional forms of art and media.
- The internet as a culture is not extensive.
- Through the Internet, every written word can be accessed.
- The Internet provides a stage for all forms of art.

- An insignificant number remain unaffected by the international nature of the Internet.
 - Only a few people believe that 'cyberpoets' are becoming part of our popular culture.
-

Questions 22 – 27

Which paragraph contains the following information. Write **A – H** for answers 22 to 27

- The range of resources available online has allowed more people to see versions of most artworks.
 - Lack of clarity regarding the person responsible has an effect on cultural value of some web based resources.....
 - Providing the ability to cross boundaries and be available worldwide.....
 - The emergence of new forms of culture thanks to digital possibilities
 - The wealth of online resources can mean difficulties in identifying areas of cultural significance
 - The self proclaimed title of supporters of internet culture
-

Section 3

Ford – driving innovation

- In 1913 an American industrialist named Henry Ford employed an innovative system in his factory that changed the nature of American industry forever – the production

line. Instead of a group of workers constructing a complete product, Ford's production-line techniques relied on machine parts being moved around the factory on a conveyor belt, passing each employee who had a single task to perform before the component moved down the line. This saved time in that employees were not required to move around, collect materials or change tools; they simply stood in one place and repeated the same procedure over and over again until the end of their shift. In this way, Ford was able to mass produce the now famous Model-T car for only 10% of traditional labour costs.

- Working on a production line was monotonous work, undoubtedly, but it was not in the production line alone that Ford was something of a pioneer. In 1913 the average hourly rate for unskilled labour was under \$2.50 and for such low wages and repetitive work, the labour turnover in Ford's factory was high, with many employees lasting less than a month. In order to combat this problem, he took a step that was condemned by other industrialists of the time, fearful that they would lose their own workforce – he raised wages to \$5 an hour. The benefits were twofold. Not only did Ford now have a stable and eager workforce, he also had potential customers. It was his intention 'to build a motorcar for the great multitude', and the Model-T car was one of the cheapest cars on the market at the time. At \$5 an hour, many of his employees now found themselves in a position to feasibly afford a car of their own. Ford's production practices meant that production time was reduced from 14 hours to a mere 93 minutes. In 1914 company profits were \$30 million, yet just two years later this figure had doubled. Until 1927 when the last Model-T rolled off the production line, the company produced and sold about 15 million cars.
- Although Ford was without doubt successful, times changed and the company began losing its edge. One problem came from the labour force. Ford was a demanding employer who insisted that the majority of his staff remained on their feet during their shift. One error meant that the whole production line was often kept waiting, and Ford felt that workers were more attentive standing than sitting. Yet the 1930s saw some radical changes in the relationships between employer and employee, as an increasing number of industries were forming Labour Unions. Ford flatly refused to get involved, employing spies in the workplace to sabotage any plans for a union within his factories. Eventually a strike in the early 1940s forced Ford to deal with

unions. Another example of Ford being unable to adapt came from his unwillingness to branch out. Ford's competitors began operating the same systems and practices, but also introduced the variety Ford was lacking. The Model-T had remained essentially the same, even down to the colour, and by the time he realised his error, he had already lost his pre-eminence in the industry. Subsequent involvement in aeroplane manufacturing, politics and publishing was a failure. Leaving the company to his grandson in 1945, he died two years later leaving an inheritance estimated at \$700 million.

- Yet the legacy of Fordism lives on. The development of mass production transformed the organisation of work in a number of important ways. Tasks were minutely subdivided and performed by unskilled workers, or at least semiskilled workers, since much of the skill was built into the machine. Second, manufacturing concerns grew to such a size that a large hierarchy of supervisors and managers became necessary. Third, the increasing complexity of operations required employment of a large management staff of accountants, engineers, chemists, and, later, social psychologists, in addition to a large distribution and sales force. Mass production also heightened the trend towards an international division of labour. The huge new factories often needed raw materials from abroad, while saturation of national markets led to a search for customers overseas. Thus, some countries became exporters of raw materials and importers of finished goods, while others did the reverse.
- In the 1970s and '80s some countries, particularly in Asia and South America, that had hitherto been largely agricultural and that had imported manufactured goods, began industrialising. The skills needed by workers on assembly-line tasks required little training, and standards of living in these developing countries were so low that wages could be kept below those of the already industrialised nations. Many large manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere therefore began 'outsourcing' – that is, having parts made or whole products assembled in developing nations. Consequently, those countries are rapidly becoming integrated into the world economic community

Questions 28-40

Questions 28 -32

Choose the most suitable headings for Paragraphs **A-E** from the list below. Use each heading once only.

List of headings

- Effect on modern industry
- New payment procedures
- Labour problems
- The Model-T
- Creating a market
- Revolutionary production techniques
- The Ford family today
- Impact on the global economy
- Overseas competition

- A. Paragraph A
- B. Paragraph B
- C. Paragraph C
- D. Paragraph D
- E. Paragraph E

Questions 33 -37

Answer the following questions using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS**.

- What was the main saving of production line techniques?
- What level did Ford cut production costs down to compared with more traditional methods of the time?
- When was the last Model-T Ford produced?
- What did Ford unsuccessfully oppose the organisation of?

- What is the name given to the principles of mass production and associated practices?

Questions 38 – 40

Complete the following summary using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS FROM THE TEXT**.

One of the long-term effects of Ford's business practices was that many developing countries became industrialised as a result of (38) some work to other countries. For those working in the factory, the skills for (39) were easily acquired and (40) was minimal.

Reading test 3 answers

1. I
2. III
3. V
4. IX
5. VIII
6. English language teaching
7. English speaking country
8. Government bodies
9. Not given
10. True
11. False
12. Postgraduate diploma
13. Masters degree
14. Doctorate
15. Research
16. True – Paragraph A states “To most people, this is seen in terms of books, paintings, rituals and ceremonies”
17. False – Paragraph B states ‘On the Internet, science and art, media and mind combine to create a modern culture which is far more widespread than any of its predecessors’. This is further supported later in Paragraph D, ‘The medium of the Net allows for wider distribution and new platforms for most forms of art’.
18. False – the key here was to identify the qualifying word ‘every’ – Paragraph C states ‘In just a few minutes in front of a keyboard, we can read almost anything that has ever been written’ – almost is not a synonym for every.
19. False – as with question 18, the key is in the qualifying word – the question says ‘all forms of art’, but Paragraph D states ‘most forms of art’
20. Not given – Paragraph E refers to the international nature of the internet, but we are not given specifics on numbers that are affected.

21. False – the text states ‘Very few people would disagree’ (Paragraph F) – very few would disagree means most would agree, which contradicts ‘Only a few people believe’ in the question.
22. C (‘ Previously available to be viewed only in museums if they were not in the hands of private collectors, all but a few famous works are now replicated on the Internet.’)
23. H (‘The anonymous nature of a large percentage of internet interactions means that even the most bigoted point of view can find a forum’)
24. E (‘We have only to hear the influence of jargon as we visit dub-dub-dub dot sites and surf the web to see how international the Internet has become to the majority.’)
25. D (‘Kinetic art’ and other such computerised art forms occur with increasing regularity, both motivated by and generating an upsurge in popular and computer-mediated art’)
26. G (‘The problem, of course, is wading through the many millions of hours of footage that cannot be classified as having any cultural significance.’)
27. B (‘active supporters of the Internet as a culture have given themselves nomenclature to reflect their cultural aspirations – they are the new cyberpoets’)
28. VI
29. V
30. III
31. I
32. VIII
33. Time
34. 10% / TEN PERCENT / TEN PER CENT / 10 PER CENT 10 PERCENT
35. 1927
36. Labour Unions
37. Fordism
38. Outsourcing
39. Assembly line tasks
40. Training

Writing tests

Writing test answer 1

IELTS Academic Task 1 Writing model answer 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The table gives information about the average hours spent on the Internet by European people of different age groups.

Age (years)	Male	Female
11 – 15	8	6
16 – 20	19	18
21 – 25	7	5
26 – 30	4	4
31 – 50	3	4
51+	2	3

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In many countries, people do not recycle their rubbish as much as they could.

Why do you think this is? What can be done to change this?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Model answers test 1

The table shows the median number of weekly hours various age groups in Europe spend on the internet.

The most striking point to note is that Internet usage is at its highest for those aged between 16 and 20, with the figure for males being 19 hours and females just one hour less. These figures represent an increase of treble the previous age category for women and over two times more for males.

From 21 onwards, the hours spent reduced dramatically. By the ages of 26 to 30, males and females spend the same amount of time online with 4 hours each, after which females reportedly spend slightly longer online than males for the remaining two categories, falling to only 3 hours for men and 4 hours for women for those aged 51 or older.

Overall, it can be seen that the highest period of internet usage for both male and female was the age range of 16 to 20.

(160 words)

With an increasing world population and subsequent environmental concerns, it is important to dispose of trash in an eco-friendly manner, yet there are a significant number of places around the world that fail to do so.

There are a number of reasons that mean that recycling is not done as effectively as it could, the primary problem being the attitude of the general public. Lethargy or lack of knowledge leads people to throw all of their rubbish into one place, meaning that material that could have been sorted and reused is buried in landfills. In the UK, for example, over 20 million tonnes of waste is buried whilst less than 1 per cent of that amount is actively recycled. There is also the matter of availability, as there are situations in which recycling facilities are either extremely limited or non-existent.

In order to combat these issues, the first step would be educating the general public about the facts of waste disposal and recycling, perhaps even enforcing participation by levying a

fine against those who do not separate their rubbish into different types. Hand in hand with this, making recycling centres more available would also help, or perhaps adopting a system used in some Asian countries where households are given a number of different containers into which to sort their rubbish for collection.

Overall, it seems that a change of attitude is needed as well as more resources to manage different recyclable materials. This can be achieved through a combination of education and penalties, as well as ensuring better access to facilities.

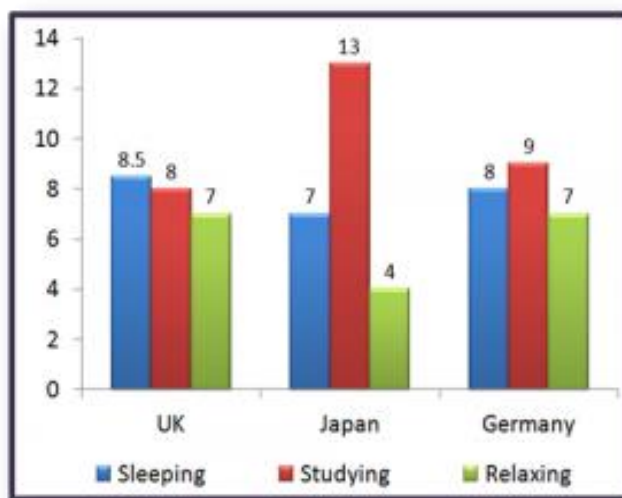
(261 words)

Writing test answer 2

IELTS Academic Task 1 Writing model answer 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The bar chart shows the typical weekday for students in three different countries.



Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Smoking can cause serious illnesses and should be made illegal.

To what extent do you agree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Model answers test 2

The bar chart illustrates the breakdown of a typical 24 hour period on a school day for students in 3 different countries, namely the UK, Japan and Germany.

Most notable is the amount of hours spent studying by Japanese children. At just over 13 hours a day, this is over 5 hours longer than in the UK and 4 hours above the average number for Germany.

With regards sleeping, UK schoolchildren spend the most time in bed, with approximately 8.5 hours a day. Germany is not far behind at about 8 hours, but students in Japan average at least one hour less sleep at 7 hours.

The UK and Germany share an equal 7 hours a day on relaxing or other pursuits, whereas Japanese schoolchildren have only 4 hours.

In total, it is clear that despite a few minor differences, Germany and the UK have similar statistics, whereas Japan focuses much more on studying.

(154 words)

There are clear arguments for banning smoking, based largely on health, but there is perhaps a stronger case to be made for maintaining the current situation, as will now be explained.

The most important factor for keeping smoking legal is that the decision to smoke is not something that should be controlled by the government, but by the individual. If a person decides to smoke, they do so of their own free will and this should be respected, as it is the government's role to advise against harmful practices, but ultimately not to make decisions for its citizens.

The other reason for allowing smoking is that by making laws against it is more likely to result in the sale of tobacco moving to the black market, and consequently increasing the level of associated crime. There will still be people who cannot overcome their addiction,

and will search for any means available to access cigarettes. A clear example of this reaction can be seen in the illegal sale of other drugs such as cocaine and marijuana.

Of course, there is the fact that smoking is known to have adverse health effects on both the smoker and those around them who are affected by passive smoking. Yet there are other lifestyle choices that also have a negative impact, such as fast food and alcohol, and banning these items would restrict the choice available to the consumer.

In conclusion, the decision to ban smoking, although having some advantages, would be more likely to have an overall negative effect. It would therefore be better for the government to continue campaigns that educate people about the potential dangers of the habit.

(276 words)

Writing test answer 3

IELTS Academic Task 1 Writing model answer 3

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The line graph shows the number of first time visitors and returning visitors who visited Caryl Island from 2000 to 2008.



Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

We no longer need to have animals kept in zoos, so zoos should be closed.

Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Model answers test 3

The line graph depicts the number of people who visited Caryl Island over an 8-year period from 2000, with data given in two yearly increments.

In 2000, the number of people who visited the destination for the first time was approximately 8,000 per annum, compared with only about 3,000 returning visitors. However, by 2002, this trend had reversed, with slightly more than 4,000 new visitors compared to nearly 10,000 returning visitors.

From 2002 to 2006, both returning and first time visitor numbers increased dramatically rising to a combined total of well over 24,000 visitors.

While the combined number of people visiting the island remained high in 2008, the variation between first time and returning visitors narrowed as the number of people on their first visit continued to increase while those coming back for additional visits fell.

In total, it is evident that the number of people visiting Caryl island increased significantly over the period given.

(155 words)

There has long been an argument against maintaining zoos in which animals are kept away from their natural habitat, and there is strong evidence to suggest that technology has developed to a point where such institutions are no longer needed, as will now be argued.

Traditionally, the principal argument voiced by those who wish to retain zoos was that it allowed children and adults to see animals which they more than likely would not have had a chance to do if this had required visiting the creature's natural environment. Yet there are now online videos and websites where these animals can be seen in high definition, therefore no longer needing to go to enclosures to see the animals. This is clearly evident by the declining number of visitors in recent years.

In addition, there are many cases in which animals held in captivity are not well cared for and are used solely to exploit them for profit. In some rare cases, the animals can suffer from neglect or malnutrition, and rather than being kept healthy are simply replaced when they are no longer of any value.

Granted, there are situations in which endangered species are protected and their numbers allowed to rebuild by housing them in the security of a zoo. However, in most cases the same effect is better achieved by using more open plan wildlife parks rather than traditional caged enclosures.

In sum, the factors which first led to the creation of zoos have been reduced by the ability of technology, so unless there is some advantage for the species itself, then the use of zoos should no longer be supported.

(273 words)
