

Type 1. Multiple Choice (one answer from 4 options)

[Note: This is a shortened extract from a Part 1 IELTS exam text about older people in the workforce.]

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The general assumption is that older workers are paid more because of their seniority rather than because of their productivity. That probably explains why, when employers need to cut staff costs, they persuade older workers to take early retirement. **Take away seniority-based pay scales, and older workers may become a much more attractive employment proposition.**

1 A

Faced with the need to cut staff costs, and having decided to concentrate cuts on 55 to 60-year olds, IBM Belgium using a new approach, set up a separate company called **Skill Team**, which re-employed any of the early retired who wanted to go on working up to the age of 60. The company offered services to IBM, **thus allowing it to retain access to some of the intellectual capital it would otherwise have lost.**

2 C

The best way to tempt the old to go on working may be to build on such 'bridge' jobs: part-time or temporary employment that creates a more gradual transition from full-time work to retirement. There **seem to be two very different types** of bridge job-holder – those who **continue working because they have to** and those **who continue working because they want to**, even though they could afford to retire.

3 D

If the job market grows more flexible, the old may find more jobs that suit them. Often, they will be self-employed. Sometimes, they start their own businesses: a study by **David Storey** of Warwick University **found that in Britain 70% of businesses started by people over 55 survived,** compared with an overall national average of only 19%.

4 B

Questions 1 – 4

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

Write the correct letter in boxes 1-4 on your answer sheet.

- 1 In paragraph one, the writer suggests that companies could consider
- A** abolishing pay schemes that are based on age.
 - B** avoiding pay that is based on piece-rates.
 - C** increasing pay for older workers.
 - D** equipping older workers with new skills.
- 2 Skill Team is an example of a company which
- A** offers older workers increases in salary.
 - B** allows people to continue working for as long as they want.
 - C** allows the expertise of older workers to be put to use.
 - D** treats older and younger workers equally.
- 3 According to the writer, 'bridge' jobs
- A** tend to attract people in middle-salary ranges.
 - B** are better paid than some full-time jobs.
 - C** originated in the United States.
 - D** appeal to distinct groups of older workers.
- 4 David Storey's study found that
- A** people demand more from their work as they get older.
 - B** older people are good at running their own businesses.
 - C** an increasing number of old people are self-employed.
 - D** few young people have their own businesses.

Type 2. Identifying Information (True/False/Not Given)

[Note: This is a shortened extract from a Part 1 IELTS exam text about the scientist Marie Curie.]

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The life and work of Marie Curie

Marie Curie is probably the most famous woman scientist who has ever lived. Born Maria Sklodowska in Poland in 1867, she is famous for her work on radioactivity, and was twice a winner of the Nobel Prize. With her husband, Pierre Curie, and Henri Becquerel, she was awarded the 1903 Nobel Prize for Physics, and was then sole winner of the 1911 Nobel Prize for Chemistry. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize.

1 F

2 NG From childhood, Marie was remarkable for her prodigious memory, and at the age of 16 won a gold medal on completion of her secondary education. Because her father lost his savings through bad investment, she then had to take work as a teacher. From her earnings she was able to finance her sister Bronia's medical studies in Paris, on the understanding that Bronia would, in turn, later help her to get an education.

3 T

In 1891 this promise was fulfilled and Marie went to Paris and began to study at the Sorbonne (the University of Paris). She often worked far into the night and lived on little more than bread and butter and tea. She came first in the examination in the physical sciences in 1893, and in 1894 was placed second in the examination in mathematical sciences. It was not until the spring of that year that she was introduced to Pierre Curie.

Questions 1 – 3

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

In boxes 1-3 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE	<i>if the statement agrees with the information</i>
FALSE	<i>if the statement contradicts the information</i>
NOT GIVEN	<i>if there is no information on this</i>

- 1 Marie Curie's husband was a joint winner of both Marie's Nobel Prizes. **F**
- 2 Marie became interested in science when she was a child. **NG**
- 3 Marie was able to attend the Sorbonne because of her sister's financial contribution. **T**

[Note: This is a shortened extract from a Part 2 IELTS exam text about the risks of cigarette smoke.]

Type 3. Identifying Writers Claims

The Risks of Cigarette Smoke

In recent times, scientific research has been providing evidence that years of cigarette smoking vastly increases the risk of developing fatal medical conditions.

Smoking, it is believed, is responsible for 30 per cent of all deaths from cancer and clearly represents the most important preventable cause of cancer in countries like the United States today. 1 N

As an illustration of the health risks, in the case of a married couple where one partner is a smoker and one a non-smoker, the latter is believed to have a 30 per cent higher risk of death from heart disease because of passive smoking. 2 NG

It has been calculated that 17 per cent of cases of lung cancer can be attributed to high levels of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke during childhood and adolescence. 3 Y

A more recent study by researchers at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) has shown that second-hand cigarette smoke does more harm to non-smokers than to smokers. 4 NG

Questions 1 – 4

Do the following statements reflect the claims of the writer in the reading passage?

In boxes 1-4 on your answer sheet write

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| YES | <i>if the statement reflects the claims of the writer</i> |
| NO | <i>if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer</i> |
| NOT GIVEN | <i>if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this</i> |

- 1 Thirty per cent of deaths in the United States are caused by smoking-related diseases. **N**
- 2 If one partner in a marriage, smokes, the other is likely to take up smoking. **NG**
- 3 Teenagers whose parents smoke are at some risk of getting lung cancer at some time during their lives. **Y**
- 4 Opponents of smoking financed the UCSF study. **NG**

[Note: This is a shortened extract from a Part 2 IELTS exam text about the motor car.]

Type 4. Matching Information (to paragraphs in a passage)

The Motor Car

- A** There are now over 700 million motor vehicles in the world - and the number is rising by more than 40 million each year. This dependence on motor vehicles has given rise to major problems, including environmental pollution, depletion of oil resources, traffic congestion and safety.
- B** While emissions from new cars are far less harmful than they used to be, city streets and motorways are becoming more crowded than ever, often with older trucks, buses and taxis which emit excessive levels of smoke and fumes. This concentration of vehicles makes air quality in urban areas unpleasant and sometimes dangerous to breathe.
- C** Until a hundred years ago, most journeys were in the 20km range, the distance conveniently accessible by horse. Invention of the motor vehicle brought personal mobility to the masses and made rapid freight delivery possible over a much wider area. In present time United Kingdom, about 90 per cent of inland freight is carried by road.
- D** In Europe most cities are still designed for the old modes of transport. Adaptation to the motor car has involved adding ring roads, one-way systems and parking lots to cities. In the United States, more land is assigned to car use than to housing.
- E** A 1993 study found that car transport is seven times as costly as rail travel in terms of the social costs it entails - congestion, accidents, pollution, loss of cropland and so on. Yet cars easily surpass trains or buses as a flexible and convenient mode of personal transport. It is unrealistic to expect people to give up private cars in favour of mass transit.
- F** Technical solutions can reduce the pollution problem but fuel consumption and emissions depend on which cars are preferred by customers and how they are driven. Many people buy larger cars than they need for daily purposes or waste fuel by driving aggressively.
- G** Some argue that the only long-term solution is to design cities and neighbourhoods so that car journeys are not necessary - all essential services being located within walking distance or easily accessible by public transport.

- H A more likely future scenario seems to be a combination of mass transit systems for travel into and around cities, with small 'low emission' cars for urban use and larger hybrid cars for use elsewhere. But these are solutions for countries which can afford them. In most developing countries, old cars and old technologies will continue to predominate

Questions 14 – 19

Sample Passage 7 has eight paragraphs labelled A-H.

Which paragraphs contains the following information?

Write the correct letter A-H in boxes 14-19 on your answer sheet.

NB You may use any letter more than once.

- 14 a comparison of past and present transportation methods **C**
- 15 how driving habits contribute to road problems **F**
- 16 the relative merits of cars and public transport **E**
- 17 the writer's prediction on future solutions **H**
- 18 the increasing use of motor vehicles **A**
- 19 the impact of the car on city development **D**

[Note: This is a shortened extract from a Part 3 IELTS exam text about the effects of governments and farming.]

Type 5. Matching Headings

Questions 1 – 5

The passage has five sections, **A-E**.

Choose the correct heading for sections **A-E** from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number **i-viii** in boxes 1-5 on your answer sheet.

List of Headings

- i The probable effects of the new international trade agreement
- ii The environmental impact of modern farming
- iii Farming and soil erosion
- iv The effects of government policy in rich countries
- v Governments and management of the environment
- vi The effects of government policy in poor countries
- vii Farming and food output
- viii The effects of government policy on food output

- 1 Section A **v**
- 2 Section B **vii**
- 3 Section C **ii**
- 4 Section D **iv**
- 5 Section E **i**

Section A

The role of governments in environmental management is difficult but inescapable.

Sometimes, the state tries to manage the resources it owns, and does so badly. Often, however, governments act in an even more harmful way. They actually subsidize the exploitation and consumption of natural resources.

Section B

No activity affects more of the earth's surface than farming. World food output per head has risen by 4 per cent between the 1970s and 1980s mainly as a result of increases in yields from land already in cultivation, but also because more land has been brought under the plough.

Section C

All these modern techniques may have damaging environmental impacts. For example, land clearing for agriculture is the largest single cause of deforestation; chemical fertilizers and pesticides may contaminate water supplies; and use of high-yielding varieties of crops have been accompanied by the disappearance of old varieties of food plants.

Section D

Government policies have frequently compounded the environmental damage that farming can cause. In certain rich countries the trend has been to introduce new payments to encourage farmers to treat their land in environmentally friendlier ways. It may sound strange but such payments need to be higher than the existing incentives for farmers to grow food crops.

Section E

A result of the Uruguay Round of world trade negotiations is likely to be a reduction of 36 per cent in the average levels of farm subsidies paid by the rich countries in 1986-1990. Some of the world's food production will move from Western Europe to regions where subsidies are lower or non-existent, such as the former communist countries and parts of the developing world.

[Note: This is a shortened extract from a Part 1 IELTS exam text about plastic packaging.]

T6. Matching Features

Is it time to halt the rising tide of plastic packaging?

A. Concern over plastic packaging has produced a range of conflicting initiatives from retailers, manufacturers, and local authorities. It's a debate that dies down and then blows up again from one month to the next. 'It is being left to the individuals and supermarkets to make the correct decisions,' says **Tim Lang**, a professor specializing in food policy. 'It's a mess.'

Dick Scarle of the Packaging Federation points out that societies without modern packaging lose a lot of their food before it reaches consumers, whereas, in the UK waste in supply chains is only about 3 per cent. In India, it is more than 50 per cent. Packagers agree that cardboard, metals, and glass all have their good points, but there's nothing quite like plastic. With more than 20 families of polymers to choose from and then sometimes blend, packaging designers and manufacturers have a limitless variety of qualities to play with.

B. One store commissioned a comparison study to find which had a less environmental impact: selling apples loose or ready-wrapped. **Helene Roberts**, head of packaging, explains that interestingly, they found that four apples on a tray covered by plastic film needed 27 per cent less packaging in transportation than those sold loose.

Steve Kelsey, a packaging designer, finds the debate frustrating. He argues that the desire to do something quickly is diverting effort away from more complicated questions about how you truly alter supply chains. Rather than further reducing the weight of a plastic bottle, more thought should be given to how packaging can be recycled.

Questions 1-4

Look at the following statements (Questions 1-4) and the list of people below.

Match each statement to the correct person A-D.

Write the correct letter, A-D in boxes 1-4 on your answer sheet.

NB You may use any letter more than once.

1. A comparison of two approaches to packaging revealed an interesting result. **C**
2. People are expected to do the right thing. **A**
3. Most packaged foods reach UK shops in good condition. **B**
4. Complex issues are ignored in the search for speedy solutions. **D**

People

- A. Tim Lang
- B. Dick Scarle
- C. Helene Roberts
- D. Steve Kelsey

[Note: This is a shortened extract from a Part 2 IELTS exam text about Jurassic fossils.]

Type 7. Matching sentence endings

Source: University of Edinburgh (April 4, 2019)

Jurassic crocodile discovery sheds light on reptiles' family tree

A A newly identified species of 150-million-year-old marine crocodile has given insights into how a group of ancient animals evolved. These slender animals, which fed on fast-moving prey such as squid and small fish, lived during the Jurassic era in shallow seas and lagoons in what is now Germany.

B An international team of scientists identified the new species from a remarkably well-preserved skeleton. The fossil was discovered in 2014 in a quarry near the town of Bamberg in Germany by a team from the Natural Science Museum Bamberg, where it is now housed and displayed.

C Researchers compared the fossil with those from other museum collections, and confirmed that it was a previously unseen species. The skeleton has several distinguishing features in its jaws, the roof of its mouth and tail, some of which have not been seen in any other species.

D Dr Mark Young, of the University of Edinburgh's School of Geosciences, who took part in the study, said: "The rock formations of southern Germany continue to give us fresh insights into the age of dinosaurs. These rock layers were deposited and established at a time when Europe was covered by a shallow sea, with countries such as Germany and the UK being a collection of islands."

Questions 1–4

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

Write the correct letter, **A–G**, in boxes 1–4 on your answer sheet.

- 1 The ancient species of crocodile ate marine creatures that **F**
- 2 The skeleton is kept in **E**
- 3 Bones of the early type of crocodile **B**
- 4 The geology of southern Germany **D**

- A** is believed to have lived 150 million years ago.

B show some unique features.

C resembled dolphins.

D was laid down when the area was under water.

E a museum in the town near where it was found.

F swam fast through the water.

G the University of Edinburgh's School of Geosciences.

T8. Sentence Completion

[Note: This is a shortened extract from a Part 2 IELTS exam text about the evolution of birds and their ancestry.]

The origins of birds

The 'birds are dinosaurs' theory was first developed by English palaeontologist Thomas Huxley. One evening, Huxley went to dinner thinking about a mystery dinosaur bone in his lab. He knew he was dealing with the lower leg bone of a meat-eating, two-legged dinosaur belonging to the classification known as theropods, but attached to the tibia was an unidentified extra bone. He later realised that it was in fact, the bird's anklebone.

Danish doctor Gerhard Heilmann did not agree with Huxley's theory as he had noted that two-legged, meat-eating dinosaurs lacked collarbones. In later evolutionary stages these bones fuse together to form the distinctive 'Y'-shaped bone in a bird's neck, known as the furcula, so dinosaurs could not be the ancestors of birds.

US ornithologist Alan Feduccia and palaeontologist Larry Martin are two vocal opponents of the dinosaur theory. They contend that birds evolved from some unknown reptile at a time long before dinosaurs. Their reasoning is that flight is most likely to have started from a tree-climbing ancestor, yet all the proposed dinosaurian ancestors were ground-dwellers.

Supporters of cladistics, however, maintain that differences between organisms do not matter, as it is the similarities between them that count. Evolution dictates that organisms will change through time, so it is only the features which persist that carry useful information about their origins.

Over the last few decades, several dinosaurs with bird-like features and primitive birds with dinosaur-like features have been found in several countries, connecting back to dinosaurs, and forwards to modern birds. And Rahonavis, a primitive bird from Madagascar, retains some dinosaur features, including a long and dangerous claw at the end of its wing. Over a century since Huxley's discovery, it seems that cladistics may have finally settled the 'dino-bird' debate.

Questions 1 – 5

Complete the sentences below.

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

Write your answers in boxes 1-5 on your answer sheet.

- 1 Huxley formulated his theory while studying a dinosaur belonging to a group called ...theropods.....
- 2 Heilmann rejected Huxley's theory because of the apparent absence of.. collarbones.in dinosaurs.
- 3 Feduccia and Martin believe that the ancestor of today's birds was a kind of early ...reptile.....
- 4 In cladistics, the ..similarities..... between organisms' characteristics are of major importance.
- 5 The dangerous.....clawon a primitive bird from Madagascar adds weight to the 'dino-bird' argument.

Type 9. Summary Completion (selecting from a list)

[Note: This is a shortened extract from a Part 3 text about language.]

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'This Marvellous Invention'

Of all mankind's manifold creations, language must take pride of place. Other inventions – the wheel, agriculture, sliced bread – may have transformed our material existence, but the advent of language is what made us human. Compared to language, all other inventions pale in significance, since everything we have ever achieved depends on language and originates from it. Without language, we could never have embarked on our ascent to unparalleled power over all other animals, and even over nature itself.

But language is foremost not just because it came first. In its own right it is a tool of extraordinary sophistication, yet based on an idea of ingenious simplicity: 'this marvellous invention of composing out of twenty-five or thirty sounds that infinite variety of expressions which, whilst having in themselves no likeness to what is in our mind, allow us to disclose to others its whole secret, and to make known to those who cannot penetrate it all that we imagine, and all the various stirrings of our soul'. This was how, in 1660, the renowned French grammarians of the Port-Royal abbey near Versailles distilled the essence of language, and no one since has celebrated more eloquently the magnitude of its achievement. Even so, there is just one flaw in all these hymns of praise, for the homage to language's unique accomplishment conceals a simple yet critical incongruity. Language is mankind's greatest invention – except, of course, that it was never invented. This apparent paradox is at the core of our fascination with language, and it holds many of its secrets.

Questions 1 – 4

Complete the summary using the list of words, **A-G**, below.

Write the correct letter, **A-G**, in boxes 1-4 on your answer sheet.

The importance of language

The wheel is one invention that has had a major impact on 1.....**E**.....aspects of life, but no impact has been as 2**G**..... as that of language. Language is very 3 ...**B**..... , yet composed of just a small number of sounds. Language appears to be 4**F**..... to use. However, its sophistication is often overlooked.

A difficult
D admired
G fundamental

B complex
E material

C original
F easy

Type 10. Labelling a Diagram (selecting words from the passage)

[Note: This is a shortened extract from a Part 1 text about ants.]

About Ants

There are more than 10,000 known species of ants living throughout the world. Ants can be identified by the constriction that looks like a waist **between the abdomen, at the end of the body**, and the part of the body called **the thorax, which is located before the head**. Their bodies are covered with a hard armour called the exoskeleton. While the exoskeleton is their defensive weapon, their **rear abdominal stinger** is their offensive one. Like other insects, they have six legs, each with three joints. Ants have **large heads with compound eyes**, elbowed antennae, and **powerful pincers known as mandibles**. These are the ant's most useful tools, which are used for holding, carrying and cutting.

Depending on the ant species and the nest community size, there may be one or more queens in the colony. The ant life cycle has four stages of development: egg, larva, pupa and adult. The queen lays the eggs, which will hatch into larvae in a couple of days. The helpless larva are fed and groomed by the worker ants until they pass through the pupal stage. In a little more than a week, an adult ant will emerge, and the metamorphosis is complete.

Questions 1 – 5

Complete the diagram below using no more than two words from the passage for each question.

