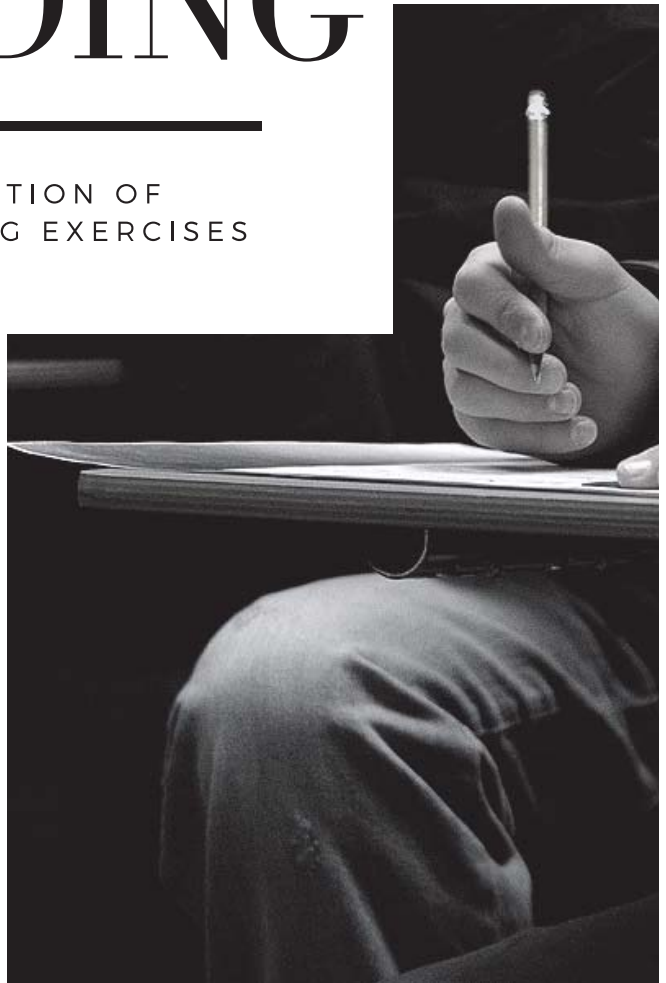


IELTS READING

A COLLECTION OF
IELTS READING EXERCISES



BY SHAMIM



Read the following article and choose the best title from the list below.

A new survey reveals that a family sit-down at dinnertime may reduce a teenager's risk of trying or using alcohol, cigarettes and drugs. The study surveyed more than 1,000 teens and found that those who dined with their families five to seven times a week were four times less likely to use alcohol, tobacco or marijuana than those who ate with their families fewer than three times a week.

A recent UK survey also found that dining together as a family is a key ingredient in ensuring a child's happiness. Children in the survey reported higher levels of happiness when they dined together with their families at least three times a week. "Contrary to the popular belief that children only want to spend time playing video games or watching TV," said researcher Dr. Maris Iacovou of the University of Essex, "we found that they were most happy when interacting with their parents or siblings."

- A) Children's happiness
- B) Why teenagers use alcohol, cigarettes and drugs
- C) What teenagers really want
- D) Why families should dine together

ANSWERS:

The right answer is D



Reading

IELTS
JOURNAL

Read the following passage about large and important cities.

A 'megacity' is usually defined as a metropolitan area with a total population in excess of ten million people. A megacity can be a single metropolitan area or two or more metropolitan areas that converge. The terms conurbation, metropolis and metroplex are also applied to the latter. As of 2017, there are 37 megacities in existence. The largest of these are the metropolitan areas of Tokyo and Shanghai, each of these having a population of over 30 million inhabitants, with 38.8 million and 35.5 million respectively. Tokyo is the world's largest metropolitan area, while Shanghai has the world's largest city proper population. The UN predicts there will be 41 megacities by 2030.

By contrast, a 'global city', also called 'world city' or sometimes 'alpha city' or 'world center', is a city generally considered to be an important node in the global economic system. The Institute for Urban Strategies at The Mori Memorial Foundation in Tokyo issued a comprehensive study of global cities in 2016. The ranking is based on six overall categories: Economy, Research & Development, Cultural Interaction, Livability, Environment, and Accessibility. According to this particular ranking system, the top three 'global cities' at present are London, New York and Tokyo.

Are the statements below true, false or not given?

1. The term 'megacity' refers to population size, whereas the term 'global city' is primarily used to denote economic importance.
2. Currently there are 37 cities with a population of over 10 million people.
3. London is classified as being both a megacity and a global city.

ANSWERS:

1 True 2 True 3 Not Given





Reading

IELTS

JOURNAL

Read the following article about the effects of television on young children.

Watching television makes toddlers fatter and stupider at primary school, according to new research. Scientists who tracked the progress of pre-school children found that the more television they watched the worse they were at mathematics, the more junk food they ate, and the more they were bullied by other pupils.

The findings, which support earlier evidence indicating television harms cognitive development, prompted calls for the Government to set limits on how much children should watch. American paediatricians advise that under-tuos should not watch any television and that older children should view one to two hours a day at most. France has banned shows aimed at under-threes, and Australia recommends that three to five year-olds watch no more than an hour a day. Britain has no official advice.

Researchers said that pre-school is a critical time for brain development and that TV watching displaced time that could be spent engaging in "developmentally enriching tasks". Even incremental exposure to TV delayed development, said the lead author Dr Linda Pagani, of Montreal University.

According to the article, are these statements TRUE, FALSE or NOT GIVEN?

1. Scientists believe that there is a link between the amount of television young children watch and their mental ability.
2. Shows aimed at under-tuos are banned in the USA.
3. Children's television programming is more strictly controlled in France than in Britain.

ANSWERS:

1. TRUE 2. NOT GIVEN 3. TRUE

IELTS
JOURNAL



Read the following text, and chose the best answer to the questions below.

A placebo is a sham or simulated medical intervention.

Sometimes patients given a placebo treatment will have a perceived or actual improvement in a medical condition, a phenomenon commonly called the placebo effect.

A study of Danish general practitioners found that 48% had prescribed a placebo at least 10 times in the past year. The most frequently prescribed placebos were antibiotics for viral infections, and vitamins for fatigue. Specialists and hospital-based physicians reported much lower rates of placebo use.

1. The placebo effect refers to

- A) a simulated medical treatment
- B) an improvement in a patient's health as a result of a simulated medical treatment
- C) a common medical phenomenon

2. According to a study, placebos were prescribed in Denmark

- A) mainly by doctors working in hospitals
- B) instead of antibiotics
- C) for fatigued patients or those suffering with viruses

ANSWERS:



Reading

IELTS
JOURNAL

Read the following text about 'collocation':

Collocation is defined as a sequence of words or terms which co-occur more often than would be expected by chance. Collocation comprises the restrictions on how words can be used together, for example which prepositions are used with particular verbs, or which verbs and nouns are used together. An example of this (from Michael Halliday) is the collocation *strong tea*. While the same meaning could be conveyed through the roughly equivalent *powerful tea*, the fact is that English prefers to speak of tea in terms of being strong rather than in terms of being powerful. A similar observation holds for *powerful computers* which is preferred over *strong computers*.

If the expression is heard often, the words become 'glued' together in our minds. 'Crystal clear', 'middle management', 'nuclear family', and 'cosmetic surgery' are examples of collocated pairs of words. Some words are often found together because they make up a compound noun, for example 'text message' or 'motor cyclist'.

Are the statements below true, false or not given in the text?

1. It is possible, but not normal, to say 'powerful tea'.
2. It is equally acceptable in English to say 'powerful computers' or 'strong computers'.
3. Our brains remember some pairs of words better than others.

ANSWERS:

1. True 2. False 3. Not given

IELTS
JOURNAL



Read the following passage about a chess-playing computer.

A) On February 10, 1996, Deep Blue became the first machine to win a chess game against a reigning world champion (Garry Kasparov) under regular time controls. However, Kasparov won three and drew two of the following five games, beating Deep Blue by a score of 4–2. Deep Blue was then heavily upgraded and played Kasparov again in May 1997, winning the six-game rematch 3½–2½. Deep Blue won the deciding game six, becoming the first computer system to defeat a reigning world champion in a match under standard chess tournament time controls.

B) After the loss, Kasparov said that he sometimes saw deep intelligence and creativity in the machine's moves, suggesting that during the second game, human chess players had intervened on behalf of the machine, which would be a violation of the rules. IBM denied that it cheated, saying the only human intervention occurred between games. The rules provided for the developers to modify the program between games, an opportunity they said they used to shore up weaknesses in the computer's play that were revealed during the course of the match. This allowed the computer to avoid a trap in the final game that it had fallen for twice before. Kasparov demanded a rematch, but IBM refused and dismantled Deep Blue.

Choose the best heading for paragraphs A and B from the list below.

1. The first chess-playing computer
2. Developers' intervention is questioned
3. Chess champion accepts defeat
4. Program developers caught cheating
5. A victory for artificial intelligence

ANSWERS:



Reading

IELTS JOURNAL

Read the following text, and decide whether the statements below are true, false or not given.

Iceland has a high concentration of active volcanoes due to unique geological conditions. The island has about 130 volcanic mountains, of which 18 have erupted since the settlement of Iceland, circa 900 CE. Over the past 500 years, Iceland's volcanoes have erupted a third of the total global lava output.

Geologists explain this high concentration of volcanic activity as being due to a combination of the island's position on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and a volcanic hotspot underneath the island. The island sits astride the boundary between the Eurasian and North American Plates, and most volcanic activity is concentrated along the plate boundary, which runs across the island from the south-west to the north-east of the island. Some volcanic activity occurs offshore, especially off the southern coast. This includes wholly submerged submarine volcanoes and even newly formed volcanic islands such as Surtsey and Jólnir. The most recent volcanic eruption in Iceland was that of Eyjafjallajökull, which started on April 14, 2010. The Eyjafjallajökull eruption closely followed an eruption in Fimmvörðuháls, which had erupted on March 20.

1. People first settled in Iceland at the beginning of the 10th century.
2. The island is situated at the point where two of the earth's plates meet.
3. Volcanic activity also takes place in the ocean near Iceland.

ANSWERS:

1 True 2 True 3 True

IELTS
JOURNAL



Reading

IELTS
JOURNAL

Fill the gaps with one of the following words: cutting, advances, track, coming, empower, chief, developing

Pundits have long predicted that ___1___ in genetics will usher in a golden age of individually tailored therapies. But in fact it is much lower-tech wireless devices and internet-based health software that are precipitating the mass customisation of health care, and creating entirely new business models in the process. The hope is that nimble new technologies, from smart-phones to health-monitoring devices, will ___2___ patients and doctors, and thus improve outcomes while ___3___ costs. The near ubiquity of mobile phones is the ___4___ reason to think this optimistic scenario may come true. Patients with smart-phones can certainly benefit from interactive “wellness” applications that track diet, exercise and vital signs.

Many companies are ___5___ up with “home health” devices embedded with wireless technology. Some are overtly clinical in nature: Medtronic, a devices giant, is ___6___ a bedside monitor that wirelessly tracks the blood sugar levels in diabetic children sleeping nearby. GE has come up with “body sensor networks”, tiny wireless devices that ___6___ the vital signs of those who wear them.

ANSWERS:

1. Advances 2. Empower 3. Cutting 4. Chief 5. Coming
6. Developing 7. track

IELTS
JOURNAL



Read the following text and choose the best answer for each question.

The term "IQ" comes from German "Intelligenz-Quotient", coined by the German psychologist William Stern in 1912, who proposed a method of scoring children's intelligence tests. Since the early 20th century, scores on IQ tests have increased in most parts of the world. The phenomenon of rising score performance means that if test-takers are scored by a constant standard scoring rule, IQ test scores have been rising at an average rate of around three IQ points per decade. This phenomenon was named the Flynn effect in the book *The Bell Curve* after James R. Flynn, the author who did the most to bring this phenomenon to the attention of psychologists.

1. "IQ" refers to

- A) a type of intelligence test for children
- B) a means of rating intelligence tests
- C) an area of psychology

2. Flynn noticed that

- A) IQ scores were constant around the world
- B) IQ was a global phenomenon
- C) intelligence scores had gradually risen over several decades

ANSWERS:



Reading

IELTS JOURNAL

Read the following passage about the discovery of penicillin.

The discovery of penicillin is attributed to Scottish scientist Alexander Fleming. Fleming recounted that the date of his breakthrough was on the morning of September 28, 1928. It was a lucky accident: in his laboratory in the basement of St. Mary's Hospital in London, Fleming noticed a petri dish containing *Staphylococcus* culture that he had mistakenly left open. The culture had become contaminated by blue-green mould, and there was a halo of inhibited bacterial growth around the mould. Fleming concluded that the mould was releasing a substance that was repressing the growth of the bacteria. He grew a pure culture and discovered that it was a *Penicillium* mould, now known to be *Penicillium notatum*. Fleming coined the term "penicillin" to describe the filtrate of a broth culture of the *Penicillium* mould.

Fill the gaps in the summary below using words from the passage.

Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin by ___1___ on September 28, 1928. He found that the growth of bacteria on a petri dish was ___2___ by a blue-green mould that had contaminated the culture. He realised that the mould was producing a substance that was responsible for ___3___ bacterial growth.

ANSWERS:

1 accident 2 inhibited 3 repressing

IELTS
JOURNAL



Read the text below about the Stanford marshmallow experiment.

The Stanford marshmallow experiment was a study on deferred gratification. The experiment was conducted in 1972 by psychologist Walter Mischel of Stanford University. It has been repeated many times since, and the original study at Stanford is regarded as one of the most successful experiments in the study of human behaviour. In the study, a marshmallow was offered to each child. If the child could resist eating the marshmallow, he was promised two instead of one. The scientists analysed how long each child resisted the temptation of eating the marshmallow, and whether or not doing so had an effect on their future success. The results provided researchers with great insight on the psychology of self control.

Are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. When repeated by other researchers, the experiment was less successful.
2. Children were offered a second marshmallow if they managed not to eat the first one.
3. Scientists found a correlation between resisting temptation and future success.

ANSWERS:

1 Not Given 2 True 3 Not Given



Read the following passage, and choose the best title from the list below.

Dennis Tito, an American engineer and multimillionaire, was the first space tourist to fund his own trip into space. In 2001, he spent nearly eight days in orbit as a crew member of ISS EP-1, a visiting mission to the International Space Station, after being accepted by the Russian Federal Space Agency as a candidate for a commercial spaceflight. Tito met criticism from NASA before the launch, primarily from Daniel Goldin, at that time the Administrator of NASA, who considered it inappropriate for a tourist to take a ride into space.

In the decade since Dennis Tito journeyed to the International Space Station, eight private citizens have paid the \$20 million fee to travel to space, but it is believed that this number could increase fifteen-fold by 2020. A web-based survey suggested that over 70% of those surveyed were interested in travelling to space, 88% wanted to spacewalk, and 21% liked the idea of staying in a space hotel.

- A) A giant leap for tourism in the 21st century.
- B) The first space tourist.
- C) The pros and cons of space tourism.

ANSWERS:



Read the following passage about "mass media".

In the late 20th century, mass media could be classified into eight mass media industries: books, the Internet, magazines, movies, newspapers, radio, recordings, and television. The explosion of digital communication technology in the late 20th and early 21st centuries gave rise to the question: what forms of media should be classified as "mass media"? For example, it is controversial whether to include cell phones and video games in the definition.

Each mass medium has its own content types, creative artists, technicians, and business models. For example, the Internet includes blogs, podcasts, web sites, and various other technologies built atop the general distribution network. Internet and mobile phones are often referred to collectively as digital media, and radio and TV as broadcast media. Some argue that video games have developed into a distinct mass form of media, in the sense that they provide a common experience to millions of people across the globe and convey the same messages and ideologies to all their users.

Are the statements below true, false or not given?

1. In the 21st century, it is widely accepted that there are now more than eight mass media industries.
2. Digital media can be subdivided into various content types.
3. Video games are the newest mass media platform.

ANSWERS:



Read the following passage about the meaning of 'genius'.

A genius is a person who displays exceptional intellectual ability, creativity, or originality, typically to a degree that is associated with the achievement of an unprecedented leap of insight. Various philosophers have proposed definitions of what genius is. In the philosophy of David Hume, a genius is seen by others as a person disconnected from society, who works remotely, away from the rest of the world. For Immanuel Kant, genius is the ability to independently arrive at and understand concepts that would normally have to be taught by another person. Arthur Schopenhauer defined a genius as someone in whom intellect predominates over "will". According to Bertrand Russell, a genius possesses unique qualities and talents that make him or her especially valuable to society.

Match each of the following statements to one of the philosophers below.

1. A genius is someone who does not require instruction.
 2. We tend to regard geniuses as solitary figures.
 3. A genius has the ability to make an exceptional contribution to society.
- A) Hume B) Kant C) Schopenhauer
D) Russell

ANSWERS:



Read the following passage about a study into 'sitting'.

The ease of our modern workday could come at the expense of our longevity. A new study of older women in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine finds that sitting for long stretches of time increases the odds of an untimely death. The more hours women in the study spent sitting at work, driving, lying on the couch watching TV, or engaged in other leisurely pursuits, the greater their odds of dying early from all causes, including heart disease and cancer. Even women who exercised regularly risked shortening their lifespan if most of their daily hours were sedentary ones. "Even if you are doing the recommended amount of moderate to vigorous exercise, you will still have a higher risk of mortality if you're spending too many hours sitting," says Dr. JoAnn Manson, one of the study's authors.

How much sitting can you safely do in a day? In the study, women who were inactive for 11 or more hours a day fared the worst, facing a 12% increase in premature death, but even lesser amounts of inactive time can cause problems. "Once you're sitting for more than 6 to 8 hours a day, that's not likely to be good for you," Dr. Manson says. You want to avoid prolonged sitting and increase the amount of moderate or vigorous exercise you do each day, she adds.

Are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. The study looked at the effects of sitting on elderly women only.
2. A link was found between hours spent sitting and serious health problems.
3. The warnings about sitting do not apply to people who exercise regularly.
4. Less than 6 hours a day is a safe amount of sitting.

ANSWERS:

3. False 4. Not Given

1. True 2. True





Reading

IELTS
JOURNAL



Here's a 'paragraph headings' from a Cambridge IELTS book.

Paragraph:

For the first time, dictionary publishers are incorporating real, spoken English into their data. It gives lexicographers (people who write dictionaries) access to a more vibrant, up-to-date vernacular language which has never really been studied before. In one project, 150 volunteers each agreed to discreetly tie a Walkman recorder to their waist and leave it running for anything up to two weeks. Every conversation they had was recorded. When the data was collected, the length of tapes was 35 times the depth of the Atlantic Ocean. Teams of audio typists transcribed the tapes to produce a computerised database of ten million words.

Which paragraph heading would you choose, and why?

1. New method of research
2. The first study of spoken language

ANSWERS:





Reading

IELTS
JOURNAL



Chores for children

Assigning new jobs for children as they mature will develop their work ethic, says Gregg Murset, CEO of BusyKid, a chore and allowance tracking app. "The most important thing is to challenge them," he says. "Once they have some proficiency you need to make them stretch to do the next job." Mr. Murset, a father of six children ages 10 to 20, believes parents should teach children to do housework when they're young, no matter if it yields imperfect results. "Even though it's easier to just clean the toilet by yourself and be done with it, you have to take the long view and realise that these fundamental life skills are so important," he says.

Attaching an allowance to chores teaches children not to expect handouts, says Michael Eisenberg, a financial advisor and member of the National Financial Literacy Commission. "At earlier ages, it instills within children the reality that you do something and you get paid for it," he says. "Later on in life, they learn that the only way we get money is if we produce stuff at our jobs." Some 68% of U.S. parents say they pay an allowance to their children, at an average rate of \$67.80 per month, according to a 2016 survey of 1,005 adults. More than 80% of respondents who pay an allowance say they want to teach their child the value of money and financial responsibility, the survey found.

Are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. Gregg Murset's experiences of fatherhood led him to develop the BusyKid app.
2. Michael Eisenberg believes in giving children financial incentives to do certain tasks.
3. The majority of U.S. parents give their children pocket money.

ANSWERS:

1 Not given 2 True 3 True





Reading

IELTS
JOURNAL



Read the following passage about large and important cities.

A 'megacity' is usually defined as a metropolitan area with a total population in excess of ten million people. A megacity can be a single metropolitan area or two or more metropolitan areas that converge. The terms conurbation, metropolis and metroplex are also applied to the latter. As of 2017, there are 37 megacities in existence. The largest of these are the metropolitan areas of Tokyo and Shanghai, each of these having a population of over 30 million inhabitants, with 38.8 million and 35.5 million respectively. Tokyo is the world's largest metropolitan area, while Shanghai has the world's largest city proper population. The UN predicts there will be 41 megacities by 2030.

By contrast, a 'global city', also called 'world city' or sometimes 'alpha city' or 'world center', is a city generally considered to be an important node in the global economic system. The Institute for Urban Strategies at The Mori Memorial Foundation in Tokyo issued a comprehensive study of global cities in 2016. The ranking is based on six overall categories: Economy, Research & Development, Cultural Interaction, Livability, Environment, and Accessibility. According to this particular ranking system, the top three 'global cities' at present are London, New York and Tokyo.

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Are the statements below true, false or not given?

1. The term 'megacity' refers to population size, whereas the term 'global city' is primarily used to denote economic importance.
2. Currently there are 37 cities with a population of over 10 million people.
3. London is classified as being both a megacity and a global city.

ANSWERS:

1 True 2 True 3 Not Given





Read the following passage about 'habits'.

"All our life, so far as it has definite form, is but a mass of habits," William James wrote in 1892. Most of the choices we make each day may feel like the products of well-considered decision making, but they're not. They're habits. And though each habit means relatively little on its own, over time, the meals we order, what we say to our kids each night, whether we save or spend, how often we exercise, and the way we organize our thoughts and work routines have enormous impacts on our health, productivity, financial security, and happiness. One paper published by a Duke University researcher in 2006 found that 40 percent or more of the actions people performed each day weren't actual decisions, but habits.

Do the statements below agree with the ideas expressed by the author? Write YES, NO or NOT GIVEN.

1. The majority of choices we make on a daily basis are conscious decisions.
2. Saving money is the key to financial security.
3. Habits account for at least 40 percent of the things we do each day.

ANSWERS:



Read the following passage, and choose the best title from the list below.

Dennis Tito, an American engineer and multimillionaire, was the first space tourist to fund his own trip into space. In 2001, he spent nearly eight days in orbit as a crew member of ISS EP-1, a visiting mission to the International Space Station, after being accepted by the Russian Federal Space Agency as a candidate for a commercial spaceflight. Tito met criticism from NASA before the launch, primarily from Daniel Goldin, at that time the Administrator of NASA, who considered it inappropriate for a tourist to take a ride into space.

In the decade since Dennis Tito journeyed to the International Space Station, eight private citizens have paid the \$20 million fee to travel to space, but it is believed that this number could increase fifteen-fold by 2020. A web-based survey suggested that over 70% of those surveyed were interested in travelling to space, 88% wanted to spacewalk, and 21% liked the idea of staying in a space hotel.

- A) A giant leap for tourism in the 21st century.
- B) The first space tourist.
- C) The pros and cons of space tourism

ANSWERS:





Read the following passage about "mass media".

In the late 20th century, mass media could be classified into eight mass media industries: books, the Internet, magazines, movies, newspapers, radio, recordings, and television. The explosion of digital communication technology in the late 20th and early 21st centuries gave rise to the question: what forms of media should be classified as "mass media"? For example, it is controversial whether to include cell phones and video games in the definition. Each mass medium has its own content types, creative artists, technicians, and business models. For example, the Internet includes blogs, podcasts, web sites, and various other technologies built atop the general distribution network. Internet and mobile phones are often referred to collectively as digital media, and radio and TV as broadcast media. Some argue that video games have developed into a distinct mass form of media, in the sense that they provide a common experience to millions of people across the globe and convey the same messages and ideologies to all their users.

Are the statements below true, false or not given?

1. In the 21st century, it is widely accepted that there are now more than eight mass media industries.
2. Digital media can be subdivided into various content types.
3. Video games are the newest mass media platform.

ANSWERS:





Reading

IELTS
JOURNAL

Read the following description of a book 'What are Universities for?'

Across the world, universities are more numerous than they have ever been, yet at the same time there is unprecedented confusion about their purpose and scepticism about their value. What Are Universities For? offers a spirited and compelling argument for completely rethinking the way we see our universities, and why we need them. Stefan Collini challenges the common claim that universities need to show that they help to make money in order to justify getting more money. Instead, he argues that we must reflect on the different types of institution and the distinctive roles they play. In particular we must recognise that attempting to extend human understanding, which is at the heart of disciplined intellectual enquiry, can never be wholly harnessed to immediate social purposes - particularly in the case of the humanities, which both attract and puzzle many people and are therefore the most difficult subjects to justify. At a time when the future of higher education lies in the balance, What Are Universities For? offers all of us a better, deeper and more enlightened understanding of why universities matter, to everyone.

Which statement best summarises the book's message?

- A) We do not necessarily need universities nowadays
- B) Universities should be harnessed for social purposes
- C) Universities must justify the money they are given
- D) We need to change our understanding of the role of universities

ANSWERS:





Read the following excerpt from a passage about ethnography.

Ethnography, from the Greek *ethnos* (folk, people, nation) and *grapho* (I write), is the systematic study of people and cultures. It is designed to explore cultural phenomena where the researcher observes society from the point of view of the subject of the study.

According to the leading social scientist, John Brewer, ethnographic data collection methods are meant to capture the "social meanings and ordinary activities" of people (known as "informants") in "naturally occurring settings" that are commonly referred to as "the field". The goal is to collect data in such a way that the researcher imposes a minimal amount of personal bias. Methods of data collection can include participant observation, field notes, interviews, and surveys.

According to the passage, which TWO of the statements below are true?

- A) Ethnography is a field of study that began in Greece.
- B) Ethnographic research is concerned with ancient cultures and societies.
- C) The subjects of ethnographic research are referred to as "informants".
- D) Ethnographers try to make their research as objective as possible.
- E) Observation is the most effective form of data collection.

ANSWERS:



Read the following excerpt from a passage about etymology.

Etymology is the study of the history of words, their origins, and how their form and meaning have changed over time. For a language with a long written history, etymologists make use of texts in these languages, and texts about the languages, to gather knowledge about how words were used during earlier periods of their history and when they entered the languages in question. Etymologists also apply the methods of comparative linguistics to reconstruct information about languages that are too old for any direct information to be available. By analysing related languages with a technique known as the comparative method, linguists can make inferences about their shared parent language and its vocabulary. In this way, word roots have been found that can be traced all the way back to the origin of, for instance, the Indo-European language family. The word *etymology* is derived from the Greek word *ἐτυμολογία*, *etymologia*, itself from *ἐτυμον*, *etymon*, meaning "true sense", and the suffix *-logia*, denoting "the study of".

Which TWO of the following statements agree with the information above?

- A) Etymology involves the study of historical texts.
- B) Some languages are too old for linguists to understand.
- C) The ancient Greeks were the first to study the origins of words.
- D) Most words have their origins in Indo-European languages.
- E) The word 'etymology' derives from a word meaning 'the study of true sense'.

ANSWERS:



Read the following article, and choose the best title from the list below.

The setting is decidedly modest: a utility room in a red-brick house at the end of a cul-de-sac in Wales. But if the hype turns out to be right, this may be the starting point for an energy revolution in the UK. Householder Mark Kerr has become the first British owner of a Tesla Powerwall, a cutting-edge bit of kit that the makers say will provide a “missing link” in solar energy.

Like many owners of solar panels, Kerr and his family have a basic problem. They tend to be out at work and school when the sun is shining and the 16 solar panels on the roof of their home in Cardiff are producing power. The excess they miss out on is fed into the grid and they make a return on it but it does not seem right that they do not get to use the power from their panels. However, from now, energy produced but not used during the day will charge the Powerwall and can then be used to provide them with the energy they need when they're at home and their lights, music centres, computers, televisions and myriad other devices need feeding.

Choose A, B, C or D.

- A) The UK energy revolution.
- B) Wales at the forefront of technology.
- C) New device could herald energy revolution.
- D) The problem with solar panels.

ANSWERS:



Read the following passage and answer the questions below it.

Learning a second language can boost thinking skills, improve mental agility and delay the ageing of the brain, according to scientists who believe that speaking minority languages should be positively encouraged in schools and universities. Studies have found that children and adults who learn or speak another language benefit from the extra effort it takes to handle two sets of vocabularies and rules of grammar. "Fewer parents speak minority languages to their children because of the perceived lack of usefulness. Many people still think that a minority language makes children confused and puts them at a disadvantage at school," said Antonella Sorace of the University of Edinburgh. "These feelings clash with much research on bilingualism, which shows instead that when there are differences between monolingual and bilingual children, these are almost invariably in favour of bilinguals," Dr Sorace said. "Bilingual children tend to have enhanced language abilities, a better understanding of others' points of view, and more mental flexibility in dealing with complex situations," she told the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington.

Are the following statements TRUE, FALSE or NOT GIVEN?

1. Some scientists believe that the teaching of minority languages should be promoted.
2. Research into bilingualism supports the idea that learning two languages can be detrimental to children.
3. Bilingual children tend to get high scores in intelligence tests.

ANSWERS:

1 True 2 False 3 Not Given



Reading

IELTS
JOURNAL

Read the following passage and choose the best heading.

The environmental challenges posed by agriculture are huge, and they'll only become more pressing as we try to meet the growing need for food worldwide. We'll likely have two billion more mouths to feed by mid-century - more than nine billion people. But sheer population growth isn't the only reason we'll need more food. The spread of prosperity across the world, especially in India and China, is driving an increased demand for meat, eggs and dairy, boosting pressure to grow more corn and soybeans to feed more cattle, pigs and chickens. If these trends continue, the double whammy of population growth and richer diets will require us to roughly double the amount of crops we grow by 2050.

- A) Two key trends driving the demand for food worldwide.
- B) The impact of agriculture on the natural world.
- C) Growing populations and their need for food.

ANSWERS:





Choose the best heading for the following paragraph from the list below.

“Big data” is a term being used more and more by politicians. It refers to the concept that any problem – from underperforming pupils to failing hospitals – can be solved by collecting some tightly focused data, crunching it and making tweaks, such as moving pupils or changing nurses’ shifts, rather than dealing with bigger issues, such as poverty or spending cuts. This is an approach that focuses narrowly on “what works” without ever troubling to ask: “works for whom?” Its watchword is “smart”, which can easily be appreciated, rather than “right”, which can’t. Putting trust in highly educated technocrats, it is naturally less interested in public debate.

- A) How data can be used to improve society.
- B) Big data: a smart approach to politics that works for everyone.
- C) A sceptical perspective on “big data”.
- D) Why the public trusts technocrats more than politicians.

ANSWERS:



Read the following passage, then choose the best title from the list below it.

According to a new review of studies related to running and health, jogging for as few as five or six miles per week could substantially improve someone's health. "It seems like the maximum benefits of running occur at quite low doses," said Dr. Carl J. Lavie, medical director of cardiac rehabilitation and prevention at the Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans. As little as "one to two runs per week, or three to six miles per week, and well less than an hour per week" can be quite beneficial, he said.

However, there may be an upper limit to the desirable mileage if your primary goal is improved health. Some evidence, he said, suggested that running strenuously for more than about an hour every day could slightly increase someone's risks for heart problems, as well as for running-related injuries and disabilities.

Choose title A, B, C or D.

- A) The health benefits of jogging
- B) How much running is best?
- C) Surprising findings about running
- D) The benefits and drawbacks of regular jogging

ANSWERS:



Read the following passage about the performer Houdini.

Harry Houdini (1874 to 1926) was a Hungarian-American illusionist and stunt performer, noted for his sensational escape acts. He first attracted attention as "Harry Handcuff Houdini" on a tour of Europe, where he challenged police forces to keep him locked up. Soon he extended his repertoire to include chains, ropes slung from skyscrapers, straitjackets under water, and having to hold his breath inside a sealed milk can.

In 1904, thousands watched as Houdini tried to escape from special handcuffs commissioned by London's Daily Mirror newspaper. Another stunt saw him buried alive and only just able to claw himself to the surface. While many suspected that these escapes were faked, Houdini presented himself as the scourge of fake magicians and spiritualists. As President of the Society of American Magicians, he was keen to uphold professional standards and expose fraudulent artists. He was also quick to sue anyone who pirated his stunts.

Are the following statements true, false, or not given in the text?

1. Houdini was more successful in Europe than in America.
2. Many people were skeptical about Houdini's escape acts.
3. He took legal action against those who tried to copy him.

ANSWERS:

1 Not Given 2 True 3 True





Read the following passage.

Across the world, universities are more numerous than they have ever been, yet at the same time there is unprecedented confusion about their purpose and scepticism about their value. What Are Universities For? offers a spirited and compelling argument for completely rethinking the way we see our universities, and why we need them.

Stefan Collini challenges the common claim that universities need to show that they help to make money in order to justify getting more money. Instead, he argues that we must reflect on the different types of institution and the distinctive roles they play. In particular we must recognise that attempting to extend human understanding, which is at the heart of disciplined intellectual enquiry, can never be wholly harnessed to immediate social purposes - particularly in the case of the humanities, which both attract and puzzle many people and are therefore the most difficult subjects to justify. At a time when the future of higher education lies in the balance, What Are Universities For? offers all of us a better, deeper and more enlightened understanding of why universities matter, to everyone.

Which statement best summarises the book's message?

- A) We do not necessarily need universities nowadays
- B) Universities should be harnessed for social purposes
- C) Universities must justify the money they are given
- D) We need to change our understanding of the role of universities

ANSWERS:



Read the following passage about 'habits'.

"All our life, so far as it has definite form, is but a mass of habits," William James wrote in 1892. Most of the choices we make each day may feel like the products of well-considered decision making, but they're not. They're habits. And though each habit means relatively little on its own, over time, the meals we order, what we say to our kids each night, whether we save or spend, how often we exercise, and the way we organize our thoughts and work routines have enormous impacts on our health, productivity, financial security, and happiness. One paper published by a Duke University researcher in 2006 found that 40 percent or more of the actions people performed each day weren't actual decisions, but habits.

Do the statements below agree with the ideas expressed by the author? Write YES, NO or NOT GIVEN.

1. The majority of choices we make on a daily basis are conscious decisions.
2. Saving money is the key to financial security.
3. Habits account for at least 40 percent of the things we do each day.

ANSWERS:

1 No 2 Not Given 3 Yes





Read the paragraph below and choose the best heading from the list.

Reading underwent serious changes in the 18th century. Until 1750, reading was done “intensively”: people tended to own a small number of books and read them repeatedly, often to a small audience. After 1750, people began to read “extensively”, finding as many books as they could, and increasingly reading them alone. Libraries that lent out their material for a small price started to appear, and occasionally bookstores would offer a small lending library to their patrons. Coffee houses commonly offered books, journals and sometimes even popular novels to their customers.

1. The appearance of the first public libraries.
2. Intensive and extensive reading habits.
3. The reading revolution.

ANSWERS:



Read the following excerpt from a book review:

What constitutes the good life? What is the true value of money? Why do we work such long hours merely to acquire greater wealth? These are some of the questions that many asked themselves when the financial system crashed in 2008. This book tackles such questions head-on. The authors begin with the great economist John Maynard Keynes. In 1930, Keynes predicted that within a century people's basic needs would be met, and no one would have to work more than fifteen hours a week.

Clearly, he was wrong: though income has increased as he envisioned, our wants have seemingly gone unsatisfied, and we continue to work long hours. The authors explain why Keynes was mistaken. Then, arguing from the premise that economics is a moral science, they trace the concept of the good life from Aristotle to the present and show how our lives over the last half century have strayed from that ideal. Finally, they issue a call to think anew about what really matters in our lives and how to attain it.

Are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. Before 2008, people were less concerned about economics.
2. Keynes' prediction about working hours was wide of the mark.
3. The book asks us to consider what is important in life.

ANSWERS:



Read the following passage, and choose the best title from the list.

Using a laser scan of Bourges cathedral in France, a team led by John Ochsendorf of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have 3D-printed thousands of bricks and are building an exact 1:50 replica. The researchers hope to use the mock-up to devise a way to gauge the stability, and thus safety, of historical buildings built of brick and stone. Building the replica is painstaking work, but Ochsendorf thinks the process itself may be as valuable as the mechanics uncovered. For students of architecture and structural engineering, hands-on experience has largely given way to computer modelling. Techniques like 3D printing could be a way of reconnecting them with the craft behind the science, he says.

- A) 3D printing a historical structure.
- B) The benefits of 3D printing.
- C) Computer modelling or hands-on experience?
- D) A damaged cathedral is rebuilt.

ANSWERS:



Read the following text and answer true, false or not given.

Coffee consumption has been shown to have minimal or no impact, positive or negative, on cancer development. However, researchers involved in an ongoing 22-year study by the Harvard School of Public Health state that "the overall balance of risks and benefits [of coffee consumption] are on the side of benefits."

Other studies suggest coffee consumption reduces the risk of being affected by Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, heart disease, diabetes mellitus type 2, cirrhosis of the liver, and gout. A longitudinal study in 2009 showed that those who consumed a moderate amount of coffee or tea (3–5 cups per day) at midlife were less likely to develop dementia and Alzheimer's disease in late-life compared with those who drank little coffee or avoided it altogether.

1. Scientists have linked coffee consumption to accelerated cancer development.
2. Some scientists believe that the benefits of drinking coffee outweigh the drawbacks.
3. Recent research links coffee consumption with a reduced risk of some illnesses.

ANSWERS:

1 False 2 True 3 True





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- A) Two key trends driving the demand for food worldwide.
- B) The impact of agriculture on the natural world.
- C) Growing populations and their need for food.

ANSWERS:



Read the following paragraph about 'minority languages'.

Minority languages are occasionally marginalised within nations for a number of reasons. These include the small number of speakers, the decline in the number of speakers, and their occasional consideration as uncultured, primitive, or simple dialects when compared to the dominant language. Support for minority languages is sometimes viewed as supporting separatism. Immigrant minority languages are often also seen as a threat and as indicative of the non-integration of these communities. Both of these perceived threats are based on the notion of the exclusion of the majority language speakers. Often this is added to by political systems which do not provide support (such as education and policing) in these languages.

Are the following statements true, false or not given?

1. Minority languages sometimes disappear.
2. Minority languages are simpler to learn than majority languages.
3. Minority languages are sometimes considered to be harmful.

ANSWERS:

1 Not Given 2 Not Given 3 True