

ทำความเข้าใจ
กับข้อสอบ
IELTS
Reading

EP.1

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IELTS Reading : Information (FAQ)

1. How long is the IELTS reading test?





2. How many reading passages are there?

3. Does everyone take the same reading test?



4. What kind of reading passages are there for the academic paper?



5. What kind of passages are there for the general training paper?



6. How many questions are there?



7. How are the scores calculated?

8. Do I lose a point if my answer is wrong?



9. Do I have time to transfer my answers at the end of the reading test?

10. How long should I spend on each passage?

11. What types of questions will I get in IELTS reading?

12. Can I write on the reading question paper?

13. Are capital letters important?

**14. Can I write all my answers in capital letters
on my reading answer sheet?**



15. Should I use a pen or pencil?



16. Is spelling important?

**17. Can I write T instead of True for the True
False Not Given questions?**





18. How can I improve my reading skills?

19. Do all answers come in order?



20. How can I improve my score for matching headings?

IELTS Band Scores

- **How they are calculated**

- The IELTS band score tables below explain the scoring to will help you calculate and understand your score.



- **How the IELTS Band Scores are Calculated**

- All IELTS scores are between 0 and 9. You can also get 5 scores as well (for example, 6.5 or 7.5). You will get a band score for each skill (listening, reading, writing and speaking) and also an overview band score. The overall band score is the average score of all the skills. See the table below as an example.



Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Overall
8	7.5	7	7.5	7.5

As explained on the IELTS website, overall test results are calculated to the nearest 0.5 or nearest whole band score. This means if the final score is not a precise 7.5 (as shown in the table above), your score is pushed to the nearest whole score or half score depending which is nearest. Below you can see examples of how this works according to IELTS:

- > If your overall score is 6.1, your score will go down to 6. This is the nearest whole band score. In other words, 6.1 is closer to band 6 than to 6.5.
- > If your overall score is calculated to be 6.85, your final result will be band 7. This is because 6.85 is closer to band 7 than to band 6.5.

- > If your overall score is an average of 6.25, your score will be increased to 6.5. The score 6.25 is actually precisely between band 6 and 6.5, so in this case IELTS will push it up to the nearest score which is 6.5.
- > If your overall score is an average of 6.75, your score will be increased to 7. This score again is precisely between 6.5 and band 7. In this case, your score will be rounded up to band 7.
- > As you can see above, your score is rounded up or down to the nearest 0.5 or whole score as shown above. You can confirm this information on the official BC IELTS Website:

•Band Score Descriptions

The table below gives a description of each band score with information about the level of English required for band scores 5 to 9.

Band Score	English Level	Description	Key Points
9	Expert User	Has complete command in the English language; accurate, appropriate, highly flexible, fluent with full understanding.	(1) accurate (2) full understanding
8	Very Good User	Has complete command with only rare errors (which are unsystematic) or inappropriate words. Deals with complex situations well but has rare errors in complex situations but can deal with detailed argumentation.	(1) rare errors (2) uses complex language well
7	Good User	Has good command of English but also has occasional inaccuracies, misunderstandings or inappropriate words. Can use complex language quite well and understands detailed argumentation quite well.	(1) only occasional errors (2) uses complex language quite well in most situations
6	Competent User	Has effective command of English but also has some errors, inappropriate words and misunderstandings in some situations. Can use complex language quite well but best in familiar situations.	(1) some errors (2) use some complex language which is best in familiar situations
5	Modest User	Has partial command of English and can deal with overall meaning. Make frequent errors. Has better English in common situations. Does not deal with complex language well.	(1) frequent errors (2) has difficulties with complex language

• IELTS Reading Question Types for Academic Test

The types of questions you will be asked in the GT reading test are the same as the academic test. Here is a list:

- > matching headings
- > true false not given / yes no not given
- > matching paragraph information
- > summary completion
- > sentence completion
- > short answer questions
- > table / flow chart completion
- > diagram labeling
- > multiple choice / list selection
- > choosing a title
- > categorisation
- > matching sentence endings

> Matching headings

Matching Headings Practice

Choose the correct heading (i-ix) for paragraphs A, B, C and D in the passage below.

- i. Temperatures on Earth
- ii. The Greenhouse
- iii. Creating Global Warming
- iv. Use of a Greenhouse
- v. Our Choices
- vi. Greenhouse Gases
- vii. Earth's Atmosphere
- viii. Reversing the Damage
- ix. Effects of Carbon Dioxide

The Greenhouse Effect

A. A greenhouse is a house made entirely of glass: both walls and roof are glass. One of the main purposes of a greenhouse is to grow tomatoes, flowers and other plants that might struggle to grow outside. A greenhouse stays warm inside, even during winter. Sunlight shines in and warms the plants and air inside. But the heat is trapped by the glass and cannot escape. So during the daylight hours, it gets warmer and warmer inside a greenhouse, and stays quite warm at night too.

B. The Earth experiences a similar thing to a greenhouse. Gases in the atmosphere such as carbon dioxide do what the roof of a greenhouse does. During the day, the Sun shines through the atmosphere. Earth's surface warms up in the sunlight. At night, Earth's surface cools, releasing the heat back into the air. But some of the heat is trapped by the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. That is what keeps our Earth a warm and comfortable 59 degrees Fahrenheit, on average.

C. However, gas molecules, called greenhouse gases, that absorb thermal infrared radiation, and are in significant enough quantity, can force and alter the climate system. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases act like a blanket, absorbing IR radiation and preventing it from escaping into outer space. The greenhouse effect, combined with increasing levels of greenhouse gases, produces global warming, which is expected to have profound implications.

D. Many scientists agree that the damage to the Earth's atmosphere and climate is past the point of no return or that the damage is near the point of no return. In Josef Werne's opinion, an associate professor at the department of geology & planetary science at the University of Pittsburgh told Live Science, we have three options. Firstly to do nothing and live with the consequences. Secondly, to adapt to the changing climate (which includes things like rising sea level and related flooding). Thirdly, mitigate the impact of climate change by aggressively enacting policies that actually reduce the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

> true false not given / yes no not given

TFNG Reading: Exercise 1



Passage: The Thames Tunnel

The Thames Tunnel was a tunnel built under the River Thames in London. It was the first subaqueous tunnel ever built and many believed it was the Eighth Wonder of the World at the time it was opened. It was opened in 1843 to pedestrians only and people came from far and wide to see the marvel. The day it was first opened, it attracted fifth thousand people to enter the tunnel and walk its length of almost 400 metres. The Thames Tunnel was used by people from all classes. The working class used it for its functional use of crossing from one side of the river to another, while for the middle classes and upper classes, it was a tourist experience. In the age of sail and horse-drawn coaches, people travelled a long way to visit the tunnel, but this was not enough to make the tunnel a financial success. It had cost over £500,000 to complete which in those days was a considerable amount of money. However, even though it attracted about 2 million people each year, each person only paid a penny to use it. The aim had been for the tunnel to be used by wheeled vehicles to transport cargo so that it could bring in a profit. But this failed and the tunnel eventually became nothing more than a tourist attraction selling souvenirs. In 1865, the tunnel became part of the London Underground railway system which continues to be its use today.

Questions 1-8

Are the following statements true, false or not given according to the information in the passage?

- True = the statement matches the information in the passage.
- False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.
- Not Given = the information is not found in the passage.

1. The Thames Tunnel was the first tunnel ever built under a river.
2. The Thames Tunnel was the Eighth Wonder of the World.
3. People were drawn from all over to see the Thames Tunnel.
4. The tunnel was used more by the middle and upper classes.
5. People were able to travel by sea or land in those days.
6. The aim of the tunnel was to turn a profit as a tourist attraction.
7. Statues of the tunnel could be bought as souvenirs.
8. The tunnel is no longer used as a pedestrian walkway to cross the river.

> matching paragraph information

Hobbies for the Elderly

A. Card making – This has become an increasingly popular hobby, as it's very easy to start and cards can be as simple or complicated as skills allow. Best of all, it's a lovely way for your parent to send wishes to all the family and friends.

B. Art – this can be done at your parent's home, or in a local art class. It can be painting, drawing, sculpture, or pottery. It does not matter how skilled your parent is, as there are opportunities for all levels. Just give it a go. The creative process is very absorbing and rewarding and it is a great way for your elderly relative to meet new people.

C. Learning to use the internet – if your aging parent likes the look of new technology, but has never learned how to use it, the internet is very easy once someone has shown them how. It opens up a whole new world of information and they will be able to keep in touch easily with children and grandchildren via email.

Questions 1-2

Which section contains the following information? Write the correct letter (A-C) as your answer.

1. A way to learn new methods of communication.
2. A way to socialize.

> summary completion

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 aspects of life, but no impact has been as 2 as that of language. Language is very 3 , yet composed of just a small number of sounds. Language appears to be 4 to use. However, its sophistication is often overlooked.

- A** difficult
- B** complex
- C** original
- D** admired

- E** material
- F** easy
- G** fundamental

> sentence completion

An exercise for IELTS Reading Sentence Completion. Read the passage below and then answer the questions.

The War on Smoking

Make no mistake, the move to introduce plain packaging is just the latest front in the war against smoking. Over the past decade, there has been a ban on smoking in public places and moves to restrict displays in shops. But one of the issues that has been concerning health experts and ministers is the number of people who continue to take up smoking, particularly young people.

More than 200,000 under-16's start in the UK each year – helping ensure a viable market remains for manufacturers once the number of people quitting and dying is taken into account. In countries like the UK where there is a ban on advertising, the pack remains the last major vehicle for promotion. Hence the detail and care taken in the design of the packets with their laminated and special print effects, foil decorations and slide openings and bevelled edges. It should come as no surprise therefore to learn that they have become known as the "silent salesman" and "mobile billboard" within the industry. They are that important. (Passage from

Questions 1-4

Complete the sentences. Choose no more than two words and / or a number from the passage for each answer.

1. is the most recent strategy to tackle the problem of smoking.
2. The large number of new smokers, particularly under 16's, makes certain that cigarette companies will always have a
3. In some countries, packaging is the only method that cigarette companies have for
4. Packets are seen as being the in the cigarette industry.

> short answer questions

The Endangered African Rhino

The rhinoceros is Africa's armoured giant – like a tank on legs – and has been on our planet for millions of years. But right now they need our help. Poaching of rhinos for their horns and habitat loss are huge threats to both white and black rhinos.

White rhinos (the name doesn't come from their colour but originally a reference to their 'wide' mouths) have had mixed fortunes. Sadly there are no 'northern' white rhinos left in the wild, and only a handful in captivity. But the 'southern' white rhino is a conservation success story – it's been helped back from under 100 in 1895 to over 20,000 in the wild today.

For the black rhino (slightly smaller, with a more pointed top lip) the worst period was between 1970 and 1992, when around 96% of them were lost to wide-scale poaching. Only 5,000 are left in the wild today.

Poaching of rhinos for rhino horn is still a huge threat, and the poachers have got increasingly better equipped. To ensure that these incredibly precious creatures survive, more action needs to be taken against this illegal wildlife trade.

Questions 1 – 4

Answer the questions below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 1-4 on your answer sheet.

- 1 What is the African rhinoceros compared to?
- 2 Which type of rhino fell in number to below a hundred?
- 3 What percentage of black rhinos had been illegally killed by 1992?
- 4 How have the criminals improved their success?

> table / flow chart completion

Example 1 – Table

The Benefits of Being Bilingual

Questions 27 – 31

Complete the table below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 27 – 31 on your answer sheet.

Test	Findings
Observing the 27 of Russian-speaking bilingual people when asked to select certain objects	Bilingual people engage both languages simultaneously: a mechanism known as 28
A test called the 29, focusing on naming colours	Bilingual people are more able to handle tasks involving a skill called 30
A test involving switching between tasks	When changing strategies, bilingual people have superior 31

Example 2 – Flowchart

The Serious Search for an Anti-Aging Pill

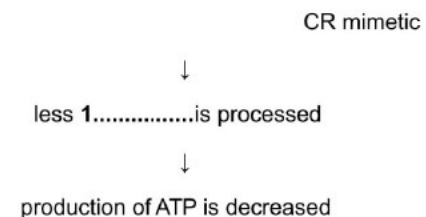
Questions 1 – 3

Complete the flow-chart below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 1-3 on your answer sheet.

How a caloric-restriction mimetic works



Theory 1:

cells less damaged by disease because
fewer 2.....are emitted

Theory 2:

cells focus on 3.....because
food is in short supply

> diagram labeling

[Note: This is an extract from an Academic Reading passage on the subject of dung beetles. The text preceding this extract gave some background facts about dung beetles, and went on to describe a decision to introduce non-native varieties to Australia.]

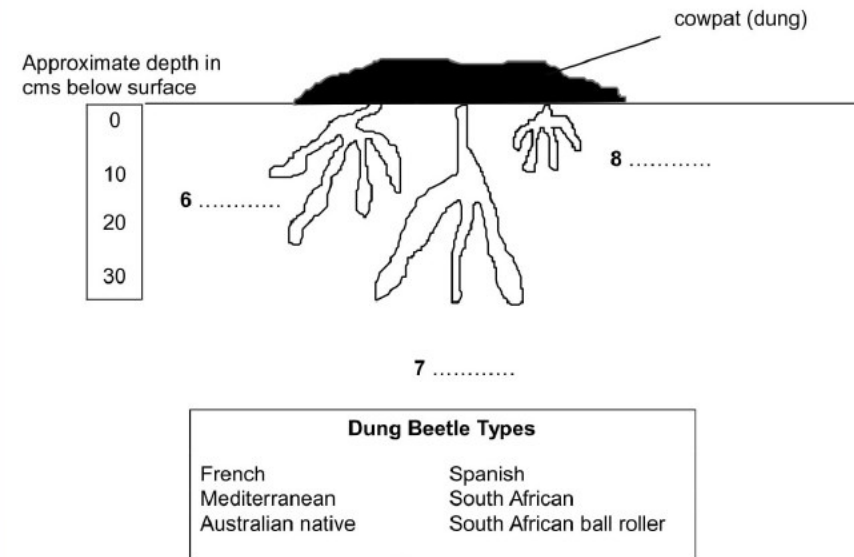
Introducing dung¹ beetles into a pasture is a simple process: approximately 1,500 beetles are released, a handful at a time, into fresh cow pats² in the cow pasture. The beetles immediately disappear beneath the pats digging and tunnelling and, if they successfully adapt to their new environment, soon become a permanent, self-sustaining part of the local ecology. In time they multiply and within three or four years the benefits to the pasture are obvious.

Dung beetles work from the inside of the pat so they are sheltered from predators such as birds and foxes. Most species burrow into the soil and bury dung in tunnels directly underneath the pats, which are hollowed out from within. Some large species originating from France excavate tunnels to a depth of approximately 30 cm below the dung pat. These beetles make sausage-shaped brood chambers along the tunnels. The shallowest tunnels belong to a much smaller Spanish species that buries dung in chambers that hang like fruit from the branches of a pear tree. South African beetles dig narrow tunnels of approximately 20 cm below the surface of the pat. Some surface-dwelling beetles, including a South African species, cut perfectly-shaped balls from the pat, which are rolled away and attached to the bases of plants.

For maximum dung burial in spring, summer and autumn, farmers require a variety of species with overlapping periods of activity. In the cooler environments of the state of Victoria, the large French species (2.5 cms long), is matched with smaller (half this size), temperate-climate Spanish species. The former are slow to recover from the winter cold and produce only one or two generations of offspring from late spring until autumn. The latter, which multiply rapidly in early spring, produce two to five generations annually. The South African ball-rolling species, being a sub-tropical beetle, prefers the climate of northern and coastal New South Wales where it commonly works with the South African tunneling species. In warmer climates, many species are active for longer periods of the year.

Questions 6 – 8

Label the tunnels on the diagram below using words from the box. Write your answers in boxes 6-8 on your answer sheet.



> multiple choice / list selection

SECTION 2 Questions 11–20

Questions 11 and 12

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.

Which **TWO** age groups are taking increasing numbers of holidays with BC Travel?

- A 16–30 years
- B 31–42 years
- C 43–54 years
- D 55–64 years
- E over 65 years

Questions 13 and 14

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.

Which **TWO** are the main reasons given for the popularity of activity holidays?

- A Clients make new friends.
- B Clients learn a useful skill.
- C Clients learn about a different culture.
- D Clients are excited by the risk involved.
- E Clients find them good value for money.

Questions 15–17

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

15 How does BC Travel plan to expand the painting holidays?

- A by adding to the number of locations
- B by increasing the range of levels
- C by employing more teachers

16 Why are BC Travel's cooking holidays unusual?

- A They only use organic foods.
- B They have an international focus.
- C They mainly involve vegetarian dishes.

17 What does the speaker say about the photography holidays?

- A Clients receive individual tuition.
- B The tutors are also trained guides.
- C Advice is given on selling photographs.

Source: Cambridge English Test Paper

> choosing a title

Reading Passage:

Coffee is one of the most popular hot drinks in the world. Almost a third of the world's population drinks coffee. People often meet at cafes or coffee shops for a coffee break during the middle of the morning or stop work in the afternoon to drink coffee.

About 7 million tons of coffee is produced every year. Brazil is, by far, the world's largest coffee producer. About a third of the world's production comes from this South American country. Other coffee producing countries include Vietnam, Indonesia and Colombia.

The United States is the biggest coffee consumer in the world. About 1.2 billion kilograms of coffee are consumed there every year. Drinking coffee is extremely popular in European countries, like Italy, France and Germany, as well as in Brazil.

Question

Choose the correct letter A – C

Which is the best title for the passage below?

- A. Coffee – a popular hot drink
- B. Coffee – the main consumers
- C. Coffee – the main producers



> categorisation

The key to this type of question is being good at paraphrasing and scanning for specific information.

Beds in the Ancient World



Bed styles in ancient Egypt remained very much the same for over 2000 years. They are among the most intriguing of furniture items because of their structure. Many were slanted down at an incline from the headboard. A foot board ensured that the sleeper would not slip off in the middle of the night. Furniture makers also constructed side rails on many beds. Writes Sibal, "almost all beds featured legs in the form of animal legs, ranging from heavy bulls legs to gazelle-like forms with hooves, and the feline type with paw and claw, frequently identified as lions legs." The mattress was usually made of wooden slats, plaited string, or reeds, which then held woollen cushions or some other soft material. Sheets were made of linen. Roman bed-frames were pretty much the same. It would have had a mattress on top of it, stuffed with feathers or straw, and wool blankets. But most Etruscan and Roman beds would have been made of wood and strung with wool or linen string. In the bedrooms, the ceilings were vaulted and lower above the bed, often making the room appear a cramped and stuffy place. Simple beds, to which shortly after the Homeric age a pillow for the head was added, continued to be used by the poorer classes among the Greeks at all times. Thus the bed of the orator Lycurgus is said to have consisted of one sheep-skin and a pillow.

In Ancient Greece, the beds of persons of high rank was covered with skins upon which the *pillows* were placed, and over these linen sheets or carpets were spread. Lastly, there was thick woollen cover or blanket for the sleeper. Poor persons slept on skins or beds of dry herbs spread upon the ground. These simple beds, had a cover or ticking of a mattress which was made of linen or woollen cloth and the usual material with which it was filled with was either wool or dried weeds. At the head part of the bed lay a round pillow to support the head; and in some ancient pictures two other square pillows are seen, which were intended to support the back. The covers of such pillows are striped in several pictures on ancient vases and were therefore probably of various colours. They were undoubtedly filled with the same materials as the beds and mattresses.

Questions 1-4

Categorise the information below into the following categories. Please note that for this particular practice, answers will not come in order in the passage. Choose the correct letter (A-C) for your answer. Letters may be used more than once.

- A = Ancient Egyptian
- B = Ancient Roman
- C = Ancient Greek

1. Bedrooms did not seem spacious.
2. The beds were not flat and horizontal but rather angled downwards.
3. Pillows could be decorative.
4. Mattresses were stuffed with wool.

> 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.

The ancestor of today's crocodiles belonged to a group of animals that developed a tail fin and paddle-like limbs for life in the sea, resembling dolphins more than crocodiles. 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. Related species have previously been found in Mexico and Argentina.

B An international team of scientists, including researchers from Germany and the University of Edinburgh, 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 Bavaria, Germany by a team from the Naturkunde-Museum Bamberg, where it is now housed. The species, *Cricosaurus bambergensis*, takes its name from the town.

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.

Experts created digital images of the fossil in high resolution, to enable further research. They expect the fossil will aid greater understanding of a wider family of ancient animals, known as metriorhynchid, to which this species belonged.

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 at a time when Europe was covered by a shallow sea, with countries such as Germany and the UK being a collection of islands."

E Sven Sachs, from the Naturkunde-Museum Bielefeld, who led the project, said: "The study reveals peculiar features at the palate that have not been described in any fossil crocodile so far. There are two depressions which are separated by a pronounced bar. It is not clear what these depressions were good for."

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
- 2** The skeleton is kept in
- 3** Bones of the early type of crocodile
- 4** The geology of southern Germany

- 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.