IELTS Mock Test 2024 April

Reading Practice Test 1

HOW TO USE

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READING PASSAGE 1

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

The dingo debate

Graziers see them as pests, and poisoning is common, but some biologists think Australia's dingoes are the best weapon in a war against imported cats and foxes.

A A plane flies a slow pattern over Carlton Hill station, a 3,600 square kilometre ranch in the Kimberley region in northwest Australia. As the plane circles, those aboard drop 1,000 small pieces of meat, one by one, onto the scrubland below, each piece laced with poison; this practice is known as baiting. Besides 50,000 head of cattle, Carlton Hill is home to the dingo, Australia's largest mammalian predator and the bane of a grazier's (cattle farmer's) life. Stuart McKechnie, manager of Carlton Hill, complains that graziers' livelihoods are threatened when dingoes prey on cattle. But one man wants the baiting to end, and for dingoes to once again roam Australia's wide-open spaces. According to Chris Johnson of James Cook University, 'Australia needs more dingoes to protect our biodiversity.'

B About 4,000 years ago, Asian sailors introduced dingoes to Australia. Throughout the ensuing millennia, these descendants of the wolf spread across the continent and, as the Tasmanian tiger disappeared completely from Australia, dingoes became Australia's top predators. As agricultural development took place, the European settlers found that they could not safely keep their livestock where dingoes roamed. So began one of the most sustained efforts at pest control in Australia's history. Over the last 150 years, dingoes have been shot and poisoned, and fences have been used in an attempt to keep them away from livestock. But at the same time, as the European settlers tried to eliminate one native pest from Australia, they introduced more of their own.

C In 1860, the rabbit was unleashed on Australia by a wealthy landowner and by 1980 rabbits had covered most of the mainland. Rabbits provide huge prey base for two other introduced species: the feral (wild) cat and the red fox. The Interaction between foxes, cats and rabbits is a huge problem for native mammals. In good years, rabbit numbers increase dramatically, and fox and cat populations grow quickly in response to the abundance of this prey. When bad seasons follow, rabbit numbers are significantly reduced - and the dwindling but still large fox and cat populations are left with little to eat besides native mammals.

D Australian mammals generally reproduce much more slowly than rabbits, cats and foxes - and adaption to prevent overpopulation in the arid environment, where food can be scarce and unreliable - and populations decline because they can't grow fast enough to replace animals killed by the predators. Johnson says dingoes are the solution to this problem because they keep cat and fox populations under control. Besides regularly eating the smaller predators,

dingoes will kill them simply to lessen competition. Dingo packs live in large, stable territories and generally have only one fertile, which limits their rate of increase. In the 4,000 years that dingoes have been Australia, they have contributed to few, if any, extinctions, Johnsons says.

E Reaching out from a desolate spot where three states meet, for 2,500 km in either direction, is the world's longest fence, two metres high and stretching from the coast in Queensland to the Great Australian Bight in South Australia; it is there to keep dingoes out of southeast, the fence separates the main types of livestock found in Australia. To the northwest of the fence, cattle predominate; to the southwest, sheep fill the landscape. In fact, Australia is a land dominated by these animals - 25 million cattle, 100 million sheep and just over 20 million people.

F While there is no argument that dingoes will prey on sheep if given the chance, they don't hunt cattle once the calves are much past two or three weeks old, according to McKechnie. And a study in Queensland suggests that dingoes don't even prey heavily on the newborn calves unless their staple prey disappears due to deteriorating conditions like drought. This study, co-authored by Lee Alien of the Robert Wicks Research Centre in Queensland, suggests that the aggressive baiting programs used against dingoes may actually be counter-productive for graziers. When dingoes are removed from an area by baiting m the area is recolonized by younger, more solitary dingoes. These animals aren't capable of going after the large prey like kangaroos, so they turn to calves. In their study, some of the highest rates of calf predation occurred in areas that had been baited.

G Mark Clifford, general manager of a firm that manages over 200,000 head of cattle, is not convinced by Allen's assertion. Clifford says, 'It's obvious if we drop or loosen control on dingoes, we are going to lose more calves.' He doesn't believe that dingoes will go after kangaroos when calves are around. Nor is he persuaded of dingoes' supposed ecological benefits, saying he is not convinced that they manage to catch cats that often, believing they are more likely to catch small native animals instead.

H McKechnie agrees that dingoes kill the wallabies (small native animals) that compete with his cattle for food, but points out that in parts of Westers Australia, there are no fixes, and not very many cats. He doesn't see how relaxing controls on dingoes in his area will improve the ecological balance. Johnson sees a need for a change in philosophy on the part of graziers. 'There might be a number of different ways of thinking through dingo management in cattle country,' he says. 'At the moment, though, that hasn't got through to graziers. There's still just on prescription, and that is to bait as widely as possible.'

Questions 1-7

Reading Passage has eight sections, **A-H**.

Which sections contains the following information?

Write the correct letter, **A-H**, in boxes **1-7** on your answer sheet.

NB You may use any letter more than once.

1 [ ] A description of a barrier designed to stop dingoes, which also divides two kinds of non-natives animals

2 [ ] How dingoes ensure that rival species do not dominate

3 [ ] A reference to a widespread non-native species that other animals feed on

4 [ ] A mention of the dingo's arrival in Australia

5 [ ] Research which has proved that dingoes have resorted to eating young livestock

6 [ ] A description of a method used to kill dingoes

7 [ ] The way that the structure of dingo groups affects how quickly their numbers grow

Questions 8-10

Look at the following statements (Questions **8-10**) and the list of people below.

Match each statement with the correct person, A, B, c or D.

Write the correct letter, A, B, C or D, in boxes **8-10** on your answer sheet.

8 [ ] Dingoes tend to hunt native animals rather than hunting other non-native predators.

9 [ ] The presence of dingoes puts the income of some people at risk.

10 [ ] Dingoes have had little impact on the dying out of animal species in Australia.

Questions 11-13

Complete the sentences below.

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

Write your answers in boxes **11-13** on your answer sheet.

11. The dingo replaced the 11 _____ as the main predatory animal in Australia.

12. Foxes and cats are more likely to hunt native animals when there are fewer

12 _____

13. Australian animals reproduce at a slow rate as a natural way of avoiding

13 _____

READING PASSAGE 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on ***Questions 14-27****, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.*

Pacific navigation and voyaging

How people migrated to the Pacific islands

The many tiny islands of the Pacific Ocean had no human population until ancestors of today's islanders sailed from Southeast Asia in ocean-going canoes approximately 2,000 years ago. At the present time, the debate continues about exactly how they migrated such vast distances across the ocean, without any of the modern technologies we take for granted.

Although the romantic vision of some early twentieth-century writers of fleets of heroic navigators simultaneously setting sail had come to be considered by later investigators to be exaggerated, no considered assessment of Pacific voyaging was forthcoming until 1956 when the American historian Andrew Sharp published his research. Sharp challenged the 'heroic vision' by asserting that the expertise of the navigators was limited, and that the settlement of the islands was not systematic, being more dependent on good fortune by drifting canoes. Sharp's theory was widely challenged, and deservedly so. If nothing else, however, it did spark renewed interest in the topic and precipitated valuable new research.

Since the 1960s a wealth of investigations has been conducted, and most of them, thankfully, have been of the 'non-armchair' variety. While it would be wrong to denigrate all 'armchair' research - that based on an examination of available published materials - it has turned out that so little progress had been made in the area of Pacific voyaging because most writers relied on the same old sources - travelers' journals or missionary narratives compiled by unskilled observers. After Sharp, this began to change, and researchers conducted most of their investigations not in libraries, but in the field.

In 1965, David Lewis, a physician and experienced yachtsman, set to work using his own unique philosophy: he took the yacht he had owned for many years and navigated through the islands in order to contact those men who still find their way at sea using traditional methods. He then accompanied these men, in their traditional canoes, on test voyages from which all modern instruments were banished from sight, though Lewis secretly used them to confirm the navigator's calculations. His most famous such voyage was a return trip of around 1,000 nautical miles between two islands in midocean. Far from drifting, as proposed by Sharp, Lewis found that ancient navigators would have known which course to steer by memorizing which stars rose and set in certain positions along the horizon and this gave them fixed directions by which to steer their boats.

The geographer Edwin Doran followed a quite different approach. He was interested in

obtaining exact data on canoe sailing performance, and to that end employed the latest electronic instrumentation. Doran traveled on board traditional sailing canoes in some of the most remote parts of the Pacific, all the while using his instruments to record canoe speeds in different wind strengths - from gales to calms - the angle canoes could sail relative to the wind. In the process, he provided the first really precise attributes of traditional sailing canoes.

A further contribution was made by Steven Horvath. As a physiologist, Horvath's interest was not in navigation techniques or in canoes, but in the physical capabilities of the men themselves. By adapting standard physiological techniques, Horvath was able to calculate the energy expenditure required to paddle canoes of this sort at times when there was no wind to fill the sails, or when the wind was contrary. He concluded that paddles, or perhaps long oars, could indeed have propelled for long distances what were primarily sailing vessels.

Finally, a team led by p Wall Garrard conducted important research, in this case by making investigations while remaining safely in the laboratory. Wall Garrard's unusual method was to use the findings of linguists who had studied the languages of the Pacific islands, many of which are remarkably similar although the islands where they are spoken are sometimes thousands of kilometres apart. Clever adaptation of computer simulation techniques pioneered in other disciplines allowed him to produce convincing models suggesting the migrations were indeed systematic, but not simultaneous. Wall Garrard proposed the migrations should be seen not as a single journey made by a massed fleet of canoes, but as a series of ever more ambitious voyages, each pushing further into the unknown ocean.

What do we learn about Pacific navigation and voyaging from this research? Quite correctly, none of the researchers tried to use their findings to prove one theory or another; experiments such as these cannot categorically confirm or negate a hypothesis. The strength of this research lay in the range of methodologies employed. When we splice together these findings we can propose that traditional navigators used a variety of canoe types, sources of water and navigation techniques, and it was this adaptability which was their greatest accomplishment. These navigators observed the conditions prevailing at sea at the time a voyage was made and altered their techniques accordingly. Furthermore, the canoes of the navigators were not drifting helplessly at sea but were most likely part of a systematic migration; as such, the Pacific peoples were able to view the ocean as an avenue, not a barrier, to communication before any other race on Earth. Finally, one unexpected but most welcome consequence of this research has been a renaissance in the practice of traditional voyaging. In some groups of islands in the Pacific today young people are resurrecting the skills of their ancestors, when a few decades ago it seemed they would be lost forever.

Questions 14-18

Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading Passage?

In boxes **14-18** on your answer sheet, write

YES	if the statement agrees with the views of the writer
NO	if the statement contradicts the views of the writer
NOT GIVEN	if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

14 [ ] The Pacific islands were uninhabited when migrants arrived by sea from Southeast Asia

15 [ ] Andrew Sharp was the first person to write about the migrants to islanders

16 [ ] Andrew Sharp believed migratory voyages were based on more on luck than skill

17 [ ] Despite being controversial, Andrew Sharp's research had positive results

18 [ ] Edwin Doran disagreed with the findings of Lewis's research

Questions 19-23

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

Write the correct letter in boxes **19-23** on your answer sheet.

19 David Lewis's research was different because

- **A** he observed traditional navigators at work
- **B** he conducted test voyages using his own yacht
- **C** he carried no modern instruments on test voyages
- **D** he spoke the same language as the islanders he sailed with

20 What did David Lewis's research discover about traditional navigators?

- **A** They used the sun and moon to find their position
- **B** They could not sail further than about 1,000 nautical miles
- **C** They knew which direction they were sailing in
- **D** They were able to drift for long distances

21 What are we told about Edwin Doran's research?

A Data were collected after the canoes had returned to land

B Canoe characteristics were recorded using modern instruments

C Research was conducted in the most densely populated regions

D Navigators were not allowed to see the instruments Doran used

22 Which of the following did Steven Horvath discover during his research?

A Canoe design was less important than human strength

B New research methods had to be developed for use in canoes

C Navigators became very tired on the longest voyages

D Human energy may have been used to assist sailing canoes

23 What is the writer's opinion of p Wall Garrard's research?

A He is disappointed it was conducted in the laboratory

B He is impressed by the originality of the techniques used

C He is surprised it was used to help linguists with their research

D He is concerned that the islands studied are long distances apart

Questions 24-27

Complete each sentence with the correct ending, **A-F**, below.

Write the correct letter, **A-F**, in boxes **24-27** on your answer sheet.

24 [ ] One limitation in the information produced by all of this research is that it

25 [ ] The best thing about this type of research

26 [ ] The most important achievement of traditional navigators

27 [ ] The migration of people from Asia to the Pacific

READING PASSAGE 3

You should spend about 20 minutes on ***Questions 28-40****, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.*

Should space be explored by robots or by humans?

A The advisability of humans participating directly in space travel continues to cause many debates. There is no doubt that the presence of people on board a space vehicle makes its design much more complex and challenging, and produces a large increase in costs, since safety requirements are greatly increased, and the technology providing necessities for human passengers such as oxygen, food water must be guaranteed. Moreover, the systems required are bulky and costly, and their complexity increases for long-duration missions. Meanwhile, advances in electronics and computer science allow increasingly complex tasks to be entrusted to robots, and unmanned space probes are becoming lighter, smaller and more convenient.

B However, experience has shown that the idea of humans in space is popular with the public. Humans can also be useful; there are many cases when only direct intervention by an astronaut or cosmonaut can correct the malfunction of an automatic device. Astronauts and cosmonauts have proved that they can adapt to conditions of weightlessness and work in space without encountering too many problems, as was seen in the operations to repair and to upgrade the Hubble Space Telescope. One human characteristic which is particularly precious in space missions, and which so far is lacking in robots, is the ability to perform a great variety of tasks. In addition, robots are not good at reacting to situations they have not been specifically prepared for. This is especially important in the case of deep space missions. While, in the case of the Moon, it is possible for someone on Earth to 'tele-operate' a robotic device such as a probe, as the two-way link time is only a couple of seconds, on Mars the two- way link time is several minutes, so sending instructions from Earth is more difficult.

C Many of the promises of artificial intelligence are still far from being fulfilled. The construction of machines simulating human logical reasoning moves towards ever more distant dates. The more the performance of computers improves, the more we realise how difficult it is to build machines which display logical abilities. In the past it was confidently predicted that we would soon have fully automated factories in which all operations were performed without any human intervention, and forecasts of the complete substitution of workers by robots in many production areas were made. Today, these perspectives are being revised. It seems that all machines, even the smartest ones, must cooperate with humans. Rather than replacing humans, the present need appears to be for an intelligent machine capable of helping a human operator without replacing him or her. The word 'cobot', from 'collaborative robot', has been invented to designate this type.

D A similar trend is also apparent in the field of space exploration. Tasks which were in the past entrusted only to machines are now performed by human beings, sometimes with the aim of using simpler and less costly devices, sometimes to obtain better performance. In many cases, to involve a person in the control loop is a welcome simplification which may lower the cost of a mission without compromising safety. Many operations originally designed to be performed under completely automatic control can be performed more efficiently by astronauts, perhaps helped by their 'cobots'. The human-machine relationship must evolve towards a closer collaboration.

E One way this could happen is by adopting the Mars Outposts approach, proposed by the Planetary Society. This would involve sending a number of robotic research stations to Mars, equipped with permanent communications and navigational systems. They would perform research, and establish the infrastructure needed to prepare future landing sites for the exploration of Mars by humans. It has also been suggested that in the most difficult environments, as on Venus or Jupiter, robots could be controlled by human beings located in spaceships which remain in orbit around the planet. In this case the link time for communication between humans and robots would be far less than it would be from Earth.

F But if space is to be more than a place to build automatic laboratories or set up industrial enterprises in the vicinity of our planet, the presence of humans is essential. They must learn how to voyage through space towards destinations which will be not only scientific bases but also places to live. If space is a frontier, that frontier must see the presence of people. So the aim for humankind in the future will be not just the exploration of space, but its colonisation. The result of exploring and living in space may be a deep change in the views which humankind has of itself. And this process is already under way. The images of Earth taken from the Moon in the Apollo programme have given humankind a new consciousness of its fragility, its smallness, and its unity. These impressions have triggered a realisation of the need to protect and preserve it, for it is the place in the solar system most suitable for US and above all it is the only place we have, at least for now.

Questions 28-33

Reading Passage has six paragraphs, A-F.

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number, i-ix. in boxes 1-6 on your answer sheet

List of Headings

i	Robots on Earth - a re-evaluation
ii	The barriers to cooperation in space exploration
iii	Some limitations of robots in space
iv	Reduced expectations for space exploration
v	A general reconsideration of human/robot responsibilities in space
vi	Problems in using humans for space exploration
vii	The danger to humans of intelligent machines
viii	Space settlement and the development of greater self-awareness
ix	Possible examples of cooperation in space

28 [ ]

29 [ ]

30 [ ]

31 [ ]

32 [ ]

33 [ ]

Questions 34-35

Choose **TWO** letters, **A-E**.

Write the correct letters in boxes **34-35** on your answer sheet.

According to the writer, which TWO predictions about artificial intelligence have not yet been fulfilled?

- A ☐ Robots will work independently of humans.
- B ☐ Robots will begin to oppose human interests,
- C ☐ Robots will be used to help humans perform tasks more efficiently.
- D ☐ Robots will think in the same way as humans.
- E ☐ Robots will become too costly to use on space missions.

Questions 36-40

Complete the summary below. Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer. Write your answers in boxes **36-40** on your answer sheet.

Humans in space - the Mars Outposts approach and its implications

One way of exploring space would be through collaboration between humans and robots. For example, when exploring the planet Mars, robots could be used to set up 36 _____ and do initial research before humans arrive. In other cases, humans could stay in orbiting 37 _____ and give orders to robots working on the surface of the planet.

This would increase the speed of 38 _____ with the robots. In such ways, robots might be used to work in space in commercial enterprises or 39 _____ However, the final aim of humankind may be the 40 _____ of space and this could in turn change people's attitudes towards Earth.

Solution:

Part 1: Question 1 - 13

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. B
5. F
6. A
7. D
8. D
9. A
10. B
11. Tasmanian tiger
12. rabbits
13. overpopulation

Part 2: Question 14 - 27

14. YES
15. NO
16. YES
17. YES
18. NOT GIVEN
19. A
20. C
21. B
22. D
23. B

24 C

25 A

26 D

27 E

Part 3: Question 28 - 40

28 vi

29 iii

30 i

31 v

32 ix

33 viii

34/35 A,D

36 infrastructure

37 spaceships

38 communication

39 laboratories

40 colonisation