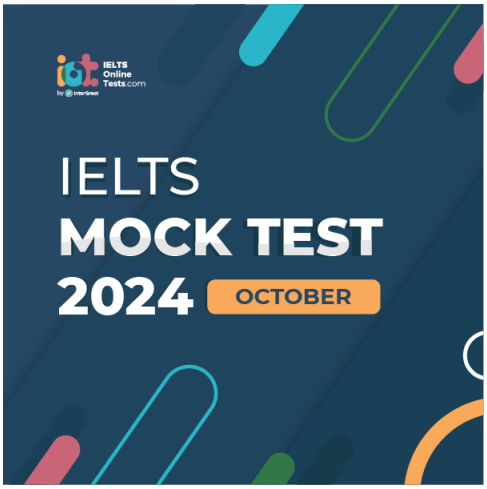

IELTS Mock Test 2024 October

Reading Practice Test 4

HOW TO USE

You have 2 ways to access the test

1. Open this URL **https://link.intergreat.com/RCePH** on your computer
2. Use your mobile device to scan the QR code attached

READING PASSAGE 1

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

THE HISTORY OF GLASS

Throughout human history, glass has played a significant role in daily life. One of the earliest types of glass used by humans was obsidian, a naturally occurring volcanic glass that was formed by the intense heat of an eruption melting sand. Early civilizations, including prehistoric societies, shaped obsidian into sharp-edged tools and weapons. Archaeological findings suggest that by around 4000 BC, humans had begun to produce artificial glass, initially in the form of glazes used to coat stone ornaments. However, the first hollow glass container did not appear until approximately 1500 BC, when early glassmakers discovered a technique of shaping molten glass around a sand core. This innovation laid the foundation for the glassmaking industry that would continue to evolve over time.

The technique of glass blowing, which became a revolutionary advancement, was developed around 30 BC in a region along the Syrian coastline. This method involved using a hollow metal tube to inflate hot glass, allowing it to be shaped into a variety of forms. Glassblowing enabled artisans to craft numerous types of glass objects quickly and efficiently. The practice spread throughout the Roman Empire, where it became increasingly common. However, after the collapse of the empire in AD 476, the production of glass declined significantly for many centuries. It was not until the 14th century that glassmaking regained importance, particularly in Venice, Italy, where artisans perfected techniques for producing high-quality, beautifully coloured glass.

By the late 16th century, glass manufacturing had reached England, where Venetian glassmakers introduced their knowledge and skills. The initial products were often thick and lacked clarity, but by the end of the century, British craftsmen had developed improved methods, resulting in clearer glass. However, the industry faced difficulties in the following century due to high taxation. In 1746, an English craftsman named William Cookson found a way to circumvent these taxes by working with lead crystal glass, which was not subject to the same duties. His approach was quickly adopted by others, leading to the widespread use of lead crystal for luxury glassware across Europe.

The 19th century witnessed two major advancements in glassmaking. First, the introduction of mechanical pressing allowed glass to be mass-produced at a lower cost, making it affordable for a wider population. This innovation particularly

benefited the production of everyday glass items, such as bottles. Secondly, American inventor Michael Owens pioneered a method for automating the production of glass bottles, significantly reducing their cost. Consequently, glass was increasingly used in construction, with larger windows becoming commonplace in buildings. During this period, glass also found new applications in furniture and decorative art. By the 1960s, a special type of heat-reflective glass was developed to reduce energy consumption in buildings, further extending the versatility of this material.

Modern glass is valued not only for being a green material but also for its sustainability. It is composed of abundant raw materials, including sand and soda, and is infinitely recyclable without degrading in quality. In 2003, European countries collected 2.6 million tonnes of glass for recycling, with an impressive 62% being successfully processed for reuse. Some nations, such as Finland and Switzerland, achieved even higher recycling rates, exceeding 90%. Recycling glass requires less energy than producing new glass from raw materials, contributing to significant energy savings.

Beyond recycling, glass also supports environmental protection in other ways. For example, some modern air-conditioning systems use glass-reinforced plastic tanks to store chilled water, allowing for more energy-efficient cooling. Additionally, large glass containers filled with water have been submerged in oceans to create artificial reefs, providing a habitat for marine life in areas where natural reefs have been destroyed. These innovative uses of glass demonstrate its continuing role in both technological advancements and environmental protection.

Questions 1-8

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

In boxes **1-8** on your answer sheet, write

TRUE	if the statement agrees with the information
FALSE	if the statement contradicts the information
NOT GIVEN	If there is no information on this

1 [ ] . Ancient Egyptians used glass in their buildings.

2 [ ] . The first man-made glass objects were Egyptian beads.

3 [ ] . The Romans were the first to use glass for making windows.

4 [ ] . Glass blowing developed in Egypt after spreading from

Syria.

5 [ ] . The Venetians used a variety of techniques to colour glass.

6 [ ] . Only rich people could afford mirrors in 17th century Britain.

7 [ ] . According to the writer, the 19th century saw the appearance of a new form of glass.

8 [ ] . Glassmaking techniques were taken to France from Britain in the 17th century.

Questions 9-13

Complete the notes below.
Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer.
Write your answers in boxes **9-13** on your answer sheet.

RECYCLING GLASS

Glass is made from materials that are plentiful.
Recycling glass provides energy 9 _____
Glass is a 10 _____ product, which means it is good for the environment.
The UK aims to 11 _____ the amount of recycled glass it uses.
New technology can be used to help the 12 _____ of the environment.
Glass is used in the manufacture of products including 13 _____ and air tanks.

READING PASSAGE 2

*You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 14-26**, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.*

THE JAPANESE ROCK GARDEN

The karesansui, or Japanese rock garden, is a unique and beautiful form of landscape art. Often called ‘Zen gardens’, they are found in the temples of Zen Buddhism in Japan. The gardens are not large, and they are enclosed by walls. The main components are rocks and gravel, with a few plants. The rocks are placed in carefully selected positions in the garden, and the gravel is raked to create patterns that often suggest rippling water. The design of the garden is based on various principles, and the aim is to create a peaceful place for meditation and contemplation. The gardens are regarded as great works of art, and they have influenced garden design in the West, as well as the art of garden landscaping in Japan. However, the karesansui is not a modern phenomenon. The history of this art form goes back a long way.

The first rock gardens in Japan were probably inspired by the Chinese gardens created during the Han dynasty (206 BC-220 AD). These gardens were designed to look like Chinese paintings of natural landscapes. They were intended to be viewed from a building, and they consisted of a pond and an island, with a bridge connecting the two. The gardens were built by the nobility in the capital, Kyoto, and they were a sign of a family’s status. The first truly Japanese gardens were built in the early 11th century, but they still had some of the features of the Chinese gardens. The pond and the island were still there, but the bridge was replaced by stepping stones, and there were more rocks. These gardens were also intended to be viewed from a building, not from within the garden itself.

By the 13th century, the influence of Chinese landscape painting was beginning to have an effect on the design of Japanese gardens. This was the time when Zen Buddhism was introduced to Japan, and the first Zen temples were built. The first rock gardens were built in these temples, and they were used by Zen monks as an aid to meditation. The garden was intended to be viewed from a single point, usually from a platform on the veranda of the temple. The gardens were not intended to look like real landscapes, but to represent the essence of nature's principles. The garden's aesthetic differs from that of conventional art forms like painting or sculpture. The beauty of the garden was in its simple, unadorned naturalness.

This shift in the garden's purpose, from representing natural landscapes to aiding in

meditation, prompted a change in design. The design of the garden was based on a number of principles. One of these was the idea of yohaku-no-bi, or the beauty of extra white. This refers to the use of empty space in the garden, which is as important as the rocks. Another principle was the idea of omomi, or the abstract quality of the garden. The garden is not supposed to look like a real landscape, but to suggest the spirit of nature. The most famous of all the Japanese gardens, and the best example of a rock garden, is at the Zen temple of Ryoanji in Kyoto. It was built in the late 15th century, and it consists of a rectangle of white gravel, surrounded by a low wall, with 15 rocks of different sizes placed on the gravel. The rocks are placed in five groups, and the gravel is raked every day by the monks. The garden is viewed from a platform on the veranda of the temple, and it is often said that only 14 of the rocks can be seen at any one time, no matter where the person viewing the garden is sitting.

The karesansui continued to evolve over the next few centuries. By the 18th century, the gardens were beginning to lose their spiritual significance, and they were being built in the gardens of the nobility. By the 19th century, the gardens were being built in the grounds of hotels and inns, and they were becoming a tourist attraction. This was the time when Japan was opening up to the West, and the gardens were being built to cater for the increasing number of foreign tourists. The gardens were no longer being built according to the principles of Zen Buddhism, and they were no longer being used as an aid to meditation.

The influence of karesansui extends far beyond its original temple setting. It is now featured in homes, parks, and public buildings worldwide. This art form, a powerful representation of Japanese aesthetic principles, has achieved international significance through its impact on Western garden design.

Questions 14-17

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

Write the correct letter in boxes **14-17** on your answer sheet.

14 What does the writer say about the main purpose of a Japanese rock garden?

- **A** to increase the status of a temple
- **B** to provide a calm environment
- **C** to show the artistic skills of the designer
- **D** to encourage visitors to the temple

15 The writer says that the first Japanese gardens

- **A** were built by monks.
- **B** were inspired by Japanese paintings.
- **C** were designed to be seen from a distance.
- **D** were open to the public.

16 What was the purpose of the first rock gardens?

- **A** to represent the principles of nature
- **B** to show the beauty of the rocks
- **C** to provide a place for people to sit
- **D** to represent a natural landscape

17 The writer says that the garden at Ryoanji

- **A** contains different types of rocks.
- **B** is larger than most rock gardens.
- **C** is viewed from a path in the garden.
- **D** was built by a famous gardener.

Questions 18-22

Complete the summary below.
Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer.
Write your answers in boxes **18-22** on your answer sheet.

THE GARDEN AT RYOANJI

The garden at the Zen temple of Ryoanji is a rectangular area of white gravel surrounded by a 18 _____ . There are 15 rocks of different sizes in the garden, and the gravel is raked every day by the 19 _____ . The garden is viewed from a 20 _____ on the veranda of the temple, and it is said that only 21 _____ of the rocks can be seen at any one time, no matter where the person viewing the garden is sitting. The garden was built in the 22 _____ century.

Questions 23-26

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 2?
In boxes **23-26** on your answer sheet, write

TRUE	if the statement agrees with the information
FALSE	if the statement contradicts the information
NOT GIVEN	If there is no information on this

23 [ ] . By the 18th century, Japanese rock gardens were being built in places other than temples.

24 [ ] . Foreign tourists were responsible for the loss of spiritual significance of rock gardens.

25 [ ] . Today, Japanese rock gardens are built in many countries.

26 [ ] . The principles of Japanese rock gardens are different from those of Western gardens.

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 2?
In boxes **23-26** on your answer sheet, write

TRUE	if the statement agrees with the information
FALSE	if the statement contradicts the information
NOT GIVEN	If there is no information on this

23 [ ] . By the 18th century, Japanese rock gardens were being built in places other than temples.

24 [ ] . Foreign tourists were responsible for the loss of spiritual significance of rock gardens.

25 [ ] . Today, Japanese rock gardens are built in many countries.

26 [ ] . The principles of Japanese rock gardens are different

from those of Western gardens.

READING PASSAGE 3

*You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 27-40**, which are based on Reading Passage 3 below.*

THE BENEFITS OF NATURE'S FIRES

Fire has long been perceived as a destructive force, capable of reducing entire forests to ash and threatening human settlements. However, in the natural world, fire plays a far more complex role. It is not merely a hazard but also a crucial ecological process that maintains balance in various ecosystems. From ancient times to modern conservation practices, fire has shaped landscapes, influenced biodiversity, and contributed to the survival of certain species.

Fire is a natural phenomenon that occurs when three essential components—heat, fuel, and oxygen—come together. In many ecosystems, such as grasslands, savannas, and coniferous forests, fire plays a critical role in maintaining ecological health. It helps in nutrient recycling, controls invasive species, and encourages the growth of fire-adapted plants.

One of the key benefits of fire is its ability to clear out dead and decaying vegetation. This reduces competition for nutrients and sunlight, allowing new plants to flourish. Additionally, fire can prevent the spread of disease by eliminating infected plants and trees. In certain ecosystems, periodic fires create a mosaic of different habitats, promoting biodiversity by providing varied environments for different species.

Some plant species have evolved specific adaptations to survive and even thrive in fire-prone environments. For example, the giant sequoia tree (Sequoiadendron giganteum) of North America relies on fire to reproduce. Its thick bark protects it from the flames, while the heat triggers the release of seeds from its cones. Similarly, some species of pine trees, such as the lodgepole pine, have serotinous cones that only open after being exposed to high temperatures.

Animals, too, have developed strategies to cope with fire. Some species, like kangaroos and deer, have the ability to flee from fire zones quickly, while others, such as certain insects and small mammals, seek refuge underground. Birds of prey, such as the black kite in Australia, have even been observed spreading fire intentionally by picking up burning sticks and dropping them into dry grass to flush out prey.

Fires can be classified into two main categories: natural and human-induced. Natural fires are typically caused by lightning strikes or volcanic activity. In many cases, these fires occur during dry seasons when vegetation has accumulated and conditions are ideal for combustion. Such fires, though destructive in the short term, play a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem health.

Human-induced fires, on the other hand, can be both beneficial and harmful. Indigenous communities have long practiced controlled burning, also known as prescribed fires, to manage land and encourage new plant growth. These practices, which have been used for thousands of years, help prevent large-scale wildfires by reducing fuel loads. However, accidental or intentional fires caused by human activities—such as discarded cigarettes, unattended campfires, and land-clearing for agriculture—can lead to devastating consequences.

In recent years, climate change has significantly altered fire patterns worldwide. Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and changing weather conditions have increased the frequency and intensity of wildfires. Regions such as California, Australia, and the Mediterranean have witnessed unprecedented fire seasons, with fires burning larger areas and lasting longer than ever before.

One of the major consequences of increased fire activity is its impact on carbon storage. Forests act as carbon sinks, absorbing large amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. When they burn, this stored carbon is released, contributing to further climate change. Moreover, frequent and intense fires can lead to soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, and the displacement of both human and animal populations.

Given the importance of fire in natural ecosystems, scientists and conservationists have developed strategies to manage it effectively. Controlled burns, which mimic natural fire cycles, are widely used to maintain ecological balance and prevent catastrophic wildfires. These controlled burns are carefully planned and monitored to ensure they achieve ecological benefits without threatening nearby communities. Firebreaks, which are cleared areas of land that act as barriers, help slow or stop the spread of wildfires. Additionally, advancements in fire detection technology, such as satellite monitoring and artificial intelligence-driven prediction models, have improved early warning systems and response times.

In some cases, fire suppression efforts have led to unintended consequences. Decades of fire suppression policies, particularly in North America and Europe, have resulted in dense forests with excessive fuel loads. This has made these areas more susceptible to severe wildfires when fires do occur. As a result, many governments and environmental agencies are shifting towards fire-adaptive management strategies that recognize fire as an essential ecological process rather than merely a threat.

Fire in nature is a powerful force that shapes landscapes and influences biodiversity. While it can be destructive, it also plays a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. Understanding the dynamics of fire, recognizing its benefits, and implementing effective fire management strategies are crucial for both environmental conservation and human safety. As climate change continues to alter fire patterns, a balanced approach that integrates scientific research, traditional

knowledge, and modern technology will be essential in ensuring that fire remains a beneficial force rather than a catastrophic one.

Questions 27-32

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 3?
In boxes **27-32** on your answer sheet, write

TRUE	if the statement agrees with the information
FALSE	if the statement contradicts the information
NOT GIVEN	If there is no information on this

27 [ ] . Fire only causes destruction, harming forests and human communities.

28 [ ] . Fire plays a role in replenishing nutrients and managing invasive plant species in some ecosystems.

29 [ ] . The giant sequoia tree is highly vulnerable to fire because its bark easily catches fire.

30 [ ] . Certain birds of prey intentionally spread fire to drive out animals they hunt.

31 [ ] . Volcanic eruptions are the main reason natural fires occur, while lightning strikes are less significant.

32 [ ] . Fires started by humans always have negative effects on the environment.

Questions 33-36

Complete the summary below.

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

Write your answers in boxes **33-36** on your answer sheet.

Wildfires have become more frequent and intense due to climate change, affecting 33 _____ worldwide. Some areas now face 34 _____ fire seasons, burning larger areas for longer periods. This leads to the destruction of 35 _____ , which normally absorb carbon dioxide. As a result, fires contribute to climate change and cause 36 _____ , harming ecosystems and displacing populations.

Questions 37-40

Complete the sentences below.

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

Write your answers in boxes **37-40** on your answer sheet.

37 _____ burns are planned fires that help maintain ecological balance and reduce the risk of extreme wildfires.

38 _____ , which are cleared strips of land, act as barriers to slow or stop the spread of wildfires.

Advances in fire detection, including satellite monitoring and 39 _____ -driven prediction models, have improved early warning systems.

Many environmental agencies are adopting fire- 40 _____ management strategies that acknowledge fire as a natural and necessary ecological process.

Solution:

Part 1: Question 1 - 13

1. FALSE
2. FALSE
3. NOT GIVEN
4. FALSE
5. TRUE
6. NOT GIVEN
7. FALSE
8. NOT GIVEN
9. savings
10. green
11. increase
12. protection
13. furniture

Part 2: Question 14 - 26

14. B
15. C
16. A
17. A
23. TRUE
24. NOT GIVEN
25. TRUE
26. NOT GIVEN

Part 3: Question 27 - 40

27 FALSE

28 TRUE

29 FALSE

30 TRUE

31 FALSE

32 FALSE

33 Fine patterns

34 Unprecedented

35 Carbon sinks

36 Soil degradation

37 controlled

38 firebreaks

39 Intelligence

40 Adaptive