

Prepare for IELTS General Training Volume 2

Reading Practice Test 1

HOW TO USE

You have 2 ways to access the test

1. Open this URL <https://link.intergreat.com/P294p> on your computer
2. Use your mobile device to scan the QR code attached



READING PASSAGE 1



Read the texts below and answer Questions 1-8.

A. Hotel Cala Vinas, Majorca

This all-inclusive, 4-star hotel is reserved exclusively for adults. Facilities include a buffet-style restaurant, outdoor and indoor pools and spa.

Live entertainment 4 nights a week.

Porterage at your hotel included in package. Single rooms available with a supplement.

B. Hotel Miguel, San Miguel Bay, Ibiza

Perched above inviting San Miguel Bay in north Ibiza, this superb 4-star hotel commands fabulous coastal views. Facilities at the hotel include a restaurant with table service, an outdoor solar-heated swimming pool with terrace and indoor gym. Stays can be upgraded to all-inclusive from half-board on request. Included and optional excursions available; please refer to your travel representative for more details.

C. Costa Marina Apartments, Minorca

Modern self-catering apartments situated in the family-friendly resort of Costa Marina. All apartments are fully furnished with fully equipped kitchens and spacious open-plan lounge and sleeping areas. Apartments are located around a large, heated communal pool with poolside bar.

Optional excursions can be arranged with your travel representative who will be on site 2 days per week.

D. Hotel Playa Azul, Marinas de Nerja, Spain

Located in a tranquil setting, this hotel is ideally situated for the beach and nearby fishing village of Fuenigirola.

A complimentary shuttle bus operates between the hotel and the town of Nerja, which is a 20-minute journey away. Stays are on a full-board basis only. Facilities include a self-service restaurant, indoor heated plunge pool and spa.

E. Hotel Quintamar, Asturias, Spain

Stay in a less well-trodden area of Spain and enjoy a warm welcome in this family-run hotel. Board is on a bed & breakfast basis.

Extra meals available by prior arrangement with the management.

A regular local bus service connects the hotel with the small village of Barro, 10 km away.

Read the text below and answer Questions 9-14.

How your breakfast habits may reveal more about you than you realise

Incredible though it may seem, your breakfast habits may reveal your innermost personality. At least, that's according to a recent study jointly commissioned by Duerr's Marmalade and Robert's Bakery. The study uncovered 15 personality types in all, ranging from 'Thrill-Seeker' and 'Perfectionist' to the more eyebrow-raising 'Status Quo Lover' and 'Tribal Chief'. Quite what the latter 2 types are exactly is left to speculation.

The test itself was the brainchild of Dr. Sandi Mann, Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Central Lancashire. Apparently the reasoning, for there is one, behind the test IS that subconscious motives prompt even the simplest of choices. 'How we eat our toast and marmalade might seem intuitive but the fact is we each individually make a series of choices at breakfast, based on learnt preferences, innate behaviour and conditioned learning, which could underscore your personality type/ claims Dr. Mann. Key factors analysed in the test were butter-spreading techniques, amount of butter applied and the subject's conserve of choice.

Certainly, Mann's analysis makes for interesting reading. In particular, a handful of personality types had intriguing breakfast habits that in most cases were somewhat predictable in hindsight. 'Perfectionists', for example, gave themselves primarily away by their butter-spreading techniques. Those falling into the Perfectionist category ensured total coverage of toast when spreading it with butter. 'Intolerant' types, however, first removed crusts before eating, whilst so-called 'Achievers' tended to be a sloppy bunch preferring to dip their butter knives in the jam and eat the crusts on their bread. Finally the 'Thrill-Seekers' were the ones who always went for the novelty jams on offer.

If you have not yet identified your personality type from any of the above, you can reveal your innermost character traits by doing the online version of this test to find out where you sit on the scale. Have fun and Bon Appetit!

Questions 1-8

Look at the **five** advertisements, **A-E**.

Which advertisement mentions the following?

Write the correct letter, **A-E**, in boxes **1-8** on your answer sheet.

You may use any **letter more than once**.

- 1 a remote location
- 2 all meals included (not drinks)
- 3 free transport

4 waiter service

5 an elevated location

Questions 9-14

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text?

In boxes 9-14 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

9 The writer clearly believes the test is a valid measure of personality.

10 Some personality types mentioned are not clearly defined in Dr. Mann's analysis

11 The test fails to account for environmental factors.

12 Dr. Mann believes that nothing we do is by chance.

13 Several contributors devised the test.

14 The online version of this test is offered for free.

READING PASSAGE 2



How to effectively problem-solve

Read the text below and answer Questions 15-21.

A _In life we can sometimes be overwhelmed by problems. The reason behind this is that we wait for problems to find us. We would do far better to take a proactive approach, actively seeking out potential problems and deciding on which are worth tackling in the first place and taking appropriate action.

B _Next, one has to resist the temptation of going straight into problem analysis and solution. As with the first step, this stage is one of the secrets of effective problem-solving. Having already decided upon what problems are worthwhile solving, at this stage, you need to establish what exactly you are trying to solve.

C _Now you are ready to get down to work on actually tackling the problem you have identified. You need to break down the complexity of the problem, stripping away the superficial and getting to the causes/issues. Whilst this may take some time and thought, in the long run you will reap the benefits of spending time in this more contemplative stage of the process.

D _There are always more than one ways to solve a problem, so take time to create and work upon plenty of creative possibilities to the problem. Think of it as a personal brainstorming session. However ludicrous a solution may seem initially, write it down nevertheless. You never know how effective a solution will be anyway until it is put into practice.

E _Next you need to make choices. You need to weigh up the relative merits and risks of the different options you generated in the previous step and decide which to go for. This is more of a filtering stage where you weed out the solutions that are less likely to work from the more plausible options.

F _Deciding on which course of action to take is only half the story, though. You need to carry the action through in an effective way if you are to deliver the outcomes essential to solving the problem you originally defined.

G _Hopefully once you have reached this stage your problem is now a thing of the past. Before you give yourself a well-deserved pat on the back though, it is worth taking time out to reflect on what you have achieved so far and whether you in fact arrived at the anticipated outcome you had hoped for. Any perceived failings on your part in implementing the steps can then be addressed, allowing you to take more effective action in problem-solving situations in the future.

Read the text below and answer Questions 22-28.

The function and definition of play

Play can be defined by three basic criteria: an expression of freedom of choice, personal enjoyment and an activity that is an end in itself. Its persistence through the ages and across diverse cultures demonstrates its functional role in human survival and development. In a nutshell, play serves to develop social and cognitive abilities as well as acting as a form of self-expression.

Within the activity of play itself there are several clearly defined types. These types range from simple physical play with objects such as baby rattles, to more complex cognitive play in games with many rules, such as cards or chess played by older children.

At the most basic end of the play continuum is passive play. Children exhibiting passive play behaviours are not involved physically in any play activity themselves. When play behaviour is exhibited by other children in their presence, they may be virtually oblivious to it, or they may observe but not participate, exhibiting 'onlooker behaviour'.

At a more engaged level, children will exhibit involved play behaviours. To what extent this is a social activity varies greatly, depending on where the child is on the socio-developmental spectrum. At one end of the spectrum a child may be actively involved in play but alone or in parallel to other players. In both cases the child does not interact with other children in play activity. As the child learns to engage more with other children socially, involved play behaviour will show acknowledgement but not complete interaction with other children in associative play and more complete engagement with other children in cooperative play which requires negotiation skills and turn talking.

As a child develops language and vocabulary skills, pretend play will evolve. This type of play serves to increase memory abilities and enhances reasoning and problem-solving abilities. Children at this stage use imagination to overcome what adults would term 'problem-solving'.

As cognitive abilities develop in a child, they will begin to engage in cognitive play. Here, at a more complex level of this stage, the child will play games with set rules, such as chess or jacks, as well as engaging in dramatic play that involves a degree of role play.

At three to five years of age, when cognitive and social abilities are significantly more developed, a child will demonstrate socio-dramatic play. Role play is used and the child interacts with other children to narrate and act in stories with fluid storylines that they then act out together.

Questions 15-21

The text on the next page has seven sections, A-G.

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

Write the correct number, *i-x*, in boxes **15-21** on your answer sheet.

List of Headings	
i	Defining the problem
ii	Explore different routes
iii	Some problems are easier to solve
iv	Implement your decision
v	Evaluate and learn
vi	Problems may appear bigger than they are
vii	Analyse the problem
viii	Find the right problem to solve
ix	Select the best solution
x	Never over-analyse

15  Section A

16  Section B

17  Section C

18  Section D

19  Section E

20  Section F

21  Section G

Questions 22-23

Complete the sentences below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 22-23 on your answer sheet.

Whilst play may seem a purely fun activity, it plays a 22 in maturation.

As a child matures, they will engage in 23 , using a set of rules to play games.

Questions 24-28

Look at the following descriptions and the list of terms in the box below.

Match each description with the correct term, A-E.

Write the appropriate letter, A-E, in boxes 24-28 on your answer sheet.

List of Descriptions

- 24 The child engages in active play but may fail to acknowledge other children.
- 25 No attempt is made by the child to engage in active play.
- 26 Abstract rules are used in game playing that exercises cognitive functioning.
- 27 Interaction with other children is vital for play to evolve using rules devised during play.
- 28 Play foreshadows more complex adult behaviour used in daily survival.

List of Terms	
A	Passive play
B	Involved play
C	Pretend play
D	Cognitive play
E	Socio-dramatic play

READING PASSAGE 3



The process of cheesemaking

When it comes to cheese we are spoilt for choice. From the milder cheeses such as Gouda and Emmental to the more pungent-tasting blue cheeses such as Danish Blue and Stilton, all tastes are catered for. Whilst cheeses may vary greatly in taste and texture, they are all manufactured following the same 6-stage cheesemaking process: acidification, coagulation, separating curds and whey, salting, shaping and ripening. There is more than an element of art in this process, however, since cheesemakers will temper the process according to their own senses of sight, touch and smell.

In the first stage, milk is inoculated with lactic acid bacteria. The purpose of the lactic bacteria is to convert milk sugar (lactose) into lactic acid in what is known as the acidification process.

Next, a substance that is known as rennet, which is obtained from the stomach lining of ruminants (or Cud-chewing herbivores, like cows), is used in the coagulation process causing milk protein to solidify. Rennet contains the active enzyme, rennin, and it is this enzyme that acts on the milk protein caseinogen to turn it into an insoluble milk protein known as casein. Since casein is insoluble, it precipitates out of the milk as a gel-like substance or curd, which contains milk solids, fats and proteins. The lactic acid added earlier on in the process facilitates the curdling process. As casein precipitates out from milk, forming curds, the watery substance left surrounding the curds is known as whey.

In the following stage, the insoluble curds are removed from the whey in the separation process. The curds are then removed and cut. Cutting encourages the curds to expel further liquid or whey, making them more solid as a result. Harder cheeses like Cheddar and Gruyere are created by being cut into small pieces. Conversely, softer cheeses like Camembert and Brie are hardly cut, creating a much softer texture.

Salt is then added to the cheese and serves a dual purpose both as flavour enhancer and preservative. It is important to preserve the cheese to avoid spoiling during long months or years of ageing cheese to produce a more mature flavour. How salt is added is up to the

cheesemaker. Cheese may be fully immersed in a vat of brine, or salt may be rubbed onto the cheese rind. Another option is to add salt in the actual cheesemaking process itself.

Once the cheese is fully formed, it next has to be shaped. The cheese is placed into a basket or mould that will form the cheese into a specific shape. During this process any remaining liquid is removed by applying weights to the cheese to squeeze out the excess liquid.


Finally the cheese is left to ripen or age until it reaches its optimal ripeness. Close monitoring of the temperature where the cheese is stored is vital at this stage, otherwise the cheese will not develop the proper flavour and texture. According to the cheese being manufactured, the cheese will be subject to different processes at this stage. Mould is added to Brie cheeses by spray and by injection into blue cheeses. Other cheeses will need to be turned whilst others to be brushed with oil or washed with brine and alcohol.


Questions 29-32


Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text?


In boxes 29-32 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

29  Cheesemaking doesn't just rely on purely scientific methods.

30  Solids are initially separated from liquids through a mechanical process.

31  Whey contains dissolved milk solids.

32  Harder cheeses need more maturation than soft cheeses.

Questions 33-40

Complete the summary below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 33-40 on your answer sheet.

The Production Process

Lactic acid bacteria are first added to milk to change milk lactose to lactic acid.

Rennet is then added. Its active enzyme, rennin, 33 _____ caseinogen, a milk protein.

As a result, the protein, casein, is formed.

Being 34 _____ in water, casein precipitates out of the milk, forming curds.

Left behind after the curds have been removed is 35 _____ termed whey.

After separation from the whey, the curd is cut in order 36 _____ excess water.

Addition of salt has 37 _____ acting as a preservative and to add flavour.

Next the cheese is 38 _____ by being placed into a suitable container.

In order to achieve 39 _____ the cheese is left to mature.

Before the cheese is ready it may undergo 40 _____ to achieve the desired result.



Solution:

Part 1: Question 1 - 14

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| 1 E | 2 D |
| 3 D | 4 B |
| 5 B | 6 A |
| 7 A | 8 C |
| 9 FALSE | 10 TRUE |
| 11 FALSE | 12 TRUE |
| 13 FALSE | 14 NOT GIVEN |

Part 2: Question 15 - 28

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 15 viii | 16 i |
| 17 vii | 18 ii |
| 19 ix | 20 iv |
| 21 v | 22 functional role |
| 23 complex cognitive play | 24 B |

25 A

26 D

27 E

28 C

Part 3: Question 29 - 40

29 TRUE

30 FALSE

31 FALSE

32 NOT GIVEN

33 acts on

34 insoluble

35 the watery substance

36 to expel

37 a dual purpose

38 shaped

39 its optimal ripeness

40 different