

CHRT08

NAME:.....

HACKERS PRACTICE

IELTS

GRE NOVA

1 A Today, there are more than 350 extant species of parrots. These intelligent birds come in a variety of sizes and vibrant colours. While they are prized as pets around the world for their ability to mimic speech, they are not always as beloved in their native lands.

B One good example of this is Australia, which is home to the sulphur-crested cockatoo, a large parrot with vivid yellow feathers on its head. These birds move in large flocks and have become a nuisance to local inhabitants. Not only do their chatter and pre-dawn calls disturb humans, but they are also very destructive. Local farmers and homeowners often complain that they are decimating crops and destroying timber used in homebuilding by chewing on it. They are also expanding their territory, which displaces other native bird species.

C To address these problems, sulphur-crested cockatoos have been declared a pest species in some areas. This prevents them from being imported into new areas and puts regulations on their ownership. In some regions, there are also regular culls to keep the populations in check and to prevent them from damaging the local ecosystem. While these policies may have an impact, it is unclear whether they will resolve the issue.

The reading passage has three paragraphs, A-C.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

- 1 a reference to a banning a bird species from certain areas
- 2 details of how parrots impact humans in terms of noise

extant adj. còn tồn tại vibrant adj. rực rỡ mimic v. bắt chước, làm theo sulphur-crested cockatoo phi. vẹt mào vàng nuisance n. sự phiền toái chatter n. tiếng hót lùi lo, tiếng riu rít decimate v. phà hoại displace v. chiếm nô ô pest n. loài gây hại cull sự sàng lọc

2

A German alchemist Hennig Brandt made an important discovery in the mid-1600s. By evaporating urine and heating the resulting residue, he distilled a new vapour, which he thought to be the Philosopher's Stone - a substance with which he could turn base metals into gold. Unfortunately for Brandt, the Philosopher's Stone was just a myth and what he had actually discovered was one form of the element phosphorus.

B Through later experimentation, scientists made additional discoveries about the different forms of Brandt's mineral. For instance, in its purest state, white phosphorus, the mineral is so combustible that it will burst into flames if it comes into contact with air, so it must be kept underwater. Also, it can only be handled with tools, as it is toxic and can cause severe burns. These properties may make white phosphorus seem useless, but they actually make it important in one field - munitions. Several incendiary weapons have been developed using this form of the element.

C For most other uses, white phosphorus must be converted into the more stable red form by heating. The red phosphorus will not spontaneously ignite like the white form, but it is not without its dangers, such as producing toxic vapours when heated. Nonetheless, its use is quite common. We can see this in our own homes. The red material on the head of matches is a form of red phosphorus. Red phosphorus can also be ground into a powder and used as a fertiliser.

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The reading passage has three paragraphs, A-C.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

- 3 a description of the dangers of combining a chemical with air
- 4 a reference to the agricultural uses of a form of phosphorus

residue n. phản còn lại distill v. chưng cất vapour n. hơi nước, chất lỏng base metal phr. kim loại gốc phosphorus n. phốt pho combustible adj. dễ cháy, dễ bắt lửa munition n. đạn dược incendiary adj. gây cháy nổ spontaneously adv. tự ý, tự phát ignite v. bắt lửa, bốc cháy

3 A Carbon is found all around us today - in the air, the earth, and in all living things - but it is neither created nor destroyed. This is due to a process called the carbon cycle. About 99 per cent of Earth's carbon is trapped in the rocks of its crust, but through this process, it is slowly released into the atmosphere. Plants can then take in the carbon, as carbon dioxide, for photosynthesis and pass it along to animals when it is consumed. Eventually, as these animals die and their bodies decompose, the carbon is returned to the soil.

B An often-overlooked aspect of the carbon cycle is that oceans are a highly significant factor in determining the level of carbon in the atmosphere. Our oceans act as large carbon sinks, or storage units. This occurs because carbon dioxide enters the ocean from the atmosphere, undergoes a chemical reaction, and becomes trapped there. Unfortunately, since the Industrial Revolution, the burning of fossil fuels has greatly increased the amount of carbon dioxide we release into the atmosphere, while the oceans' ability to take in more carbon dioxide has remained the same. This is resulting in a build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and leading to higher global temperatures.

C The increased carbon dioxide levels in the oceans since the Industrial Revolution are also leading to problems for marine life. The chemical reactions that occur as carbon dioxide is dissolved into the seawater lowers the pH level of water at the surface. This acidification slows the growth of microscopic marine life such as plankton and coral. These tiny organisms form the base of the marine food web, so the acidification can have a negative impact on the entire system. And, since we also rely on the marine food web, our food supply is threatened as well.

The reading passage has three paragraphs, A-C.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

- 5 a reason why one process can influence a whole system
- 6 the role of oceans in the carbon-cycle
- 7 how carbon gets put back into the earth

crust n. lớp vỏ cứng
photosynthesis n. sự quang hợp
decompose v. phân hủy, làm mủn
often-overlooked adj. thường bị bỏ qua
carbon sink phr. bể chứa carbon
build-up n. sự tích tụ
dissolve v. hòa tan
pH level phr. độ pH
acidification n. sự axit hóa
microscopic adj. siêu nhỏ

A With today's aging population, the debate over seniors in the workforce has begun to heat up. Some people believe that their prolonged place in the workforce can be harmful to society. Others think senior employment can have positive consequences for social cohesion and economic growth.

B Those who oppose employing seniors past the current age of retirement generally cite the argument that an aging workforce is less productive, as health issues and a lack of technical abilities limit the capacity of the elderly to do certain jobs. Although this may be the case with the very elderly, in the United States the current generation of over 60s is highly educated and relatively healthy, particularly in comparison to previous generations.

C Others complain that it is too difficult to train seniors. They say, 'you can't teach an old dog new tricks'. However, this too is a misleading argument. Seniors have a wealth of experience which, with the right management, can be highly effective in the proper context. Many already have applicable skills that can be useful in the job market and are well-versed in the activities of the business world, eliminating the need for training altogether.

D One argument against senior employment that does have some validity is the fact that they reduce the number of jobs available in the market place. For every job that a senior is given, one job is unavailable for a younger person. While this is true, the jobs seniors and younger people generally look for are quite different. Instead of taking a job, they're usually filling a job that no one else wants, so it is clear that there is little reason to avoid hiring seniors. In fact, it will likely have a positive impact on both the senior and the employer. It will also reduce the need for seniors to rely upon social security programs or pensions, thereby saving money for the entire society.

The reading passage has four paragraphs, A-D.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

NB You may use any letter more than once.

- 8 a claim about possible benefits to employers and workers
- 9 a reason why training may not be needed
- 10 one effect of senior employment on welfare

workforce n. lực lượng lao động prolonged adj. kéo dài social cohesion phr. sự gắn kết xã hội cite v. nêu lên misleading adj. sai lệch proper adj. phù hợp context n. bối cảnh, tình huống applicable adj. có thể ứng dụng well-versed adj. thông thạo, biết nhiều eliminate v. loại bỏ, giảm bớt validity n. sự có căn cứ, sự hợp lý pension n. lương hưu

5 A As every teacher knows, the ability of any group of students of the same age usually does not vary tremendously. Occasionally however, a student will be so talented that he or she is dramatically **out of step** with his or her classmates across many subjects, and this **can have a disruptive effect** on both the student's progress and that of the class. In these situations the **obvious strategy** is to allow such a student to **advance a year**. However, this is not necessarily the best practice, and some advocate for challenging gifted students within their year group. The debate over what is the best approach is known as 'acceleration vs. enrichment' among education professionals.

B Acceleration to a higher year, whilst superficially the simplest solution in terms of handling gifted students, can in fact hold them back as they will inevitably miss out on skills that they would have learned in a given year. The students in question can also suffer from intense pressure on account of acceleration, as they struggle to acclimatise to a new peer group and set of expectations. The separation from their social group, and the emotional support it offers, is also a major concern.

C Enrichment on the other hand, can be more difficult to put in place, as this involves providing opportunities for students to stretch themselves within their original class. Teachers are therefore expected to generate an enrichment programme that will match the strengths and skills of the gifted students, and allow them to take on advanced work while maintaining a connection with their peer group so that they can continue to engage socially with other students of the same age.

D Studies have shown that the most effective strategy for dealing with talented students is to combine a measure of acceleration in certain subjects with enrichment in others. This necessitates a programme which is tailored for the student in question, and will play to his or her strengths and weaknesses. In actual fact, the fundamental problem with dealing with talented students in many countries, including the UK, is not which approach to choose out of acceleration and enrichment but that neither is available, and students are forced to learn in what educational researcher Maureen Marron calls a rigid 'lock-step manner' with their age group.

The reading passage has four paragraphs, A-D.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

- 11 a reference to the effect gifted students can have on their classmates
- 12 a mention of a shortage of options for talented students
- 13 how teachers can help talented students succeed within their peer group

disruptive adj. gây rối loạn advocate v. tán thành, ủng hộ acceleration n. sự tăng tốc enrichment n. sự làm phong phú thêm superficially adv. nhìn từ bề ngoài, vé ngoài inevitably adv. không thể tránh khỏi in question phr. đang được bàn luận đến acclimatise v. thích nghi, làm quen put in place phr. thực hiện, thi hành tailor v. phù hợp, đáp ứng nhu cầu lock-step adj. theo sát, cùng nhắc

A The indigenous communities of the United States' Pacific Northwest practised a ceremonial distribution of property, known as the potlatch, to rid themselves of spiritual burdens brought about by ownership of material objects. These communal events usually centred on a large feast to reflect the bounty of the hunting season. These feasts featured large amounts of salmon or seal meat, along with other foods, and were usually attended by community elders, faith healers, and visitors from great distances. In honour of these respected guests, the hosts served the meals on special hand-carved and painted platters that were much more ornate than those used for everyday situations.

B The potlatch was also celebrated with song and dance. These activities were meant to honour relatives, celebrate relationships and give thanks for abundant harvests. Since the dances were each performed by individual families, they also provided them with the opportunity to display their unique heritage. In addition, some of the singers and dancers wore masks depicting supernatural beings throughout the potlatch. These were meant to honour the beings that had bestowed the song and dance upon the particular family.

C However, perhaps the most important aspect of the potlatch was gift giving. This act not only showed generosity, but also allowed the tribe members to relinquish material possessions. By doing this, they could repay debts, show appreciation for help, and ensure continued relationships. All of these activities reinforced the communal values of the society. The tribe members would, therefore, trade canoes, blankets, and other items. If they happened to be too big to move or too valuable, they were simply destroyed.

D Despite the great cultural importance of these events, the European governments of the American colonies did not appreciate them. In order to force the tribe members to assimilate into their new societies, the governments banned the practice. This didn't, of course, eradicate the ceremonies. They were simply performed in secret until the ban was lifted in the mid-1900s.

The reading passage has four paragraphs, A-D.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

NB You may use any letter more than once.

- 14 how indigenous people handled restrictions on their customs
- 15 an example of a way of celebrating the hunting season's yield
- 16 a mention of visitors travelling from far away

indigenous adj. bản xứ, bản địa communal adj. (thuộc) cộng đồng bounty n. sự bội thu faith healer phr. người chữa bệnh bằng đức tin ornate adj. lộng lẫy depict v. mô tả, miêu tả supernatural adj. siêu nhiên bestow v. tặng cho, ban cho relinquish v. từ bỏ appreciate v. đánh giá cao, hiểu được giá trị assimilate v. hòa nhập eradicate v. nhổ tận gốc rễ, xóa bỏ hoàn toàn

1 Disappearing Lions

A Lions, which once roamed large expanses of Europe, began to dwindle in number during the end of the last ice age when climate change altered the landscape. Formerly, vast steppes - flat grassland areas - covered the continent, making it easy for lions to spot and capture their prey. But as the environment grew warmer and tall forests grew, other animals became far more difficult to hunt. With food harder to come by, it was impossible for lions to sustain their former numbers.

B There were, however, occasional sightings of lions in southern Europe during historic times. According to ancient Greek historian Herodotus, the big cats could be found between the Achelos and Nestos rivers. As this is a relatively small geographical area, the species was probably already on its way to disappearing from the region at this time, with its demise no doubt hastened by the Greeks' love of sport hunting and the Romans' demand for beasts to fight in their arenas.

C As for Africa, lions survived in significant numbers until the 19th century, when they began to vanish due to human population growth. Because machinery allowed people to access the wilderness, human contact with lions increased dramatically and so did the number of lions that were shot or poisoned with chemical pesticides. In fact, the lion population decreased by about 95 per cent in less than 200 years. Of the approximately 30,000 currently left on the continent, nearly all are in sub-Saharan and many face habitat repurposing, conflicts with farmers, and loss of prey due to the trade in bushmeat among humans. Given that the human population of this region is expected to double by the year 2050, the future for lions looks bleak.

D The situation for lions in Asia is even worse. The sole surviving Asiatic lion population now lives in India's Gir National Park. Despite their protected status, the few hundred that live there are in severe danger because they are highly inbred, being descendants of only about a dozen lions. This makes them genetically weak and vulnerable to disease; if a contagious illness were to spread, many of the lions would perish, and their numbers might fall to unrecoverable levels.

E With Asiatic lions being officially critically endangered and their African counterparts earning a recent endangered species listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it is clear that conservationist groups want to protect the big cats from extinction. While their efforts are to be admired, the reality is that the future of lions and the potential reversal of the patterns leading to their demise thus far will depend on a commitment to lions' protection on an international level.

The reading passage has five paragraphs, A-E.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

NB You may use any letter more than once.

LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN

- 17 a mention of when lion numbers began to fall in Africa
- 18 a reference to the use of lions for human entertainment purposes
- 19 an example of something which might wipe out one type of lion
- 20 the reason for the loss of lions' food supply today

CH
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Matching Information HACKERS IELTS READING

roam v. đi rong ruổi **expanses** n. dải đất rộng **dwindle** v. giảm xuống **alter** v. biến đổi **steppe** n. thảo nguyên
come by phr. tiếp cận, ghé qua **sighting** n. sự trông thấy **big cat** phr. động vật lớn thuộc họ mèo như sư tử, báo
demise n. sự biến mất **hasten** v. đẩy nhanh **repurpose** v. thay đổi mục đích **bushmeat** n. thịt thú rừng **bleak**
adj. ám đạm, mờ mịt **inbred** adj. (động vật học) lai đồng huyết **descendant** n. hậu duệ, con cháu **genetically**
adv. ám đạm, mờ mịt **perish** v. chết **Fish and Wildlife Service** phr. cục quản lý cá và động vật hoang dã **reversal** n.
sự đảo ngược **commitment** n. sự cam kết