

READING PASSAGE 1

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

Its raining cats and ...

Since the ancient times people marvelled at the fact that cats always manage to land on all four paws no matter the height they fall from. It took scientists a considerable amount of research to explain this phenomenon. Only with the advancement of photography it became possible to find a plausible explanation, when at the end of nineteenth century French physiologist Marei took pictures of falling cats in different stages of their descent. These pictures were later presented to the Academy of Science for further examination.

Specifically, it was ascertained that cat's tail which was previously believed to play an important role in the phenomenon doesn't help in any way. The latter was proven by a series of experiments with tail-less animals.

Having debunked the first myth the scientists assumed that cats somehow push off from experimenter's hands to gain momentum which allows to change body position in midair. This technique is somewhat similar to what springboard athletes use. This proposition however got rejected as well, proven wrong by a series of photoshoots. Cats were able to alter their body position even when simply thrown. At the beginning of twentieth century it became clear that they are able to do so by actively moving their paws and entire body.

At the beginning of their fall a cat moves its body so that the front half is turned to the right. This way the front limbs are moved closer to their head while the rear extremities are drawn as far as they can be. The rear part of cat's body bends toward the opposite direction. It all means that a cat directs its front body part towards the ground, able to see clearly which spot to choose for landing. They part their rear extremities to compensate the inertia of front and rear body.

Finishing their landing, the feline extends its front limbs stopping the body from rotating. Rear extremities gradually reach their final position, the cat assumes a stance that ensures safe landing, bends its back and grounds.

It was also established that if a cat is dropped with its limbs pressed to the body then it is unable to turn itself upright and land on all fours. As the technology of photo shooting advanced it became possible to observe the process in more detail. Among other findings it was noted that if a cat is propelled upwards with its paws facing up then it will keep that stance until reaching the peak of the ascent, at which points it will then start to turn.

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Scientists have also observed how cat's fall is affected by its sense organs. If the cat is blindfolded then it will display lower proactivity during the fall. It looks rather odd and awkward, and if the cat in question is put in a spinner prior to being thrown then it confuses up and down, landing on its back. Interestingly, absence of hearing has no apparent impact on the way the cat acts while falling.

Another question on everyone's lips is how cats manage to stay alive after falling from great heights. The answer to this is rather simple — a cat weighs much less than a human at the same time it has greater aerodynamic drag resulting in a rate of fall of about 17 meters per second. To give you an idea how fast or slow that is, a parachute jumper will reach a velocity of almost 50 meters per second. What is more surprising though is that a cat falling off a higher altitude has more chances to stay alive, supposedly because it relaxes its muscles mid-fall, spreading its body to create better aerodynamic resistance.

Some people have tried to imitate the movements of a falling cat to land upright. One of the daring ones was a high-board diver and an Olympic champion Brian Phelps. As it turned out it took the highly-trained man 0,3 seconds to do what cat manages to in just 0,12. Phelps managed to turn his body upright midair after being propelled with his belly pointing down. No other person managed to reproduce said trick.

Questions 1-3

Complete the summary.

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

Cat's ability to land on all fours has always fascinated people. It was only with a breakthrough in **1** that scientists succeeded in solving this mystery. The picture of a cat in the state of **2** helped to study the phenomenon in more detail. One of the interesting findings was that cat's **3** is the only limb not aiding it to turn upright.

Questions 4-8

Do the following statements reflect the claims of the writer in Reading Passage 1?

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

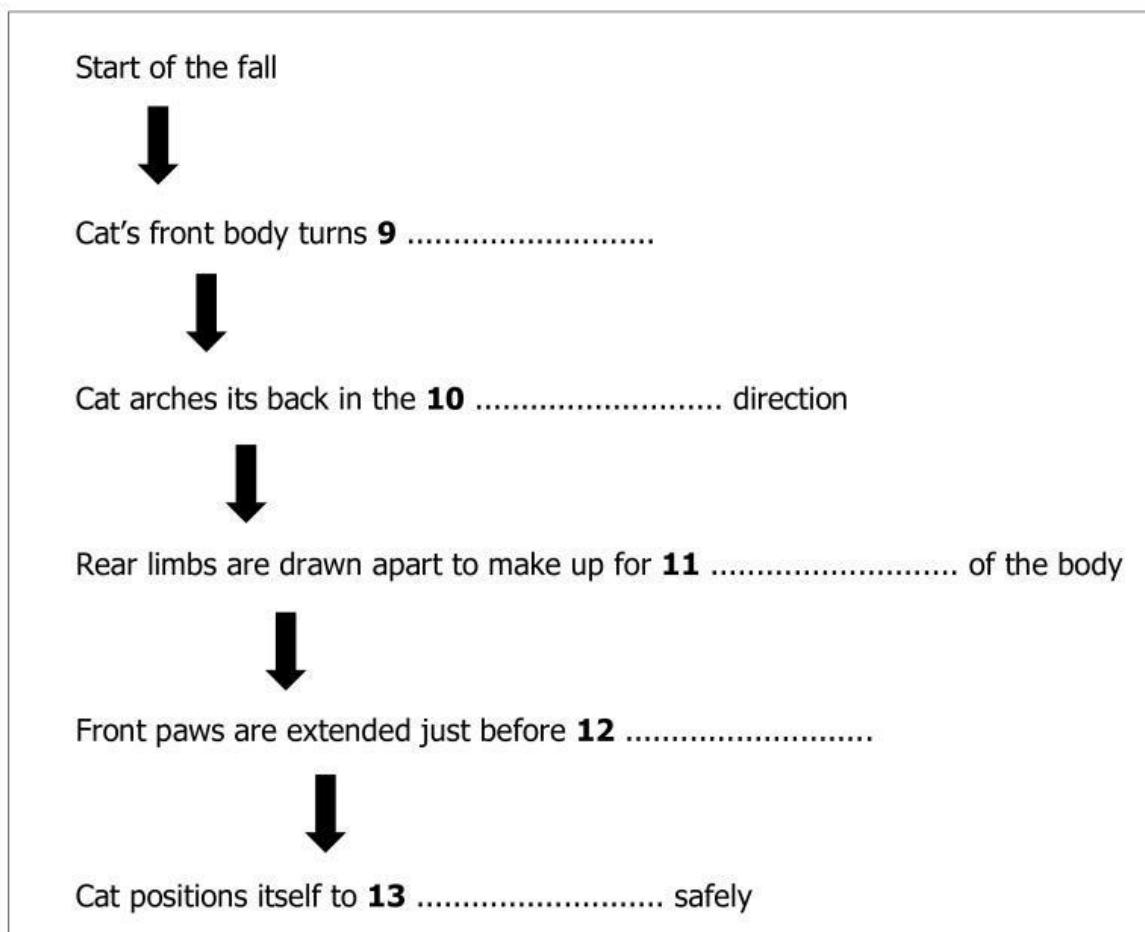
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4. A cat will always land on all four legs.
5. Cat's aural abilities have no impact on successful landing.
6. Even the biggest of falls leave cats uninjured.
7. Longer falls increase cat's chances to land on four legs.
8. No man managed to imitate cat's landing technique.

Questions 9-13

Complete the flow-chart

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



READING PASSAGE 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 14-26**, which are based on Reading Passage 2 below.

Style Shifting

A How do we recognise an individual's personal style? We may initially think of the way people dress, their hairstyle, or even the vehicle the drive. But a crucial part of a person's style is the way they speak. How we talk can tell other people a lot about our self or who we would like to be. It can be a strong indication of where we are from, our level of education or our age, and it can also reveal a lot about how we view the situation in which we are speaking. Because we are largely unaware of our language production and language behaviour, we are often not conscious of features in our language that give away which social groups we belong to or even which values we hold. On the other hand, we may be very aware of the linguistic features that are characteristic of another social group, and we may consciously choose to adopt those language features to indicate that we are part of that group – or would like to be, at least. One thing is clear: an individual can change their linguistic style just as easily as they can change their fashion style or hairstyle, if not more easily. This ability to change language style is called style shifting and it happens all the time.

B Style shifting is not an addition to how we normally speak; in fact, you could say that it is impossible to speak without any style. When we speak, we are making several choices within fractions of a second; choices regarding vocabulary, pronunciation, intonation, grammar, sentence length and dialect. Mostly these choices are unconscious and have been learnt in childhood. The most noticeable of the language features that we learn unconsciously are determined by the place where we grow up and may include the vocabulary and grammar patterns of the dialect spoken in that area.

C Other choices are conscious and may be tied to our work; newsreaders or teachers, for example, may speak in a certain way due to their jobs. Personal language style is therefore an individual version of the typical behaviour of a social group and is acquired along with the culture of the group. Moreover, as we grow up and come into contact with other social groups, we continually adjust our speech to the audience, situation and topic.

D So, style shifting is the change we make, consciously or unconsciously, to our personal language depending on the circumstances. And how do we shift our linguistic style? The most common moves are from casual to formal or vice versa. Casual to formal shifts happen in specific contexts and in certain social groups. They are marked by a reduction in certain features of casual speech, such as the use of double negatives or slang words. They are also marked by hypercorrection. Hypercorrection is the overuse of a perceived rule from a more 'prestigious' variety of the language. An example from English is as follows: instead of saying 'There's no difference between you and me', a style shift to more formal speech would be 'There's no difference between you and I'. Conversely, a shift from formal to informal will be marked by greater use of informal speech features. Another type of style shift occurs when we change our style in response to our audience. An example is when an adult speaks to a baby in 'baby language', or again, when a newsreader stops using their personal speech style and begins to use their 'newsreader' style.

E There are a number of theories for why people change their personal speech style. The first was put forward by William Labov in the 1960s. Labov studied the speech patterns of the people in New York, and in particular the pronunciation of /r/ - the inclusion of this sound being seen as high status. Labov found that because people aware of the higher status of this sound, when they were asked to do a task that needed their attention such as reading aloud, they were more likely to produce the sound. On the other hand, when asked to do something which involved their emotions, like telling a story, they paid less attention to the sound. This is called the Attention to Speech model. Another theory, the Communication Accommodation Theory, developed by Howard Giles in the 1970s, says that style shift may be convergent, i.e. it moves closer to the speech style of the person or people with whom we are talking, or it may be divergent, i.e. it moves away from the other person's speech style. The shift is most commonly convergent when people find similarities in their background, social class or even shared interests and likes. In a later theory, the role of the other speaker or audience is emphasised further. In 1984s Allan Bell proposed the Audience Design Model. In this theory, individuals shift their style to win the approval of the people they are speaking to.

F Whatever reason is closest to the truth, whether we pay more attention to how we say something, express social solidarity or seek the approval of our audience, it is clear that everyone possesses the ability to change their language identity according to who they are speaking to and how they would like to project themselves.

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Questions 14-19

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 2?

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

14 We are usually aware of the way we use language in our speech.

15 If we wanted to, we could speak in a neutral style.

16 Our language choices happen virtually instantaneously.

17 Some people use certain styles of speech as part of their job.

18 Informal to formal style shifting features a greater use of personal pronouns.

.....

19 Labov's experiments included asking people to read a text out loud.

Questions 20-25

Classify the following as typical of

A Attention Theory

B Communication Accommodation Theory

C Audience Design Model

Write the correct letter, **A**, **B** or **C**, next to Questions **20-25**.

20 reading aloud

21 showing you are similar to someone by shifting your speech style to theirs

.....

22 narrating

23 trying to gain your listener's acceptance

24 including a particular sound

25 moving your speech style away from the other person's

Questions 26

26 Which of the following is **NOT** an example of style shift?

- A. being unaware of your speech style
- B. changing pronunciation features
- C. using unusual sentence patterns
- D. using dialect words in your speech

READING PASSAGE 3

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

Climate change and the Inuit

The threat posed by climate change in the Arctic and the problems faced by Canada's Inuit people

- A** Unusual incidents are being reported across the Arctic. Inuit families going off on snowmobiles to prepare their summer hunting camps have found themselves cut off from home by a sea of mud, following early thaws. There are reports of igloos losing their insulating properties as the snow drips and refreezes, of lakes draining into the sea as permafrost melts, and sea ice breaking up earlier than usual, carrying seals beyond the reach of hunters. Climate change may still be a rather abstract idea to most of us, but in the Arctic it is already having dramatic effects – if summertime ice continues to shrink at its present rate, the Arctic Ocean could soon become virtually ice-free in summer. The knock-on effects are likely to include more warming, cloudier skies, increased precipitation and higher sea levels. Scientists are increasingly keen to find out what's going on because they consider the Arctic the 'canary in the mine' for global warming – a warning of what's in store for the rest of the world.
- B** For the Inuit the problem is urgent. They live in precarious balance with one of the toughest environments on earth. Climate change, whatever its causes, is a direct threat to their way of life. Nobody knows the Arctic as well as the locals, which is why they are not content simply to stand back and let outside experts tell them what's happening. In Canada, where the Inuit people are jealously guarding their hard-won autonomy in the country's newest territory, Nunavut, they believe their best hope of survival in this changing environment lies in combining their ancestral knowledge with the best of modern science. This is a challenge in itself.

C The Canadian Arctic is a vast, treeless polar desert that's covered with snow for most of the year. Venture into this terrain and you get some idea of the hardships facing anyone who calls this home. Farming is out of the question and nature offers meagre pickings. Humans first settled in the Arctic a mere 4,500 years ago, surviving by exploiting sea mammals and fish. The environment tested them to the limits: sometimes the colonists were successful, sometimes they failed and vanished. But around a thousand years ago, one group emerged that was uniquely well adapted to cope with the Arctic environment. These Thule people moved in from Alaska, bringing kayaks, sleds, dogs, pottery and iron tools. They are the ancestors of today's Inuit people.

D Life for the descendants of the Thule people is still harsh. Nunavut is 1.9 million square kilometres of rock and ice, and a handful of islands around the North Pole. It's currently home to 2,500 people, all but a handful of them indigenous Inuit. Over the past 40 years, most have abandoned their nomadic ways and settled in the territory's 28 isolated communities, but they still rely heavily on nature to provide food and clothing. Provisions available in local shops have to be flown into Nunavut on one of the most costly air networks in the world, or brought by supply ship during the few ice-free weeks of summer. It would cost a family around £7,000 a year to replace meat they obtained themselves through hunting with imported meat. Economic opportunities are scarce, and for many people state benefits are their only income.

E While the Inuit may not actually starve if hunting and trapping are curtailed by climate change, there has certainly been an impact on people's health. Obesity, heart disease and diabetes are beginning to appear in a people for whom these have never before been problems. There has been a crisis of identity as the traditional skills of hunting, trapping and preparing skins have begun to disappear. In Nunavut's 'igloo and email' society, where adults who were born in igloos have children who may never have been out on the land, there's a high incidence of depression.

F With so much at stake, the Inuit are determined to play a key role in teasing out the mysteries of climate change in the Arctic. Having survived there for centuries, they believe their wealth of traditional knowledge is vital to the task. And Western scientists are starting to draw on this wisdom, increasingly referred to as 'Inuit Qaujimajatugangit', or IQ. 'In the early days scientists ignored us when they came up here to study anything. They just figured these people don't know very much so we won't ask them,' says John Amagoalik, an Inuit leader and politician. 'But in recent years IQ has had much more credibility and weight.' In fact it is now a requirement for anyone hoping to get

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permission to do research that they consult the communities, who are helping to set the research agenda to reflect their most important concerns. They can turn down applications from scientists they believe will work against their interests, or research projects that will impinge too much on their daily lives and traditional activities.

G Some scientists doubt the value of traditional knowledge because the occupation of the Arctic doesn't go back far enough. Others, however, point out that the first weather stations in the far north date back just 50 years. There are still huge gaps in our environmental knowledge, and despite the scientific onslaught, many predictions are no more than best guesses. IQ could help to bridge the gap and resolve the tremendous uncertainty about how much of what we're seeing is natural capriciousness and how much is the consequence of human activity.

Questions 27-32

Reading Passage 3 has seven paragraphs, **A-G**.

Choose the correct heading for paragraphs **A-G** from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number i-ix for questions **27-32**.

Note: There are more headings than paragraphs, so you will not use all of them.

One of the headings has been done for you as an example. Any heading may be used **more than once**.

List of Headings

- I.** The reaction of the Inuit community to climate change
- II.** Understanding of climate change remains limited
- III.** Alternative sources of essential supplies
- IV.** Respect for Inuit opinion grows
- V.** A healthier choice of food
- VI.** A difficult landscape
- VII.** Negative effects on well-being
- VIII.** Alarm caused by unprecedented events in the Arctic
- IX.** The benefits of an easier existence

Example: Paragraph A

Answer: **VII**

27 Paragraph B

28 Paragraph C

29 Paragraph D

30 Paragraph E

31 Paragraph F

32 Paragraph G

Questions 33-40

Complete the summary of paragraphs **C** and **D** below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from paragraphs **C** and **D** for each answer.

Write your answers for questions **33-40**.

If you visit the Canadian Arctic, you immediately appreciate the problems faced by people for whom this is home. It would clearly be impossible for the people to engage in **33** as a means of supporting themselves. For thousands of years they have had to rely on catching **34** and **35** as a means of sustenance. The harsh surroundings saw many who tried to settle there pushed to their limits, although some were successful. The **36** people were an example of the latter and for them the environment did not prove unmanageable. For the present inhabitants, life continues to be a struggle. The territory of Nunavut consists of little more than ice, rock and a few **37** In recent years, many of them have been obliged to give up their **38** lifestyle, but they continue to depend mainly on **39** for their food and clothes. **40** produce is particularly expensive.

Good luck