LISTENING PRACTICE

Exercise 1.01 Spelling

Questions 1–16

You will hear 16 words being read three times each. Write them down in the spaces below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____

Exercise 1.02 Dictation

Questions 1–4

In the spaces provided, write the extracts, word for word, from a talk. You will hear each extract five times; the first and the last at normal speed, the others at slow speed.

1.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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2.

3.

4.

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Exercise 1.03 Times and dates

Questions 1–12

In the spaces provided, write down the times or time phrases you hear. Each will be read three times.

E.g. 3 minutes later, 16th April, 4 days ago

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Exercise 1.04 Addresses

Questions 1–12

In the spaces provided, write down the addresses you hear. Each will be read three times.

E.g. Travers Road

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Exercise 1.05 Numbers

Questions 1–12

In the spaces provided, write down the numbers (and letters) you hear. Each will be read two times.

E.g. 86171050, DB 764

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

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READING PRACTICE - MUTIPLE CHOICE

1. Introduction

Generally, for multiple-choice questions, candidates will be given questions or stems which are incomplete sentences. Each question or stem will be followed by four options – one will be correct (the answer) and the other three seem possible but are in fact incorrect in some way (the distractors).

This question type in the IELTS test is similar in form to that in the TOEIC or TOEFL tests but there are two big differences. First, there are no questions focusing on the meaning of a lexical item or grammatical usage. Second, once in a while some questions may require candidates to choose more than one correct answer out of the options given.

Questions

Why did Michelangelo hesitate to paint the dome of the Sistine Chapel?

A. He was painting the *Mona Lisa* at that time.
B. He believed that sculpting was better than painting.
C. He considered himself as a sculptor.
D. He saw himself as a great painter.

Business entities can show age discrimination by _____

A. Hiring the best qualified applicants
B. Rejecting unqualified job aspirants
C. Promoting deserving employees
D. Giving preference to younger job candidates

2. What is tested

Multiple-choice questions are designed to test a wide variety of reading skills. The questions may require you to have an overall understanding of the main idea of a passage, which means you will need to be able to read for gist. They may require you to have a detailed understanding of particular information, which means you will need to be able to read for specific details. Multiple-choice questions may also ask you to identify facts or opinions in the passage.

3. Strategies

1. Read the instructions carefully.
2. Skim through all the questions briefly to get an idea of the topic you need to look for.
3. Concentrate on the question or the stem when you are looking for the right part of the passage: Is the question asking you for a particular detail that you need to find in the passage? Is the question asking you for an answer which requires a global understanding of the whole passage?
4. Read the passage in the appropriate manner, for example reading for gist or reading for detail. Scan the passage to identify the correct paragraphs to read. Note that the questions usually come in order of the information in the passage.
5. Read the correct part of the paragraph carefully and then re-read the question – looking at each option in turn.
6. Cross out the options you know to be incorrect and choose the correct answer.
7. Write your answers on the answer sheet.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Multiple Choice Exercise 1

Answer Key p. 180

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

Passage 1

One of the most famous Renaissance painters of all time is Michelangelo Buonarroti, simply known as Michelangelo. He was an Italian painter, sculptor and architect, and also recognized as a poet. In 1508, Pope Julius II hired Michelangelo to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Michelangelo did not want to paint the dome of the chapel since he felt himself to be more of a sculptor than a painter. Nevertheless, Pope Julius II was able to convince Michelangelo to accept the project by giving him the freedom to paint the chapel's ceiling with images that inspired him. The results were his legacy of breathtaking scenes from the Book of Genesis and The Last Judgment, which Michelangelo painted on the chapel's altar wall.

Question

Why did Michelangelo hesitate to paint the dome of the Sistine Chapel?

A. He was painting the *Mona Lisa* at that time.

B. He believed that sculpting was better than painting.

C. He considered himself as a sculptor.

D. He saw himself as a great painter.

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question or stem.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Choose the correct answer – A, B, C, or D.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Multiple Choice Exercise 2

Answer Key p. 180

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

Passage 2

On January 24, 1848 at Sutter's Mill, California, James W. Marshall found the first gold piece. This marked the beginning of the California Gold Rush. As more individuals discovered the presence of gold in the California area, more people began to gather there. From a total of roughly 1,000 residents during the late 1840s, the population surged to more than 20,000 inhabitants during the early 1950s. The rise in population improved social and economic conditions in California at that time. However, the Gold Rush also brought some detriments like the destruction of many areas due to mining and the displacement of many Native Americans.

Question

Which are TWO of the negative effects caused by the California Gold Rush?

A. environmental destruction
B. social disorder
C. relocation of Native Americans
D. economic disturbance

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question or stem.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Choose the correct answer – A, B, C, or D.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Multiple Choice Exercise 3

Answer Key p. 181

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

Passage 3

All things are made up of atoms. Atoms are the basic components of matter. An atom has three parts, namely, protons, neutrons and electrons. A proton has a positive charge and is heavier than an electron. An electron, on the other hand, has a negative charge and is lighter than a proton. A neutron does not have an electrical charge and weighs almost the same as protons. Both protons and neutrons comprise the nucleus of atoms, while electrons orbit the nucleus. Aside from being the basic components of matter, another remarkable characteristic of atoms is that they serve as sources of nuclear energy.

Question

In an atom, where can electrons be found?

A. Inside the nucleus of an atom
B. Around the protons
C. Within the nucleus, surrounded by protons
D. Around the nucleus

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question or stem.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Choose the correct answer – A, B, C, or D.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Multiple Choice Exercise 4

Answer Key p. 182

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

Passage 4

Discrimination in any form is still unfair treatment. Today, another kind of discrimination goes unchecked in businesses and corporations, that is, age discrimination. There are companies that prefer to hire young applicants and dismiss older ones without even appropriately inspecting job qualifications. Some corporations also show partiality by giving promotions to older employees, even though there are younger employees who are more competent and deserving. Hiring and promotion should not be based on age, but on ability, experience, work ethics and accomplishments.

Question

Business entities can show age discrimination by

A. hiring the best qualified applicants.
B. rejecting unqualified job aspirants.
C. promoting deserving employees.
D. giving preference to younger job candidates.

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question or stem.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Choose the correct answer – A, B, C, or D.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Multiple Choice Exercise 5

Answer Key p. 182

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

Passage 5

The world's population grows by approximately seventy million per year. This situation calls for solutions to control growth since a rapid population explosion will bring many negative effects. The Earth and its resources remain constant as populations around the globe continue to rise. This means that scarcity of resources is likely to happen in the near future. Overpopulation is a problem, especially since the world is suffering from many environmental problems which render many present resources contaminated or unusable. If overpopulation is not addressed, depletion of natural resources will be inevitable, and this will diminish man's quality of life.

Question

Unchecked population growth can lead to

A. excess of natural resources.
B. shortage of natural resources.
C. overabundance of labor resources.
D. scarcity of product demand.

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question or stem.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Choose the correct answer – A, B, C, or D.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Multiple Choice Exercise 6

Answer Key p. 183

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

Passage 6

Most people may be unaware of the fact that genetically modified food products have infiltrated global markets. The genetic modification of certain kinds of crops may have increased yield and made more products available to the people, but consideration should be given to its effects on human health. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) may contain new types of proteins which can accumulate inside the human body. Since genetic modification was conducted, the indirect and long-term effect of GMOs remains unknown.

Question

Which of the options below illustrates a positive benefit of genetic modification?

A. Agricultural outputs are better than before.
B. Crop harvest is improved.
C. Food products are more widely available.
D. All of the above

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question or stem.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Choose the correct answer – A, B, C, or D.

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Multiple Choice Exercise 7

Answer Key p. 184

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

Passage 7

There are many ancient and present accounts of anomalous animal behavior manifesting itself before natural calamities like earthquakes and tsunamis. Strange behaviors in both wild and domesticated animals include running around, hiding, not eating, disappearing and many more things. For instance, before a large tsunami hit the shores of Sri Lanka in 2005, animals were reportedly behaving oddly. Elephants sought higher ground, while birds left their breeding places and flew to higher areas. Thus, many people are wondering if animals have a sixth sense that enables them to predict the occurrence of natural disasters.

Question

One illustration of odd behavior in an animal prior to a natural calamity is

A. dogs running around in search of a chew toy.
B. elephants desperately trying to get to a higher place.
C. birds tirelessly scouting a higher area for food.
D. elephants calmly ambling towards an elevated place.

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question or stem.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Choose the correct answer – A, B, C, or D.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Multiple Choice Exercise 8

Answer Key p. 184

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

Passage 8

The usual color of dolphins varies from black to grayish white, which allows them to blend well with their underwater surroundings. However, there are also pink dolphins, which may come as a surprise to many. Sightings of albino sea dolphins with pink skin and red eyes have been noted. In the Amazon, pink freshwater dolphins, which are distant cousins of sea dolphins, are found. Pink dolphins of the Amazon are called Botos or Amazon River dolphins. The pink color of the Boto's skin is due to the abundant capillaries near the surface of the dolphin's skin and the high iron content of the Amazon River. Botos are highly intelligent and curious dolphins.

Question

Which of the following is a reason for the pink coloration of the Amazon River dolphin?

A. The insignificant amount of iron in the waters of the Amazon
B. The significant level of iron in the waters of the Amazon
C. The abundance of capillaries in the animals that feed on Boto dolphins
D. The significant amount of capillaries in the skins of the fish in the Amazon

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question or stem.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Choose the correct answer – A, B, C, or D.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Multiple Choice Exercise 9

Answer Key p. 185

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

Passage 9

William Shakespeare was an English poet and playwright. His literary legacies include very well-known tragedies and comedies which influenced many literary geniuses. Charles Dickens, the English novelist known for works like *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Great Expectations*, often quoted Shakespeare. He even derived many of his books' titles from the works of Shakespeare. The writer of the book *Moby Dick*, Herman Melville, was also inspired by Shakespeare's *King Lear*. Indeed, Shakespeare's works transcend time and place, and continually inspire many people until today.

Question

Among the people referred to below, who was influenced by the works of Shakespeare?

A. The writer of *Great Expectations*
B. The author of *Moby Dick*
C. The novelist who penned *A Tale of Two Cities*
D. All of the above

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question or stem.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Choose the correct answer – A, B, C, or D.

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