

PRE IELTS – UNIT 3 – READING – SUMMARY COMPLETION

Exercise 1

Marcel Bich

The man who **turned** (*biến*) a luxury **item** (*món đồ / vật phẩm*) into an everyday **object** (*vật dụng*)

Marcel Bich, a French **manufacturer** (*nhà sản xuất*) of traditional ink pens, was the man who turned the **ballpoint pen** (*bút bi*) into an item that today almost anyone can afford. Bich was **appalled** (*kinh ngạc / sửng sốt*) at the **poor** (*kém / tồi*) quality of the ballpoint pens that were **available** (*có sẵn*), and was also **shocked** (*sốc / kinh ngạc*) at their high **cost** (*chi phí / giá*). However, he **recognised** (*nhận ra*) that the ballpoint was a **firmly established invention** (*phát minh đã được thiết lập vững chắc*), and he **decided** (*quyết định*) to design a cheap pen that worked well and would be **commercially successful** (*thành công về mặt thương mại*).

Bich went to the Bíb brothers and asked them if he could use the design of their **original invention** (*phát minh gốc*) in one of his own pens. **In return** (*đổi lại*), he **offered** (*đề nghị*) to pay them every time he sold a pen. Then, for two years, Bich studied the **detailed construction** (*cấu tạo chi tiết*) of every ballpoint pen that was being sold, often working with a **microscope** (*kính hiển vi*).

By 1950, he was ready to **introduce** (*giới thiệu*) his new **wonder** (*kỳ quan / sản phẩm kỳ diệu*): a plastic pen with a clear **barrel** (*thân bút*) that wrote **smoothly** (*trơn tru / mượt mà*), did not **leak** (*rò rỉ mực*) and only cost a few cents. He called it the “Bic Cristal”. The ballpoint pen had finally become a **practical** (*thực tiễn / thiết thực*) writing instrument. **The public** (*công chúng*) liked it **immediately** (*ngay lập tức*), and today it is as **common** (*phổ biến*) as the pencil.

In Britain, they are still called Bicos, and many Bic models also say ‘Biro’ on the side of the pen, to **remind** (*nhắc nhở*) people of their original **inventors** (*nhà phát minh*).

Bich became **extremely wealthy** (*cực kỳ giàu có*) thanks to his invention, which had worldwide **appeal** (*sức hấp dẫn*). Over the next 60 years his company Société Bic, opened factories all over the world and **expanded** (*mở rộng*) its **range** (*dòng sản phẩm*) of inexpensive products. Today, Bic is as famous for its **lighters** (*bật lửa*) and **razors** (*dao cạo*) as it is for its pens, and you can even buy a Bic mobile phone.

Complete the summary below using NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the passage.

It is **thanks to** (*nhờ có*) Marcel Bich that most people today **are able to** (*có thể*) 1. a ballpoint pen. It was the bad quality and 2. of the pens which were **available** (*có sẵn*) at the time that **inspired** (*truyền cảm hứng cho*) him to design a 3. ballpoint pen that would be both **inexpensive** (*rẻ*) and **reliable** (*đáng tin cậy*).

After getting **permission** (sự cho phép) from the Biro brothers to **base** his pen **on** (base on = dựa vào) their 4., he **carefully** (cẩn thận) 5. other ballpoints that were sold in the shops, and in 1950 **introduced** (giới thiệu) his own **versions** (phiên bản), the "Bic Cristal". It was **popular** (phổ biến, nổi tiếng) with the 6., and Bich became very rich. His company, Bic, now makes **a variety of** (một loạt các loại) cheap 7., such as **lighters and razors** (bật lửa và dao cạo).

Exercise 2

How happy are we?

Money is not a good way to know if people are happy. People are not happier today, even when their countries have more money. Americans have two times more money now than in 1957. But fewer people say they are "very happy" – from 35% to 29%.

Very rich people are only a little happier than normal people. People whose money grows are not happier than people whose money stays the same. In most countries, money and happiness are almost not connected. Only in very poor countries (like Bangladesh and India) is money important for feeling good.

Are people in rich countries happier than people in poor countries? Yes, a little bit.

In Portugal, only 1 in 10 people say they are very happy. In the Netherlands (a richer country), 4 in 10 people say they are very happy.

But sometimes it is different. In the 1980s, Irish people said they were happier than people in West Germany, even though Germany was richer. Other things also help people feel happy, for example:

- freedom
- knowing how to read and write
- living in a **democracy** (chế độ dân chủ) for a long time

These things usually come with money. So we cannot know if rich people are happy because of money, or because of these other good things.

Complete the summary using the list of words and phrases, A–K, below.

Incomes in the United States have 1. over the past forty years, but happiness levels have 2.

Very rich people are only 3. happier than normal people.

People in rich countries are 4. happier than people in poor countries.

But sometimes this idea is 5. , and other things are also important.

Word list

- A. **more** (nhiều hơn)
- B. **less** (ít hơn)
- C. **reversed** (đảo ngược)
- D. **affected** (bị ảnh hưởng)
- E. **remarkably** (đáng kể)
- F. **increased** (tăng lên)
- G. **decreased** (giảm xuống)
- H. **slightly** (nhẹ)
- I. **similar** (giống với)
- J. **slowed down** (chậm lại)
- K. stopped