

IELTS ACADEMIC

Reading is the second part of the IELTS test, and takes 60 minutes. It consists of three or sometimes four reading passages of increasing difficulty, and there is a total of 40 questions to answer. Though you can mark and write on the Question Paper, you must enter your answers on the Reading Answer Sheet, and be aware that no extra time is given for transferring your answers from the test booklet to the Reading Answer Sheet.

The Academic and General Training Reading Tests are graded to the same level. However, because the texts in the Academic Reading Test are more challenging overall than those in the General Training Test, more questions need to be answered correctly on a General Training Test to receive the same grade.

Reading Tip

As a general strategy, do not start by reading the passage. You do not yet know what information you are looking for, and you will waste precious time if you try to read and understand every detail.

- Firstly, read the heading of the test. This will give you a very general idea of what the passage is about.
- Secondly, quickly read through the questions. This will help you focus when you read the text, as you will have some idea what to look for.
- Thirdly, turn to the passage, and read it through quickly. The purpose is to get a general understanding of the passage – you do not need to understand everything.
- Finally, turn again to the questions and begin to work through them, referring back to the passage when you need to, and reading important sections carefully and slowly.

Reading Passage 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1 – 17**, which are based on Reading Passage 1.

Test Tip

- **Skim** the text to get a general idea of what it's saying.
- For each letter, **scan** the text to see where/if the idea is mentioned.
- If you're not sure, move on to the next one. Do the easiest ones first.

Questions 1-3

The list below gives some characteristics of addiction.

Which **THREE** of the following are mentioned as characteristics of addiction to television?

- A. harmful physical effects
- B. loss of control over time
- C. destruction of relationships
- D. reduced intellectual performance
- E. discomfort when attempting to give up
- F. dishonesty about the extent of the addiction

Questions 4-8

Do the following statements agree with the information given in **Reading Passage 1**?

YES	<i>if the statement agrees with the writer's claims</i>
NO	<i>if the statement contradicts the writer's claims</i>
NOT GIVEN	<i>if there is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this</i>

- 4. One purpose of the research is to help people to manage their lives better.
- 5. Watching television has reduced the amount of time people spend sleeping.
- 6. People's brains show less activity while watching television than when reading.
- 7. There is a relationship between the length of time spent watching TV and economic status.
- 8. Pleasure increases in proportion to the length of time spent watching TV.

Questions 9-13

Classify the following feelings or mental states as generally occurring:

A before watching television

B while watching television

C after watching television

D both while and after watching television

9. reduced anxiety and stress.

10. increased fatigue.

11. higher levels of concentration.

12. less mental activity.

13. worry about time wasted.

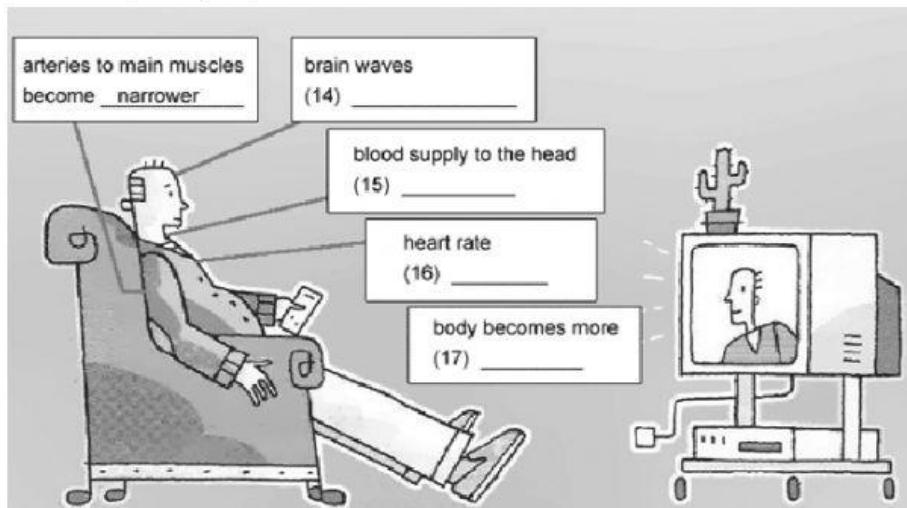
Questions 14-17

Complete the labels on the diagram.

Choose your answers from the box beside the diagram.

NB There are more words / phrase than spaces, so you will not use them all.

- A** relaxed
- B** accelerated
- C** increased
- D** lengthened
- E** reduced
- F** stopped momentarily
- G** widened
- H** regulated



14. brain waves

15. blood supply to the head

16. heart rate

17. body becomes more

Reading Passage 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 18 – 30**, which are based on Reading Passage 2.

IELTS Reading information: Matching headings

This task tests whether you understand the organisation of texts and can identify the main idea or topic in each section of a text. You will be given a numbered list with headings, as well as a text divided into sections. The headings will be in the form of short statements which summarise the information in a section. You will need to read the text sections and decide which of the headings best fits that section.

Questions 18-22

The first six paragraphs of **Reading Passage 2** are lettered **A-F**.

Choose the most suitable headings for paragraphs **A-F** from the list of headings below.

NB There are more headings than paragraphs, so you will not use them all.

List of Headings	
i.	Why lights are needed
ii.	Lighting discourages law breakers
iii.	The environmental dangers
iv.	People at risk from bright lights
v.	Illuminating space
vi.	A problem lights do not solve
vii.	Seen from above
viii.	More light than is necessary
ix.	Approaching the city
Example Answer	
Paragraph A	ix

18. Paragraph B

19. Paragraph C

20. Paragraph D

21. Paragraph E

22. Paragraph F

IELTS Tip

For any questions where you need to write words from the passage, a hyphenated word (e.g. long-term) counts as **ONE** word.

Questions 23-26

Complete each of the following statements with words taken from the passage.

Write **ONE or TWO WORDS** for each answer.

23. According to a recent study, well-lit streets do not or make neighbourhoods safer to live in.

24. Inefficient lighting increases because most electricity is produced from coal, gas or oil.

25. Efficient lights from going into areas where it is not needed.

26. In dealing with light pollution is at least as important as passing new laws.

Questions 27-30

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

YES	if the statement agrees with the writer's claims
NO	if the statement contradicts the writer's claims
NOT GIVEN	if there is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

- 27. One group of scientists find their observations are made more difficult by bright lights.
- 28. It is expensive to reduce light pollution.
- 29. Many countries are now making light pollution illegal.
- 30. Old types of light often cause more pollution than more modern ones.

Reading Passage 3

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 31 – 40**, which are based on Reading Passage 3.

Tips for IELTS Reading

When you answer an IELTS Reading four-option multiple choice question, you should remember that:

- each option (A, B, C, D) is *usually* connected to a piece of information in the *same* paragraph
- only one option says *exactly* the same thing as a piece of information in the text
- three options say something *slightly different* to the pieces of information in the text
- the options do *NOT* always come in the same order as the pieces of information in the text.

Questions 31-35

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

31. Neuroeconomics is a field of study which seeks to

- cause a change in how scientists understand brain chemistry.
- understand how good decisions are made in the brain.
- understand how the brain is linked to achievement in competitive fields.
- trace the specific firing patterns of neurons in different areas of the brain.

32. According to the writer, iconoclasts are distinctive because

- they create unusual brain circuits.
- their brains function differently.
- their personalities are distinctive.
- they make decisions easily.

33. According to the writer, the brain works efficiently because

- it uses the eyes quickly.
- it interprets data logically.
- it generates its own energy.
- it relies on previous events.

34. The writer says that perception is

- a. a combination of photons and sound waves.
- b. a reliable product of what your senses transmit.
- c. a result of brain processes.
- d. a process we are usually conscious of.

35. According to the writer, an iconoclastic thinker

- a. centralises perceptual thinking in one part of the brain.
- b. avoids cognitive traps.
- c. has a brain that is hardwired for learning.
- d. has more opportunities than the average person.

Questions 36-40

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the Reading Passage 3?

YES *if the statement agrees with the writer's claims*

NO *if the statement contradicts the writer's claims*

NOT GIVEN *if there is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this*

36. Exposure to different events forces the brain to think differently.

37. Iconoclasts are unusually receptive to new experiences.

38. Most people are too shy to try different things.

39. If you think in an iconoclastic way, you can easily overcome fear.

40. When concern about embarrassment matters less, other fears become irrelevant.