READING PASSAGE

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1–13**, which are based on the reading passage below.

The Great Barrier Reef



The Great Barrier Reef was one of Australia's first World Heritage Areas and is the world's largest World Heritage Area. The Great Barrier Reef was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981 and was one of 15 World Heritage places included in the National Heritage List on 21 May 2007.

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest World Heritage property extending over 2,000 kilometres and covering 348,000 km² on the north-east continental shelf of Australia. Larger than Italy, it is one of the best known marine protected areas. The Great Barrier Reef's diversity reflects the maturity of the ecosystem which has evolved over many thousands of years. It is the world's most extensive coral-reef and has some of the richest biological diversity found anywhere.

The Great Barrier Reef contains extensive areas of seagrass, mangrove, sandy and muddy seabed communities, inter-reefal areas, deep oceanic waters and island communities.

Contrary to popular belief, the Great Barrier Reef is not a continuous barrier, but a broken maze of around 2,900 individual reefs, of which 760 are fringing reefs along the mainland or around islands.

Some have coral cays. The reefs range in size from less than one hectare to over 1,000 km2, and in shape from flat platform reefs to elongated ribbon reefs.

The Great Barrier Reef provides habitat for many diverse forms of marine life. There are an estimated 1,500 species of fish and over 360 species of hard, reef-building corals. More than 4,000 mollusc species and over 1,500 species of sponges have been identified.

Other well-represented animal groups include anemones, marine worms, crustaceans and echinoderms.

The extensive seagrass beds are an important feeding ground for the dugong, a mammal species internationally listed as vulnerable. The reef also supports a variety of fleshy algae that are heavily grazed by turtles, fish, sea urchins and molluscs.

The reef contains nesting grounds of world significance for the endangered loggerhead turtle, and for green, hawksbill and flatback turtles, which are all listed as vulnerable. It is also a breeding area for humpback whales that come from the Antarctic to give birth in the warm waters.

The islands and cays support around 215 bird species, many of which have breeding colonies there. Reef herons, osprey, pelicans, frigate birds, sea eagles and shearwaters are among the seabirds that have been recorded.

The Great Barrier Reef is also of cultural importance, containing many archaeological sites of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, including fish traps, middens, rock quarries, story sites and rock art. Some notable examples occur on Lizard and Hinchinbrook Islands, and on Stanley, Cliff and Clack Islands where there are spectacular galleries of rock paintings. There are over 30 historic shipwrecks in the area, and on the islands are ruins, operating lighthouses and other sites that are of cultural and historical significance.

About 99.3 per cent of the World Heritage property is within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, with the remainder in Queensland waters and islands. Because of its status, many people think the entire Great Barrier Reef is a marine sanctuary or national park, and therefore protected equally throughout. However, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is a multiple-use area in which a wide range of activities and uses are allowed, including extractive industries.

This has been achieved using a comprehensive, multiple-use zoning system. Impacts and conflicts are minimized by providing high levels of protection for specific areas. A variety of other activities are allowed to continue in a managed way in certain zones (such as shipping, dredging, research, commercial fishing and recreational fishing).

A new Zoning Plan for the entire Marine Park came into effect on 1 July 2004. The proportion of the Marine Park protected by no-take zones was increased from less than five per cent to over 33 per cent, and now protects representative examples of each of the 70 broad habitat types across the entire Marine Park. Two authorities are now responsible for the Great Barrier Reef: the Queensland Government and the Australian Government.

The majority of the World Heritage property is still relatively pristine when compared with coral reef ecosystems elsewhere in the world. Guided by the principle of balancing conservation and sustainable use, the regulatory framework

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significantly enhances the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.

The Australian and Queensland Governments have a cooperative and integrated approach to managing the Great Barrier Reef. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is the Australian Government agency responsible for overall management, and the Queensland Government, particularly the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency, provides day-to-day management of the marine park for the Authority.

Questions 1–6

Complete the summary below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

The location of the Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef, the largest World Heritage property there is, was one of Australia's first sites to become a World Heritage area. Situated on the **1** ..... off the north-eastern coast of Australia, the Great Barrier Reef is among the world's most famous oceanic **2** ..... The **3** ..... of the Great Barrier Reef is a result of the evolution of the **4** ..... over a very long time. Being the biggest **5** ..... of its kind on earth, the Great Barrier Reef is, from the **6** ..... point of view, very varied.

Questions 7–10

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the reading passage?

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

7 The Great Barrier Reef consists of one large reef.

8 There are more types of molluscs and sponges found in the reef than in any other site in the world.

9 The loggerhead turtle is under threat of extinction.

10 There are plans to raise some of the sunken ships on the reef.

Questions 11–13

Answer the questions below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

11 What were enlarged considerably to safeguard sections of all the different marine habitats?

12 What has a major impact on the Great Barrier Reef's capacity to flourish?

13 What is the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority accountable for in respect of the reef?

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