IELTS reading practice

Multiple choice

3. ***Read the following passage about a tunnel in London.***

The Thames Tunnel is an underwater tunnel that was built beneath the River Thames in London between 1825 and 1843. It is 396 metres long, and runs at a depth of 23 metres below the river surface. It was the first tunnel known to have been constructed successfully underneath a navigable river.

Although it was a triumph of civil engineering, the Thames Tunnel was not a financial success, with building costs far exceeding initial estimates. Proposals to extend the entrance to accommodate wheeled vehicles failed, and it was used only by pedestrians. However, the tunnel did become a major tourist destination, attracting about two million people a year, each of whom paid a penny to pass under the river.

The construction of the Thames Tunnel showed that it was indeed possible to build underwater tunnels, despite the previous scepticism of many engineers. Its historic importance was recognised on 24th March 1995, when the structure was listed Grade II* in recognition of its architectural importance.

Which THREE of the following statements are correct?

A) The Thames Tunnel was the world's first ever tunnel.

B) Construction of the tunnel was more expensive than predicted.

C) There were plans to allow vehicles to use the tunnel.

D) Tourism eventually made the tunnel profitable.

E) Many engineers had already tried to build underwater tunnels.

F) The Thames Tunnel is now considered to be a significant work of architecture.

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