

IELTS Reading practice

Paragraph headings

7. Choose the best heading for the following paragraph from the list below.

“Big data” is a term being used more and more by politicians. It refers to the concept that any problem – from underperforming pupils to failing hospitals – can be solved by collecting some tightly focused data, crunching it and making tweaks, such as moving pupils or changing nurses’ shifts, rather than dealing with bigger issues, such as poverty or spending cuts. This is an approach that focuses narrowly on “what works” without ever troubling to ask: “works for whom?” Its watchword is “smart”, which can easily be appreciated, rather than “right”, which can’t. Putting trust in highly educated technocrats, it is naturally less interested in public debate.

- A) How data can be used to improve society.
- B) Big data: a smart approach to politics that works for everyone.
- C) A sceptical perspective on “big data”.
- D) Why the public trusts technocrats more than politicians.

* sceptical = having doubts, not convinced about something