

CHRT02

NAME:.....

HACKERS PRACTICE

IELTS

- 1** The Pueblo Indians were a major cultural influence in the United States' Four Corners region for over one thousand years. Initially, the civilisation was based in individual homesteads in the Colorado Plateau's highlands, where its members farmed and developed various handicrafts, such as pottery and blankets. However, during the 11th and 12th centuries the Pueblo moved into the neighbouring canyons and built the massive multifamily dwellings from which their names are derived. Archaeologist Kristen Kuckelman believes this occurred after persistent droughts made farming on plateau lands impossible. She believes that the region's inhabitants moved into the valleys because they were less impacted by the droughts. After they migrated, they had to learn how to produce food more effectively on less land, so they implemented a system of agricultural cooperation that eventually led to specialism. Once they settled in the canyons, the civilisation became increasingly more communal in order to maximise the returns on its labour.

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the 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

- 1 The Pueblo got their names from their style of housing.
- 2 The Pueblo people moved into neighbouring communities with more farmland.

homestead n. nhà cửa vườn tược, ấp trại plateau n. cao nguyên handicraft n. đồ, nghề thủ công canyon n. hẻm núi, hẻm vực dwelling n. chỗ ở, nhà ở persistent adj. kiên gan, bền bỉ communal adj. chung, công cộng maximise v. tối đa hóa return n. tiền lời, điểm lợi thu về

2

We now know that trees and other vegetation play an invaluable role in reducing air pollution in cities. Not so long ago, in the early 1980s, chemists discovered that trees produce emissions. This prompted the then U.S. President Ronald Reagan to falsely declare, 'Trees cause more pollution than automobiles do.' This, of course, caused people to speculate that trees were harmful, despite the facts that the words 'emission' and 'pollution' are not synonymous and that the president's remark was not accurate. While it is true that trees and plants, like all living things, emit chemical substances as byproducts of their metabolisms, these emissions are not a threat, but instead include the oxygen we breathe and the various chemical compounds that give flowers and shrubs their fresh and fragrant scents. It is only in the presence of significant amounts of man-made pollution, like that caused by the emissions of automobiles, that plants and trees release volatile organic hydrocarbons. But when they do, they can become participants in the formation of such ground-level ozone pollution as photochemical smog.

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- 3 A politician in the 1980s incorrectly blamed plants for air pollution.
 4 Plants contribute to photochemical smog as much as automobiles.

emission n. khí thải declare v. công bố speculate v. phỏng đoán, dự đoán synonymous adj. đồng nghĩa
 byproduct n. sản phẩm phụ metabolism n. sự trao đổi chất shrub n. cây bụi volatile adj. dễ bay hơi hydrocarbon
 n. hydrocarbon photochemical adj. (thuộc) quang hóa

3

Industrialisation and corporate growth in the late 19th century created an environment in which business correspondence increased monumentally, calling for a way to transcribe messages more quickly and legibly than handwritten script. The first device capable of fulfilling this need was the Sholes and Glidden typewriter. However, before it would become a commercial success, certain issues needed to be remedied. For instance, the type bars in their earliest typewriters moved very sluggishly, and the keys and other components tended to jam often. To fix this problem, Sholes - the designer - rearranged the layout of the keyboard so that the letters in subsequent versions of his machine no longer appeared in alphabetical order. Instead, he placed the keys with the intention that the most commonly used letter combinations in the English language, like ST and TH, would be spread far apart from one another. This modification caused a dramatic decline in mechanical jams and typing errors because the new arrangement increased the time it took for users to locate letters. Thereby it ensured that each key had enough time to fall back into its position before the next one was struck. These seemingly small changes were key to making typewriters a useful transcription and correspondence device.

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- 5 Industrialisation created a need for a writing method that was faster than handwriting.
 6 The type bars on early typewriters had to be replaced often.
 7 The redesign made locating letters more time-consuming.

correspondence n. trao đổi thư từ **monumentally** adv. cực kỳ, tốt bậc **call for** phr. kêu gọi **transcribe** v. sao lại, chép/ghi lại **remedy** v. sửa chữa **sluggishly** adv. chậm chạp **subsequent** adj. sau đó, tiếp theo **modification** n. sự sửa đổi, thay đổi, điều chỉnh **seemingly** adv. về bề ngoài, có vẻ

- 4 While writing utensils have been around since antiquity, the pencil as we know it today only came into existence after the discovery of a large graphite deposit in the 1560s. According to the story, some English shepherds came across an unknown black substance stuck to the roots of a fallen tree, and handling it, found that it left behind a dark mark. Initially, they used it to draw brands on their livestock so that they could more easily differentiate whose sheep was whose, but they soon realised that the graphite, which they called 'black lead', could very easily be formed into sticks and used to write and draw. With string or twigs wrapped around it to reduce its brittleness, a stick of graphite not only required the user to apply less pressure than the metal alloy styluses then in use, but it also produced far darker lines. In addition, it was possible to erase graphite marks using a bit of soft bread and to draw on top of them with ink - neither of which could be done with lead or charcoal. It was not long before people began gluing bits of graphite into grooves cut into strips of wood, thereby creating the much sturdier wooden pencil we are now familiar with.

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- 8 Writing with graphite sticks required more pressure than other writing tools.
 9 Users could not see graphite marks after they had been inked over.

utensil n. dụng cụ antiquity n. thời cổ xưa come into existence phr. xuất hiện, tồn tại graphite phr. quặng graphit
 brand n. dấu sắt nung transcription n. bản sao, bản ghi black lead phr. chì đen brittleness n. tính giòn, tính dễ
 gãy alloy n. hợp kim stylus n. bút trâm groove n. đường rãnh sturdy adj. dai, chắc chắn

5

The ability to make a good impression on people is important to many of us as humans are inherently social creatures driven by a desire to connect with others. However, it can sometimes be difficult to interpret exactly what other people think of us. It would be easy if they all simply saw us the way we try to appear. Unfortunately, everyone we encounter views the world through his or her own unique lens, and people tend to not be very direct about how they feel about others unless in the privacy of their own trusted social circles. It is for this reason that, in order to determine how other people view us, it is sometimes necessary to rely on our metaperceptions.

A metaperception is how a person views others' perceptions of him or herself. Metaperceptions are usually fairly accurate in individuals who have a strong sense of self because these sorts of people are easily able to pick up on how others respond to their words or actions. This enables them to know whether they are liked or not. Individuals with a good sense of who they are tend to have no problems adjusting their behaviours to better suit the situation - if, that is, being liked is their end goal. People with a weak sense of self, on the other hand, are often wrong about how others see them. This is because they often lack self-confidence in the first place and therefore have numerous personal biases. They might, for example, not really like themselves for any number of reasons and therefore think that everyone else hates them, too, when this is not necessarily the case. Conversely, others might believe that they are witty and fun to be around when the reality is that they are rude and burdensome. Unfortunately for people like these, social exclusion and all the negative consequences associated with it sometimes occur as a result.

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- 10 People are generally honest about how they perceive others.
 11 Those with a strong sense of self usually know how others see them.
 12 Individuals with weak self-perception fail when they try to adjust their behaviours.

inherently adv. vốn đã **metaperception** n. nhận thức bản thân qua lăng kính của người khác **sense of self** phr. ý thức bản thân **pick up** phr. bắt được, nắm bắt được **adjust** v. chỉnh sửa **bias** n. thành kiến **conversely** adv. ngược lại, trái lại **witty** adj. hóm hỉnh **burdensome** adj. nặng nề, phiền toái **exclusion** n. sự ngoại trừ, sự loại bỏ, sự cô lập

Animals use a wide range of signals to communicate with one another. In addition to the auditory cues like barking and meowing that everyone thinks of when considering animal signals, we know that they also utilise chemical, visual, and tactile signals. Using these varied signalling systems or combinations of them, some species have developed highly advanced methods of transferring information to one another. One great example of this was discovered in honeybees by animal behaviourist Karl von Frisch. Dr von Frisch was the first to interpret the round and waggle dances that foraging honeybees perform when they return to the hive. From his research, he found that these were a form of signalling for the bees. Using dances, the bees could communicate the distance and location of sources of high quality pollen. He also noted that by performing the dance in close contact, the bees could also signal the type of food through their scents.

Signalling, however, is not used only for food gathering. Many animals use various means to signal their ownership of a territory and its boundaries. Perhaps the most common is scent marking. In this system, animals mark their territories by rubbing on items or urinating and defecating within their territories to warn other animals. This can also lead to a visual signal to other animals. Brown bears, for instance, rub their scent into trees and often leave behind tufts of hair in the bark. These clumps of hair can signal that the bear was there even after the scent has dissipated.

The great amount of information that animals can communicate using signals raises another important question: Does signalling constitute a language? Noted 19th-century naturalist Charles Darwin conducted basic research into this topic for his book *Descent of Man* (1871). In it, Darwin discussed similarities between animals' auditory signals and human communication. Although he ultimately felt that language distinguished humans from lesser animals, he could not help but notice that baby birds are taught to signal by their parents and that some gibbons utilise musical sounds for courtship and competition with rivals, much like humans.

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- 13 Sounds are one of many communication mechanisms used by animals.
- 14 Scent marking conveys less information about territories than other forms of animal signalling.
- 15 Similarities between animal signalling and human communication caused Darwin to believe it was a basic language.

auditory adj. (thuộc) thính giác **tactile** adj. dùng xúc giác **waggle dance** phr. vũ điệu loài ong (vũ điệu hình số 8 của ong mật) **forage** v. kiếm ăn **pollen** n. phấn hoa **defecate** v. rống chất thải ra khỏi cơ thể **tuft** n. bụi, chùm **clump** n. bụi, cục **dissipate** v. xua tan, làm tiêu tan **constitute** v. cấu tạo, thiết lập **naturalist** n. nhà tự nhiên học **gibbon** n. con vượn **courtship** n. sự tán tỉnh

8 The Hazards of Multitasking

We live in a fast-paced world, and many people these days seem to feel as though it is necessary to complete as many tasks as possible at the same time in order to keep up. Multitasking, as this behaviour is known, may provide some with the sense that they are making efficient use of their time, but this is far from the truth. What is more, juggling more than one can handle can have detrimental effects on a person's physical health and mental well-being.

Contrary to popular belief, the human brain is ill-equipped to process multiple forms of information simultaneously – so ill-equipped that what we believe to be multitasking may not even be possible. When people attempt to engage in multiple activities at once, what their brains are actually doing is frantically switching between tasks. Rather than giving their undivided attention to a single activity, people engaged in multitasking are able to focus on each thing they are trying to do for only a few seconds at a time. Repeatedly moving between tasks is, unsurprisingly, exhausting and makes it extremely difficult to filter information and recall it afterwards. Ultimately, multitasking is counterproductive in that it slows us down. Seeing one task through to completion before beginning another one is far more efficient, as the time it takes the brain to jump back and forth and refocus on an activity it was previously engaged in is time wasted.

If that wasn't bad enough, multitasking can lead to poor health. When the brain, the control system for the body's nervous system, attempts to conduct multiple tasks at the same time, it almost always releases stress hormones and adrenaline. When this happens, the adrenaline provides a temporary energy boost, often resulting in the body accomplishing what it has been tasked to do, however inefficiently that may be. At the same time, though, the release of stress hormones causes blood pressure to rise, which most people know can be dangerous because it makes the heart work harder. While being stressed from time to time is to be expected, experiencing it all the time, as an increasing number of us do, can make us sick. In fact, the chronically stressed not only experience headaches, digestion problems, and a general sense of unease on a regular basis, but they are also vulnerable to exhaustion, depression, and viruses, and are more likely to develop potentially fatal conditions, such as heart disease. All in all, while multitasking may seem like the only way to cope in a world full of stimuli, its potential to damage both our health and productivity is reason enough to avoid it.

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- 20 The brain can focus on several things at once for extended periods of time.
21 Switching between tasks makes it hard to remember information.
22 The boost that adrenaline provides helps increase a person's overall efficiency.
23 People who experience stress from time to time are the most likely to develop serious conditions.

CH
02

T/F/NG (True / False / Not Given) HACKERS IELTS READING

fast-paced adj. nhanh, hối hả juggle v. tung hứng, lo liệu đồng thời nhiều việc detrimental adj. độc hại
simultaneously adv. đồng thời frantically adv. cuống cuồng filter v. lọc, thẩm qua counterproductive adj. phản
tác dụng see through phr. (không từ bỏ) làm đến cùng back and forth phr. đi qua, đi lại/ qua lại chronically
adv. kinh niên unease n. sự bất an, bất ổn all in all phr. nói chung, nhìn chung