READING
MATCHING INFORMATION

TASK DESCRIPTION

- You match a piece of information to the paragraphs that contain it.
- The information could be specific details, examples, descriptions, reasons, explanation or a summary of ideas
- You may not need to use all of the paragraphs, and some paragraphs might match more than one piece of information.
- The information in the paragraph will be **paraphrased differently** in the corresponding questions.

STRATEGIES

- Underline or highlight key words in the questions.
- Think about the ideas and language that you need to look for.
- Read the first paragraph and then quickly read through the questions.
- Mark any parts of the paragraph that match the key words in the questions.
- Write the paragraph letter next to the question.
- Go on to the next paragraph and do the same
- If you think a question can be matched to more than one paragraph, make a note of this and come back to the question later to make a decision.

SAMPLE TASK

EXERCISE 1

*The reading passage has three paragraphs **A-C**.*
Which paragraph contains the following information?

DAWN OF MODERN MAN

A At first glance, the 41 perforated pea-sized shells found in a South African cave are merely ancient jewellery, albeit the oldest ever found. But to archaeologist Christopher Henshilwood, the 75,000-year-old beads represent symbolic thought. By wearing jewellery, the people living on the southern tip of Africa would have transmitted shared cultural values, much like we do today. 'The Blombos Cave beads present absolute evidence for perhaps the earliest storage of information outside the human brain,' he explains.

B They were originally located in layers of sand dating back to the Middle Stone Age, arranged in clusters of up to 17 beads of a similar size. Strong indications that they were used as jewellery come from wear-marks and the common position of holes. Traces of red ochre suggest that the beads, or the surfaces they had touched, were coated with pigment.

C The shells are those of amollusc scavenger Afaiia/ms *kraussiarius,* which lives in estuaries. Since the nearest rivers to the cave are 20 km away, Stone Age humans must have transported them to the cave. The fact they were grouped into sizes and perforated suggests they were deliberately fashioned into beads, possibly before being taken there.

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1. evidence that shells had been worn
2. where in the cave the beads were first found
3. the type of creature that occupied the shells
4. a reference to the current function of jewelry
5. how it is thought the shells reached the cave

SKILL-BUILDING EXERCISES

EXERCISE 2

THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM?

A

It used to be easy to define what a journalist was. They had a degree in English or journalism, usually owned a camera and were employed full time by a news outlet, TV or radio station or newspaper. Their days were spent conducting interviews, researching the next big story and writing articles. However, in recent years the line between these 'professional' journalists and the public has become blurred. There is a growing trend for amateur journalism that often bypasses the established media sources. The upshot is that virtually anyone can be a journalist. After all, if you are present when a story breaks, or you yourself are part of the news story, why wait for a 'real' journalist to interview you as an eyewitness? You can use the camera on your phone and tell the story yourself and post it on your own blog or on social media.

B

It is not only on sites like Facebook and Twitter that amateur journalism is on the rise. There are now open publishing sites, such as the Independent Media Center or 'Indymedia', which aim to bring a 'grassroots dimension' into the news arena. Ohmynews, one of South Korea's most influential online sources for the latest in current affairs, has 2 million readers every day and a nationwide army of 26,000 'citizen' journalists. More and more often these citizen journalists and open sites are getting the scoop on major stories. The first mention of the problems facing the doomed space shuttle Columbia appeared on an online discussion forum 11 minutes before the Associated Press broke the news. What is more, there has been a fundamental change in how we interact with the news. Nowadays, with the growth in online versions of newspapers, the public can easily comment, point out errors, and share alternative viewpoints. These opportunities are particularly vital if you find yourself the subject of a news story - whether for positive or negative reasons. If the story involves you, you can provide vital context and supplementary information which can change readers' views on your story.

C

When this trend for participatory media was in its infancy, there was plenty of mistrust of amateur journalists' who lacked the credentials of journalists working in established media outlets. If a story didn't come from well-known news organisations like CNN or The Times, it wasn't taken seriously. Now that perception is changing. Trust in alternative media sources is growing. In fact, mainstream media now regularly recruit members of their own staff from the ranks of amateur news bloggers. Simultaneously, there has been a general shift away from a 'broadcast model', in which the few broadcast to the many, towards a more inclusive model in which the audience can play an active role. The traditional 'filter then publish' news model has been replaced by 'publish then filter', with millions of keen amateurs involved at all stages of the process.

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D So, how have the media establishment reacted to this change? Initially, it wasseen as a challenge to their hegemony. They had always been the gatekeepers: those who decided what was news and how that news should be presented. Participatory journalism represents the democratisation of the media: and therefore a threat to this. Media futurists predict that by 2021, 50% of news will be produced by citizen Journalists, so traditional media have had little choice but to embrace the trend or be left behind. Many already have, by adding features that invite participation, such as comments sections and links to social media.

E There are many potential benefits to 'We media', as participatory journalism is sometimes called. It can help forge stronger relationships between the media and local communities, since people feel their views are represented, creating a sense of trust and shared responsibility. Members of the public who participate in creating the news gain memorable experiences and build their reputation in a given community. 'We media' can also give a voice to those who haven't had one due to educational, economic, social or cultural barriers. It is a liberating phenomenon with the potential to reduce inequality in society.

F Of course, like anything else, participatory journalism has its critics and in particular there are those who claim that news reporting on social media is used to manipulate people and even spread misinformation or 'fake news'. Whilst this is no doubt true in some cases, it is a sweeping generalisation. For example, during the 2011 London riots, it was widely reported on mainstream media that the rioters and looters used social media to spread news about what was happening and to incite others towards violence and protest. However, what is interesting is that the event has now been studied in detail and it has been revealed that this was not the case. In actual fact, citizen journalists played a positive role as the situation unfurled. They were the first to alert the authorities to early incidents of rioting taking place, and helped the police identify offenders by photographing them in the act and sharing the photos on social media. Without ordinary Londoners responding to news in this way, many of the perpetrators would most likely have escaped justice.

G The evidence so far is that participatory journalism is here to stay and set to develop in ways as yet unimagined. The implication for every user of media is that we need to be ever more open to the possibility of false information. The 'publish then filter' model necessitates all readers and viewers honing their critical faculties and verifying reports by independent means before accepting and sharing them. This will be a positive trend if it develops the thinking skills of the population as a whole. An educated citizenry who do not believe what they read without question is surely an asset to any society.

3.1. *Skim the text and match the summaries* ***(1-7)*** *to the paragraphs* ***(A-G).***

1. Advantages of "We media"
2. The need for critical thinking
3. The changing definition of a journalist
4. The changing role of the audience and the media
5. A case study
6. What citizen journalists can contribute

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7. Media response to participatory journalism

3.2. *Scan each paragraph and find the following information*

Paragraph **A**: something a journalist traditionally possessed
Paragraph **B**: the name of a Korean news site
Paragraph **C**: two well-known media outlets
Paragraph **D**: the year in which half of the news may be produced by amateurs
Paragraph **E**: four types of obstacles to participation in society
Paragraph **F**: two types of criminals
Paragraph **G**: something audiences need to sharpen or improve

3.3. *Which synonym or paraphrase for the underlined words help you locate the information?*

3.4. *Answer the following questions*

The text has seven paragraphs, ***A-G****.*
Which paragraph contains the following information?
Write the correct letter, **A-G**.
NB *You may use any letter more than once.*

1. Why some journalists fear the new trends
2. Details of civil unrest in a major city
3. Why education is needed in the context of this change in the media
4. Subjects journalists traditionally study at university
5. How the story of a spaceship disaster broke
6. Why participatory journalism is good for disadvantaged groups

3.5. *Answer the questions below by choosing* ***NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS*** *from the passage for each answer.*

1. In the past, what role would a member of the public who saw a newsworthy event expected to play?
2. What was the subject of the story given as an example of an amateur journalist scoop before it was reported by a major news agency?
3. From which group of people have the media establishment begun to hire staff?
4. What had mainstream media traditionally seen their role in news reporting as being

3.6. *Choose the correct answer and explain why the other options are incorrect*

1. What has amateur journalism been accused of increasing the risk of?
   - **A.** fake news
   - **B.** critical thinking
   - **C.** untrue stories
2. What did citizen journalists help police to do during the London riots?
   - **A.** play a positive role
   - **B.** identify offenders
   - **C.** alert the authorities
3. According to the text what is the 'new model' of broadcasting?

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A. filter then publish
B. publish then filter
C. We medi

3.7. *Answer the questions below by choosing **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

1. Which well-known open publishing site is mentioned in the text?
2. According to the text, what process of change is the media currently undergoing that challenges the establishment's traditional role?
3. What positive effect on society as a whole might citizen journalism produce?

3.8. *Read the sentence beginning and two possible endings. Read the relevant part of the text (the second half of paragraph B) carefully and choose which one is correct*

The citizen journalist scoop on the Columbia Space Shuttle story is an example of

A. how we are interacting more with traditional media.
B. how participatory media is growing.

3.9. *Complete each sentence with the correct ending **(A-E)** below.*

1. Amateur journalists may lack the credentials of professionals
2. Newspaper editors were the gatekeepers of the news
3. Anyone could find themselves the subject of a news story

A. which means most of them are afraid of participatory journalism.
B. but now they can offer extra information to alter people's perceptions.
C. but this is less of a disadvantage than it used to be.
D. but formal qualifications are no longer required by media outlets.
E. but now they need to accept that this situation is changing.

EXERCISE 3

REALITY TV

A Reality TV accounts for 67% of TV programmes watched by Americans. A huge range of programme types come under the banner 'Reality TV', some of them more edifying than others.There are those which follow the pattern of one of the earliest reality shows, Big Brother, where a group of people have to co-exist in a house, their every move being filmed. Then there are the competitive shows where ordinary people compete in skills such as singing, cooking, diving, ice-skating or work-related skills like sales and entrepreneurship. Another sub-genre is the self- or home improvement/makeover type of show, such as What Not to Wear, The Biggest Loser or Hoarders. Some of the most popular reality TV shows are those of the social experiment sub-genre, such as The World's Strictest Parents, where misbehaving teens are sent to live in a less liberal family, usually in a distant country. Perhaps the most educational type which comes under the reality TV heading are the programmes that follow someone with an interesting or useful job doing their ordinary day-to-day work. This is the

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one type of reality TV show most parents encourage their children to watch, as they can learn about the work of police officers, paramedics, doctors, pilots and teachers.

B

So how can we account for the immense popularity of reality TV? One reason it has found favour with viewers is that for most ordinary people it is their best hope of achieving at least a degree of fame or notoriety. A tiny minority might even become really famous and be rewarded with a TV show of their own. A survey of 239 people revealed that, contrary to common belief, most reality TV fans were not less sociable or less intelligent than others. It was thought that the main aim of watching such shows was to be able to discuss them with friends and co-workers. However, that has always been one of the reasons people watch any kind of TV programme. What is different about reality TV aficionados is that they desire a rise in status and strongly value prestige. RealityTV has produced 'stars' with little or no actual talent in conventional terms. Although they can't sing, dance or act, the force of their personality has shot them to stardom through an appearance on a TV show. From there, many have launched careers as 'TV personalities' and achieved the wealth and fame they craved. It is no wonder, then, that so many hope to follow their example.

C

One crucial point about reality TV is that the name itself is a misnomer. It is not actually 'real'. While producers don't go as far as having scripts, they edit footage in such a way as to distort what really happened. Events are twisted to create an illusion of conflict or to shape a more interesting storyline. Participants are told to adapt their own personalities to suit the requirements of the show. For example, a lady with a pleasant and gentle personality was told to 'act mean' or be ejected from the show. Similarly, though viewers assume that either judges or the voting public have the power to eliminate contestants, in fact the producers retain the decision-making power. If a candidate in a singing competition has been voted off by the public, he or she may be kept on for amusement value, not for the quality of his or her singing. One producer admitted that a '24-hour bathroom makeover' actually had a crew working on it behind the scenes for at least two weeks.

D

Apart from the illusions of reality, what other criticisms are made of reality TV? Author Mark Andrejevic wrote in the New York Times in 2012 that reality TV in post 9/11 society represents the 'normalisation of surveillance'. In all our favourite TV shows, the cameras are on the participants 24 hours a day. It therefore doesn't seem so strange when our own activities are caught on CCTV as we move around our cities and workplaces. Another accusation levied at some of these shows is that they glamorise vulgarity and consumerism. An American show called Toddlers and Tiaras, for example, shows little girls dressing up in skimpy costumes and make-up to take part in beauty pageants. Their parents spend thousands of dollars to parade their tiny children, some barely old enough to walk, in front of judges, who evaluate their beauty, clothes and modelling skills. The children featured in this and similar shows are growing up to focus only on winning and many are totally unable to accept defeat. Many reality TV shows feature a 'confessional', where contestants are encouraged to back-stab and report on their fellow contestants. Unethical behaviour is valued and rewarded because it boosts viewing figures. The plethora of shows encouraging us to change our weight, wardrobe, job, house and car creates generations of discontented individuals who feel themselves inadequate with who they are and what they have.

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E To make matters worse, the experience of being on reality TV is not what it appears. These shows are so popular with the television companies because they are so cheap to produce. The producers' aim is to get as much talent as possible for as low a price as possible. While appearing on a reality show, you can expect your expenses to be paid, but you will probably only receive $20 or $30 a day. What is more, you can expect every aspect of your background and family to be investigated in detail. Anything you would prefer to remain hidden will inevitably come out. And the person who becomes the reality star will not be 'you'. It will be a character created by the producers who happens to have your face. So, if you are longing for your 15 minutes of fame, be aware of the risks of achieving it through reality TV.

Questions 1 – 6

The text has five paragraphs, ***A-E.***

Which paragraph contains the following information? Write the correct letter, ***A-E.***

N.B. *You may use any letter more than once.*

1. What attracts people to watch reality TV
2. An explanation for the promotion of bad behaviour on reality TV
3. A description of a show the writer disapproves of
4. An example of why the term reality TV is misleading
5. Some examples of shows that might benefit young people
6. A piece of research that reveals information about fans of reality TV

Questions 7-10

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

7. How does the writer describe programmes that show people doing their job?
8. What does the writer say can help people achieve fame if they have no special talent?
9. Who has the ultimate decision about the elimination of competitors?
10. What feature of reality TV invites participants to criticise their peers?

Questions 11-14

Complete each sentence with the correct ending, ***A-G****, below.*

11. People who like watching reality TV
12. The effects of reality TV on society
13. Producers of reality TV
14. People who take part in reality TV shows

A. include the development of competitiveness and materialistic attitudes.
B. will pay lots of money for the right people.
C. may not realise how intrusive and financially unrewarding it will be.
D. are willing to distort reality to attract more viewers.
E. tend to aspire to raising their status in society.
F. are usually grateful to be given a chance of becoming famous.
G. are particularly damaging for young girls.

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EXAM PRACTICE

EXERCISE 4

HELIUM FUTURE UP IN THE AIR

A In recent years we have all been exposed to dire media reports concerning the impending demise of global coal and oil reserves, but the depletion of another key non-renewable resource continues without receiving much press at all. Helium - an inert, odourless, monatomic element known to lay people as the substance that makes balloons float and voices squeak when inhaled - could be gone from this planet within a generation.

B Helium itself is not rare; there is actually a plentiful supply of it in the cosmos. In fact, 24 per cent of our galaxy's elemental mass consists of helium, which makes it the second most abundant element in our universe. Because of its lightness, however, most helium vanished from our own planet many years ago. Consequently, only a miniscule proportion - 0.00052%, to be exact - remains in earth's atmosphere. Helium is the by-product of millennia of radioactive decay from the elements thorium and uranium. The helium is mostly trapped in subterranean natural gas bunkers and commercially extracted through a method known as fractional distillation.

C The loss of helium on Earth would affect society greatly. Defying the perception of it as a novelty substance for parties and gimmicks, the element actually has many vital applications in society. Probably the most well-known commercial usage is in airships and blimps (non-flammable helium replaced hydrogen as the lifting gas du jour after the Hindenburg catastrophe in 1932, during which an airship burst into flames and crashed to the ground killing some passengers and crew). But helium is also instrumental in deep-sea diving, where it is blended with nitrogen to mitigate the dangers of inhaling ordinary air under high pressure; as a cleaning agent for rocket engines; and, in its most prevalent use, as a coolant for superconducting magnets in hospital MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scanners.

D The possibility of losing helium forever poses the threat of a real crisis because its unique qualities are extraordinarily difficult, if not impossible to duplicate (certainly, no biosynthetic ersatz product is close to approaching the point of feasibility for helium, even as similar developments continue apace for oil and coal). Helium is even cheerfully derided as a "loner" element since it does not adhere to other molecules like its cousin, hydrogen. According to Dr. Lee Sobotka, helium is the "most noble of gases, meaning it's very stable and non-reactive for the most part ... it has a closed electronic configuration, a very tightly bound atom. It is this coveting of its own electrons that prevents combination with other elements'. Another important attribute is helium's unique boiling point, which is lower than that for any other element. The worsening global shortage could render millions of dollars of high-value, life-saving equipment totally useless. The dwindling supplies have already resulted in the postponement of research and development projects in physics laboratories and manufacturing plants around the world. There is an enormous supply and demand imbalance partly brought about by the expansion of high-tech manufacturing in Asia.

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E The source of the problem is the Helium Privatisation Act (HPA), an American law passed in 1996 that requires the U.S. National Helium Reserve to liquidate its helium assets by 2015 regardless of the market price. Although intended to settle the original cost of the reserve by a U.S. Congress ignorant of its ramifications, the result of this fire sale is that global helium prices are so artificially deflated that few can be bothered recycling the substance or using it judiciously. Deflated values also mean that natural gas extractors see no reason to capture helium. Much is lost in the process of extraction. As Sobotka notes: "[t]he government had the good vision to store helium, and the question now is: Will the corporations have the vision to capture it when extracting natural gas, and consumers the wisdom to recycle? This takes long-term vision because present market forces are not sufficient to compel prudent practice". For Nobel-prize laureate Robert Richardson, the U.S. government must be prevailed upon to repeal its privatisation policy as the country supplies over 80 per cent of global helium, mostly from the National Helium Reserve. For Richardson, a twenty- to fifty-fold increase in prices would provide incentives to recycle.

F A number of steps need to be taken in order to avert a costly predicament in the coming decades. Firstly, all existing supplies of helium ought to be conserved and released only by permit, with medical uses receiving precedence over other commercial or recreational demands. Secondly, conservation should be obligatory and enforced by a regulatory agency. At the moment some users, such as hospitals, tend to recycle diligently while others, such as NASA, squander massive amounts of helium. Lastly, research into alternatives to helium must begin in earnest.

Questions 1 – 5

Reading Passage has six paragraphs, ***A-F.***

Which paragraph contains the following information?

1. A use for helium which makes an activity safer

2. The possibility of creating an alternative to helium

3. A term which describes the process of how helium is taken out of the ground

4. A reason why users of helium do not make efforts to conserve it

5. A contrast between helium's chemical properties and how non-scientists think about it

Questions 6 – 9

Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading Passage?

Write

YES	*if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer*
NO	*if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer*
NOT GIVEN	*if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this*

6. Helium chooses to be on its own.

7. Helium is a very cold substance.

8. High-tech industries in Asia use more helium than laboratories and manufacturers in other parts of the world.

9. The US Congress understood the possible consequences of the HPA.

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