

Reading Section 2

Exam information

- Reading Passage 2 is divided into paragraphs or sections: A, B, C, etc.
- The paragraph headings task comes before the passage.

- 1 Work in pairs. You are going to read a magazine article about organic food. First, read the title and the subheading, then discuss what you expect to read about in the rest of the article.
- 2 Quickly read the article. Are the writers for or against organic food?
- 3 Read headings i–ix below and underline the key ideas. An example (viii) has been done for you.

Questions 1–7

The reading passage has seven paragraphs, A–G. Choose the correct heading for paragraphs B–G from the list of headings below.

List of Headings

- i Research into whether organic food is better for us
- ii Adding up the cost of organic food
- iii The factors that can affect food quality
- iv The rich and poor see things differently
- v A description of organic farming
- vi Testing the taste of organic food
- vii Fear of science has created the organic trend
- viii The main reason for the popularity of organic food
- ix The need to remove hidden dangers from food

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|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Paragraph Aviii..... | |
| 2 Paragraph B | 5 Paragraph E |
| 3 Paragraph C | 6 Paragraph F |
| 4 Paragraph D | 7 Paragraph G |

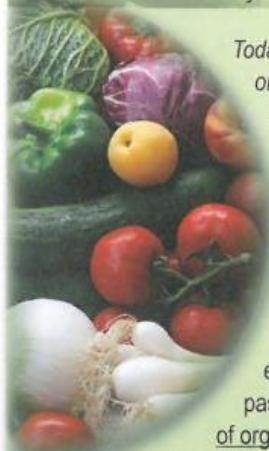
- 4 Now read the article and choose the correct heading for each paragraph.

Exam advice Matching headings

- Read the headings, underlining the key ideas.
- Read each paragraph carefully, one by one, to choose the best heading.

Organic food: why?

by Rob Lyons and Jan Bowman



Today, many governments are promoting organic or natural farming methods that avoid the use of pesticides and other artificial products. The aim is to show that they care about the environment and about people's health. But is this the right approach?

A Europe is now the biggest market for organic food in the world, expanding by 25 percent a year over the past 10 years. So what is the attraction of organic food for some people? The really important thing is that organic sounds more

'natural'. Eating organic is a way of defining oneself as natural, good, caring, different from the junk-food-scoffing masses. As one journalist puts it: 'It feels closer to the source, the beginning, the start of things.' The real desire is to be somehow close to the soil, to Mother Nature.

- B Unlike conventional farming, the organic approach means farming with natural, rather than man-made, fertilisers and pesticides. Techniques such as crop rotation improve soil quality and help organic farmers compensate for the absence of man-made chemicals. As a method of food production, organic is, however, inefficient in its use of labour and land; there are severe limits to how much food can be produced. Also, the environmental benefits of not using artificial fertiliser are tiny compared with the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by transporting food (a great deal of Britain's organic produce is shipped in from other countries and transported from shop to home by car).
- C Organic farming is often claimed to be safer than conventional farming – for the environment and for consumers. Yet studies into organic farming worldwide continue to reject this claim. An extensive review by the UK Food Standards Agency found that there was no statistically significant difference between organic and conventional crops. Even where results indicated there was evidence of a difference, the reviewers found no sign that these differences would have any noticeable effect on health.
- D The simplistic claim that organic food is more nutritious than conventional food was always likely to be misleading. Food is a natural product, and the health value of different foods will vary for a number of reasons, including freshness, the way the food is cooked, the type of soil it