

*Proficiency Level Reading and Use of English Test***Section R5 (10 marks)**

Write the missing words on the lines. Write only one word in each space. There is an example.

Britain's First Prime Minister

George I was King of England in the 18th century. He came to the throne in 1714, but having spent all his life in Germany, he knew almost nothing ^(example) about how to rule Britain when he became king. For this reason, he depended heavily ⁽¹⁾ _____ government ministers. One such minister was Robert Walpole, a Member of Parliament, ⁽²⁾ _____ political career was flourishing. In 1720, he managed to restore Britain's economy ⁽³⁾ _____ it had been ruined by a financial crash. As a ⁽⁴⁾ _____ of this feat, Walpole became George I's favourite minister and he ⁽⁵⁾ _____ therefore given several key positions in British politics, including First Lord of the Treasury and Leader of the House of Commons. This ⁽⁶⁾ _____ him the most important minister in the King's government, so people referred to him ⁽⁷⁾ _____ the 'prime minister'. On September 22nd 1735, Walpole moved ⁽⁸⁾ _____ number 10 Downing Street, a new development near the parliament buildings. He recommended that the house should remain the property of ⁽⁹⁾ _____ who subsequently held this position. ⁽¹⁰⁾ _____ then, 10 Downing Street has been the official residence of every British Prime Minister.

Section R1 (10 marks)

Read the following passage and answer all the questions.

The Bike Helmet Dilemma

As a sustainable, zero-carbon means of transport, urban cycling and providing the infrastructure necessary for it are being promoted in cities worldwide. The question of whether cyclists should wear a helmet, however, divides the cycling community. While there are calls for helmet-wearing to be compulsory in the UK, the decision to do so lies with the individual. *The Highway Code*, however, encourages it, regardless of what the law says. Despite studies carried out, the jury is still out on whether helmet-wearing makes cycling safer. What infuriates experts in the UK is that cycle-safety campaigns focus on wearing helmets and high-visibility clothing, rather than on creating an environment that protects cyclists. Switzerland has a rapidly-increasing culture of cycling. In cities like Zurich and Geneva, despite helmet-wearing being almost unheard of, the incidence of bike-related accidents is low. This is partly due to the fact that lorries and other large vehicles are removed from many areas where bicycles and cars share the road. In general, however, drivers exercise extreme caution around cyclists as they are also probably one themselves.

Early helmets were tested for collisions at speeds under 20 km an hour, which does not replicate impact with a car. Furthermore, only impact on the crown of the head was examined. Helmets now undergo rigorous, lifelike trials and results indicate that wearing one in a collision offers some injury protection. According to studies, however, it does not follow that a nationwide increase in helmet use is matched by similar reductions in head-injury rates.

One of the reasons for this involves the concept of 'risk compensation', where a cyclist wearing a helmet appears to be less conscious of the risks, prompting increased recklessness on the road. The presence of a helmet also tends to make motorists less cautious around cyclists. Indeed, studies show that drivers come 8.5 cm closer to cyclists who wear helmets, with a preconceived idea that they are more experienced and predictable than cyclists who don't. So, while a helmet might help protect a cyclist in a collision, it might also increase the chance of one happening in the first place.

Unintended consequences of compulsory helmet-wearing have been observed. A helmet can cause muffled hearing, meaning cyclists are less aware of other traffic. In cycling, there's also safety in numbers. The more cyclists there are on the road, the more aware drivers are of them. Helmet laws, however, actually result in fewer cyclists as cycling is deemed less appealing. Therefore, drivers don't watch out for them to the same extent. Following the enforcement of helmet use in Australia, a study was carried out on whether the new law had actually increased the percentage of cyclists wearing a helmet. Although it had, the reason for this was to avoid getting a police fine rather than to keep safe. Some admitted to only wearing a helmet on lengthy journeys, and bike-share schemes saw a fall in participants.

As the debate continues, figures show that while about 100 UK cyclists are killed every year, a marginally higher number of pedestrians suffer the same fate when travelling on an identical stretch of road. And while head injury is the cause of death in 46% of cycling fatalities it's only slightly lower in pedestrian fatalities. In addition, over 8,500 people die early as a result of an inactive lifestyle, proof that the health benefits of exercise massively offset any risk from not wearing a helmet when cycling.

For questions 1-8, tick (✓) the box. (1 mark each)

1. In the UK, wearing a helmet when cycling is a legal requirement.

True	False	Doesn't say
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2. Bike helmets have always been tested under realistic conditions.

True	False	Doesn't say
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3. Recent studies have shown that bike helmets offer little protection to the lower face.

True	False	Doesn't say
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4. There is proof that a high number of helmet wearers in a country equates to a low rate of head injuries.

True	False	Doesn't say
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5. A pedestrian is more likely to suffer a fatal accident than a cyclist making the same journey.

True	False	Doesn't say
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6. Cycling in Switzerland is a relatively safe activity mainly because

A	car drivers show respect to cyclists.
B	there are separate lanes for cars and bicycles.
C	cyclists are required to wear a helmet by law.
7. UK bike specialists are frustrated that

A	safety campaigns place too much importance on helmet wearing.
B	cyclists fail to make themselves sufficiently visible.
C	not enough cyclists wear helmets.
8. Following the introduction of compulsory helmet use in Australia,

A	penalty fines for breaking the law were frequent.
B	more cyclists began to understand the importance of cycling safety.
C	some people continued to cycle bare-headed on short trips.

Write the words in the box. (½ a mark each)

9. Find the word in the passage which means the **SAME** as:

<i>reproduce (paragraph 2)</i>	
<i>causing (paragraph 3)</i>	
10. Find the word or phrase in the passage which means the **OPPOSITE** of:

<i>discouraged (paragraph 1)</i>	
<i>carefulness (paragraph 3)</i>	

Section R2 - Summary (10 marks - 8 marks for summary and 2 marks for style)

Read paragraphs 3 and 4. With the information you find, write a summary in your own words on **the arguments against making the use of bike helmets compulsory**. Do not use fewer than 50 words or more than 75 words.

Title:

Section R3 - Reading (10 marks)

Read the passage about the Caral Civilisation in Peru. Six sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the extracts A - H, the one which fits each gap. There are two extracts you do not need to use. One of them has been done for you as an example.

- A - This meant Caral predates all other civilisations in the Americas and is one of the oldest in the world.
- ~~B~~ - Dotted around it were a number of lesser pyramids.
- C - What puzzled archaeologists, however, was that the materials needed to make these items were alien to the surrounding desert.
- D - Caral may also answer questions about the mysterious origins of the Inca civilisation that once stretched from modern-day Ecuador to central Chile.
- E - Although there are many theories about why our ancestors gave up the simple life for the city, the general consensus is that war forced people to huddle together for protection.
- F - The network of rivers surrounding Caral and 5,000-year-old cotton fishing nets found along the coast would provide an answer.
- G - Ruth Shady sent samples of them to Jonathan Haas at Chicago's Field Museum and to Winifred Creamer at Northern Illinois University.
- H - To their surprise, none was found, only stone implements, meaning Caral existed in the pre-ceramic era and was therefore an extremely early civilisation.

The Caral Civilisation

For more than 100,000 years, humanity either roamed the world in family groupings or lived in small communities. There was little planning or leadership and the main focus was survival. Then, 6,000 years ago, people started to move away from this life of simplicity and came together to form complex, organised societies and build huge cities, otherwise known as civilisation. This happened in Egypt, Mesopotamia, China, and India, and, in the New World, Central America and Peru, where the youngest settlements are believed to be located. 1. To prove this idea, archaeologists have spent many years looking for the 'mother city', the very first stage of civilisation, which should be filled with the signs of warfare. As early civilisations such as those in Egypt and Mesopotamia constantly built upon themselves, erasing signs of their earliest developments, archaeologists switched their search to the New World, an unexplored site in the Casma Valley in Peru. There, hidden under a hill, they unearthed a pyramid the size of which could rival anything in Egypt.

example 2. B These structures would have required architects, craftsmen, a workforce and leaders, all the trappings of civilisation. Wooden poles discovered while excavating the main pyramid were carbon-dated and the results revealed that the pyramid had been built in 1,500 BCE, making Casma the oldest city ever discovered in the Americas and a candidate for the elusive 'mother city'. More importantly, wall carvings of battle scenes were uncovered, confirming suspicions that civilisation was most likely born out of warfare. However, Casma's fame was short lived. Following the discoveries at Casma, Peruvian archaeologist, Ruth Shady, became interested in a site she had visited 200 kilometres away in the Peruvian desert, following reports of some mysterious, unexplained mounds which had the faintest outline of a pyramid. She and her team's first task was to find out the approximate age of the site, known as Caral, so they searched for pottery, which is used by archaeologists to date a site. 3. Unable to date stone, they began digging inside the mounds in search of something they could. While clearing away thousands of tonnes of rubble and sand, they uncovered six pyramids arranged around a massive central plaza containing houses. Finally, in the foundations they found preserved reeds woven into bags which would have contained stones and been used to fortify the structure. The reeds were sent off for dating and the results were astounding. They were dated at 2,600 BCE, making Caral nearly 5,000 years old, as old as the pyramids of Egypt and 1,000 years older than Casma. 4. Now this had been established, archaeologists could at last seek answers to the question why civilisation had begun. Despite an extensive search for evidence of conflict or fortifications, none was found. This meant the warfare hypothesis had no foundation, at least not at Caral. What they did discover, however, were musical instruments and jewellery, meaning the inhabitants of Caral were a peaceful, pleasure-seeking people. 5. They had come either from the Andean mountains or the rainforest, 300 kilometres away. This meant Caral must have imported these luxury goods from elsewhere. The further discovery of fish bones revealed that Caral, located 30 kilometres away from the ocean, also brought in its food. Had Caral served as a trade centre? 6. These waterways would have created a system of irrigation which transformed the desert into a vast oasis of plants, including cotton, many seeds of which were found in Caral. It would seem the Caral people made nets out of cotton for the fishermen who sent fish as payment. It was now clear that Caral was a city built on riches gained peacefully through trade and changes all the current thinking about the origins of civilisation.

Section W3 (10 marks)

Rewrite the sentences to give the same meaning as the original, using the word or words given. Do not change the given word or words in any way at all.

Rewrite all direct speech as reported speech.

Example:

I regret not taking her advice.

(wish)

I wish I'd taken her advice.

1. The doctor is taking my grandfather's blood pressure tomorrow. (having)

2. You really should pay back the money you owe him. (about time)

3. A couple from London are buying the expensive house next door. (by)

4. I was disappointed about coming second in the race because I expected to win. (Had)

5. 'Don't forget you need to call your mother, Maria,' said Fran. (reminded)

6. It was wrong of him to lie to his parents. (shouldn't)

7. Mia entered the room and immediately everyone started clapping. (No sooner)

8. They cancelled the football match due to bad weather. (called)

9. He's the funniest person I've ever met. (Never)

10. I didn't tell Marco about the surprise party because he can't keep a secret. (If)

Section R4 (10 marks)

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

Example

Victoria tied the scarf loosely around her neck. (loose)

1. Many people are cutting their _____ of meat to save money. (consume)
2. Good _____ should be rewarded. (behave)
3. These exercises will stretch and _____ the muscles in your back. (long)
4. The man _____ rushed into the burning building and saved a family. (hero)
5. I've bought a car because public transport facilities are _____ in this town. (adequate)
6. I have a _____ that Maggie's not telling the truth. (suspect)
7. This café is heavily _____ on custom from tourists. (rely)
8. The _____ dog refused to come when his owner called him. (obey)
9. She is the most _____ and controversial politician of modern times. (divide)
10. Their salary is _____ low for the back-breaking work they do. (reason)