IELTS FIGHTER
Chiến binh IELTS

Name: .....

Class: .....

Date: .....

MINI SKILL TEST 2

READING

Questions 1-5

*Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.*

Mosaic Art

The art of mosaic making goes back about 4,000 years. A mosaic is made up of separate pieces of material, called tesserae, which are arranged together in a special way. The earliest mosaics discovered are located in what was Mesopotamia. Small clay cones of differing colors were embedded point first into columns to create various designs. Later mosaics used pebbles of different shades to create rudimentary images and geometric patterns. In the West, the Greeks and Romans made very sophisticated mosaics using various types of tesserae.

With advancements in glass making, colored and metal tinted glass tiles took mosaic making to a new level. The Byzantine Empire produced many iconic works using those materials. One great artist in the early 20th century, Antoni Gaudi, created many striking mosaics. They often included 'found' objects, like broken pottery and other waste materials, which was an innovation for the time.

These days, making a mosaic is a very accessible hobby. Materials and instructions for making personal works of art are readily available. One needs only patience and a vision of what they want to create.

Broadly, there are two ways of creating mosaic art: the direct method and the indirect method. In the direct method, a person takes each tessera and glues it directly to the object or surface to be covered. With the indirect method, flat tiles are glued to a piece of paper with a water-soluble adhesive. Once the pieces are property arranged, mortar or glue is placed on the surface where the mosaic will go. The sheet of paper with the tiles is pressed into the adhesive and when it sets, the paper is moistened with a sponge and taken off the affixed tile.

1 How long is the history of mosaics? _____

2 Where were the first mosaics made? _____

3 Who is one notable mosaic artist? _____

4 What is one technique for creating a mosaic? _____

5 What are the individual objects that make up a mosaic called? _____

Questions 6-11

*Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.*

The history of tortoise

Ichthyosarus were reptilian contemporaries of the dinosaurs, with fins and streamlined bodies. The fossils look like dolphins and they surely lived like dolphins, in the water. With turtles it is a little less obvious. One way to tell is by measuring the bones of their forelimbs.

Walter Joyce and Jacques Gauthier, at Yale University, obtained three measurements in these particular bones of 71 species of living turtles and tortoises. They used a kind of triangular graph paper to plot the three measurements against one another. All the land tortoise species formed a tight cluster of points in the upper part of the triangle; all the water turtles cluster in the lower part of the triangular graph. There was no overlap, except when they added some species that spend time both in water and on land. Sure enough, these amphibious species show up on the triangular graph approximately half way between the 'wet cluster' of sea turtles and the 'dry cluster' of land tortoises. 'The next step was to determine where the fossil fell. The bones of P. quenstedti and P. talampayensis leave us in no doubt. Their points on the graph are right in the thick of the dry cluster. Both these fossils were dry-land tortoises. They come from the era before our turtles returned to the water.

Method of determining where the ancestors of turtles and tortoises come from

Step 1: 71 species of living turtles and tortoises were examined and a total of **6** _____ were taken from the bones of their forelimbs.

Step 2: The data was recorded on a **7** _____ (necessary for comparing the information). Outcome: Land tortoises were represented by a dense **8** _____ of points towards the top. Sea turtles were grouped together in the bottom part.

Step 3: The same data was collected from some living **9** _____ species and added to the other results. Outcome: The points for these species turned out to be positioned about **10** _____ up the triangle between the land tortoises and the sea turtles.

Step 4: Bones of P. quenstedti and P. talampayensis were examined in a similar way and the results added. Outcome: The position of the points indicated that both these ancient creatures were **11** _____.