READING 1

Warm up - Thinking about the Topic

Look at the two pictures of classrooms in the 1900s and in the present.





1 *Find at least 5 differences in the pictures. Talk about them with your partner.*

2 *Match these statements to each picture.*

a. Children should be quiet and keep still while they are learning, and they should do what the teacher tells them.
b. Children need to talk and discuss together while they are learning.
c. Pictures and books help children to learn.
d. Education means learning to read and write and do maths.
e. Education means learning about the world and about how to find out information for yourself.
f. Teachers should set a good example to their students both in and out of the classroom.
g. Teachers should teach children to co-operate and to respect each other.

3 *Work with a partner to make a sentence about education in the 1890s and in the 2000s. Speak, do not write.*

In the 1890s,..., whereas in the 2000s,...

Beginning to Read

Skimming to Find the Paragraph Patterns and the Main Idea

For IELTS reading, you need to be able to read QUICKLY to find main ideas and the structure, or organisation, of the paragraphs and the reading passage. Complete the activities on the next pages to practise how to do this. **Keep to the time limit!**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Education over the past 100 years

A The education of our young people is one of the most important aspects of any community, and ideas about what and how to teach reflect the accepted attitudes and unspoken beliefs of society. These ideas change as local customs and attitudes change, and these changes are reflected in the curriculum, teaching and assessment methods, and the expectations of how both students and teachers should behave.

B Teaching in the late 1800s and early 1900s was very different from today. Rules for teachers at the time in the USA covered both the teachers' duties and their conduct out of class as well. Teachers at that time were expected to set a good example to their pupils and to behave in a very virtuous and proper manner. Women teachers should not marry, nor should they 'keep company with men'. They had to wear long dresses and no bright colours and they were not permitted to dye their hair. They were not allowed to loiter downtown in an ice cream store, and women were not allowed to go out in the evenings unless to a school function, although men were allowed one evening a week to take their girlfriends out if they went to church regularly. No teachers were allowed to drink alcohol. They were allowed to read only good books such as the *Bible*, and they were given a pay increase of 25c a week after five years of work for the local school.

C As well as this long list of 'dos' and 'don'ts', teachers had certain duties to perform each day. In country schools, teachers were required to keep the coal bucket full for the classroom fire and to bring a bucket of water each day for the children to drink. They had to make the pens for their students to write with and to sweep the floor and keep the classroom tidy. However, despite this list of duties, little was stipulated about the content of the teaching, nor about assessment methods.

D Teachers would have been expected to teach the three 'r's – reading, writing, and arithmetic – and to teach the children about Christianity and read from the *Bible* every day. Education in those days was much simpler than it is today and covered basic literacy skills and religious education. They would almost certainly have used corporal punishment such as a stick or the strap on naughty or unruly children, and the children would have sat together in pairs in long rows in the classroom. They would have been expected to sit quietly and to do their work, copying long rows of letters or doing basic maths sums. Farming children in country areas would have had only a few years of schooling and would probably have left school at 12 or 14 years of age to join their parents in farm work.

E Compare this with a country school in the USA today! If you visited it today, you would see the children sitting in groups round large tables, or even on the floor. They would be working together on a range of different activities, and there would almost certainly be one or more computers in the classroom. Children nowadays are allowed and even expected to talk quietly to each other while they work, and they are also expected to ask their teachers questions and to actively engage in finding out information for themselves, instead of just listening to the teacher.

F There are no rules of conduct for teachers out of the classroom, and they are not expected to perform caretaking duties such as cleaning the classrooms or making pens, but nevertheless their jobs are much harder than they were in the 1900s. Teachers today are expected to work hard on planning their lessons, to teach creatively, and to stimulate children's minds, and there are strict protocols about assessment across the whole of the USA. Corporal punishment is illegal, and any teacher who hit a child would be dismissed instantly. Another big difference is that most state schools in western countries are secular, so religious teaching is not part of the curriculum.

G These changes in educational methods and ideas reflect changes in our society in general. Children in western countries nowadays come from all parts of the globe and they bring different cultures, religions, and beliefs to the classroom. It is no longer considered acceptable or appropriate for state schools to teach about religious beliefs. Ideas about the value and purpose of education have also changed and with the increasing sophistication of workplaces and life skills needed for a successful career, the curriculum has also expanded to try to prepare children for the challenges of a diverse working community. It will be interesting to see how these changes continue into the future as our society and culture grows and develops.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 *Read the first sentence ONLY of each paragraph in the reading passage. Take NO MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES to do this.*

Then, put these paragraph descriptions into the same order as the passage itself. Write the letter of the paragraph, A-G, beside each one.

____ Teaching content in the past
____ Teaching in the present
____ Rules for teachers in the past
____ The importance of educational beliefs
____ Changes in teaching and in society
____ Teaching duties in the past
____ Rules for teachers in the present

Now, consider the ***overall structure*** *of this reading. Is it a description, a comparison, or an argument?*

What two things are being compared here?

Skimming to Summarise the Reading Passage

5 *Work with a partner to complete a brief summary of this reading passage. Speak, do not write.*

This passage is about... It compares... The main idea is...

IELTS-Type Questions: Reading for Details and for Main Ideas

Now that you know the main idea and organisation of the passage, you should be able to read it quickly to find details and answer the following questions.

Matching Headings to Paragraphs

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph, A-G, from the list of headings below. Write the letter of the paragraph beside the heading.

1. ____ Students as Classroom Researchers
2. ____ Increasing Teacher Expectations
3. ____ Teachers as School Cleaners
4. ____ Education as a Preparation for Working Life
5. ____ Teaching as a Mirror of Societal Beliefs
6. ____ Expectations of Early Teachers
7. ____ A Basic Curriculum

TIP
Look at the first and and last sentences to do this and watch for words with similar meanings.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Multiple Choice

Circle the correct letter. Some questions may have MORE THAN ONE correct answer, and this will be indicated in the instructions.

8. In the early 1900s, women teachers were
   a. allowed to get married after five years.
   b. not allowed to read the *Bible* at school.
   c. allowed to go to school events.
   d. allowed to wear colourful dresses.
9. In the early 1900s, teachers did not have to
   a. sweep the floor and fill the coal bucket.
   b. ask the students to do group work.
   c. teach reading, writing, and arithmetic.
   d. teach about the *Bible* and Christianity.
10. In the early 1900s, the children
    a. sat in order and were not allowed to speak in class.
    b. were not smacked if they were naughty.
    c. stayed at school until they were at least 15.
    d. learned how to speak a foreign language.
11. Nowadays, children
    a. must sit quietly and work by themselves.
    b. have access to computers.
    c. may not ask the teacher questions.
    d. must do research after school, not in school time.

Circle FOUR correct letters:

12. Nowadays, teachers
    a. must plan their classes carefully.
    b. have strict assessment plans to follow.
    c. may smack naughty children.
    d. teach children to think for themselves.
    e. insist on silence in the classroom.
    f. may not smoke after work hours.
    g. may not teach about religion in state schools.

Summary Completion

Complete the summary of the passage, using words from the box on the next page. There are more words than gaps.

TIP
Watch carefully for word endings and grammar clues to help you with this.

aspects	community	reflect	attitudes	customs
expectations	function	duties	loiter	virtuous
proper	behave	permitted	regularly	conduct
illegal	skills	perform	corporal	education

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Educational ideas and methods generally 13. _____ the way people think in any society. People's attitudes to what is important can influence the expectations of teachers' behaviour in a community. For example, in the 1900s, teachers had to 14. _____ according to a set of strict rules, and there were many things they were not 15. _____ to do, such as drinking alcohol. Nowadays, the 16. _____ of teachers outside the classroom is not considered important, because ideas have changed. In the 1900s, there was a list of caretaking 17. _____ for teachers, but nowadays this does not happen. Ideas about discipline have also changed. 18. _____ punishment was a common form of discipline in the past, but this is 19. _____ now.

TIP 1
You will usually find the answer to this question in the first and/or final paragraph(s).

Global Multi-Choice

Circle the letter for the correct answer.

20. The writer's main idea is:
    a. Education is very important for young people.
    b. Ideas about education change all the time.
    c. Society changes as educational ideas change.
    d. Educational ideas change as our society changes.

TIP 2
Some or all of the four choices will be ideas from the passage. Your job is to choose the main or most important one.

After You Read

This section of the reading units will include some activities to help you to understand and practise reading skills that you will need in the IELTS test.

Vocabulary

The following words appear in the reading passage for this unit. Talk about them with a partner and check that you understand the meaning. Check any words you do not know with your dictionary.

reflect	assessment	attitude	expectations	permitted
copy	basis	religion	literacy	aspects
diverse	curriculum	range	engage	participate
creative	appropriate	consider	sophistication	

6 *Fill in the gaps in these sentences with the words above. Be careful of word forms such as plurals! Not ALL of the words in the list are included in the sentences.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

a. _____ is a key part of effective education because students and teachers need to know what has been learned and understood.

b. The best schools have high _____ of the students' achievements. In these schools, students, teachers, and parents share a similar _____ to the importance of hard work and study, and all _____ of education are valued.

c. Changes in lifestyle, such as bigger houses and more car ownership, _____ the development of our economy.

d. In modern schools, _____ activities such as free writing are encouraged, and there is a _____ _____ which offers a _____ of subject choices to meet the needs and interests of each pupil. There is an increasing level of _____ in the curriculum to meet the needs of the workplace.

e. Students who _____ in school activities generally do better than those who are not interested.

f. In most schools, smoking is not _____ on the grounds.

g. _____ skills such as reading and writing are an important _____ for success in life.

h. This IELTS Reading book needs to include _____ reading passages which are similar to those found in the Reading test. Writers need to _____ length, topic, and writing style.

Text Structure

This reading passage is organised into three main parts.

- Firstly, it contrasts teaching and teachers, now and in the past.
- Secondly, it gives examples to support the differences.
- Thirdly, it gives the writer's opinion.

7 Read carefully through the passage again, and:

- Highlight or mark those sentences which introduce the different topics and contrasts,
- In a different colour, mark all the sentences which give examples of the contrasts,
- In a third colour, mark all the sentences which give the writer's opinion.
  NB: Some of these may also introduce topics or contrasts, as in paragraph A.

Note Completion

8 Complete these notes. Write KEY WORDS, not sentences.

Education

Important aspect of society

Ideas change as _____ changes

Changes affect – curriculum, teaching, and assessment

– expectations of _____ and _____

Rules for teachers in 1900s – duties and _____

Conduct – set a good _____ to students

Examples Women couldn't _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Clothes rules: _____

Social life: _____

Reading: _____

Duties – had to _____

_____

1900s – teaching – strict and inflexible

Examples Subjects: reading, _____

Punishment: _____

Seating arrangements: pairs, seats in _____

Teaching style: sit _____

2000s – teaching – looser and more flexible

Examples Seating arrangements: _____

Teaching style: _____

Rules for teachers: _____

May not teach religion

May not _____ children

Conclusion

Education in the 2000s is to help children with the _____ for working life.

Dealing with Unknown Vocabulary

9 *Find the following words in the reading passage. Do not use a dictionary, but rather, use the words or sentences around them to help you to guess:*

- the meaning of the word – option 1, 2, or 3
- the function of the word – e.g. noun, verb, adjective, etc. in this reading passage

Fill in the gaps in this table below. The first one has been done for you.

Word	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Part of Speech
virtuous	strict	**well behaved**	tidy	adj.
keep company	go out with	talk to	start a business with	
loiter	talk to people	eat food in public	stay for a while	
function	use	meeting	lesson	
stipulated	required	needed	discussed	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

corporal	army	physical	severe	
unruly	pretty	badly behaved	young	
protocols	ideas	numbers	rules	
illegal	sick	against the law	naughty	
secular	in cities	not religious	government funded	

READING 2

Warm up - Thinking about the Topic

Look at the two pictures below. Talk about them with your partner.





1 What type of environment do these people and these plants live in?

2 Match these descriptions to each picture.

a. … look like a cactus but are not related.
b. … grow in dry sandy or rocky areas.
c. … move around the Kalahari Desert in search of food.
d. … walk long distances on the hot sand.
e. … only grow about 400cms tall.
f. … have flowers which are 3 – 4cms across.
g. … are traditional hunter-gatherers, who do not grow food.

3 Work with a partner to make some sentences about the San people and the hoodia plant. Speak, do not write.

The San... Hoodia plants...

Beginning to Read

Skimming to Find the Passage Structure and the Main Idea

Complete the activities on the next pages to practise how to do this. **Keep to the time limit!**

TIP

For IELTS reading, you need to be able to read QUICKLY to find main ideas and the structure, or organisation, of the reading passage.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Hoodia

A The San live in that part of Africa called the Kalahari Desert. Life there is hard, and nature can be harsh. There are somewhere between 45,000 and 100,000 of them living in countries like Zambia and Zimbabwe. They're not rich and they don't live in expensive houses. There are no roads or schools or hospitals near them. They don't have many material possessions like cars or computers, things that people in the developed world can't do without. In fact, they have many problems such as unemployment and poverty. On top of this, they also suffer from alcoholism, drinking to forget their problems. They're the San, a tribe of traditional hunter-gatherers, who used to travel in search of food for their families instead of growing it or keeping animals. They have a culture that is 20,000 years old, but their old way of life is disappearing fast and has nearly gone forever. So yes, they're poor, and yes, their lifestyle is not attractive to outsiders, but they do have one thing that certain people in the developed world are very, very interested in and want to have, and that may make them some money. It's called hoodia.

B Many countries have basic, common crops that people plant for food, such as rice or potatoes. Potatoes are grown in many European countries as well as South America (They originated there!), and rice is a staple food in Asia. But not all plants are grown just for food; some of them can also be used as medicine. A few examples are garlic, which is said to help with colds or high blood pressure, ginger to help with headaches or toothache, or the magnolia tree which is used in Chinese traditional medicine to treat some forms of cancer and heart disease. Hoodia, a cactus-like plant, only grows in the area where the San live, and they know where to find it and the best time to use it. They have known about it for centuries and they understand how to use it, but they don't use it for food, and they don't use it to cure disease, either. They use it to fight hunger.

C In the old days when the San had to travel in search of food, they and their children sometimes had to go without food for several days. This was even longer in times of famine or when the rains failed. They ate the hoodia plant when they were starving to help them survive until they found food, to stop their children from crying, and to give them the strength to continue their search. However, it didn't give them energy like normal food would. Instead, the chemicals in the hoodia plant killed the feeling of hunger and stopped them wanting food. They didn't know exactly *how* it worked; the only thing they knew for certain was that it *did* work.

D Scientists have now discovered that the plant contains a substance which they have called P57. This chemical makes the brain believe that the stomach is full and that the body doesn't need food. That is why people in the developed world, especially those in pharmaceutical companies, are extremely interested in this very promising plant.

E Obesity in the developed world is a huge and growing problem, not only among adults, but increasingly among children. It has been estimated that up to 50% of people in the developed world are overweight and 20% of these are obese; at the time of writing, for example, 30% of Chinese children were considered to be too heavy for their age. One cause of obesity is eating too much, too often, and another is eating the wrong kind of food. Our grandparents had the time to prepare simple yet nourishing meals, and they didn't have money to afford expensive food. They didn't eat as much meat or fatty foods as we do nowadays, and that's one reason why they were slimmer and healthier than their descendants. Today, we have less time to cook, and we have more money, so the easiest thing to do is to buy ready-made meals. They may be convenient and taste good, but they're often high in fat, salt, and sugar. Too much of these makes people unhealthy and fat. They need to lose weight, and that's where hoodia comes in.

F It seems to be the perfect solution. People in the West want to lose weight and hoodia is ideal. Western companies pay for the right to use the secrets of the hoodia plant; by selling these rights to the West, the San make money and can then help themselves. Obese people lose weight and the San people make a profit, so everyone is happy.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 *Read the first and last sentences ONLY of each paragraph in the reading passage. Take NO MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES to do this.*

Then, put these simple headings into the same order as the passage itself. Write the letter of the paragraph beside each one.

a. ____ Hoodia may help people to lose weight.
b. ____ Some children have a weight problem in the developed world.
c. ____ Most places have a staple food.
d. ____ The San can be found in the Kalahari Desert in Africa.
e. ____ The San learnt to survive without food for days on end.
f. ____ Hoodia contains P57.

Skimming to Summarise the Reading Passage

5 *Work with a partner to complete a brief summary of this reading passage. Speak, do not write.*

This passage is about... It describes... The main idea is...

IELTS-Type Questions: Reading for Details and for Main Ideas

Now, you should be able to read this passage quickly to find details and answer the following questions.

Multiple Choice

Circle the correct letter. Some questions may have MORE THAN ONE correct answer, and this will be indicated in the instructions.

1. The San
   a. herd cows and collect plants.
   b. hunt animals and grow plants.
   c. hunt animals and collect plants.
   d. herd cows and grow plants.

TIP
These questions usually follow the order of the reading passage.

2. Which problem is NOT mentioned in the passage?
   a. They can't find jobs.
   b. They have family problems.
   c. They drink too much alcohol.
   d. They are very poor.

3. Examples of staple foods are
   a. rice and potatoes.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

b. garlic and ginger.
c. magnolia and hoodia.
d. All of the above

4. In the old days, the San

a. ate hoodia every day.
b. ate hoodia when they were hungry.
c. ate hoodia when there was a famine.
d. ate hoodia when they wanted to diet.

5. In the West,

a. most people are overweight.
b. 30% of people are overweight.
c. 20% of people are overweight.
d. the majority of people are not overweight.

Locating Information

The passage has six paragraphs, A–F. Which paragraph contains the following information? Write the correct letter, A–F, beside each statement below.
Note: You may use any letter more than once. You may not need to use all the letters.

6. _____ Some foods are used to cure health problems.
7. _____ Many modern people do not eat well and have weight problems.
8. _____ The San have something that people in the West want.
9. _____ The sale of hoodia from Africa to the West might help everyone.
10. _____ Hoodia was used by the San to control hunger when food was scarce.

Short Answers

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

11. What do the San not have that people in developed countries mostly have?

_____

12. How long have the San people known about hoodia?

_____

13. What does hoodia have that makes it so useful for western people?

_____

14. What sort of meals does the writer say our grandparents prepared?

_____

15. What did our grandparents eat less of, compared to people these days?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Summary Completion

Complete the summary of the passage, using words from the box below. There are more words than gaps.

TIP
Watch carefully for word endings and grammar clues to help you with this.

nourishing	obesity	ideal	hoodia
desire	unemployment	cactus	material
overcome	attractive	originate	traditional

The San are a tribe of hunter-gatherers in the Kalahari Desert whose 16. _____ lifestyle is changing fast. They now suffer from 'modern' problems such as alcoholism, poverty, and 17. _____. Since ancient times, they have used a cactus-like plant, hoodia, to help 18. _____ hunger when food was scarce. In the West, where 19. _____ is becoming a major health issue, hoodia is seen as a solution as it appears to control the 20. _____ to eat.

Global Multi-Choice

Circle the letter for the correct answer.

TIP 1
You will usually find the answer to this question in the first and/or final paragraph(s).

TIP 2
Some or all of the four choices will be ideas from the passage. Your job is to choose the main or most important one.

21. The writer's main idea is:
    a. The ancient practice of using hoodia when food was scarce may lead to an improvement in the San's financial situation.
    b. Obesity, a growing problem all over the developed world, is spreading to the less developed countries as well.
    c. The ancient culture and lifestyle of the San is changing rapidly now.
    d. The pharmaceutical companies want to get control of supplies of hoodia.

After You Read

This section of the reading units will include some activities to help you to understand and practise reading skills that you will need in the IELTS test.

Vocabulary

harsh	material possessions	unemployment	poverty
alcoholism	traditional	attractive	substance
to survive	cactus	famine	obesity
nourishing	staple		

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6 *Match the words on the previous page to the meanings below.*

a. an addiction to strong drinks _____
b. a basic item; in widespread use _____
c. cruel or unkind _____
d. pleasant or looking good _____
e. things such as mobile phones, cars _____
f. a time when there is no food _____
g. a lack of money, food, or possessions _____
h. to manage to stay alive _____
i. providing for growth and health _____
j. the state of being without a paid job _____
k. a prickly desert plant _____
l. in the old way, not modern _____
m. the state of being overweight _____
n. a solid, powder, or liquid _____

7 *Complete the following sentences, using the target vocabulary.*

a. Food that is _____ is healthy and helps us grow.
b. Hoodia looks like a _____ but is not actually related.
c. In recent times, the San people have begun to suffer from _____ because they drink too much.
d. They have few _____ _____ as they live simply and move around a lot.
e. As they also have problems such as poverty and unemployment, the San lifestyle is not very _____ to outsiders.
f. These days, it is difficult for the San to maintain their _____ lifestyle and culture.
g. In the old days, the San people used hoodia to help them _____ when food was difficult to find.
h. A _____ in hoodia seems to stop people feeling hungry.
i. A major problem in many countries is _____ as people eat too much fatty food and do not exercise enough.

Text Structure

This reading passage has four main parts.

- It describes the San people and their lifestyle, now and in the past.
- It discusses the use of food plants for medicine.
- It describes the problem of obesity in the West.
- It describes how people hope hoodia might provide a solution.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

8 *Read carefully through the passage again, and:*

- Highlight or underline those sentences which introduce the San and their way of life,
- In a different colour, mark all the sentences which discuss plants, including hoodia, as medicine,
- In a third colour, mark the sentences which discuss obesity,
- Finally, mark all the sentences which discuss how hoodia can solve obesity in the developed world.
  Note: There may be some overlap.

Note Completion

9 *Complete these notes.*

The San – Live in the Kalahari _____

Lifestyle: traditional hunter-gatherers, _____ -year-old culture

Problems: _____, poverty, unemployment

Old way of life: _____ fast

Plants – Grown for

- Eating – e.g. rice, _____
- _____ – e.g. garlic, _____, magnolia

Hoodia – Grows where _____ live

- Used for _____ during _____ or drought
- Contains _____ – brain thinks _____ is full
- Therefore, _____ countries want it

_____ in developed countries – Big _____ for adults and _____

Numbers:

- up to 50% – overweight
- _____ – _____
- 30% – _____ children heavy

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Causes - Too much food, _____ food

Past time

- food - simple, _____, less _____, _____

Today

- _____, more money - _____ foods
- high _____, _____, _____

Solution - Western people want to _____

- use _____
- pay _____ for the plant
- the San _____
- _____ lose weight

LIVEWORKSHEETS