A - READING

PASSAGE 1:

You should spend about 20 minutes on question 1-13, which are based on Reading passage 1 below.

South Pole Adventurer

In the race to the South Pole, there was a Japanese team attempting to be first, led by heroic explorer Nobu Shirase

FOR a few weeks in January 1912, Antarctica was full of explorers. Norwegian Roald Amundsen had reached the South Pole on 14 December and was speeding back to the coast. On 17 January, Robert Scott and the men of the British Antarctic expedition had arrived at the pole to find they had been beaten to it. Just then, a third man arrived; Japanese explorer Nobu Shirase. However, his part in one of the greatest adventure stories of the 20th century is hardly known outside his own country, even by fellow explorers. Yet as Scott was nearing the pole and with the rest of the world still unaware of Amundsen's triumph, Shirase and his team sailed into Antarctica's Bay of Whales in the smallest ship ever to try its luck in these dangerous waters.

Since boyhood Shirase had dreamed of becoming a polar explorer. Like Amundsen, he initially set his sights on the North Pole. But after the American Robert Peary claimed to have reached it in 1909, both men hastily altered their plans. Instead they would aim for the last big prize: the South Pole. In January 1910, Shirase put his plans before Japanese government officials, promising to raise the flag at the South Pole within three years. For many of them, the question wasn't could he do it but why would it be worth doing? 15 years earlier the International Geographical Congress had said that as the last unknown continent the Antarctic offered the chance to add to knowledge in almost every branch of science. So, like the British, Shirase presented his expedition as a search for knowledge: he would bring back fossils, make meteorological measurements and explore unknown parts of the continent.

The response from the government was cool, however, and Shirase struggled to raise funds. Fortunately, a few months later, Japan's former prime minister Shigenobu Okuma came to Shirase's rescue. With Okuma's backing, Shirase got together just enough money to buy and equip a small ship. He eventually acquired a scientist, too, called Terutaro Takeda. At the end of November 1910, his ship the *Kainan Maru* finally left Tokyo with 27 men and 28 Siberian dogs on board. Before leaving, Shirase confidently outlined his plans to the media. He would sail to New Zealand, then reach Antarctica in February, during the southern summer, and then proceed to the pole the following spring. This was not to be, however. Bad weather delayed the expedition and they didn't reach New Zealand until 8 February; Amundsen and Scott had already been in Antarctica for a month, preparing for winter.

In New Zealand local reporters were astonished: the ship was half the size of Amundsen's ship. True, it was reinforced with iron plate and extra wood, but the ship had only the feeblest engine to help force its way through ice. Few doubted Shirase's courage, but most reckoned the expedition to be ill-prepared as the Japanese had only lightweight sledges for transport across the ice, made of bamboo and wood.

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But Shirase's biggest challenge was time. Antarctica is only accessible by sea for a few weeks in summer and expeditions usually aimed to arrive in January or February. 'Even with their determination and daring, our Japanese friends are running it rather fine,' wrote local reporters. Nevertheless, on 11 February the *Kainan Maru* left New Zealand and sailed straight into the worst weather the captain had ever seen. Then, on 6 March, they approached the coastline of Antarctica's Ross Sea, looking for a place to land. The ice began to close in, threatening to trap them for the winter, an experience no one was likely to survive. With a remarkable piece of seamanship, the captain steered the ship out of the ice and turned north. They would have to wait out the winter in a warmer climate.

A year later than planned, Shirase and six men finally reached Antarctica. Catching up with Scott or Amundsen was out of the question and he had said he would stick to science this time. Yet Shirase still felt the pull of the pole and eventually decided he would head southward to experience the thrills and hardships of polar exploration he had always dreamed of. With provisions for 20 days, he and four men would see how far they could get.

Shirase set off on 20 January 1912 with Takeda and two dog handlers, leaving two men at the edge of the ice shelf to make meteorological measurements. For a week they struggled through one blizzard after another, holing up in their tents during the worst of the weather. The temperature fell to –25°C, and frostbite claimed some of the dogs. On 26 January, Shirase estimated there were enough provisions to continue for two more days. Two days later, he announced it was time to turn back. Takeda calculated they had reached 80° 5 south and had travelled 250 kilometres. The men hoisted the Japanese flag.

On 3 February, all the men were heading home. The ship reached Tokyo in June 1912 - and Shirase was greeted like a hero despite the fact that he never reached the pole. Nor did he contribute much to science - but then nor did Amundsen, whose only interest was in being first to the pole. Yet Shirase's expedition was heroic. They travelled beyond 80° south, one of only four teams to have gone so far south at the time. Furthermore, they did it all without the advantages of the other teams and with no previous experience.

QUESTION 1-8 : Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text? In boxes 6-9 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE: if the statement agrees with the information.

FALSE: If the statement contradicts the information.

NOT GIVEN: If there is no information on this.

1 Shirase's trip to the South Pole is well-known to other explorers.

2 Since Shirase arrived in Antarctica, smaller ships have also made the journey.

3 Shirase's original ambition was to travel to the North Pole.

4 Some Japanese officials thought Shirase's intention to travel to the South Pole was pointless.

5 The British team announced their decision to carry out scientific research in Antarctica before Shirase.

6 Shirase found it easy to raise the money he needed for his trip to the South Pole.

7 A previous prime minister of Japan persuaded a scientist to go with Shirase.

8 The weather that slowed down Shirase's progress to New Zealand was unusually bad for the season.

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QUESTIONS 9 – 13:

Choose the correct letter, A,B,C or D. Write your answers in boxes 9-13 on your answer sheet

9 When reporters in New Zealand met Shirase, they were
- **A** concerned about the quality of his equipment.
- **B** impressed with the design of his ship.
- **C** certain he was unaware of the dangers ahead.
- **D** surprised by the bravery he demonstrated.

10 What are we told about the captain of the *Kainan Maru* in the fifth paragraph?
- **A** He had given Shirase some poor advice.
- **B** His skill at sailing saved the boat and crew.
- **C** He refused to listen to the warnings of others.
- **D** He was originally confident they could reach Antarctica.

11 After Shirase finally reached Antarctica he realised that
- **A** he was unsure of the direction he should follow.
- **B** he would have to give up on fulfilling his personal ambition.
- **C** he might not have enough food to get to the South Pole.
- **D** he still wanted to compete in the race against the other teams.

12 What is the writer doing in the seventh paragraph?
- **A** criticising a decision concerning scientific research.
- **B** explaining why a particular mistake had occurred.
- **C** describing the conditions that the expedition faced.
- **D** rejecting the idea that Shirase was poorly prepared.

13 What is the writer's main point in the final paragraph?
- **A** Considering the problems Shirase had to deal with, his achievement was incredible.
- **B** In Japan, the reaction to Shirase's adventure in Antarctica came as a surprise to him.
- **C** It was obvious that Amundsen would receive more attention as an explorer than Shirase.
- **D** Shirase had achieved more on the Antarctic expedition than even he had expected.

B. LISTENING - SECTION 1 : QUESTIONS 1- 10

QUESTIONS 1-6:

Complete the table below. Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/ OR A NUMBER for each answer.

Community Centre Evening Classes

Class	Where	When	What to bring	Cost
Painting with watercolours	*Example* in the hall	at **1** ..... pm on Tuesdays	water jar and set of **2**	£45 – four classes
Maori language	the small room at the **3** ..... of the building	starts in **4**	small recorder	£40 – five classes
Digital photography	room 9	6 pm Wednesday evenings	the **5** ..... for the camera	**6** £..... – eight classes

QUESTIONS 7 - 10: Complete the sentences below. Write ONE WORD ONLY for each answer.

7 The watercolours class suits people who are ..... .

8 To find out about the Maori language class, contact Jason ..... .

9 For the photography class, check the ..... for the camera.

10 There is a trip to a local ..... in the final week of the photography class.

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