Day 4

READING PASSAGE 1

*You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1–13**, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.*

Questions 1–7

Reading Passage 1 has seven paragraphs, **A–G**.

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.

*Write the correct number, **i–x**, in boxes 1–7 on your answer sheet.*

List of Headings

i	The fastest breeds of horses
ii	Developing desirable characteristics
iii	Playing a less essential role
iv	Influencing the outcome of conflicts
v	What different breeds do best
vi	A wide range of uses for domestic horses
vii	Horses in agriculture
viii	An ancient species
ix	An ideal form of transport
x	What the earliest horses looked like

1 Section **A**

2 Section **B**

3 Section **C**

4 Section **D**

5 Section **E**

6 Section **F**

7 Section **G**

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The domestication of horses

A Horses have been racing across the landscape for around 55 million years – much longer than our own species has existed. However, prehistoric remains show that at the end of the Ice Age, some 10,000 years ago, wild horses died out in the Americas and dwindled in western Europe, for reasons that are not clear. But they continued to thrive on the steps of eastern Europe and Central Asia, where short grasses and shrubs grow on vast, dry stretches of land. Most scholars believe it was here that people domesticated the horse. However, the DNA of domestic horses is very diverse. This suggests they may be descended from a number of different wild horse populations, in several locations.

B Once horses and humans encountered each other, our two species became powerfully linked. Humans domesticated horses some 6,000 years ago, and over time, we have created more than 200 breeds. The first domestic horses were likely to have been kept mainly as a source of food, rather than for work or for riding. There is evidence of horses being raised for meat in Kazakhstan, in Central Asia, around 5,500 years ago; later they began to pull chariots, and horseback riding became common in Afghanistan and Iran about 4,000 years ago. As we have shaped horses to suit our needs on battlefields, farms and elsewhere, these animals have shaped human history. The ways we travel, trade, play, work and fight wars have all been profoundly shaped by our use of horses.

C When people domesticate animals, they control their behavior in many ways. For example, animals that are being domesticated no longer choose their own mates. Instead, people control their breeding. Individuals with traits that humans prefer are more likely to produce offspring and pass on their genes. In the course of several generations, both the body and behavior of the animal are transformed. In the wild, animals that are well adapted to their environment live long and reproduce, while others die young. In this way, nature "chooses" the traits that are passed on to the next generation. This is the process of evolution by natural selection. Domestic animals also evolve, but people do the selecting. Humans seek out qualities like tameness, and help animals with those traits to survive and bear young. This is evolution by artificial selection. Most domestic animals are naturally social. Their wild ancestors lived in groups, with individuals responding to each other – some led, others followed. In domestic animals, the tendency to submit to others is especially strong. Generations of breeding have encouraged them to let people take the lead.

D For more than 3,000 years, a fighter on horseback or horse-drawn chariot was the ultimate weapon. Time after time, from Asia to Europe to the Americas, the use of horses has changed the balance of power between civilizations. When people with horses clashed with those without, horses provided a huge advantage. When both sides had horses, battles turned on the strength and strategy of their mounted horsemen, or cavalry. Horses continued to define military tactics well into the 1900s, until they finally became outmoded by machine guns, tanks, airplanes and other modern weapons.

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E Horses are built for power. Their muscular bodies are heavier in the front than in the back, making them well balanced to pull heavy loads. Yet they can also be agile and quick – fit to carry out difficult tasks at top speed. So for more than a thousand years, people have called on the power of horses to cultivate the land and manage livestock.

F For most of human history, there was no faster way to travel over land than on a horse. When it comes to carrying people and their possessions, horses have two important advantages – they can run very fast and very far. Their speed and endurance are unusual for a creature so large, making them the most suitable animals to carry people and goods around the world. Horses offer other advantages as well. Since they eat grass, they can go almost anywhere that humans can, eating as they go. And unlike cows and camels, which must sit and rest to digest food, a horse's digestive system allows it to graze and walk the whole day without stopping. By carrying people, goods and ideas between civilizations, horses changed history.

G Today's horses are not used to carry soldiers into battle, and do not pull plows and stage-coaches as they once did. But horses are still part of our lives. Today the 58 million horses in the world are used more for companionship, sport and recreation than for work and warfare.

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Questions 8–10

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

In boxes 8–10 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*

8 The last of the wild horses lived around 10,000 years ago.

9 Initially people probably used domesticated horses to supplement their diet.

10 Methods of artificial selection have changed over the centuries.

Questions 11–13

Complete the sentences below.

Choose ***NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS*** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 11–13 on your answer sheet.

11 Having greater weight at the …… helps horses to pull heavy items.

12 As well as being quicker, horses have greater …… than most other large animals.

13 Because of the way their …… works, horses can keep moving all day long.

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