

READING PRACTICE

READING PASSAGE 1

The Life and Work of Virginia Woolf

Widely considered to be one of the greatest writers of her generation, Virginia Woolf was a defining figure in 20th century literature. Woolf's work is notable for its experimentation – she is credited with perfecting the 'stream-of-consciousness' style pioneered by Dorothy Richardson – and its ability to encapsulate emotional suffering and social strife. She was born Adeline Virginia Stephen in 1882 into a wealthy and well-connected London family. Along with her older sister Vanessa, she was home schooled, but she did benefit from the broad selection of acquaintances who would visit her family home. When she was thirteen, her mother passed away, a loss that led to Woolf's first nervous breakdown and began her life-long battle with mental health. After the death of her father, she moved with her siblings to 46 Gordon Square in Bloomsbury.

During this period of her life, a group of artists and writers began to form around Woolf and her sister Vanessa. They eventually became known as the Bloomsbury Group and were renowned for their artistic and political radicalism. Woolf embarked on her literary career in the years following her marriage to Leonard Woolf, another member of the group, publishing her first novel *The Voyage Out* in 1915. In 1925, Woolf published her most famous work, *Mrs Dalloway*, which is renowned for its use of the stream-of-consciousness technique. The novel focuses on a day in the life of Clarissa Dalloway, a society lady preparing to host a party in her London home.

Woolf would follow up this work with several other well-regarded novels, as well as the essay 'A Room of One's Own', which foreshadowed feminism with its argument that 'a woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write'. Woolf illustrates her point through a depiction of 'Shakespeare's sister,' a fictional character who, despite having been endowed with all the talent of her brother, is trapped in her home. Despite her success as a writer, Woolf's struggles with mental health continued, and in 1941 she took her own life. Since her death, her reputation has soared, and her works are now cherished around the world.

Questions 1–3

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

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 Virginia Woolf invented the stream-of-consciousness style of writing.
- 2 Woolf was educated but did not attend a school.
- 3 Woolf was the most famous member of the Bloomsbury Group.

Questions 4 and 5

Complete the notes below.

Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer.

Virginia Woolf: Novelist and Feminist

- Woolf's first novel, entitled *The Voyage Out*, was released after her 4
- *Mrs Dalloway* depicts a hostess setting up a party in her house in London.
 - Woolf suggested that a 5 of Shakespeare could not have been as successful as he had been.
- Woolf's reputation has grown significantly since her death.

READING PASSAGE 2

Food Miles: Assessing the Environmental Impact of Food Transportation

- A** The transportation of food has grown tremendously in recent decades. In the UK, the amount of food being flown in doubled during the 1990s. And the distance food travels by road has doubled since the 1970s. These trends have raised concerns about the environmental impact of shipping food. In 1994, the Sustainable Agriculture Food and Environment (SAFE) Alliance coined the term 'food miles' to highlight the ecological danger of long-distance food transport. In its simplest form, this term pertains to the distance food travels from the producer to the retail consumer. The potential environmental impact of food miles has caused many environmentalists to instead recommend the 'farm-to-table' concept, which involves buying only fresh, local food.
- B** To estimate the environmental impact of food miles, the 'miles' must be calculated using additional information, such as the quantity of energy used and the amount of carbon emitted. The goal is to determine the level of pollution a given shipment creates overall. A common calculation used by corporations for their emissions multiplies the distance (D), the weight (W), and an emission factor (EF). Multiplying the distance and weight provides the number of tonne-kilometres. Thus, a truck travelling 1,000 kilometres with 10 tonnes of cargo results in 10,000 tonne-kilometres. The emission factor is a known rate for a given truck, such as 160 grams of CO₂ per tonne-kilometre. Such a shipment would release 1,600,000 grams, or 1.6 tonnes, of CO₂ into the atmosphere.
- C** Yet some researchers feel that focusing on post-production food miles obscures the big picture. Christopher Weber and Scott Matthews of Carnegie Mellon University have compared the greenhouse gas emissions of long-distance food transport with those of the food production process itself. According to them, transportation from producer to consumer represents only four per cent of the total 'carbon footprint'. In contrast, the actual production of food represents an astonishing 83 per cent. Consequently, the researchers believe that eating food that can be produced with less energy has a much bigger impact than simply buying foods produced closer to home. For instance, beef production generates 1.5 times more greenhouse gas emissions than producing chicken. Therefore, substituting chicken for beef at meals would significantly cut these food-related emissions.

Questions 6 and 7

Complete the summary below.

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

Calculating the Impact of Food Trade

The import and export of food around the world is a massive business that has a significant impact on the environment. To emphasise the 6 of food transport over long distances, SAFE Alliance came up with the term 'food miles'. The term refers to how far food travels from the producer to the 7 This idea of calculating the environmental effect of food transportation has been influential in encouraging people to buy local produce.

Questions 8 and 9

Reading Passage 2 has three paragraphs, **A–C**.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

- 8 a reference to the different levels of pollution caused by two types of food
- 9 a description of the formula used to calculate corporate emissions

READING PASSAGE 3

The Spread of Agriculture in the Neolithic Era

The most significant revolution in human history happened in the Neolithic era

The Neolithic era marks humanity's shift from hunting its food to farming it, a change that would have immense consequences. This era is also known as the 'New Stone Age', to distinguish it from the 'Old Stone Age' or palaeolithic period. The name 'Neolithic' is in fact derived from the Greek for stone, 'lithic', and 'neo', meaning new. In Europe, the Neolithic period began around 7000 BCE, which is when the first farming communities appeared in Greece. According to archaeologists, the Neolithic expansion then gradually moved from the southeast to the northwest of Europe, spreading at a pace of one kilometre every year and thereby overlapping with both the Mesolithic era and the Bronze Age.

Europe's Neolithic development was part of the wider 'Neolithic Revolution', which saw a large-scale change in human existence. The fundamental difference was the shift away from the hunter-gatherer lifestyle towards settled agriculture. Agricultural techniques such as irrigation were essential to this shift since they allowed humans to produce a surplus of food, which would

subsequently facilitate the growth of the population. Eventually, the shift to agriculture also led to the growth of political systems, trade, and tools of communication such as writing.

The Neolithic Revolution began in what is now the Middle East, starting in the Levant in around 10,000 BCE, before spreading to Europe via Anatolia. The evidence for this spread is mainly confined to the types of plants that were being grown in Neolithic sites in Europe, which included lentils, barley and einkorn. Genetic research has even shown that all domesticated animals in Neolithic Europe were probably from the Levant. Although the evidence for the spread of settled agriculture from the Levant into Europe is compelling, archaeologists are divided on how exactly this influence occurred. Some claim that it was caused by migration from the Middle East into Europe, while others believe that it was a result of trading between Europeans and communities from the Levant.

Three competing models have been proposed to explain how Europeans adopted agriculture. These are the replacement model, which suggests

that migrating farmers managed to oust the European populations; the cultural diffusion model, which states that trade was responsible for this shift; and the pioneer model, which synthesises the two other models. If the replacement model is correct, then Europeans would be descended from Levantine farmers since the latter's advanced food production methods would have allowed them to forcibly push the European hunter-gatherers out of their territory. The most likely scenario, however, given the irregular spread of agriculture throughout Europe, is the pioneer model, which combines migration and trade.

Almost all Neolithic people across Europe eventually survived on a diet of locally grown crops and domesticated animals. This diet has been cited as one reason that the Neolithic revolution was a negative development, since it meant that the nutrition levels of settled populations were substandard compared to those of hunter-gatherers, who would eat an array of wild produce. Archaeologists have also argued that living in agricultural

settlements actually led to lower life expectancy and a weaker, smaller body. There is indeed evidence that the average height of people living in the Neolithic period fell by around five inches and did not recover until the twentieth century. Furthermore, the settled existence of Neolithic farmers led to the spread of disease and infection, either from human waste or from animals. These long-term consequences were, of course, not visible to the Neolithic people themselves and are only evident when events are viewed through the long lens of history.

Questions 10 and 11

*Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.*

- 10 Agricultural techniques were important because they
- A** produced enough food for a growing population.
 - B** made growing crops much faster.
 - C** led to the development of religious practices.
 - D** provided clean drinking water.
- 11 The spread of the Neolithic Revolution in Europe was evident in
- A** the new political systems that emerged.
 - B** the type of settlement that was being built.
 - C** the development of a writing system.
 - D** the type of crops that were harvested.

Questions 12 and 13

*Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.*

Which **TWO** reasons are mentioned for why settled agriculture was a negative phenomenon?

- A** It led to conflict between communities.
- B** It promoted an unhealthier diet.
- C** It meant that people had to work longer in the fields.
- D** It led to the loss of hunter-gatherer traditions.
- E** It contributed to an increase in illnesses.

Questions 14–18

Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading Passage 3?

Write

- YES** *if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer*
NO *if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer*
NOT GIVEN *if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this*

- 14 Levantine animals were used in Neolithic Europe.
- 15 The replacement theory suggests that the Levantines forced the hunter-gatherers out.
- 16 It is most likely that Neolithic agriculture practices were spread solely through migration.
- 17 The smaller bodies of the Neolithic people made them more vulnerable to attack.
- 18 The Neolithic people were aware of the long-lasting impact of agriculture on them.