

IELTS 4.0 READING TEST

Time allowance: 40 minutes

READING PASSAGE 1

Questions 1 – 5

Reading passage 1 has five paragraphs, A – E.

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

Write the correct number, i - vii, in boxes 1 – 5 on your answer sheet.

List of Headings

- i. Whose side of family: the mother's or the father's?
- ii. How is society changing?
- iii. Who is more important: the person or the group?
- iv. Who makes which decisions?
- v. How well do families get on with each other?
- vi. Who shares your home?

- 1. Paragraph A _____
- 2. Paragraph B _____
- 3. Paragraph C _____
- 4. Paragraph D _____
- 5. Paragraph E _____

The meaning of family

We all know that each family is unique and that families differ around the world, but how?

A.

We are all individual people, and we are all members of society, too. Cultures differ in the relationship between the individual and the community. Some cultures focus on the significance of each individual; some believe that the interests of the community matter more than those of the individual. This has an impact on attitudes towards family life. Cultures that value individuality focus on the individual's right to independence and a private life. Cultures that give greater value to the community say that individuals must put the wishes of their family and their society before their own individual wishes.

B.

Many western cultures place a high value on the individual. In these cultures, people live in 'nuclear families.' This means that only the parents and their children live together. In many other cultures, people live in 'extended families.' In these families, children are not only close to their immediate family; they also have very strong relationships with their grandparents as well as their aunts, uncles and cousins. The different generations of extended families often live together in one house.

C.

In modern nuclear families, the mother and father usually decide together how they want to live and how they will educate their children. In extended families, there is often a more traditional sharing of responsibility. The father is usually responsible for life outside the home. He, for example, is responsible for financial and legal decisions. It is usually a woman – the mother or sometimes the grandmother – who was responsible for life inside the home. She chooses, for instance, what the family will eat and what colour the walls will be.

D.

Another difference is the relative importance of the man's and the woman's family when a couple marry and have children. In most European cultures, children traditionally take their father's surname, but they are not 'more related' to either their father's or their mother's family. This is not always the case in other cultures. In Middle Eastern families, for example, the father's family is often the more important one. However, in some American Indian and African cultures, children are, first and foremost, members of their mother's family.

E.

Nowadays, many societies are multicultural, so everyone has to understand that cultural differences affect family relationships. It is important to remember, however, that cultures do not stand still. This means that we cannot know for sure what a person's attitude towards their family is today just because they come from a particular culture.

READING PASSAGE 2

SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE MEANING OF FRIENDSHIP

There have been a lot of scientific studies into what makes a friendship. It seems today that ideas of what friendship is are also changing. A study in 1993 at the University of Oxford showed that people could only maintain 150 relationships. However, with the explosion of social media since then, many people now have over 300 people who they think of as friends. Some people think that these friends are not real friends, but others believe that social media has helped us to expand and keep our friendships because we have more time and opportunities.

Another change from the past is that people don't stay in the place where they were born. They go to different cities and countries for education and jobs. People are in general more geographically mobile nowadays. This means that we have more chances to meet and make friends with people from different cultures and different backgrounds. People still often make friends at college who remain friends for life, but making new friends at work is more difficult. People now have less security at work, and this also means that they find it harder to build new relationships.

As people get older, they sometimes also have less free time. They become busier with their jobs and families and have less time to spend with friends. Friendships can be very different when we are at different ages. Young children often choose their friends because of convenience, for example, they go to the same school, they live near each other or their parents are friends. As we get older, friendships are more connected with having similar interests and opinions.

One thing is definitely true though, it doesn't matter how old we are or how many friends we have on social media, friendship is good for our health. People who spend time with friends have fewer mental health problems and are generally happier and in a better physical state of health than people who spend their free time alone.

Questions 6 - 10

Answer the questions below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

6. What has enabled people to have more friends than in the past, according to some people?
7. What phrase does the writer use to describe people who don't stay in the same place?
8. What work-related problem do people have that makes them less likely to form friendships?
9. What frequently influences the friendships of young children?
10. What are people with friends less likely to suffer from?

READING PASSAGE 3

PARKOUR

A.

Parkour was developed in France in the 1980s by Raymond Belle and later by his son David Belle and his friends. It is based on military obstacle course training. The aim is to get from one point to another in any way you can, and express yourself while doing so. There are no limits on how you move in parkour: running, climbing, swinging, jumping, rolling and any other types of movement are possible. Parkour is more of a philosophy or set of ideas than a sport. It is a new way of seeing the environment and finding ways to go over, under, around, across, or through obstacles.

B.

Parkour can be done alone or in groups. The most famous group of traceurs (people who do parkour) were the Yamakasi, a group made of David Belle and his friends and cousins. They formed in the late 1980s and became popular during the 1990s and 2000s after appearing in several films, documentaries and advertisements. In the Yamakasi, there were strict rules. Members had to arrive on time, and they were not allowed to complain or make excuses. They valued humility, so they were not allowed to show off or compete with other members.

C.

Parkour is a 'state of mind.' It is about getting over mental as well as physical barriers. It teaches people to touch the world and interact with it. It is about understanding what it means to be human. The organisation Parkour.net believes that parkour can never be a competitive sport. It is an art and is concerned with self-development. They say you can't ask, 'Who's the best at parkour?' Raymond Belle's advice is: 'If two roads open up before you, always take the more difficult one. Because you know you can travel the easy one.'

D.

There are some gyms and camps where you can practise and learn parkour. However, many traceurs do not like the idea of special places for their activity. The idea behind parkour is to adapt to any environment and be creative about how you get through it. It is about freedom and self-expression. The founder of parkour refused to teach people who to do moves or get over obstacles. The whole point is to learn your own technique and way of moving, so the idea of having classes or a limited space to practise in conflicts with the values of parkour.

E.

Parkour is also known as freerunning. Sometimes freerunning refers to another form of parkour developed by Sebastien Foucan, which has more focus on the individual. The term freerunning came out of the film *Jump London* (2003). It told the story of three French traceurs practicing parkour around the famous monuments of London. Freerunning was the English translation of parkour. There are more similarities than differences between the two activities, and the Parkour UK website uses the two terms to refer to the same activity.

Questions 11 – 18

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 3?

In boxes 11 – 18 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE	<i>if the statement agrees with the information</i>
FALSE	<i>if the statement contradicts the information</i>
NOT GIVEN	<i>if there is no information on this</i>

11. You have to use a limited number of moves in parkour.
12. Parkour is mainly done in the countryside.
13. Parkour began in the twentieth century.
14. The Yamakasi did not allow latecomers.
15. When doing parkour, Raymond Belle recommends that you always choose the easy route.
16. There are many gyms in France where you can do parkour.
17. The founder of parkour was a very good teacher of parkour.
18. Freerunning and parkour are similar.

Questions 19 – 25

Complete the summary of the text using the list of words A – M below.

A. agrees	B. barriers	C. competition	D. conflicts	E. creativity
F. latecomers	G. move	H. moving	I. personal	J. respect
K. team	L. tournaments	M. traceurs		

Parkour is an activity that involves (19.) _____ in many different ways through different environments. People who practice parkour are called (20.) _____. They believe that parkour is not a sport and can never be part of a (21.) _____. The values of parkour are adaptability, (22.) _____ and freedom. Parkour should not be taught because it is about discovering your own way of moving and overcoming (23.) _____. Although there are gyms and other places where you can learn and practise parkour, many feel that this (24.) _____ with the values of the discipline. Freerunning is a type of parkour. However, it is more about (25.) _____ development than parkour, which is often, but not always, done as part of a group.