

# TEST 03 - READING 03

NAME:.....

## Reading Passage 3

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 28–40, which are based on Reading Passage 3 below.

# PHYSICIAN, RULE THYSELF!

## *Professions and self-regulation*

**A** When is an occupation a profession?

There appears to be no absolute definition, but only different ways of looking at the issue, from historical, cultural, sociological, moral, political, ethical or philosophical viewpoints. It is often said that professions are elites who undertake specialized, selfless work, in accordance with ethical codes, and that their work is guaranteed by examination and a licence to practise. In return, however, they request exclusive control over a body of knowledge, freedom to practise, special rewards and higher financial and economic status.

**B** The public needs experts to offer them specialist advice, but because this advice is specialized they are not in a position to know what advice they need: this has to be defined in conversation with the professional. Professional judgement could be at odds with client satisfaction since the latter cannot then be "the chief measure of whether the professional has acted in a trustworthy fashion."

Professional elites have negative potential: to exploit their power and prestige for economic goals; to allow the search for the necessary theoretical or scientific knowledge to become an end in itself; to lose sight of client well-being in the continuing fragmentation of specialist knowledge.

**C** Professions in different cultures are

subject to different levels of state intervention, and are shaped by this. In England our relatively weak state and the organic growth of professional groups, many of them licensed by Royal Charter, means that regulation became an arrangement among elites. Similarly, in the US, where liberal market principles have had a free rein, academic institutions have had more influence than the state in the development of the professions. By contrast, in many European countries the state has defined and controlled the market for the professions since the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In all cases, the activities of the professions affect public interest, and so the state has a legitimate interest in them.

**D** In general, the higher the social status

of a profession the greater the degree of public trust in it, and the more freedom to operate it enjoys. There are, however, certain features which appear to be common to most, if not all, professions. In addition to a specialised knowledge base, it appears that there is an agreed set of qualifications and experience which constitutes a licence to practise. There is also frequently an agreed title or form of address, coupled with a particular, often conservative, public image, and an accepted mode of dress. Standards are

maintained mainly through self-regulatory bodies. Also, financial rewards may be increased through private practice.

**E** Within different cultures, and at different times, the relative status of different professions may vary. For example, in Western Europe, the status of politicians has been in long-term decline since the middle of the twentieth century. Teachers would appear to have higher status in France and Italy than in the UK, where medicine and the law have traditionally been the 'elite professions'.

**F** The higher a profession's social status the more freedom it enjoys. Therefore, an occupation wanting to maintain or improve its status will try to retain as much control as possible over its own affairs. As in so many other areas, socio-cultural change has affected the professions considerably in recent years. Market forces and social pressures have forced professionals to be more open about their modes of practice. In addition, information technology has enabled the public to become much better informed, and therefore more demanding. Moreover, developments in professional knowledge itself have forced a greater degree of specialisation on experts, who constantly have to retrain and do research to maintain their position.

**G** Self-regulation then becomes an even more important thing for a profession to maintain or extend. But in whose interests? Is self-regulation used to enable a profession to properly practise without undue interference, or is it used to maintain the status of the profession for its own ends? Is it used to enable those with appropriate education and training to join the profession? Another question that needs to be answered is whether self-regulation restricts access so that the profession retains its social and economic privileges? Or again is it used to protect clients by appropriately disciplining those who have transgressed professional norms, or to protect the public image of the profession by concealing allegations that would damage it?

**H** These are all questions which the medical profession in the UK has recently had to address, and which remain the subject of continuing debate. One thing is clear, however: the higher a profession's status, the better equipped it is to meet these challenges.

### Questions 28–32

Reading Passage 3 has eight paragraphs A–H.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

Write the correct letter A–H in boxes 28–32 on your answer sheet.

- 28 how professionals have adjusted to socio-cultural developments
- 29 the typical characteristics that a profession has
- 30 the role that is played by governments in different countries
- 31 a description of the relationship between professionals and their clients
- 32 the fact that there is no clear definition of what a profession is

### Questions 33–37

Complete the sentences.

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

Write your answers in boxes 33–37 on your answer sheet.

- 33 Professionals cannot always ensure that the ..... given will satisfy the client.
- 34 Liberal market principles in the US have meant that the state has had less impact on the development of the professions than .....
- 35 An agreed set of qualifications and experience give professionals a .....
- 36 Over the past 50 years or so, the status of politicians has been in .....
- 37 There is a doubt as to whether ..... is a mechanism to safeguard a profession's social and economic privileges.

### Questions 38–40

Complete the table.

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

Write your answers in boxes 38–40 on your answer sheet.

#### Impact of socio-cultural change on professions

Factors	Implications
Various public influences	professionals 38 ..... about work.
Modern technology	people more knowledgeable and so more 39 .....
Progress in professional knowledge	a greater degree of 40 ..... needed

Before you check your answers to Reading Passage 3, go on to page 86.

**Further practice for Reading Passage 3**

Matching sentences is like matching paragraph headings. However, there may be one or more of the sentences which relate to part of a paragraph rather than a whole paragraph.

Choose *True(T)* or *False(F)* for the following sentences.

**Question 28**

Look at paragraph F.

- 1 The paragraph describes different ways professionals have changed.
- 2 The paragraph links the ways with phrases like *in addition*, *moreover*.
- 3 The word *how* means *way(s) by which*.

**Question 29**

Look at paragraph D.

- 1 The word *characteristics* is plural, meaning *more than one*.
- 2 There is more than one linking word meaning *in addition*.
- 3 The word *features* does not mean the same as *characteristics*.

**Question 30**

Look at paragraph C. Why is each statement below true?

- 1 *Different* and *countries* in the question mean there is more than one country.

.....

- 2 The word *controlled* in the paragraph is related to the word *role*.

.....

- 3 Words like *state intervention*, *shaped*, *regulation*, *licensed* etc. are connected with control.

**Question 31**

Look at paragraph B. Which statements are *True(T)* / *False(F)*? Correct those which are false.

T/F	1 The word <i>client</i> is not related to the word <i>professional</i> in the paragraph.	T/F
T/F	2 The client/professional relationship is not explained in G.	T/F
T/F	3 The phrase <i>between professional and clients</i> explains the relationship.	T/F

**Question 32**

Look at paragraph A. Which statements are *True(T)* / *False(F)*? Correct those which are false.

T/F	1 The question in the first sentence gives you a clue.	T/F
T/F	2 The second sentence confirms this: ... <i>no absolute definition</i> .	T/F
T/F	3 The whole paragraph is about the lack of clear definition.	T/F

Now check your answers to these exercises. When you have done so, decide whether you wish to change any of your answers to Reading Passage 3. Then check your answers to Reading Passage 3.