

University criminologist James Alan Fox, "temporary sociopaths - impulsive and immature." If they also have easy access to guns and drugs, they can be extremely dangerous. For all the heartening news offered by recent crime statistics, there is an ominous flip side. While the crime rate is dropping for adults, it is soaring for teens. Between 1990 and 1994, the rate at which adults age 25 and older committed homicides declined 22%; yet the rate jumped 16% for youths between 14 and 17, the age group that in the early '90s supplanted 18- to 24-year-olds as the most crime-prone. And that is precisely the age group that will be booming in the next decade. There are currently 39 million children under 10 in the U.S., more than at any time since the 1950s. "This is the calm before the crime storm," says Fox. "So long as we fool ourselves in thinking that we're winning the war against crime, we may be blindsided by this bloodbath of teenage violence that is lurking in the future."

1. The general crime rate in the US is
 - A. increasing
 - B. decreasing
 - C. not changing
2. The age group which commits the highest rate of crime is
 - A. 14 - 17
 - B. 18 - 24
 - C. 24+
3. James Fox believes that the improvement in crime figures could
 - A. make us complacent in the fight against crime.
 - B. result in an increase in teenage violence.
 - C. result in a decrease in teenage violence.

EXAM PRACTICE

Exercise 1⁶³. Read the passage and do the following task

English	Part of speech	Vietnamese
Organic	adj	
Conventional	adj	Truyền thống
Produce	Noun	
Chemical fertilizers	noun phrases	Phân bón hóa học
Pesticides	noun	
Artificial	adj	Nhân tạo

The Growing Popularity of Organic Food

At the supermarket these days, there is often a section or aisle that sells just organic products. There are also many new stores opening up that specialize just in organic fruits and vegetables. Organic food is becoming more and more popular these days due to concerns about the safety of conventionally grown food. Organically grown produce, though, is often more expensive to buy. Consumers need to understand why something is labeled 'organic' in order to make the best choices when purchasing food for themselves and their families.

Several factors contribute to this higher price. Though there are some small differences, government agencies across the world agree on what qualifies a product as organic: such products must be grown without chemical fertilizers or pesticides. Also, livestock, such as cows, pigs, and chickens, must not be injected with artificial growth hormones or antibiotics. These standards result in food that is generally healthier and tastier. Without harsh pesticides and chemical fertilizers, crop plants produce more antioxidants and other beneficial nutrients. The farmer, their families, and their communities also benefit from a cleaner and safer environment. Fertilizer runoff is a major environmental problem and affects places far away from farms. Their mass production also contributes to global warming. Organic production techniques encourage environmental stewardship for the

⁶³ Tham khảo: The best preparation for IELTS Reading, page 21

Earth and long-term agricultural sustainability. Those standards ensure a safe and nutritious supply of food from organic farms.

Read the passage and answer the following multiple-choice questions by circling the letter of the correct answer.

1. What is one disadvantage of organic food?

- A. No one knows their effect on people's health and the environment.
- B. They often cost more than conventionally grown foods.
- C. Organic foods aren't readily available.
- D. They don't taste as good as other types of food.

2. Which of the following is a criterion for certification of organic food?

- A. It must have a minimum standard for taste and appearance.
- B. No artificial substances can be used in growing the food.
- C. Organic food must be grown in special areas.
- D. They must be sold at a special price in supermarkets.

3. Who would most likely determine if something is considered organic?

- A. An individual farmer raising corn
- B. A consumer advocacy group
- C. Scientists doing agricultural research
- D. The Ministry of Agriculture

4. What is one problem with conventional farming?

- A. Manufacturing fertilizer increases greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
- B. The surplus of food grown is too large.
- C. The market for crops becomes imbalanced.

D. Farmers can't get enough supplies.

5. What is one benefit of growing organic food?

A. There is more stability in food prices.

B. People are able to eat more.

C. Those who grow the food are healthier.

D. The food supply is predictable.

Exercise 2⁶⁴. Read the passage and do the following task

English	Part of speech	Vietnamese
Blog	noun	
Text entry	noun	
Audience	Noun	
Comment thread	noun	

Just ten years after the coining of the term 'blog', or web log, there are now over one hundred million of them. At current growth rates, the number of new blogs created is doubling about every five months. They are not simply personal diaries or journals. Blogs are meant for a larger audience. Whether that audience consists of just a small circle of friends or millions of people dedicated to a political cause, blogs offer a way to connect with each other and share ideas.

The first blogs required some technical expertise to maintain and publish the site. As the Internet has grown, blogging sites have developed to the point where people need no specialized knowledge. Anyone with access to a computer and the Internet can upload their text entries, which are the core of what a blog is. People write on every sort of subject: daily activities, celebrity gossip, political news, or their travelling experiences. The blogger can also include embedded hypertext links to other relevant websites. Others who see these entries can then post comments on them. On the most popular blog sites, comment threads can run many times longer than the original entry.

⁶⁴ Tham khảo: The best preparation for IELTS Reading, page 35

Usually, along the side of the blog, there are links to other blogs. This blogroll can consist merely of the writer's friends, or can be other thematically similar blogs. These links not only help to define what kind of blogging is done on the site, but also help to increase visibility and to produce better search results.

Read the passage and choose the correct answer.

1. In recent times, blogs have

- A. grown at a very fast pace.
- B. transformed completely several times.
- C. become unfashionable and unpopular.
- D. not broken into the mainstream.

2. Over the years, blogs have become

- A. quite irrelevant in people's daily life.
- B. increasingly complicated to use.
- C. unusually wordy and ungrammatical.
- D. less difficult to create and to update.

3. Blog posts can

- A. only discuss a narrow range of subjects.
- B. include long discussions through readers' comments.
- C. inhibit the flow of ideas.
- D. replace all mainstream media.

4. People do not link their blogs to other sites to

- A. decrease traffic on competing blogs.
- B. shape what their blog is about.

- C. attract readers who have similar interests.
- D. appear more prominently on search engines.

Exercise 3⁶⁵. Read the passage below and do the following task

English	Part of speech	Vietnamese
Chess piece	noun	
opponent	noun	Đối thủ
Capture	verb	
Embody	verb	
Mobile	adj	
The King	noun	Quân vua
The queen	noun	

Western Chess

The game of chess is thousands of years old. Chess has been played for so long now that its place of origin is unclear. Regardless of where the game was first played, it eventually reached ancient Persia. In the 8th century CE, conquering armies swept out from the Arabian Peninsula creating an empire that stretched from India to Spain. From Persia, the game of chess traveled throughout the empire to Spain, and from there, to the rest of Europe.

Chess pieces and their functions are a small reflection of medieval European life. The pawns are the most numerous type on the board and are often sacrificed to protect other pieces. They represent serfs in the feudal system who were tied to the land they worked on and had no say in the destiny of their own lives.

The two rooks are set on each side of the back row and are like the castles that protected the nobles and the clergymen. The knights are the only pieces that move in an 'L' shape, much like how the mounted and armored warriors had the ability to outflank opponents.

⁶⁵ Tham khảo: The best preparation for IELTS Reading, page 39

The Church in medieval times was much more relevant in daily life and politics than even now and was represented by the bishops, which sat on both sides of the king and queen.

The queen is the most powerful chess piece on the whole board, though not the most important. It is an interesting commentary on the precarious positions of such people in medieval court life. The mobility of the king in chess is very limited, considering that it is the most important piece in the game. Only the pawn has fewer options when moving. The loss of one's king loses the game and thus speaks to their importance in the Middle Ages as a physical embodiment of the state.

Choose FOUR letters, **A-I**.

NB Your answers may be given in any order.

Which FOUR of the following statements are true of European chess?

- A** In chess, the king cannot be moved.
- B** Capturing the opponent's king wins the game.
- C** Rooks, representing stone castles, are the strongest pieces in the game.
- D** Historians have pinpointed the exact time and place where chess was created.
- E** The pawn is the least mobile of all the pieces.
- F** Chess has a short history since people started playing it only recently.
- G** The game of chess embodies European life in the Middle Ages.
- H** European chess started in a different area of the world.
- I** If all of a player's pawns are taken, he or she loses the game.