

# Reading

(25 questions – 30 minutes)

**01** Choose one word (A, B or C) for each space and write the letter on the answer paper.

The first one (0) is done for you as an example with the answer A marked on your answer paper.

EXAMPLE 0	A. information	B. eat	C. watch
1	A. hour	B. afternoon	C. week
2	A. say	B. tell	C. speak
3	A. when	B. where	C. what
4	A. then	B. next	C. later
5	A. home	B. traffic	C. job

Dear Simon,

Can you give me some \_\_\_\_\_ about the meeting tomorrow?

Is the meeting in the morning or the \_\_\_\_\_?

Can you \_\_\_\_\_ me the number of the meeting room? I don't

know \_\_\_\_\_ the meeting is about.

Please call me \_\_\_\_\_ today.

I will be at \_\_\_\_\_ all day.

Regards,

Samantha

02

Order the sentences (B-G) below to make a story.  
Write your answers on the answer paper (Questions 6-11).

The first sentence of the story (A) is given for you on the answer paper as an example.

## A Writer's Life

EXAMPLE: A Kim was born in 1890 into a rich family in the city of Leeds.

B Kim wrote her last book at the age of 90, and two months later died peacefully at home.

C When she was a young girl she was sent to France by her parents to live with her aunt.

D Kim's first full book, The Vengeance, was also very successful.

E As a young adult she achieved success writing short stories in England.

F Kim returned from the continent to England after five years.

G She eventually wrote over 100 books, for which she won the Grand Masters' Award.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7

03 Read the text and complete each gap with a word from the list at the bottom of the page. Read the texts and answer questions 12-18 on the next page.

## Bread

Bread is (0) \_\_\_\_\_ of the oldest foods made by man. There is archaeological (12) \_\_\_\_\_ that it was prepared in Europe as long as 30,000 years ago. Throughout history, bread has been a/an (13) \_\_\_\_\_ food in many cultures. The ancient Egyptians encouraged mothers to give their children (14) \_\_\_\_\_ of bread to take to school with them. Nowadays, bread is potentially the one food (15) \_\_\_\_\_ is eaten by people from every race and culture. A vast variety of traditions and beliefs connected with it have developed. In Scandinavia, it is (16) \_\_\_\_\_ that if a boy and girl eat from the same piece of bread, they will fall in love. Different types of bread include white and brown baked in a/an (17) \_\_\_\_\_ of sizes and shapes. It is widely (18) \_\_\_\_\_ and is cheap and easy to produce.

Example (0): K - one

A - which      B - whose      C - wondered      D - evidence      E - variety  
F - believed    G - available    H - plenty      I - basic      J - hold  
K - one

04

Read the text below. Match the headings A-H to the paragraphs 19-25.

Write your answers (A-H) on the answer paper. There is one more heading than you need. The answer to paragraph 0 is given on the answer paper as an example (J).

## The Hula Hoop

0. Many adults and children love the hula hoop, either for exercise or simply for fun. You can whirl it around your waist; spin it on your arms or legs or even rotate it around your neck at an extremely high speed. Hula hoops can be made from bendy wood or even strong grass twisted together. However, these days they are primarily solid plastic tubes. Hula hoops have endured throughout history, never quite fading away, and are still popular today.

19. So, when did this fascination for hula hooping really begin? Many believe it started in the 1950s, simply as a means of pleasure. However, it actually dates back much further, as far back as the fifth century in ancient Greece where it was a means of exercising. It re-emerged in thirteenth century Scotland as a therapy for those who suffered from heart disease or back conditions. In those early days it was simply called the 'hoop,' the word 'hula' was added by British soldiers on a visit to Hawaii in the nineteenth century; they believed that the action was similar to that of the traditional island Hula dance.

20. In 1950s America, Californian toy company Wham-O perfected a plastic version of the toy which attracted global interest. In as little as four months, 25 million of the hoops were sold. Within two years, over 100 million had been sold, starting a trend which swept throughout the country. In the USA alone, 50,000 were produced in a single day. Many people in countless corners of the world developed a passion for the trend, from infants to grandparents and from factory workers to CEOs.

21. Many popular songs were written about the hula hoop during the 1960s. Nevertheless, the toy's popularity began to fade over the next few decades. However, the hula hoop never completely vanished from the public arena and most toy stores continued to stock the toy. Recently it staged a spectacular revival, rallying a new generation of fans. Even the wife of the President of the USA was spotted 'hooping' on the White House Lawn. Nowadays, the circular toy has been incorporated in a range of fitness schemes. These use special weighted hoops to suit individual needs, including 'collapsible' ones designed for easy storage.

22. The hula hoop is associated with many different world records. In 1960, a group of American 11 year olds established a record for the longest 'non-stop' spinning session, lasting precisely 11 hours and 34 minutes. In 1976, an even younger contestant won an uninterrupted 10 hour 47 minutes contest at just eight years old. The present-day record holder, Bric Sorenson, was able to keep his hula hoop spinning from April 2 to April 6, 1987, accumulating an incredible 90 non-stop hours.

23. Another record is for 132 hoops spun by an individual at once. This record was established by Paul Blair on November 11, 2009, earning him the nickname "Dizzy Hips." This act involves participants holding all the hula hoops without any help from anyone else and spinning them between the shoulders and hips. As soon as the hoops have started to rotate competitors cannot touch them again with their hands. If they do, their record attempt fails.

24. In another record event, the contestant runs while simultaneously spinning. A ribbon tied around the hoop allows the judges to check if it is still revolving. The hoop must be rotating before crossing the starting line. If it ceases to spin, then contestants must stop and start it again. This is the only time that they can touch the hoop with their hands. The current female holder for this record is Australian Boo Crystal Chan, who completed 10 Km in one hour, 27 minutes and 25 seconds on March 12th 2009. The male champion, Paul "Dizzy Hips" Blair, was 20 minutes and 50 seconds faster than Boo.

25. In 2005, an American man, Ashrita Furman, successfully spun the world's largest hula hoop at 13.88 metres in diameter. While the heaviest recorded was actually a tractor tyre which weighed 53 pounds! This monster was spun for a total of 71 seconds in Austria, 2000, by Roman Schedler. And in Chung Cheng sport arena, Taiwan, on October 28, 2,496 people managed to spin their hula hoops at the same time for over three minutes without dropping one, making it the world record for mass simultaneous hula hooping.

## Headings

A	A Collection of Records	F	The Hula Hoop Goes Global
B	Without a Single Break	G	Spinning Multiple Hoops
C	Hooping Back In Fashion	H	Hooping and Running at the Same Time
D	Hooping Appeals to Both Genders Alike	J	What is it? (EXAMPLE)
E	Fun, Fitness or Treatment?		