Day 6

READING PASSAGE 3

*You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 27–40,** which are based on Reading Passage 3 below.*

A Maps vary enormously, from imposing images of the world and its parts to private jottings intended to give an approximate idea of the twentieth-century Antarctic. The materials on which maps are to be found, similarly range from scraps of paper to plaster walls, by way of parchment, copper coins, mosaics, marble, woollen tapestries, silk, gold and more. Attitudes towards maps also vary greatly, and are subject to modification over time.

B In recent decades, the view that maps should be assessed primarily in terms of their geometrical accuracy has radically changed. At the same time, they have become available to a range of disciplines. This development has been encouraged by the growing popularity of interdisciplinary studies and by the increasing awareness and appreciation of the importance of the visual – which may be a consequence of the spread of television and the internet, and the ease with which images can be created and manipulated in a digital environment. Academic historians of all types – social, political, diplomatic and fine art, literature specialists, and family historians take an interest in maps and find that they sometimes offer perspectives on their subjects that are not possible from other sources.

C All have contributed to a re-evaluation of the subject. It is accepted that for some purposes, such as administration and terrestrial and maritime navigation, mathematical accuracy still plays a major and even sometimes a paramount role in cartography. In other contexts, such as maps of underground railway systems, or maps used for propaganda purposes, such accuracy is irrelevant, and at times even undesirable. Conversely, the very aspects that tended traditionally to be condemned or disregarded, such as distortions and decoration, become of enormous significance. They can give particularly precious insights into the mentalities of past ages, and the views and lives of their creators, as well as being packed with more general cultural information such as the receptiveness to artistic fashions.

D For many map enthusiasts the fascination of maps ironically stems from their necessary lack of truth. They can be regarded as the most successful pieces of fiction ever to be created because most users instinctively suspend disbelief until they find that the map they are using does not give truthful information. Yet it has to be that way. Given the impossibility of representing the total reality, with all its complexity, on a flat surface, hard decisions have to be taken as to what features to select for accurate representation, or indeed for representation at all. For most

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of the time this process of selection is almost instinctive. The mapmaker knows the purpose he intends for his map, and beyond that he is unwittingly guided by the values and assumptions of the time in which he lives – unless these are in conflict with his own value systems, as was the case with Nicholas Philpot Leader in 1827. The map of Ireland (then part of the UK) that Leader commissioned was intended as a strong attack on the then British government.

E In order to meet the map's purpose, the information that is represented will be prioritized according to importance as perceived by the mapmaker – and not necessarily in accordance with actual geographical size. Even on modern national topographic mapping, such features as motorways will be shown far larger than they actually are because they are important to drivers and users will expect to see them without difficulty. Conversely, large features that are considered unimportant might be completely ignored or reduced in size, like parks and other public spaces in some town maps. Often maps will show things that are invisible in the real world, such as relative financial affluence, as in Charles Booth's maps of London in the nineteenth century, or the geology far below the surface of the planet, as in an 1823 map of the land around Bath.

F Sometimes the purpose of the map is even simpler and has nothing to do with geography. The Hereford World Map proclaims the insignificance of man in the face of the divine and the eternal. The plan of Ostia harbour of AD 64 primarily serves as a demonstration of the Emperor Nero's benevolence. Sometimes, as in depictions of the imaginary land of Utopia, physical reality is totally absent or so distorted as to be geographically meaningless. Instead the map serves as a commentary on the gap between the aspirations and the feeble achievements of mankind. The quality of a map must be judged by its ability to serve its purpose, and not simply by its scientific precision, and in that context aesthetic and design considerations are every bit as important as the mathematical, and often more so.

G Plainly, to interpret maps as having followed a path of ever-increasing scientific perfection over time is to miss the main point. In fact, they have responded to the mentalities, and met the requirements of the societies in which they have been created. In ancient Greece and Babylon, and in eighteenth- and twentieth-century Europe, the preoccupation with precision and the scientific indeed predominated. In early modern China and nineteenth-century Europe the administrative use of mapping came to the fore. By contrast, for long periods of time and in many civilizations, the major preoccupation was to define and to depict man's place in relationship to a religious view of the universe. This was particularly evident in medieval Europe and Aztec Mexico. Clearly, maps can only be fully understood in their social context.

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Questions 27–31

Reading Passage 3 has seven paragraphs, ***A–G.***

Which paragraph contains the following information?

Write the correct letter, ***A–G****, in boxes 27–31 on your answer sheet.*

27 Examples of maps showing features that cannot be seen on the ground.

28 A list of media that have been used in the creation of maps.

29 Examples of the main function of maps in various periods and places.

30 A contrast between different types of maps with regard to a requirement for accuracy.

31 Speculation about reasons for a change in attitudes towards maps.

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Questions 32–39

Match each map with the correct purpose, ***A–I****.*

Write the correct letter, ***A–I****, in boxes 32–39 on your answer sheet.*

32 maps of Utopia

33 Charles Booth's maps of London

34 map commissioned by Nicholas Philpot Leader

35 map of Bath area

36 early modern Chinese maps

37 map of the Antarctic

38 plan of Ostia harbour

39 Hereford World Map

A	to portray an area very roughly
B	to create a decorative work
C	to express political criticism
D	to show variations in wealth
E	to show differences below ground level
F	to show the unimportance of human beings
G	to glorify the ruler of the country
H	to contrast ideal and actual human development
I	to assist in the management of the country

Question 40

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

Write the correct letter in box 40 on your answer sheet.

40 What is the best title for Reading Passage 3?

A Differences in map-making around the world
B A growing interest in drawing maps
C Re-evaluating the role of maps
D Making maps more accurate

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