

IELTS Practice Tests Plus Volume 3

Reading Practice Test 4

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READING PASSAGE 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1-13, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.



Geoff Brash

Geoff Brash, who died in 2010, was a gregarious Australian businessman and philanthropist who encouraged the young to reach their potential.

Born in Melbourne to Elsa and Alfred Brash, he was educated at Scotch College. His sister, Barbara, became a renowned artist and printmaker. His father, Alfred, ran the Brash retail music business that had been founded in 1862 by his grandfather, the German immigrant Marcus Brasch, specialising in pianos. It carried the slogan 'A home is not a home without a piano.'

In his young days, Brash enjoyed the good life, playing golf and sailing, and spending some months travelling through Europe, having a leisurely holiday. He worked for a time at Myer department stores before joining the family business in 1949, where he quickly began to put his stamp on things. In one of his first management decisions, he diverged from his father's sense of frugal aesthetics by re-carpeting the old man's office while he was away. After initially complaining of his extravagance, his father grew to accept the change and gave his son increasing responsibility in the business.

After World War II (1939-1945), Brash's had begun to focus on white goods, such as washing machines and refrigerators, as the consumer boom took hold. However, while his father was content with the business he had built, the younger Brash viewed expansion as vital. When Geoff Brash took over as managing director in 1957, the company had two stores, but after floating it on the stock exchange the following year, he expanded rapidly and opened suburban stores, as well as buying into familiar music industry names such as Allans, Palings and Suttons. Eventually, 170 stores traded across the continent under the Brash's banner.

Geoff Brash learned from his father's focus on customer service. Alfred Brash had also been a pioneer in introducing a share scheme for his staff, and his son retained and expanded the plan following the float.

Geoff Brash was optimistic and outward looking. As a result, he was a pioneer in both accessing and selling new technology, and developing overseas relationships. He sourced and sold electric guitars, organs, and a range of other modern instruments, as well as state-of-the-art audio and video equipment. He developed a relationship with Taro Kakehashi, the founder of Japan's Roland group, which led to a joint venture that brought electronic musical devices to Australia.

In 1965, Brash and his wife attended a trade fair in Guangzhou, the first of its kind in China; they were one of the first Western business people allowed into the country following Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution. He returned there many times, helping advise the Chinese in establishing a high quality piano factory in Beijing; he became the factory's agent in Australia. Brash also took leading jazz musicians Don Burrows and James Morrison to China, on a trip that reintroduced jazz to many Chinese musicians.

He stood down as Executive Chairman of Brash's in 1988, but under the new management debt became a problem, and in 1994 the banks called in administrators. The company was sold to Singaporean interests and continued to trade until 1998, when it again went into administration. The Brash name then disappeared from the retail world. Brash was greatly disappointed by the collapse and the eventual disappearance of the company he had run for so long. But it was not long before he invested in a restructured Allan's music business.

Brash was a committed philanthropist who, in the mid-1980s, established the Brash Foundation, which eventually morphed, with other partners, into the Soundhouse Music Alliance. This was a not-for-profit organisation overseeing and promoting multimedia music making and education for teachers and students. The Soundhouse offers teachers and young people the opportunity to get exposure to the latest music technology, and to use this to compose and record their own music, either alone or in collaboration. The organisation has now also established branches in New Zealand, South Africa and Ireland, as well as numerous sites around Australia.

Questions 1-5

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

Write

TRUE	if the statement agrees with the information
FALSE	if the statement contradicts the information
NOT GIVEN	If there is no information on this

1

The Brash business originally sold pianos.

- 2 Geoff Brash's first job was with his grandfather's company.
- 3 Alfred Brash thought that his son wasted money.
- 4 By the time Geoff Brash took control, the Brash business was selling some electrical products.
- 5 Geoff Brash had ambitions to open Brash stores in other countries.

Questions 6-10

Answer the questions below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.

Which arrangement did Alfred Brash set up for his employees? 6

Which Japanese company did Geoff Brash collaborate with? 7

What type of event in China marked the beginning of Geoff Brash's relationship with that country? 8

What style of music did Geoff Brash help to promote in China? 9

When did the Brash company finally stop doing business? 10

Questions 11-13

Complete the notes below.

Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer.

Soundhouse Music Alliance

Grew out of the Brash Foundation.

A non-commercial organisation providing support for music and music

11

Allows opportunities for using up-to-date 12

Has 13 in several countries.

READING PASSAGE 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 14-26, which are based on Reading Passage 2 on the following pages.



Early occupations around the river Thames

A In her pioneering survey, *Sources of London English*, Laura Wright has listed the variety of medieval workers who took their livings from the river Thames. The baillies of Queenhithe and Billingsgate acted as customs officers. There were conservators, who were responsible for maintaining the embankments and the weirs, and there were the garthmen who worked in the fish garths (enclosures). Then there were galley men and lightermen and shoutmen, called after the names of their boats, and there were hookers who were named after the manner in which they caught their fish. The searcher patrolled the Thames in search of illegal fish weirs, and the tideman worked on its banks and foreshores whenever the tide permitted him to do so.

B All of these occupations persisted for many centuries, as did those jobs that depended upon the trade of the river. Yet, it was not easy work for any of the workers. They carried most goods upon their backs, since the rough surfaces of the quays and nearby streets were not suitable for wagons or large carts; the merchandise characteristically arrived in barrels which could be rolled from the ship along each quay. If the burden was too great to be carried by a single man, then the goods were slung on poles resting on the shoulders of two men. It was a slow and expensive method of business.

C However, up to the eighteenth century, river work was seen in a generally favourable light. For Langland, writing in the fourteenth century, the labourers working on river merchandise were relatively prosperous. And the porters of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries were, if anything, aristocrats of labour, enjoying high status. However, in the years from the late eighteenth to the early nineteenth century, there was

a marked change in attitude. This was in part because the working river was within the region of the East End of London, which in this period acquired an unenviable reputation. By now, dockside labour was considered to be the most disreputable, and certainly the least desirable form of work.

D It could be said that the first industrial community in England grew up around the Thames. With the host of river workers themselves, as well as the vast assembly of ancillary trades such as tavern-keepers and laundresses, food-sellers and street-hawkers, shopkeepers and marine store dealers - there was a workforce of many thousands congregated in a relatively small area. There were more varieties of business to be observed by the riverside than in any other part of the city. As a result, with the possible exception of the area known as Seven Dials, the East End was also the most intensively inhabited region of London.

E It was a world apart, with its own language and its own laws. From the sailors in the opium dens of Limehouse to the smugglers on the malarial flats of the estuary, the workers of the river were not part of any civilised society. The alien world of the river had entered them. That alienation was also expressed in the slang of the docks, which essentially amounted to backslang, or the reversal of ordinary words. This backslang also helped in the formulation of Cockney rhyming slang*, so that the vocabulary of Londoners was directly affected by the life of the Thames.

F The reports in the nineteenth-century press reveal a heterogeneous world of dock labour, in which the crowds of casuals waiting for work at the dock gates at 7.45 a.m. include penniless refugees, bankrupts, old soldiers, broken-down gentlemen, discharged servants, and ex-convicts. There were some 400-500 permanent workers who earned a regular wage and who were considered to be the patricians of dockside labour. However, there were some 2,500 casual workers who were hired by the shift. The work for which they competed fiercely had become ever more unpleasant. Steam power could not be used for the cranes, for example, because of the danger of fire. So the cranes were powered by treadmills. Six to eight men entered a wooden cylinder and, laying hold of ropes, would tread the wheel round. They could lift nearly 20 tonnes to an average height of 27 feet (8.2 metres), forty times in an hour. This was part of the life of the river unknown to those who were intent upon its more picturesque aspects.

Questions 14-19

Reading Passage 2 has **SIX** paragraphs, A-F.

Choose the correct heading, A-F, from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number, i-ix.

List of Headings	
i	A mixture of languages and nationalities
ii	The creation of an exclusive identity
iii	The duties involved in various occupations
iv	An unprecedented population density
v	Imports and exports transported by river
vi	Transporting heavy loads manually
vii	Temporary work for large numbers of people
viii	Hazards associated with riverside work
ix	The changing status of riverside occupations

14  Paragraph A

15  Paragraph B

16  Paragraph C

17  Paragraph D

18  Paragraph E

19  Paragraph F

Questions 20-21

Choose **TWO** letters, A-E.

Write the correct letters.

Which **TWO** statements are made about work by the River Thames before the eighteenth century?

- ☐ **A** Goods were transported from the river by cart.
- ☐ **B** The workforce was very poorly paid.
- ☐ **C** Occupations were specialised.
- ☐ **D** Workers were generally looked down upon.
- ☐ **E** Physical strength was required.

Questions 22-23

Choose **TWO** letters, A-E.

Write the correct letters.

Which **TWO** statements are made about life by the River Thames in the early nineteenth century?

- A** ☐ The area was very crowded.
- B** ☐ There was an absence of crime.
- C** ☐ Casual work was in great demand.
- D** ☐ Several different languages were in use.
- E** ☐ Inhabitants were known for their friendliness.

Questions 24-26

Complete the sentences below.

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

In the nineteenth century, only a minority of dock workers received a 24 _____

Cranes were operated manually because 25 _____ created a risk of fire.

Observers who were unfamiliar with London's docks found the River Thames
26 _____

READING PASSAGE 3

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



Video game research

Although video games were first developed for adults, they are no longer exclusively reserved for the grown ups in the home. In 2006, Rideout and Hamel reported that as many as 29 percent of preschool children (children between two and six years old) in the United States had played console video games, and 18 percent had played hand-held ones. Given young children's insatiable eagerness to learn, coupled with the fact that they are clearly surrounded by these media, we predict that preschoolers will both continue and increasingly begin to adopt video games for personal enjoyment. Although the majority of gaming equipment is still designed for a much older target audience, once a game system enters the household it is potentially available for all family members, including the youngest. Portable systems have done a particularly good job of penetrating the younger market.

Research in the video game market is typically done at two stages: some time close to the end of the product cycle, in order to get feedback from consumers, so that a marketing strategy can be developed; and at the very end of the product cycle to 'fix bugs' in the game. While both of those types of research are important, and may be appropriate for dealing with adult consumers, neither of them aids in designing better games, especially when it comes to designing for an audience that may have particular needs, such as preschoolers or senior citizens. Instead, exploratory and formative research has to be undertaken in order to truly understand those audiences, their abilities, their perspective, and their needs. In the spring of 2007, our preschool-game production team at Nickelodeon had a hunch that the Nintendo DS - with its new features, such as the microphone, small size and portability, and its relatively low price point - was a ripe

gaming platform for preschoolers. There were a few games on the market at the time which had characters that appealed to the younger set, but our game producers did not think that the game mechanics or design were appropriate for preschoolers. What exactly preschoolers could do with the system, however, was a bit of a mystery. So we set about doing a study to answer the query: What could we expect preschoolers to be capable of in the context of hand-held game play, and how might the child development literature inform us as we proceeded with the creation of a new outlet for this age group?

Our context in this case was the United States, although the games that resulted were also released in other regions, due to the broad international reach of the characters. In order to design the best possible DS product for a preschool audience we were fully committed to the ideals of a 'user-centered approach', which assumes that users will be at least considered, but ideally consulted during the development process. After all, when it comes to introducing a new interactive product to the child market, and particularly such a young age group within it, we believe it is crucial to assess the range of physical and cognitive abilities associated with their specific developmental stage.

Revelle and Medoff (2002) review some of the basic reasons why home entertainment systems, computers, and other electronic gaming devices, are often difficult for preschoolers to use. In addition to their still developing motor skills (which make manipulating a controller with small buttons difficult), many of the major stumbling blocks are cognitive. Though preschoolers are learning to think symbolically, and understand that pictures can stand for real-life objects, the vast majority are still unable to read and write. Thus, using text-based menu selections is not viable. Mapping is yet another obstacle since preschoolers may be unable to understand that there is a direct link between how the controller is used and the activities that appear before them on screen. Though this aspect is changing, in traditional mapping systems real life movements do not usually translate into game-based activity.

Over the course of our study, we gained many insights into how preschoolers interact with various platforms, including the DS. For instance, all instructions for preschoolers need to be in voice-over, and include visual representations, and this has been one of the most difficult areas for us to negotiate with respect to game design on the DS. Because the game cartridges have very limited memory capacity, particularly in comparison to console or computer games, the ability to capture large amounts of voice-over data via sound files or visual representations of instructions becomes limited. Text instructions take up minimal memory, so they are preferable from a technological perspective. Figuring out ways to maximise sound and graphics files, while retaining the clear visual and verbal cues that we know are critical for our youngest players, is a constant give and take. Another of our findings indicated that preschoolers may use either a stylus, or their fingers, or both although they are not very accurate with either. One of the very interesting aspects of the DS is that the interface, which is designed to respond to stylus


interactions, can also effectively be used with the tip of the finger. This is particularly noteworthy in the context of preschoolers for two reasons. Firstly, as they have trouble with fine motor skills and their hand-eye coordination is still in development, they are less exact with their stylus movements; and secondly, their fingers are so small that they mimic the stylus very effectively, and therefore by using their fingers they can often be more accurate in their game interactions.


Questions 27-31


Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading Passage 3?


Write

YES	if the statement agrees with the views of the writer
NO	if the statement contradicts the views of the writer
NOT GIVEN	if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

27  Video game use amongst preschool children is higher in the US than in other countries.

28  The proportion of preschool children using video games is likely to rise.

29  Parents in the US who own gaming equipment generally allow their children to play with it.

30  The type of research which manufacturers usually do is aimed at improving game design.

31  Both old and young games consumers require research which is specifically targeted

Questions 32-36

Complete the summary using the list of words/phrases, A-I, below.

Problems for preschool users of video games

Preschool children find many electronic games difficult, because neither their

motor skills nor their ³² are sufficiently developed.

Certain types of control are hard for these children to manipulate, for example, ³³ can be more effective than styluses.

Also, although they already have the ability to relate ³⁴ to real-world objects, preschool children are largely unable to understand the connection between their own ³⁵ and the movements they can see on the screen. Finally, very few preschool children can understand ³⁶

A	actions
B	buttons
C	cognitive skills
D	concentration
E	fingers
F	pictures
G	sounds
H	spoken instructions
I	written menus

Questions 37-40

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

37 In 2007, what conclusion did games producers at Nickelodeon come to?

- ☐ A The preschool market was unlikely to be sufficiently profitable.
- ☐ B One of their hardware products would probably be suitable for preschoolers.
- ☐ C Games produced by rival companies were completely inappropriate for preschoolers.

- ☐ D They should put their ideas for new games for preschoolers into practice.

38 The study carried out by Nickelodeon

- ☐ A was based on children living in various parts of the world.
- ☐ B focused on the kinds of game content which interests preschoolers.
- ☐ C investigated the specific characteristics of the target market.
- ☐ D led to products which appealed mainly to the US consumers.

39 Which problem do the writers highlight concerning games instructions for young children?

- ☐ A Spoken instructions take up a lot of the available memory.
- ☐ B Written instructions have to be expressed very simply.
- ☐ C The children do not follow instructions consistently.
- ☐ D The video images distract attention from the instructions.

40 Which is the best title for Reading Passage 3?

- ☐ A An overview of video games software for the preschool market
- ☐ B Researching and designing video games for preschool children
- ☐ C The effects of video games on the behaviour of young children
- ☐ D Assessing the impact of video games on educational achievement



Solution:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1 TRUE | 2 FALSE |
| 3 TRUE | 4 TRUE |
| 5 NOT GIVEN | 6 (a) share scheme |
| 7 Roland/ Roland group/ the Roland group | 8 (a) trade fair |
| 9 jazz | 10 1998 |
| 11 education | 12 technology |
| 13 branches | 27 NOT GIVEN |
| 28 YES | 29 NOT GIVEN |
| 30 NO | 31 YES |
| 32 C | |

33 E

34 F

35 A

36 I

37 B

38 C

39 A

40 B

14 iii

15 vi

16 ix

17 iv

18 ii

19 vii

$\frac{20}{21}$ C,E

$\frac{22}{23}$ A,C

24 regular wage

25 steam power

26 picturesque

Review and Explanations

1 Answer: **TRUE**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q1: The Brash business originally sold pianos.	His father, Alfred, ran the Brash retail music business that had been founded in 1862 by his grandfather, the German immigrant Marcus Brash, specializing in pianos.
Note: It is stated that business by Brash's grandfather was specialized in pianos. We should notice that 'specializing in pianos' in this case is equivalent to 'sold pianos'. The given statement is correct information, therefore, the answer is TRUE	

2 Answer: **FALSE**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q2: Geoff Brash's first job was with his grandfather's company.	He worked for a time at Myer department stores before joining the family business in 1949
Note: The first sentence of paragraph 3 mentions the Brash's young days, so that the pronoun 'he' in the second sentence refers to Geoff Brash. It is stated that 'He worked for a time at Myer department stores before joining the family business', which means Brash's first job was not with his family, hence, the answer is obviously FALSE .	

3 Answer: **TRUE**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q3: Alfred Brash thought that his son wasted money.	After initially complaining of his extravagance, his father grew to accept the change and gave his son increasing responsibility in the business.
Note: We should know the meaning of the word 'extravagance'. It is similar to 'waste money'. In the text, 'his father' refers to Geoff Brash's father, Alfred Brash. It is stated that Alfred Brash complained of Geoff Brash's extravagance, which means Alfred Brash thought his son wasted money. Therefore, the answer for this question is TRUE .	

4 Answer: **TRUE**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q4: By the time Geoff Brash took control, the Brash business was selling some electrical products.	After World War II (1939-1945), Brash's had begun to focus on white goods, such as washing machines and refrigerators, as the consumer boom took hold. However, while his father was content with the business he had built, the younger Brash viewed expansion as vital. When Geoff Brash took over as managing director in 1957, the company had two stores,

Note: We should notice these phrases: 'white goods' are equivalent to 'electrical products'; 'took over as managing director' is similar to 'took control'. The third sentence of paragraph 4 refers that Geoff Brash took over as managing director in 1957. Therefore, what is mentioned in the beginning of paragraph 4 refers to what the Brash business sold before Geoff Brash took control. It is stated that Brash's had begun to focus on white goods. 'Focus on' in this case means 'sell'. The given statement is consistent with the information found in the passage; hence, the answer is **TRUE**.

5 Answer: **NOT GIVEN**

Key Words in Question

Q5: Geoff Brash had ambitions to open Brash stores in other countries.

Note: There is no information in the text that refers to Brash's ambitions to open stores in other countries. Therefore, the answer is **NOT GIVEN**.

6 Answer: **(a) share scheme**

Key Words in Question

Q6: Which arrangement did Alfred Brash set up for his employees?

Similar Words in the Passage

Alfred Brash had also been a pioneer in introducing a share scheme for his staff, and his son retained and expanded the plan following the float.

Note: The answer should be a noun. We should focus on the similar words: 'staff' is equivalent to 'employees'; 'introduce' in this case means 'set up'. It is mentioned that Alfred Brash introduced a share scheme for his staff, which means the arrangement Alfred Brash set up for his employees was share scheme. Hence, **SHARE SCHEME** is the answer.

7 Answer: **Roland/ Roland group/ the Roland group**

Key Words in Question

Q7: Which Japanese company did Geoff Brash collaborate with?

Similar Words in the Passage

He developed a relationship with Taro Kakehashi, the founder of Japan's Roland group

Note: After scanning, we can locate the information in the last sentence of paragraph 6. We should notice some keywords here. 'Develop a relationship with' is equivalent to 'collaborate with'. It is mentioned in the text that Brash developed a relationship with the founder of Japan's Ronald group. Therefore, **ROLAND GROUP** is the answer.

8 Answer: **(a) trade fair**

Key Words in Question

Q8: What type of event in China marked the beginning of Geoff Brash's relationship with that country?

Similar Words in the Passage

In 1965, Brash and his wife attended a trade fair in Guangzhou, the first of its kind in China; they were one of the first Western business people allowed into the country following Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution.

Note: The answer can be found in paragraph 7. We can conclude from the first sentence of this paragraph that the event which Brash and his wife attended in Guangzhou marked the beginning of Brash's relationship with China. Therefore, the answer is **TRADE FAIR**.

9 Answer: **jazz**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q9: What style of music did Geoff Brash help to promote in China?	Brash also took leading jazz musicians Don Burrows and James Morrison to China, on a trip that reintroduced jazz to many Chinese musicians.
Note: The answer must be a style of music. It is stated that Brash reintroduced jazz to Chinese musicians; hence, JAZZ is the answer.	

10 Answer: **1998**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q10: When did the Brash company finally stop doing business?	The company was sold to Singaporean interests and continued to trade until 1998, when it again went into administration.
Note: We should notice that 'went into administration' can be understood as 'stop doing business'. In the first part of the sentence, it is stated that 'the company continued to trade until 1998. The conjunction 'until' helps us to decide 1998 was the point of time that the company stop trading. Therefore, the answer for this question is 1998 .	

11 Answer: **education**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q11: A non-commercial organization providing support for music and music	This was a not-for-profit organization overseeing and promoting multimedia music making and education for teachers and students.
Note: The blank should be filled by a noun. We should notice some synonyms here. 'Not-for-profit organization' has the same meaning as 'non-commercial organization'. 'Promoting' is similar to 'providing support'. It is stated in the text that the organization promoted multimedia music making and education for teachers and students; therefore, EDUCATION is the answer.	

12 Answer: **technology**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q12: Allows opportunities for using up-to-date	The Soundhouse offers teachers and young people the opportunity to get exposure to the latest music technology
Note: 'Up-to-date' is an adjective, so we need a noun here. We should notice the way words are paraphrased: 'offers the opportunity to get exposure to' is similar to 'allows opportunities for using', 'up-to-date' has the same meaning as 'latest'. Since we can use only one word for the answer, we choose TECHNOLOGY to fill in the blank.	

13 Answer: **branches**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q13: Has ... in several countries.	The organisation has now also established branches in New Zealand, South Africa and Ireland, as well as numerous sites around Australia.
Note: The organization in this last sentence refers to the Soundhouse. It is stated that the organization has established branches in New Zealand, South Africa and Ireland, as well as numerous sites around Australia. These are 'several countries' mentioned in the question. Therefore, the answer is BRANCHES .	

27 Answer: **NOT GIVEN**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q 2 7 : Video game use amongst preschool children is higher in the US than in other countries.	In 2006, Rideout and Hamel reported that as many as 29 percent of preschool children (children between two and six years old) in the United States had played console video games, and 18 percent had played hand-held ones.
Note: The text mentions the percentage of preschool children in the US playing video game, but there is no comparison between the US and other countries. Therefore, the answer is NOTIVENOT GIVEN .	

28 Answer: **YES**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q28: The proportion of preschool children using video games is likely to rise.	Given young children's insatiable eagerness to learn, coupled with the fact that they are clearly surrounded by these media, we predict that preschoolers will both continue and increasingly begin to adopt video games for personal enjoyment.

Note:

We should notice some key words: 'preschoolers' means 'preschool children'. 'Adopt video games for personal enjoyment' is similar to 'use video games'. The text mentions a prediction that preschoolers will continue and increasingly adopt video games for personal enjoyment. This information is consistent with the given statement. Therefore, the answer is **YES**.

29 Answer: **NOT GIVEN**

Key Words in Question

Q29: Parents in the US who own gaming equipment generally allow their children to play with it.

Note: There is no information in the text referring to this. Hence, the answer is **NOT GIVEN**.

30 Answer: **NO**

Key Words in Question

Q30: The type of research which manufacturers usually do is aimed at improving game design.

Similar Words in the Passage

Research in the video game market is typically done at two stages: some time close to the end of the product cycle, in order to get feedback from consumers, so that a marketing strategy can be developed; and at the very end of the product cycle to 'fix bugs' in the game.

Note:

We should notice the synonym: 'in order to' and 'to' have the same meaning as 'is aimed at'. It is mentioned in the text that the purpose of research in video game is to 'get feedback from consumers' and to 'fix bugs in the game'. This information contradicts with the given statement 'improving game design'. Thus, the answer is **NO**.

31 Answer: **YES**

Key Words in Question

Q31: Both old and young games consumers require research which is specifically targeted.

Similar Words in the Passage

While both of those types of research are important, and may be appropriate for dealing with adult consumers, neither of them aids in designing better games, especially when it comes to designing for an audience that may have particular needs, such as preschoolers or senior citizens. Instead, exploratory and formative research has to be undertaken in order to truly understand those audiences, their abilities, their perspective, and their needs.

Note:

We should notice that 'those audiences' in the last sentence of paragraph 2 refers to preschoolers and senior citizens, which are mentioned in the previous sentence. 'Preschoolers and senior citizens' in this case is equivalent to 'old and young games consumers'. Therefore, the answer is **YES**.

32 Answer: **C**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q32: Preschool children find many electronic games difficult, because neither their motor skills nor their [...] are sufficiently developed.	In addition to their still developing motor skills (which make manipulating a controller with small buttons difficult), many of the major stumbling blocks are cognitive.
Note: We need a noun to fill in the blank. The two 'still developing' skills which are the 'major stumbling blocks' for children mentioned in the text are motor skills and cognitive skills. This piece of information can be understood by knowing how words are paraphrased. We should notice that 'still developing' are similar to not 'sufficiently developed'; 'major stumbling blocks' is equivalent to obstacle (which makes children find many electronic games difficult). The 'motor skills' is already mentioned in the question; therefore, C - COGNITIVE SKILLS is the answer.	

33 Answer: **E**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q33: Certain types of control are hard for these children to manipulate, for example, [...] can be more effective than styluses.	Firstly, as they have trouble with fine motor skills and their hand-eye coordination is still in development, they are less exact with their stylus movements; and secondly, their fingers are so small that they mimic the stylus very effectively, and therefore by using their fingers they can often be more accurate in their game interactions.
Note: The answer for this question can be found in the last sentence of the passage. It is mentioned that children 'are less exactly with their stylus movements' and 'by using their fingers they can often be more accurate'. Therefore, we can conclude that fingers can be more effective than styluses, and E - FINGERS is the answer.	

34 Answer: **F**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q34: Also, although they already have the ability to relate [...] to real-world objects,	Though preschoolers are learning to think symbolically, and understand that pictures can stand for real-life objects, the vast majority are still unable to read and write.
Note: It is referred in the text that preschoolers understand that 'pictures can stand for real-life objects', which is similar to they can 'relate pictures to real-world objects'. Hence, the answer is F - PICTURES .	

35 Answer: **A**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q35: preschool children are largely unable to understand the connection between their own [...] and the movements they can see on the screen.	Mapping is yet another obstacle since preschoolers may be unable to understand that there is a direct link between how the controller is used and the activities that appear before them on screen.
Note: We should notice that 'a direct link between' has the same meaning as 'the connection between'. 'How the controller is used and the activities that appear them on the screen' is similar to 'their own action and the movements they can see on the screen'. Thus, A - ACTION is the answer.	

36 Answer: **I**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q36: Finally, very few preschool children can understand Answer: I - written menus	Thus, using text-based menu selections is not viable.
Note: We should notice that 'text-based menu' is equivalent to 'written menus'. 'Not viable' means not possible. 'Very few preschool children can understand written menus' also means 'using text-based menu selections is not viable'. Therefore, the answer is I .	

37 Answer: **B**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q37: In 2007, what conclusion did games producers at Nickelodeon come to? Answer: B . One of their hardware products would probably be suitable for preschoolers.	In the spring of 2007, our preschool-game production team at Nickelodeon had a hunch that the Nintendo DS - with its new features, such as the microphone, small size and portability, and its relatively low price point - was a ripe gaming platform for preschoolers.
Note: Using the key word '2007', 'Nickelodeon', 'game producers', we can locate the information in the first sentence of paragraph 3. We should notice that 'Nintendo DS' is one of Nickelodeon's products. 'The preschool-game production team had a hunch that Nintendo DS was a ripe gaming platform for preschoolers' can be interpreted as Nintendo DS 'would probably be suitable for preschoolers'. All things considered, B is the correct answer.	

38 Answer: **C**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
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<p>Q 38: The study carried out by Nickelodeon</p> <p>Answer: C. investigated the specific characteristics of the target market.</p>	<p>So we set about doing a study to answer the query: What could we expect preschoolers to be capable of in the context of hand-held game play, and how might the child development literature inform us as we proceeded with the creation of a new outlet for this age group?</p>
<p>Note: Also in paragraph 3, we can locate the information relating to the question. We should focus on the way words are paraphrased, so that it's easier to find the answer. 'Do a study' is equivalent to 'carry a study'. 'Investigate' means to find out information about sth, in this case, it is similar to 'answer the query'. 'What could we expect preschoolers to be capable of' and 'how might the child development literature inform us' are the 'specific characteristics'. This age group mentioned in the text means 'the target market'. All things considered, the answer is C.</p>	

39 Answer: **A**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
<p>Q39: Which problem do the writers highlight concerning games instructions for young children?</p> <p>Answer: A. Spoken instructions take up a lot of the available memory.</p>	<p>For instance, all instructions for preschoolers need to be in voice-over, and include visual representations, and this has been one of the most difficult areas for us to negotiate with respect to game design on the DS. Because the game cartridges have very limited memory capacity, particularly in comparison to console or computer games, the ability to capture large amounts of voice-over data via sound files or visual representations of instructions becomes limited.</p>
<p>Note: In the final paragraph, it is mentioned that voice-over instructions 'has been one of the most difficult areas for us to negotiate'. We should notice that 'voice-over instructions' are equivalent to 'spoken instructions'; and the 'difficult areas to negotiate' means 'problem'. The next sentence explains that 'the ability to capture large amounts of voice-over data via sound files or visual representations of instructions becomes limited'. Therefore, we can conclude 'spoken instructions take up a lot of the available memory'. Put it another ways, A is the answer.</p>	

40 Answer: **B**

Key Words in Question
<p>Q40: Which is the best title for Reading Passage 3?</p> <p>Answer: B. Researching and designing video games for preschool children</p>

Note:

When skimming to catch the main idea of the passage, we can notice that the paragraph 1 talks about 'penetrating the young market' of video games. Paragraph 2 mainly concerns 'research in the video game market'. Paragraph 3 is about designing video game for preschoolers. Paragraph 4 and 5 generally considers the difficulties for children to use video games. All in all, **B** is the best suitable title for the whole passage.

Great thanks to volunteer **My Nguyen** has contributed these explanations.

If you want to make a better world like this, please contact us.

14 Answer: **iii**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q14: Paragraph A Answer: iii - The duties involved in various occupations	In her pioneering survey, Sources of London English, Laura Wright has listed the variety of medieval workers who took their livings from the river Thames. The baillies of Queenhithe and Billingsgate acted as customs officers . There were conservators , who were responsible for maintaining the embankments and the weirs, and there were the garthmen who worked in the fish garths (enclosures). Then there were galley men and lightermen and shoutmen , called after the names of their boats, and there were hookers who were named after the manner in which they caught their fish. The searcher patrolled the Thames in search of illegal fish weirs, and the tideman worked on its banks and foreshores whenever the tide permitted him to do so.
Note: Paragraph A tells us about the variety of medieval workers in river Thames. The various occupations mentioned in the paragraph includes: ballies, custom officers, conservators, garthmen, galley men, lightermen, shoutmen, searcher, tideman. Therefore, heading iii is the answer.	

15 Answer: **vi**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
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Q15: Paragraph B Answer: vi - Transporting heavy loads manually	All of these occupations persisted for many centuries, as did those jobs that depended upon the trade of the river. Yet, it was not easy work for any of the workers. They carried most goods upon their backs, since the rough surfaces of the quays and nearby streets were not suitable for wagons or large carts; the merchandise characteristically arrived in barrels which could be rolled from the ship along each quay. If the burden was too great to be carried by a single man, then the goods were slung on poles resting on the shoulders of two men. It was a slow and expensive method of business.
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Note: Paragraph B describes how the work of carrying goods was done by workers. 'They carried goods upon their backs' means they transported goods 'manually'. 'The burden' is synonym of 'heavy loads'. All things considered, **heading vi** is the answer.

16 Answer: **ix**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q16: Paragraph C Answer: ix - The changing status of riverside occupations	However, up to the eighteenth century, river work was seen in a generally favourable light. For Langland, writing in the fourteenth century, the labourers working on river merchandise were relatively prosperous. And the porters of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries were, if anything, aristocrats of labour, enjoying high status. However, in the years from the late eighteenth to the early nineteenth century, there was a marked change in attitude. This was in part because the working river was within the region of the East End of London, which in this period acquired an unenviable reputation. By now, dockside labour was considered to be the most disreputable, and certainly the least desirable form of work.

Note: There are some key words in the paragraph that helps matching the heading. It is stated that 'the laborers working on river merchandise were relatively prosperous', 'the porters were enjoying high status'. 'Laborers' and 'porters' are 'occupations'. Before eighteenth centuries, these occupations enjoy 'high status'. After eighteenth century, working river 'acquired an unenviable reputation'; dockside labor was considered to be the most disreputable, and certainly the least desirable form of work', which indicates the changes from high status to low status. Hence, **heading ix** is the answer.

17 Answer: **iv**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
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<p>Q17: Paragraph D</p> <p>Answer: iv - An unprecedented population density</p>	<p>It could be said that the first industrial community in England grew up around the Thames. With the host of river workers themselves, as well as the vast assembly of ancillary trades such as tavern-keepers and laundresses, food-sellers and street-hawkers, shopkeepers and marine store dealers - there was a workforce of many thousands congregated in a relatively small area. There were more varieties of business to be observed by the riverside than, in any other part of the city. As a result, with the possible exception of the area known as Seven Dials, the East End was also the most intensively inhabited region of London.</p>
<p>Note: We can choose the heading based on the main idea and some key sentences in the paragraph. 'There was a workforce of many thousands congregated in a relatively small area' means there was a dense population in the area. In the last sentence, "the East End was also the most intensively inhabited region of London" also indicates 'unprecedented population density'. All in all, heading iv is the answer.</p>	

18 Answer: **ii**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
<p>Q18: Paragraph E</p> <p>Answer: ii - The creation of an exclusive identity</p>	<p>It was a world apart, with its own language and its own laws. From the sailors in the opium dens of Limehouse to the smugglers on the malarial flats of the estuary, the workers of the river were not part of any civilised society. The alien world of the river had entered them. That alienation was also expressed in the slang of the docks, which essentially amounted to backslang, or the reversal of ordinary words. This backslang also helped in the formulation of Cockney rhyming slang*, so that the vocabulary of Londoners was directly affected by the life of the Thames.</p>
<p>Note: This paragraph talks about the life in river Thames. 'A world apart, with its own language and its own laws'; 'not part of any civilised society' are some key phrases that indicate 'exclusive identity'. The rest part of the paragraph talks about the 'creation' of language. All things considered, heading ii is the answer.</p>	

19 Answer: **vii**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
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<p>Q19: Paragraph F</p> <p>Answer: vii -</p> <p>Temporary work for large numbers of people</p>	<p>The reports in the nineteenth-century press reveal a heterogeneous world of dock labour, in which the crowds of casuals waiting for work at the dock gates at 7.45 a.m. include penniless refugees, bankrupts, old soldiers, broken-down gentlemen, discharged servants, and ex-convicts. There were some 400-500 permanent workers who earned a regular wage and who were considered to be the patricians of dockside labour. However, there were some 2,500 casual workers who were hired by the shift. The work for which they competed fiercely had become ever more unpleasant. Steam power could not be used for the cranes, for example, because of the danger of fire. So the cranes were powered by treadmills. Six to eight men entered a wooden cylinder and, laying hold of ropes, would tread the wheel round. They could lift nearly 20 tonnes to an average height of 27 feet (8.2 metres), forty times in an hour. This was part of the life of the river unknown to those who were intent upon its more picturesque aspects.</p>
<p>Note: This paragraph talks about the dock labor. Thanks to the main idea and some key phrase 'hired by the shift', 'the crowds of casuals waiting for work', '2,500 casual workers', we can conclude that the nature of work in dock was 'temporary' and for 'large number of people'. Hence, the answer is heading vii.</p>	

20-21 Answer: **C,E**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
<p>Q20: Answer: C, E (in either order)</p> <p>Occupations were specialized.</p>	<p>In her pioneering survey, Sources of London English, Laura Wright has listed the variety of medieval workers who took their livings from the river Thames. The baillies of Queenhithe and Billingsgate acted as customs officers. There were conservators, who were responsible for maintaining the embankments and the weirs, and there were the garthmen who worked in the fish garths (enclosures). Then there were galleyman and lightermen and shoutmen, called after the names of their boats, and there were hookers who were named after the manner in which they caught their fish. The searcher patrolled the Thames in search of illegal fish weirs, and the tideman worked on its banks and foreshores whenever the tide permitted him to do so.</p>
<p>Note: The answer can be found in paragraph A. 'The variety of medieval workers' are listed in the text and how the occupations were specialized is also mentioned. Therefore, the answer is statement C.</p>	

Q21: Answer: C, E (in either order) Physical strength was required.	They carried most goods upon their backs, since the rough surfaces of the quays and nearby streets were not suitable for wagons or large carts;
Note: It is stated that workers 'carried most goods upon their back', which means they have to use 'physical strength'. 'The rough surfaces of the quays and nearby streets were not suitable for wagons or large carts' is the explanation why 'physical strength' was required. Hence, statement E is the answer.	

22-23 Answer: **A,C**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q22: Answer: A OR C (IN EITHER ORDER) A. The area was very crowded.	As a result, with the possible exception of the area known as Seven Dials, the East End was also the most intensively inhabited region of London.
Note: The answer can be found in the last sentence of paragraph D. 'Intensively inhabited' is equivalent to 'very crowded'. The region mentioned here is the river Thames. Therefore, A is the answer.	
Q23: Answer: A OR C (IN EITHER ORDER) C. Casual work was in great demand.	The reports in the nineteenth-century press reveal a heterogeneous world of dock labour, in which the crowds of casuals waiting for work at the dock gates at 7.45 a.m. include penniless refugees, bankrupts, old soldiers, broken-down gentlemen, discharged servants, and ex-convicts.... However, there were some 2,500 casual workers who were hired by the shift.
Note: The answer can be found in paragraph F. Due to key phrases 'the crowds of casuals waiting for work at the dock gates' and 'there were some 2,500 casual workers who were hired by the shift', we can conclude that 'casual work was in great demand'. So, C is the answer.	

24 Answer: **regular wage**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q24: In the nineteenth century, only a minority of dock workers received a ...	There were some 400-500 permanent workers who earned a regular wage and who were considered to be the patricians of dockside labor.
Note: We can locate the information in the last paragraph thanks to the key word 'nineteenth century'. The answer can be found in the second sentence. We should pay attention to how words are paraphrased: 'some 400-500 permanent workers' is similar to 'only a minority of dock workers'; 'earned' means 'received'. It is stated that those workers earned a regular wage; therefore, REGULAR WAGE is the answer.	

25 Answer: **steam power**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q 2 5 : Cranes were operated manually because ... created a risk of fire.	Steam power could not be used for the cranes, for example, because of the danger of fire. So the cranes were powered by treadmills. Six to eight men entered a wooden cylinder and, laying hold of ropes, would tread the wheel round.
Note: 'The danger of fire' is equivalent to 'a risk of fire'. It is mentioned in the text that steam power could not be used for cranes because of the danger of fire, which means steam power created a risk of fire. The next two sentences describe how cranes were operated manually. Hence, the answer is STEAM POWER .	

26 Answer: **picturesque**

Key Words in Question	Similar Words in the Passage
Q26: Observers who were unfamiliar with London's docks found the River Thames ... Answer: picturesque	This was part of the life of the river unknown to those who were intent upon its more picturesque aspects.
Note: Because of the grammar point: find somebody/ something + adj ., we need an adjective for the answer. It is stated in the text that people who didn't know the river Thames were intent upon its picturesque aspects, which means they found the river picturesque. Thus, PICTURESQUE is the answer.	