

IELTS Practice Tests Plus Volume 2

Reading Practice Test 2

HOW TO USE

You have 2 ways to access the test

1. Open this URL <http://link.intergreat.com/czePF> on your computer
2. Use your mobile device to scan the QR code attached



Reading Passage 1

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



Why Risks Can Go Wrong

Human intuition is a bad guide to handling risk

A. People make terrible decisions about the future. The evidence is all around, from their investments in the stock markets to the way they run their businesses. In fact, people are consistently bad at dealing with uncertainty, underestimating some kinds of risk and overestimating others. Surely there must be a better way than using intuition?

B. In the 1960s a young American research psychologist, Daniel Kahneman, became interested in people's inability to make logical decisions. That launched him on a career to show just how irrationally people behave in practice. When Kahneman and his colleagues first started work, the idea of applying psychological insights to economics and business decisions was seen as rather bizarre. But in the past decade the fields of behavioural finance and behavioural economics have blossomed, and in 2002 Kahneman shared a Nobel prize in economics for his work. Today he is in demand by business organizations and international banking companies. But, he says, there are plenty of institutions that still fail to understand the roots of their poor decisions. He claims that, far from being random, these mistakes are systematic and predictable.

C. One common cause of problems in decision-making is over-optimism. Ask most people about the future, and they will see too much blue sky ahead, even if past experience suggests otherwise. Surveys have shown that people's forecasts of future stock market movements are far more optimistic than past long-term returns would justify. The same goes for their hopes of ever-rising prices for their homes or doing well in games of chance. Such optimism can be useful for managers or sportsmen, and sometimes turns into a self-fulfilling prophecy. But most of the time it results in wasted effort and dashed hopes.

Kahneman's work points to three types of over-confidence. First, people tend to exaggerate their own skill and prowess; in polls, far fewer than half the respondents admit to having below-average skills in, say, driving. Second, they overestimate the amount of control they have over the future, forgetting about luck and chalking up success solely to skill. And third, in competitive pursuits such as dealing on shares, they forget that they have to judge their skills against those of the competition.

D. Another source of wrong decisions is related to the decisive effect of the initial meeting, particularly in negotiations over money. This is referred to as the 'anchor effect'. Once a figure has been mentioned, it takes a strange hold over the human mind. The asking price quoted in a house sale, for example, tends to become accepted by all parties as the 'anchor' around which negotiations take place. Much the same goes for salary negotiations or mergers and acquisitions. If nobody has much information to go on, a figure can provide comfort - even though it may lead to a terrible mistake.

E. In addition, mistakes may arise due to stubbornness. No one likes to abandon a cherished belief, and the earlier a decision has been taken, the harder it is to abandon it. Drug companies must decide early to cancel a failing research project to avoid wasting money, but may find it difficult to admit they have made a mistake. In the same way, analysts may have become wedded early to a single explanation that coloured their perception. A fresh eye always helps.

F. People also tend to put a lot of emphasis on things they have seen and experienced themselves, which may not be the best guide to decision-making. For example, somebody may buy an overvalued share because a relative has made thousands on it, only to get his fingers burned. In finance, too much emphasis on information close at hand helps to explain the tendency by most investors to invest only within the country they live in. Even though they know that diversification is good for their portfolio, a large majority of both Americans and Europeans invest far too heavily in the shares of their home countries. They would be much better off spreading their risks more widely.

G. More information is helpful in making any decision but, says Kahneman, people spend proportionally too much time on small decisions and not enough on big ones. They need to adjust the balance. During the boom years, some companies put as much effort into planning their office party as into considering strategic mergers.

H. Finally, crying over spilled milk is not just a waste of time; it also often colours people's perceptions of the future. Some stock market investors trade far too frequently because they are chasing the returns on shares they wish they had bought earlier.

I. Kahneman reckons that some types of businesses are much better than others at dealing with risk. Pharmaceutical companies, which are accustomed to many failures and a few big successes in their drug-discovery programmes, are fairly rational about their risk-taking. But banks, he says, have a long way to go. They may take big risks on a few

huge loans, but are extremely cautious about their much more numerous loans to small businesses, many of which may be less risky than the big ones. And the research has implications for governments too. They face a whole range of sometimes conflicting political pressures, which means they are even more likely to take irrational decisions.

Questions 1-6

Reading Passage 1 has nine paragraphs A-I.

Choose the correct heading for Paragraphs B and D-H from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number (i-xi) in boxes 1-6 on your answer sheet.

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------|
| 1 | <input type="text"/> | Paragraph B |
| 2 | <input type="text"/> | Paragraph D |
| 3 | <input type="text"/> | Paragraph E |
| 4 | <input type="text"/> | Paragraph F |
| 5 | <input type="text"/> | Paragraph G |
| 6 | <input type="text"/> | Paragraph H |

List of headings	
i	Not identifying the correct priorities
ii	A solution for the long term
iii	The difficulty of changing your mind
iv	Why looking back is unhelpful
v	Strengthening inner resources
vi	A successful approach to the study of decision-making
vii	The danger of trusting a global market
viii	Reluctance to go beyond the familiar
ix	The power of the first number
x	The need for more effective risk assessment
xi	Underestimating the difficulties ahead

Questions 7-10

Choose the correct answer **A, B, C** or **D**

Write your answers in boxes **7-10** on your answer sheet.

7 People initially found Kahneman's work unusual because he

- A** ☐ saw mistakes as following predictable patterns.
- B** ☐ was unaware of behavioural approaches.
- C** ☐ dealt with irrational types of practice.
- D** ☐ applied psychology to finance and economics

8 The writer mentions house-owners attitudes towards the value of their homes to illustrate that

- A** ☐ past failures may destroy an optimistic attitude.
- B** ☐ people tend to exaggerate their chances of success.
- C** ☐ optimism may be justified in certain circumstances.
- D** ☐ people are influenced by the success of others.

9 Stubbornness and inflexibility can cause problems when people

- A** ☐ think their financial difficulties are just due to bad luck.
- B** ☐ avoid seeking advice from experts and analysts.
- C** ☐ refuse to invest in the early stages of a project.
- D** ☐ are unwilling to give up unsuccessful activities or beliefs.

10 Why do many Americans and Europeans fail to spread their financial risks when investing?

- A** ☐ They feel safer dealing in a context which is close to home.
- B** ☐ They do not understand the benefits of diversification.
- C** ☐ They are over-influenced by the successes of their relatives.
- D** ☐ They do not have sufficient knowledge of one another's countries.

Questions 11-13

Answer the questions below, using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes **11-13** on your answer sheet.

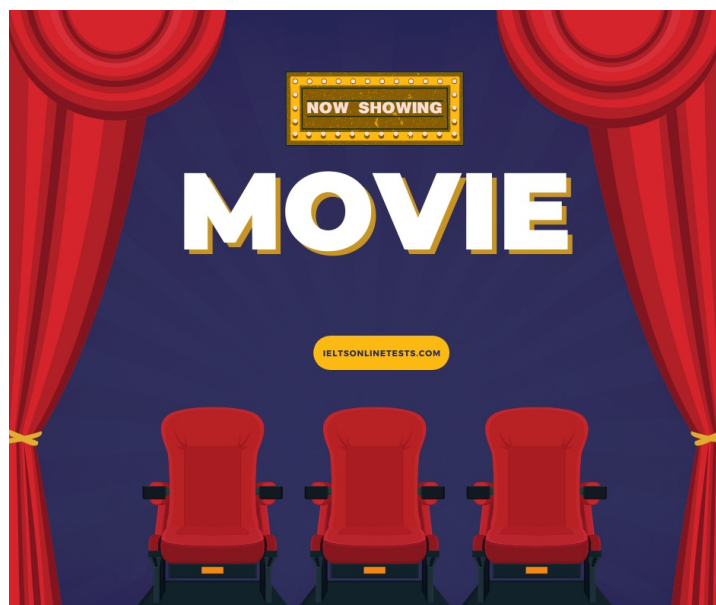
Which two occupations may benefit from being over-optimistic? 11

Which practical skill are many people over-confident about? 12

Which type of business has a generally good attitude to dealing with uncertainty?
13

Reading Passage 2

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



There has always been a sense in which America and Europe owned film. They invented it at the end of the nineteenth century in unfashionable places like New Jersey, Leeds and the suburbs of Lyons. At first, they saw their clumsy new camera-projectors merely as more profitable versions of Victorian lantern shows, mechanical curiosities which might have a use as a sideshow at a funfair. Then the best of the pioneers looked beyond the fairground properties of their invention. A few directors, now mostly forgotten, saw that the flickering new medium was more than just a diversion. This crass commercial invention gradually began to evolve as an art. D W Griffith in California glimpsed its grace, German directors used it as an analogue to the human mind and the modernising city, Soviets emphasised its agitational and intellectual properties, and the Italians reconfigured it on an operatic scale.

So heady were these first decades of cinema that America and Europe can be forgiven for assuming that they were the only game in town. In less than twenty years western cinema had grown out of all recognition; its unknowns became the most famous people in the world; it made millions. It never occurred to its financial backers that another continent might borrow their magic box and make it its own. But film industries were emerging in Shanghai, Bombay and Tokyo, some of which would outgrow those in the west.

Between 1930 and 1935, China produced more than 500 films, mostly conventionally made in studios in Shanghai, without soundtracks. China's best directors - Bu Wancang and Yuan Muzhi - introduced elements of realism to their stories. The Peach Girl (1931) and Street Angel (1937) are regularly voted among the best ever made in the country.

India followed a different course. In the west, the arrival of talkies gave birth to a new genre - the musical - but in India, every one of the 5000 films made between 1931 and the mid-1950s had musical interludes. The films were stylistically more wide ranging than the western musical, encompassing realism and escapist dance within individual sequences, and they were often three hours long rather than Hollywood's 90 minutes. The cost of such productions resulted in a distinctive national style of cinema. They were often made in Bombay, the centre of what is now known as 'Bollywood'. Performed in Hindi (rather than any of the numerous regional languages), they addressed social and peasant themes in an optimistic and romantic way and found markets in the Middle East, Africa and the Soviet Union.

In Japan, the film industry did not rival India's in size but was unusual in other ways. Whereas in Hollywood the producer was the central figure, in Tokyo the director chose the stories and hired the producer and actors. The model was that of an artist and his studio of apprentices. Employed by a studio as an assistant, a future director worked with senior figures, learned his craft, gained authority, until promoted to director with the power to select screenplays and performers. In the 1930s and 40s, this freedom of the director led to the production of some of Asia's finest films.

The films of Kenji Mizoguchi were among the greatest of these. Mizoguchi's films were usually set in the nineteenth century and analysed the way in which the lives of the female characters whom he chose as his focus were constrained by the society of the time. From *Osaka Elegy* (1936) to *Ugetsu Monogatari* (1953) and beyond, he evolved a sinuous way of moving his camera in and around a scene, advancing towards significant details but often retreating at moments of confrontation or strong feeling. No one had used the camera with such finesse before.

Even more important for film history, however, is the work of the great Ozu. Where Hollywood cranked up drama, Ozu avoided it. His camera seldom moved. It nestled at seated height, framing people square on, listening quietly to their words. Ozu rejected the conventions of editing, cutting not on action, as is usually done in the west, but for visual balance. Even more strikingly, Ozu regularly cut away from his action to a shot of a tree or a kettle or clouds, not to establish a new location but as a moment of repose. Many historians now compare such 'pillow shots' to the Buddhist idea that *mu* - empty space or nothing - is itself an element of composition.






As the art form most swayed by money and market, cinema would appear to be too busy to bother with questions of philosophy. The Asian nations proved and are still proving that this is not the case. Just as deep ideas about individual freedom have led to the aspirational cinema of Hollywood, so it is the beliefs which underlie cultures such as those of China and Japan that explain the distinctiveness of Asian cinema at its best. Yes, these films are visually striking, but it is their different sense of what a person is, and what space and action are, which makes them new to western eye.

Questions 14-18

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 2?

In boxes 14-18 on your answer sheet 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

- 14  The inventors of cinema regarded it as a minor attraction.
- 15  Some directors were aware of cinema's artistic possibilities from the very beginning.
- 16  The development of cinema's artistic potential depended on technology.
- 17  Cinema's possibilities were developed in varied ways in different western countries.
- 18  Western businessmen were concerned about the emergence of film industries in other parts of the world.


Questions 19-25

Complete the notes below using the list of words (A-K) from the box below.

Write the correct letters in boxes 19-25 on your answer sheet.

Chinese cinema

large number of 19  films produced in 1930s

some early films still generally regarded as 20 

Indian cinema

films included musical interludes


films avoided 21  topics

Japanese cinema

unusual because film director was very ²² 
two important directors:

Mizoguchi - focused on the ²³  restrictions faced by women

- camera movement related to ²⁴  content of film

Ozu - ²⁵  camera movement

A	emotional
B	negative
C	expensive
D	silent
E	social
F	outstanding
G	little
H	powerful
I	realistic
J	stylistic
K	economic

Question 26

26 Which of the following is the most suitable title for Reading Passage 2?

- ☐ A Blind to change: how is it that the west has ignored Asian cinema for so long?
- ☐ B A different basis: how has the cinema of Asian countries been shaped by their cultures and beliefs?
- ☐ C Outside Asia: how did the origins of cinema affect its development worldwide?
- ☐ D Two cultures: how has western cinema tried to come to terms with the challenge of the Asian market?

Reading Passage 3

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



Quiet roads ahead

The roar of passing vehicles could soon be a thing of the past

A. The noise produced by busy roads is a growing problem. While vehicle designers have worked hard to quieten engines, they have been less successful elsewhere. The sound created by the tyres on the surface of the road now accounts for more than half the noise that vehicles create, and as road building and car sales continue to boom - particularly in Asia and the US - this is turning into a global issue.

B. According to the World Health Organization, exposure to noise from road traffic over long periods can lead to stress-related health problems. And where traffic noise exceeds a certain threshold, road builders have to spend money erecting sound barriers and installing double glazing in blighted homes. Houses become harder to sell where environmental noise is high, and people are not as efficient or productive at work.

C. Already, researchers in the Netherlands - one of the most densely populated countries in the world - are working to develop techniques for silencing the roads. In the next five years the Dutch government aims to have reduced noise levels from the country's road surfaces by six decibels overall. Dutch mechanical engineer Ard Kuijpers has come up with one of the most promising, and radical, ideas. He set out to tackle the three most important factors: surface texture, hardness and ability to absorb sound.

D. The rougher the surface, the more likely it is that a tyre will vibrate and create noise.

Road builders usually eliminate bumps on freshly laid asphalt with heavy rollers, but Kuijpers has developed a method of road building that he thinks can create the ultimate quiet road. His secret is a special mould 3 metres wide and 50 metres long. Hot asphalt, mixed with small stones, is spread into the mould by a railmounted machine which flattens the asphalt mix with a roller. When it sets, the 10-millimetre-thick sheet has a surface smoother than anything that can be achieved by conventional methods.

E. To optimise the performance of his road surface - to make it hard wearing yet soft enough to snuff out vibrations - he then adds another layer below the asphalt. This consists of a 30-millimetre-thick layer of rubber, mixed with stones which are larger than those in the layer above. 'It's like a giant mouse mat, making the road softer,' says Kuijpers.

F. The size of the stones used in the two layers is important, since they create pores of a specific size in the road surface. Those used in the top layer are just 4 or 5 millimetres across, while the ones below are approximately twice that size - about 9 millimetres. Kuijpers says the surface can absorb any air that is passing through a tyre's tread (the indentations or ridges on the surface of a tyre), damping oscillations that would otherwise create noise. And in addition they make it easier for the water to drain away, which can make the road safer in wet weather.

G. Compared with the complex manufacturing process, laying the surface is quite simple. It emerges from the factory rolled, like a carpet, onto a drum 1.5 metres in diameter. On site, it is unrolled and stuck onto its foundation with bitumen. Even the white lines are applied in the factory.

H. The foundation itself uses an even more sophisticated technique to reduce noise further. It consists of a sound-absorbing concrete base containing flask-shaped slots up to 10 millimetres wide and 30 millimetres deep that are open at the top and sealed at the lower end. These cavities act like Helmholtz resonators - when sound waves of specific frequencies enter the top of a flask, they set up resonances inside and the energy of the sound dissipates into the concrete as heat. The cavities play another important role: they help to drain water that seeps through from the upper surface. This flow will help flush out waste material and keep the pores in the outer layers clear.

I. Kuijpers can even control the sounds that his resonators absorb, simply by altering their dimensions. This could prove especially useful since different vehicles produce noise at different frequencies. Car tyres peak at around 1000 hertz, for example, but trucks generate lower-frequency noise at around 600 hertz. By varying the size of the Kuijpers resonators, it is possible to control which frequencies the concrete absorbs. On large highways, trucks tend to use the inside lane, so resonators here could be tuned to absorb sounds at around 600 hertz while those in other lanes could deal with higher frequency noise from cars.

J. Kuijpers believes he can cut noise by five decibels compared to the quietest of today's roads. He has already tested a 100-metre-long section of his road on a motorway near Apeldoorn, and Dutch construction company Heijmans is discussing the location of the next roll-out road with the country's government. The success of Kuijpers' design will depend on how much it eventually costs. But for those affected by traffic noise there is hope of quieter times ahead.

Questions 27-32

Reading Passage 3 has ten paragraphs labelled A-J

Which paragraph contains the following information?

Write the correct letter A-J in boxes 27-32 on your answer sheet.

27 a description of the form in which Kuijpers' road surface is taken to its destination

28 an explanation of how Kuijpers makes a smooth road surface

29 something that has to be considered when evaluating Kuijpers' proposal

30 various economic reasons for reducing road noise

31 a generalisation about the patterns of use of vehicles on major roads

32 a summary of the different things affecting levels of noise on roads

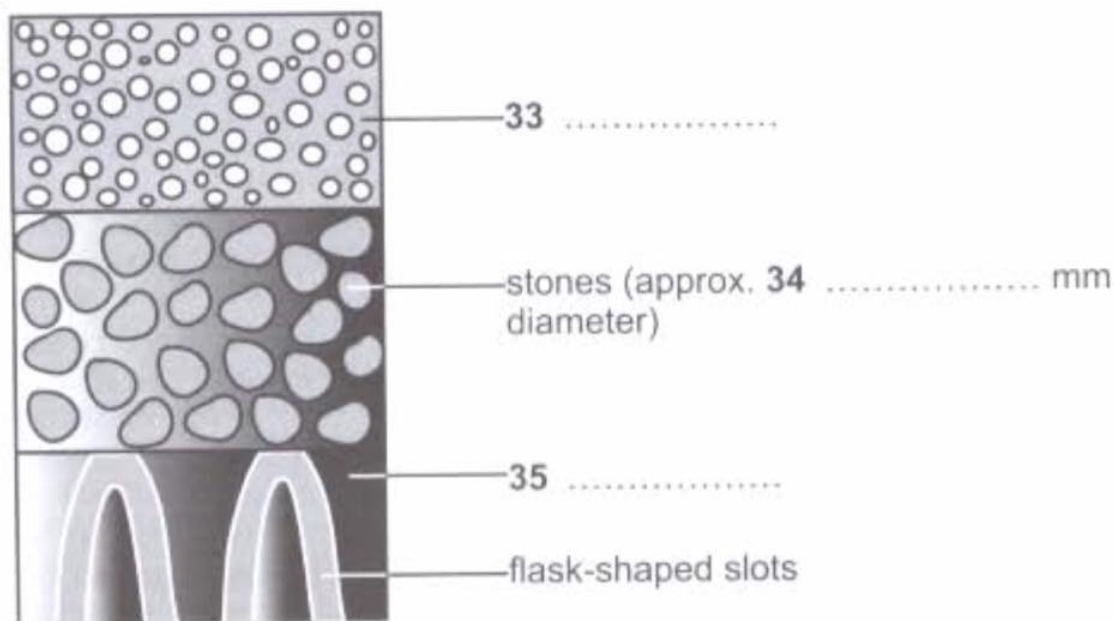
Questions 33-35

Label the diagram below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 33-35 on your answer sheet.

Cross section of Kuijpers' proposed noise-reducing road



33 _____

34 _____

35 _____

Questions 36-40

Complete the table below using the list of words (A-K) from the box below.

Write the correct letters in boxes 36-40 on your answer sheet.

Kuijpers' noise-reducing road: components and function

Layer	Component	Function
upper and lower	stones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduce oscillations caused by 36 <input type="text"/> create pores which help 37 <input type="text"/>
foundation	slots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> convert 38 <input type="text"/> to heat. help to remove 39 <input type="text"/> can be adapted to absorb different 40 <input type="text"/>

A	frequencies
B	the engine
C	rubbish
D	resonators
E	air flow
F	dissipation
G	sound energy
H	pores
I	lanes
J	drainage
K	sources



Solution:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| 1 vi | 2 ix |
| 3 iii | 4 viii |
| 5 i | 6 iv |
| 7 D | 8 B |
| 9 D | 10 A |
| 11 managers and sportsmen | 12 driving |
| 13 Pharmaceutical (companies) | 27 G |
| 28 D | 29 J |
| 30 B | 31 I |
| 32 C | 33 asphalt |

34 9/nine

35 concrete

36 E

37 J

38 G

39 C

40 A

14 TRUE

15 FALSE

16 NOT GIVEN

17 TRUE

18 FALSE

19 D

20 F

21 B

22 H

23 E

24 A

25 G

26 B

Review and Explanations

1 Answer: **vi**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q1: A successful approach to the study of decision-making	Paragraph B When Kahneman and his colleagues first started work, the idea of applying psychological insights to economics and business decisions was seen as rather bizarre . But in the past decade the fields of behavioural finance and behavioural economics have blossomed, and in 2002 Kahneman shared a Nobel prize in economics for his work
Note: In this paragraph, the author writes about Daniel Kahneman's new approach to the study of decision-making is applying psychological understanding to decisions relating to economic and business and it has proven successful when he achieved a Nobel prize in economics for his hard work in 2002. So, the right heading for paragraph B is vi .	

2 Answer: **ix**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q2: The power of the first number	Paragraph D Another source of wrong decisions is related to the decisive effect of the initial meeting, particularly in negotiations over money. This is referred to as the 'anchor effect' . Once a figure has been mentioned, it takes a stranglehold over the human mind.
Note: The "anchor effect" describes the common human tendency to rely too heavily on the first piece of information offered . In this paragraph, the author indicates that this effect has an impact on negotiations over money. He explains once a figure (number) has given out, it takes a control (stranglehold) over the human mind. So the right heading for paragraph D is ix .	

3 Answer: **iii**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q3: The difficulty of changing your mind	Paragraph E In addition, mistakes may arise due to stubbornness. No one likes to abandon a cherished belief, and the earlier a decision has been taken, the harder it is to abandon it.
Note: In this paragraph, the author emphasizes that mistakes may arise due to unwillingness or difficulty to change the mind (stubbornness) and it is far too hard (difficult) for people to leave (abandon) their cherished belief. So, the right heading for paragraph E is iii .	

4 Answer: **viii**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q4: Reluctance to go beyond the familiar	Paragraph F <p>People also tend to put a lot of emphasis on things they have seen and experienced themselves, which may not be the best guide to decision-making . For example, somebody may buy an overvalued share because a relative has made thousands on it, only to get his fingers burned. In finance, too much emphasis on information close at hand helps to explain the tendency by most investors to invest only within the country they live in . Even though they know that diversification is good for their portfolio, a large majority of both Americans and Europeans invest far too heavily in the shares of their home countries.</p>
Note: <p>“Reluctance to go beyond the familiar” means that lack of eagerness or willingness to do something outside the comfort zone.</p> <p>In this paragraph, the author indicates that people tend to pay significant attention (put a lot of emphasis) to things they have seen or experienced. It means that they are reluctant to do something that they are not familiar with. To support this idea, the writer gives a range of examples, such as “somebody may buy an overvalued share because a relative has made thousands on it”, “most investors to invest only within the country they live in”, a large majority of both Americans and Europeans invest far too heavily in the shares of their home countries”. So, the correct heading of this paragraph F is viii.</p>	

5 Answer: **i**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q5: Not identifying the correct priorities	Paragraph G <p>More information is helpful in making any decision but, says Kahneman, people spend proportionally too much time on small decisions and not enough on big ones . They need to adjust the balance. During the boom years, some companies put as much effort into planning their office party as into considering strategic mergers.</p>
Note: <p>In this paragraph, Kahneman says “people spend proportionally too much time on small decisions and not enough on big ones”, “some companies put as much effort into planning their office party as into considering strategic mergers”. This means some people and companies are unable to define which decisions or scheme they should make effort on or they don't give priority properly to what they do. So, the correct heading of paragraph G is i.</p>	

6 Answer: **iv**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q6: Why looking back is unhelpful	Paragraph H crying over spilled milk is not just a waste of time ; it also often colours people's perceptions of the future.
Note: crying over spilled milk means to be upset over or looking back something that already happened and can not be fixed. In this paragraph, the writer claims that looking back is not only unhelpful (waste of time) but also often affects (colours) people's perceptions of the future. So, the correct heading of paragraph H is iv .	

7 Answer: **D**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q7: People initially found Kahneman's work unusual because he A. saw mistakes as following predictable patterns. B. was unaware of behavioural approaches. C. dealt with irrational types of practice. D. applied psychology to finance and economics .	When Kahneman and his colleagues first started work, the idea of applying psychological insights to economics and business decisions was seen as rather bizarre .
Note: Quickly scan the passage to look for the particular name ' Kahneman ' Paragraph B states that when Kahneman's work first started, he applied psychology to economics and business decisions and this was seen as rather bizarre (unusual) . Hence, the answer is D.	

8 Answer: **B**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
-----------------------	--------------------------

<p>Q8: The writer mentions house-owners attitudes towards the value of their homes to illustrate that:</p> <p>A. past failures may destroy an optimistic attitude.</p> <p>B. people tend to exaggerate their chances of success.</p> <p>C. optimism may be justified in certain circumstances.</p> <p>D. people are influenced by the success of others.</p>	<p>One common cause of problems in decision-making is over-optimism. Ask most people about the future, and they will see too much blue sky ahead, even if past experience suggests otherwise. Surveys have shown that people's forecasts of future stock market movements are far more optimistic than past long-term returns would justify. The same goes for their hopes of ever-rising prices for their homes or doing well in games of chance</p>
<p>Note:</p> <p>The keywords: house-owner, illustrate</p> <p>In paragraph C, the author indicates that people are too much optimistic (too much blue sky) about the future even if past suggests it was not practical.</p> <p>The author also claims that "The same goes for their hopes of ever-rising prices for their homes". This means they put their hopes up way too high that the prices of their houses is always rising or exaggerate of their chances of success while it may be worse than it really is. For all of which, the answer is B.</p>	

9 Answer: **D**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q 9: Stubbornness and inflexibility can cause problems when people:</p> <p>A. think their financial difficulties are just due to bad luck.</p> <p>B. avoid seeking advice from experts and analysts.</p> <p>C. refuse to invest in the early stages of a project.</p> <p>D. are unwilling to give up unsuccessful activities or beliefs.</p>	<p>In addition, mistakes may arise due to stubbornness. No one likes to abandon a cherished belief, and the earlier a decision has been taken, the harder it is to abandon it. Drug companies must decide early to cancel a failing research project to avoid wasting money, but may find it difficult to admit they have made a mistake. In the same way, analysts may have become wedded early to a single explanation that coloured their perception. A fresh eye always helps.</p>
<p>Note:</p> <p>The keywords are stubbornness and inflexibility.</p> <p>In paragraph E, it is said that mistakes may occur due to stubbornness, inflexibility in changing belief. To support this idea, the author gives out 2 examples, one about the stubbornness of drug companies can cause wasting of money and the inflexibility of analysts can affect their perception. So, the answer is D.</p>	

10 Answer: **A**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
-----------------------	--------------------------

<p>Q 10 : Why do many Americans and Europeans fail to spread their financial risks when investing?</p> <p>A They feel safer dealing in a context which is close to home.</p> <p>B They do not understand the benefits of diversification.</p> <p>C They are over-influenced by the successes of their relatives.</p> <p>D They do not have sufficient knowledge of one another's countries.</p>	<p>In finance, too much emphasis on information close at hand helps to explain the tendency by most investors to invest only within the country they live in . Even though they know that diversification is good for their portfolio, a large majority of both Americans and Europeans invest far too heavily in the shares of their home countries. They would be much better off spreading their risks more widely.</p>
---	--

Note

The keywords: **Americans and Europeans**, quickly scan the passage for those particular words and read some sentences before and after them to locate the answer. By reading around the keywords "**Americans and Europeans**", we can see that option C and D are not mentioned, option B wrong because the author says they know that "diversification is good for their portfolio". **So, the correct answer is A** because they feel safer in dealing with information **close at hand (close to home countries)** which they are already familiar with.

11 Answer: **managers and sportsmen**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q11: Which two occupations may benefit from being over-optimistic?</p>	<p>Surveys have shown that people's forecasts of future stock market movements are far more optimistic than past long-term returns would justify. The same goes for their hopes of ever-rising prices for their homes or doing well in games of chance. Such optimism can be useful for managers or sportsmen</p>

Note:

The keyword in question is **two occupations**.

Based on the question, we need to find out 2 jobs that can take advantage of being over-optimistic. In the middle of paragraph C, the author writes "Such optimism can be useful for managers or sportsmen". **So, the answer is "managers or sportsmen"**

12 Answer: **driving**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q12: Which practical skill are many people over-confident about?</p>	<p>Kahneman's work points to three types of over-confident. First, people tend to exaggerate their own skill and prowess; in polls, far fewer than half the respondents admit to having below-average skills in, say, driving.</p>

Note:

Based on the question, we need to find out a **particular practical skill** that people are very confident about. In paragraph C, the author writes “far fewer than half the respondents admit to having below-average skills in, say, driving”. This means most of the respondents are over-confident about their driving skill. **So, the answer is “driving”.**

13 Answer: **Pharmaceutical (companies)**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q13 Which type of business has a generally good attitude to dealing with uncertainty?	Kahneman reckons that some types of businesses are much better than others at dealing with risk. Pharmaceutical companies , which are accustomed to many failures and a few big successes in their drug- discovery programmes, are fairly rational about their risk-taking

Note:

Based on the question, we need to find out a **particular type of business** that mostly succeed in dealing with unpredictable situations. In paragraph I, the writer mentions “Pharmaceutical companies, which **are accustomed to many failures** and **a few big successes** in their drug-discovery programmes, are **fairly rational about their risk-taking**” This means that Pharmaceutical companies are used to many failures so they can face failure with a good attitude. **So, the answer is “Pharmaceutical companies”**

27 Answer: **G**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q27 a description of the form in which Kuijpers' road surface is taken to its destination	Paragraph G: Compared with the complex manufacturing process, laying the surface is quite simple. It emerges from the factory rolled , like a carpet, onto a drum 1.5 metres in diameter. On site , it is unrolled and stuck onto its foundation with bitumen. Even the white lines are applied in the factory

Note

Paragraph G describes **the process (form) of making road surface**, beginning at factory “It **emerges from the factory rolled**, like a carpet, onto a drum 1.5 metres in diameter” and ending with taking it to the **site (destination)** to unroll and stuck onto its foundation. **Therefore, the answer is G.**

28 Answer: **D**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
-----------------------	--------------------------

<p>Q28 a n explanation of how Kuijpers makes a smooth road surface</p>	<p>Paragraph D [...], but Kuijpers has developed a method of road building that he thinks can create the ultimate quiet road. His secret is a special mould 3 metres wide and 50 metres long. Hot asphalt, mixed with small stones, is spread into the mould by a rail mounted machine which flattens the asphalt mix with a roller. When it sets, the 10-millimetre-thick sheet has a surface smoother than anything that can be achieved by conventional methods.</p>
<p>Note Paragraph D indicates that Kuijpers has developed a much more effective method of road building compared to conventional methods by explaining many different stages of his secret approach “His secret is a special mould 3 metres wide and 50 metres long. Hot asphalt, mixed with small stones, is spread into the mould by a rail mounted machine which flattens the asphalt mix with a roller” to make the road surface smoother. Therefore, the answer is G.</p>	

29 Answer: **J**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q29 something that has to be considered when evaluating Kuijpers' proposal</p>	<p>Paragraph J [...] The success of Kuijpers' design will depend on how much it eventually costs.</p>
<p>Note In paragraph J, it is stated that the cost of Kuijpers’s design (Kuijpers’s proposal) will be taken into account to evaluate the level of success of this model. Therefore, the answer is J.</p>	

30 Answer: **B**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q30 various economic reasons for reducing road noise</p>	<p>Paragraph B [...] And where traffic noise exceeds a certain threshold, road builders have to spend money erecting sound barriers and installing double glazing in blighted homes. Houses become harder to sell where environmental noise is high, and people are not as efficient or productive at work.</p>
<p>Note Paragraph B, the author gives out a range of economic loss examples due to traffic noise “road builders have to spend money erecting sound barriers and installing double glazing in blighted homes. Houses become harder to sell where environmental noise is high, and people are not as efficient or productive at work” , and these are reasons for reducing road noise. Therefore, the answer is B.</p>	

31 Answer: **I**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q31 a generalisation about the patterns of use of vehicles on major roads	Paragraph I [...] On large highways, trucks tend to use the inside lane, so resonators here could be tuned to absorb sounds at around 600 hertz while those in other lanes could deal with higher frequency noise from cars.
Note According to extracted part from paragraph I above, the author means that in most situations (generalisation) on major roads (large highways) , trucks tend to use the inside lane, while cars run on other lanes. Therefore, the answer is I.	

32 Answer: **C**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q32 a summary of the different things affecting levels of noise on roads	Paragraph C [...] Ard Kuijpers has come up with one of the most promising, and radical, ideas. He set out to tackle the three most important factors: surface texture, hardness and ability to absorb sound.
Note At the end of paragraph C, the author says that Ard Kuijpers has pointed out three main factors (different things) affecting levels of noise on roads “three most important factors: surface texture, hardness and ability to absorb sound”. Therefore, the answer is C.	

33 Answer: **asphalt**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q33 describe the drawing of Kuijpers's design of road surface with three layers.	Paragraph I [...] he then adds another layer below the asphalt. This consists of a 30-millimetre-thick layer of rubber, mixed with stones which are larger than those in the layer above.
Note Q33: we need to find the name of the top layer in the road surface. According to paragraph I, it is stated that “he then adds another layer below the asphalt”. This means the asphalt layer is on the top of the road surface and so the answer is “asphalt”	

34 Answer: **9/nine**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
-----------------------	--------------------------

<p>Q34 describe the drawing of Kuijpers's design of road surface with three layers.</p>	<p>Paragraph F</p> <p>[...]The size of the stones used in the two layers is important, since they create pores of a specific size in the road surface. Those used in the top layer are just 4 or 5 millimetres across, while the ones below are approximately twice that size - about 9 millimetres.</p>
<p>Note</p> <p>Q34: we need to find the information of the size of stones in the middle layer. In paragraph F, the author says “Those (the stones) used in the top layer are just 4 or 5 millimetres across, while the ones below (the stones used in the middle layer) are approximately twice that size - about 9 millimetres. So the answer is “9”.</p>	

35 Answer: **concrete**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q35 describe the drawing of Kuijpers's design of road surface with three layers.</p>	<p>Paragraph H</p> <p>The foundation itself uses an even more sophisticated technique to reduce noise further. It consists of a sound-absorbing concrete base containing flask-shaped slots up to 10 millimetres wide and 30 millimetres deep that are open at the top and sealed at the lower end.</p>
<p>Note</p> <p>Q35: we need to find the information about the materials in the bottom layer (the foundation). It is stated in the paragraph H that “The foundation itself uses an even more sophisticated technique to reduce noise further. It consists of a sound-absorbing concrete base containing flask-shaped slots”. There are two possible answers: a sound-absorbing concrete and flask-shaped slots. Because flask-shaped slots were already shown in the drawing and the answer must be no more than one word/a number, the answer to Q35 should be “concrete”.</p>	

36 Answer: **E**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>stones reduce oscillations caused by Q36_____</p>	<p>The size of the stones used in the two layers (upper and lower) [...]. Kuijpers says the surface can absorb any air [...], damping oscillations that would otherwise create noise</p>

Note

Quickly scan to locate the word “**stones**” in the text and read some sentences before and after to find the answer.

Based on the question, we need to find the functions of stones in the upper and lower layers. As for Q36, we need to find out the cause of oscillation. The author writes in paragraph F “Kuijpers says the **surface can absorb any air** [...], damping oscillations that would **otherwise create noise**”. It means that the **surface (upper and lower layers consisting of stones)** can **take in (absorb)** any **air** that helps to **damp (reduce)** oscillations. **So the answer is E.**

37 Answer: **J**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
stones create pores which help Q37 ____	Paragraph F The size of the stones used in the two layers is important, since they create pores of a specific size in the road surface. [...] the surface can absorb any air [...] And in addition they (the surface creating pores) make it easier for the water to drain away , which can make the road safer in wet weather

Note

Quickly scan to locate the word “**stones**” in the text and read some sentences before and after to find the answer.

Based on the question, we need to find the functions of stones in the upper and lower layers.

In paragraph F, it is clearly stated that the surface (consisting of stones used in the two layers) creating **pores (tiny holes)** can absorb any air and **make it easier for the water to drain away (drainage)**. **So the answer is J.**

38 Answer: **G**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
-----------------------	--------------------------

<p>slots</p> <p>convert Q38 _____ to heat.</p> <p>help to remove Q39 _____</p> <p>can be adapted to absorb different Q40 _____</p>	<p>The foundation itself uses an even more sophisticated technique to reduce noise further. It consists of a sound-absorbing concrete base containing flask-shaped slots [...]. These cavities act like Helmholtz resonators - when sound waves of specific frequencies enter the top of a flask, they set up resonances inside and the energy of the sound dissipates into the concrete as heat. The cavities play another important role: they help to drain water that seeps through from the upper surface. This flow will help flush out waste material and keep the pores in the outer layers clear.</p> <p>[...] Kuijpers can even control the sounds that his resonators absorb, simply by altering their dimensions. This could prove especially useful since different vehicles produce noise at different frequencies. By varying the size of the Kuijpers resonators, it is possible to control which frequencies the concrete absorbs</p>
---	--

Note

Quickly scan to locate the word “**slots**” in the text and read some sentences before and after to find the answer.

Based on the question, we need to find the functions of slots in the foundation.

In paragraph H, the author indicates that ‘These **cavities (flask-shaped slots)** act like Helmholtz resonators - when sound waves of specific frequencies enter the top of a flask, they set up resonances inside and **the energy of the sound dissipates into the concrete as heat**” This means that the cavities (slots) act like resonators that help convert (dissipates) energy of sound into heat and vanish into the concrete. **So the answer to Q38 is G.**

39 Answer: **C**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
-----------------------	--------------------------

<p>slots</p> <p>convert Q38 _____ to heat.</p> <p>help to remove Q39 _____</p> <p>can be adapted to absorb different Q40 _____</p>	<p>The foundation itself uses an even more sophisticated technique to reduce noise further. It consists of a sound-absorbing concrete base containing flask-shaped slots [...]. These cavities act like Helmholtz resonators - when sound waves of specific frequencies enter the top of a flask, they set up resonances inside and the energy of the sound dissipates into the concrete as heat. The cavities play another important role: they help to drain water that seeps through from the upper surface. This flow will help flush out waste materia and keep the pores in the outer layers clear.</p> <p>[...] Kuipers can even control the sounds that his resonators absorb, simply by altering their dimensions. This could prove especially useful since different vehicles produce noise at different frequencies. By varying the size of the Kuipers resonators, it is possible to control which frequencies the concrete absorbs</p>
<p>Note</p> <p>Quickly scan to locate the word “slots” in the text and read some sentences before and after to find the answer.</p> <p>Based on the question, we need to find the functions of slots in the foundation.</p> <p>Continued paragraph H, it is said that “The cavities (slots) play another important role [...] This flow (draining water) will help flush out (remove) waste material (rubbish)”. So the answer to Q39 is C.</p>	

40 Answer: **A**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
-----------------------	--------------------------

<p>slots convert Q38 _____ to heat. help to remove Q39 _____ can be adapted to absorb different Q40 _____</p>	<p>The foundation itself uses an even more sophisticated technique to reduce noise further. It consists of a sound-absorbing concrete base containing flask-shaped slots [...]. These cavities act like Helmholtz resonators - when sound waves of specific frequencies enter the top of a flask, they set up resonances inside and the energy of the sound dissipates into the concrete as heat. The cavities play another important role: they help to drain water that seeps through from the upper surface. This flow will help flush out waste material and keep the pores in the outer layers clear.</p> <p>[...] Kuijpers can even control the sounds that his resonators absorb, simply by altering their dimensions. This could prove especially useful since different vehicles produce noise at different frequencies. By varying the size of the Kuijpers resonators, it is possible to control which frequencies the concrete absorbs</p>
<p>Note Quickly scan to locate the word “slots” in the text and read some sentences before and after to find the answer. Based on the question, we need to find the functions of slots in the foundation. In paragraph I, the author says “By varying the size of the Kuijpers resonators (the slots), it is possible to control which frequencies the concrete absorbs” This means that the size of slots can be varied in order to absorb different frequencies. So the answer to Q40 is A.</p>	

Great thanks to volunteer **Van Duong** has contributed these explanations.

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

14 Answer: **TRUE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
-----------------------	--------------------------

Q14 The inventors of cinema regarded it as a minor attraction	There has always been a sense in which America and Europe owned film. They invented it at the end of the nineteenth century in unfashionable places like New Jersey, Leeds and the suburbs of Lyons. At first, they saw their clumsy new camera-projectors merely as more profitable versions of Victorian lantern shows, mechanical curiosities which might have a use as a sideshow at a funfair .
---	--

Note:

Based on the question and the keywords “**inventors of cinema**”, we need to find which part of the text referring to inventors of cinema and what they see in their products.

In the **first paragraph**, the author indicates that American and Europe inventing film at the end of the 19 century and they saw their clumsy camera-projector could hardly produce profitable versions compared to Victorian lantern shows. This means that they considered their products **merely attractive or a minor attraction**. So the answer is **TRUE**.

15 Answer: **FALSE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q15 Some directors were aware of cinema's artistic possibilities from the very beginning.	Then the best of the pioneers looked beyond the fairground properties of their invention. A few directors , now mostly forgotten, saw that the flickering new medium was more than just a diversion. This crass commercial invention gradually began to evolve as an art.

Note:

Based on the question, we need to find **when** some director **know (aware of)** the artistic potential of cinema. Is it at **the very beginning**?

Continued the first paragraph, the author writes **Then the best of the pioneers (the directors)** looked beyond the fairground properties of their invention. **A few directors**, now mostly forgotten, saw that the flickering new medium was more than just a diversion. This crass commercial invention gradually began to evolve as an art”. This means that it **took a period of time not at the very beginning** for the directors to realize the potential of their inventions which was more than just an activity you do for pleasure (**diversion**). So the statement contracts with what stated in the text, the answer is **FALSE**.

16 Answer: **NOT GIVEN**

Keywords in Questions
Q16 The development of cinema's artistic potential depended on technology.

Note

Based on the question, we need to find what development of cinema's art depended on. Continue to read the first paragraph, we find no information mentioning about how technology help to develop cinema's artistic potential. **So the answer to this question is NOT GIVEN.**

17 Answer: **TRUE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q17 Cinema's possibilities were developed in varied ways in different western countries .	This crass commercial invention gradually began to evolve as an art. D W Griffith in California glimpsed its grace, German directors used it as an analogue to the human mind and the modernising city, Soviets emphasised its agitational and intellectual properties, and the Italians reconfigured it on an operatic scale.

Note

Based on the question, we need to identify whether cinema's possibilities were developed in **different ways** in different **western countries**. At the bottom of the first paragraph, we can quickly see how cinema's possibilities were used and developed in technology, architecture..in many western parts such as California, Germany, Soviet, Italy. **So the answer is TRUE.**

18 Answer: **FALSE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q18 Western businessmen were concerned about the emergence of film industries in other parts of the world.	So heady were these first decades of cinema that America and Europe can be forgiven for assuming that they were the only game in town

Note

This statement means that Western businessmen were worrying about the **development (emergency)** of film industries in other countries, but at the beginning of paragraph 2 the author emphasizes that **America and Europe (Western businessmen)** assuming that they were the only game in town or they mean they are dominating film industries and so they have no reason to concern about other parts of the world. **Thus, the answer is FALSE.**

19 Answer: **D**

From the question Q19 - Q25, we use scanning technique to quickly locate the particular name of countries such as China, Japan, India...then read some sentences before and after those words to find the correct answers.
Do not expect to find the words that look exactly the same as possible answers A - K but look for words and phrases with the same meaning in the text.

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
-----------------------	--------------------------

large number of Q19 _____ films produced in 1930s	Between 1930 and 1935, China produced more than 500 films, mostly conventionally made in studios in Shanghai, without soundtracks
Note Quickly scan to find the part referring to Chinese cinema Based on the question, we need to find what kind of films were produced in large number in China in the 1930s. At the top of paragraph 3, it is clearly stated that between 1930 and 1935, China produced a large number of films (500 films) without soundtracks or it means silent films. So the answer is D.	

20 Answer: **F**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
some early films still generally regarded as Q20 _____	The Peach Girl (1931) and Street Angel (1937) are regularly voted among the best ever made in the country
Note At the bottom of paragraph 3, the writer gives examples of some early films (The Peach Girl and Street Angel) are regularly (generally) voted among the best or outstanding films ever. So the answer is F.	

21 Answer: **B**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
films avoided Q21 _____ topics	Performed in Hindi (rather than any of the numerous regional languages), they addressed social and peasant themes in an optimistic and romantic way and found markets in the Middle East, Africa and the Soviet Union.
Note Quickly scan to find the part referring to Indian cinema Based on the question, we need to find the information about what kind of film's topics that Indian avoid producing. By quickly scanning we can see information of Indian movies discussed in paragraph 4. The author writes "they addressed social and peasant themes in an optimistic and romantic way ". This means that they want to avoid topics which are pessimistic or negative . So the answer is B.	

22 Answer: **H**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
unusual because film director was very Q22 _____	In Japan, the film industry did not rival India's in size but was unusual in other ways. Whereas in Hollywood the producer was the central figure, in Tokyo the director chose the stories and hired the producer and actors

Note

Quickly scan to find the part referring to Japanese cinema

Based on the question, we need to find the information about a **special character of Japanese film director**.

At the top of paragraph 5, the author writes "Whereas in Hollywood the producer was the central figure, in Tokyo the director **chose the stories and hired the producer and actors**". This means that while in Hollywood the producer was the most important one (central figure), in Tokyo **the director** hired and **took controls of** the producer or **get the power to direct** the producer. **So the answer is H.**

23 Answer: **E**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Mizoguchi: focused on the Q23 _____ restrictions faced by women	The films of Kenji Mizoguchi were among the greatest of these. Mizoguchi's films were usually set in the nineteenth century and analysed the way in which the lives of the female characters whom he chose as his focus were constrained by the society of the time

Note

Based on the question, we need to find the information related to the films of **Mizoguchi**. So quickly scan to locate this name in the text.

In the middle of paragraph 5, the author writes '**Mizoguchi's films** were usually set in the nineteenth century and analysed the way in which the lives of the **female characters** whom he chose as **his focus** were **constrained (restricted) by the society** of the time". This means that Mizoguchi's films focused on the lives of the women **restricted to the society (social restrictions)**. **So the answer is E.**

24 Answer: **A**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
camera movement related to Q24 _____ content of film	From Osaka Elegy (1936) to Ugetsu Monogatari (1953) and beyond, he evolved a sinuous way of moving his camera in and around a scene , advancing towards significant details but often retreating at moments of confrontation or strong feeling

Note

In the middle of paragraph 5, the author writes "he (Mizoguchi) evolved a sinuous way of moving his camera in and around a scene, advancing towards significant details but often retreating at moments of **confrontation or strong feeling**". This means that when it comes to **a scene with confrontation or strong feeling (emotional scene)** Mizoguchi often moves his camera away, in other words, camera movement related to an emotional content of film. **So the answer is A.**

25 Answer: **G**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q25 _____ camera movement	Even more important for film history, however, is the work of the great Ozu. Where Hollywood cranked up drama, Ozu avoided it. His camera seldom moved
Note Based on the question, we need to find the information related to the moving of camera of Ozu's work . So quickly scan to locate the name " Ozu " in the text. In the middle of paragraph 5, the author says "Where Hollywood cranked up drama, Ozu avoided it. His camera seldom moved". This means that his camera barely moved. So the answer is G.	

26 Answer: **B**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q26 Which of the following is the most suitable title for Reading Passage 2? A. Blind to change: how is it that the west has ignored Asian cinema for so long? B. A different basis: how has the cinema of Asian countries been shaped by their cultures and beliefs ? C. Outside Asia: how did the origins of cinema affect its development worldwide? D. Two cultures: how has western cinema tried to come to terms with the challenge of the Asian market?	Just as deep ideas about individual freedom have led to the aspirational cinema of Hollywood, so it is the beliefs which underlie cultures such as those of China and Japan that explain the distinctiveness of Asian cinema at its best
Note In this passage, the author focuses on describing features of Asian (Indian, Japanese, and Chinese) movies in the history. At the last paragraph, the author concludes that "it is the beliefs which underlie cultures such as those of China and Japan that explain the distinctiveness of Asian cinema at its best". This means that what makes Asian movies different from Hollywood is how they have been affected by the national beliefs and cultures. Therefore, the correct answer is B.	