

IELTS Mock Test 2021 February Reading Practice Test 1

HOW TO USE

You have 2 ways to access the test

1. Open this URL <http://link.intergreat.com/buBVU> 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 One.



Pine Trees

I am looking at a very thick twisted trunk, rising to medium height, at which point appears a stumpy canopy of spiky needles. It's a tree, but a very special one. Ron Simonson, a park ranger explains. "It's a bristlecone pine, and it's been given the name, Methuselah". I ask the obvious question, and Ron replies, "Because like Methuselah from the bible, this tree is very old, one of the oldest living things on Earth in fact." I ask the next obvious question, and Ron replies, "Basically Methuselah has existed throughout virtually all of recorded human history." I look again at this quiet and unassuming tree, beginning to realise it is worthy of great respect.

Being in a cold climate, facing limited summer seasons, rooted in nutrient poor and dry soil, and subject to high winds and withering winters, bristlecone pines mature very slowly indeed. Yet mature they do, as with all pines becoming fractionally thicker every year as another growth ring is added to their trunk. By counting these, we can accurately state that, as of 2011, Methuselah was 4,842 years old, meaning that it sprouted as a seedling in 2832 BC, centuries before the ancient Egyptians began building their pyramids. And that's just one fascinating fact about that well-known species of tree - the pine.

Pines trees are native to most of the Northern Hemisphere. Several species have adapted to the harsh conditions of high elevations and latitudes, including Methuselah himself, growing among the peaks of the White Mountains of Northern California.

Pines can be small, such as the Siberian Dwarf Pine, or huge, such as the Ponderosa Pine in the wilds of Oregon, and there are over 100 varieties in all. They have been introduced in to the more temperate portions of the Southern Hemisphere, where they are now grown widely, becoming a familiar feature in parks and gardens. It would not be too much of an exaggeration to say that almost everyone knows pines.

These trees certainly have many telltale characteristics. They are evergreen, usually with needle-like foliage and a sharp pleasant 'pine smell. They are often large and imposing, with thick scaly bark, and always produce their signature pine cones. These formations

are certainly not simple. They can be male (small, inconspicuous, and shedding pollen) or female (large, woody, and containing seeds), even when appearing on the same tree. They have numerous scales arranged in a spiral, with seeds (on the female) tucked within. As the cone opens, the seeds eventually fall out, mostly to be dispersed by the wind, or sometimes by birds. In some varieties, the cones remain closed until their binding resin is melted by forest fires.

This last fact - the need for wildfires for regeneration - is another fascinating aspect of many pine species. In fire-prone areas, it can result in extensive stands of pines, a good example being in 'pine barrens'. These are eco-regions of sandy nutrient-poor soil dominated by pines, since the frequency of natural (usually lightning-induced) fires weeds out the less fire-tolerant species. It is perhaps sad that modern fire prevention methods have resulted in the decline of many pine species in the wild, and most ancient pine barrens are now being taken over by other forest vegetation.

However, the situation is very different for home and commercial use, which has seen pines become a very common sight. As these trees grow fast, can be planted in dense arrays, and produce attractive and easily moulded wood, they are favourites for commercial plantations. The wood is fragrant, but prone to decay, so it is most suitable for indoor or dry carpentry, rather than outdoors, where more durable varieties are necessary. As for other uses of pines, their branches are valued as Christmas trees, and their wood is also pulped in factories for paper and chipboard production. Pine resin is a byproduct, and this is collected for distillation into turpentine, an important industrial solvent.

In a more homely sense, perhaps what people most like are the cones, the largest of which are regularly used by children and craft enthusiasts. With the widespread distribution of pines across the Northern Hemisphere, cones form part of the many traditional cultures there, where they are used for decorative purposes, fire starters, bird feeders, or just intriguing natural playthings for young children. Many people lament that modern manufactured toys in the more affluent of these countries have displaced cones, although some Nordic communities still teach traditional 'cone-craft' in high schools.

For some reason, I always come back to Methuselah. Ron tells me a story. In 1964, a student was taking a coring sample from another bristlecone pine in the area. His coring tool broke, so the tree was cut down to allow dating by an examination of a cross-section of its trunk. Upon doing this, to the astonishment of all, 4,844 rings were counted, signifying that the tree was even older than Methuselah. Ron smiles wryly at the thought. 'We deliberately killed the oldest life on Earth. That's one reason why we keep the location of Methuselah a secret. This tree is precious, and must be kept free from all human interference.'

Questions 1-4

Complete the sentences.

[Access <https://ieltonlinetests.com/for-more-practices>](https://ieltonlinetests.com/for-more-practices)

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

Every year, pine trees gain another 1

The pyramids were built hundreds of years after 2

Typical of all pines are their 3

The wood from pines is not very 4

Questions 5-8

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

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

5 Ponderosa pines are the largest.

6 Pines are familiar to most people.

7 Birds usually spread pine seeds.

8 Lightning storms benefit pine barrens.

Questions 9-11

Choose **THREE** answers from the list, and write the correct letter, A-F, next to the questions.

Which **THREE** groups of people, A-F, particularly like pine trees?

- A Plantation owners
- B Outdoor carpenters
- C People interested in craft
- D Certain native communities
- E Factory owners
- F Users of turpentine

Questions 12-13

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

12 Pine cones are

- A complicated
- B male
- C mostly the same size.
- D often used as toys in affluent countries.

13 Methuselah is

- A 4,842 years old.
- B the oldest tree ever.
- C visited by tourists.
- D not subject to much sunshine.

Reading Passage 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 14-26, which are based on Reading Passage Two.



An Insanely Dangerous Activity

Agnes Milowka was one of the foremost cave divers in the world. Female, photogenic, and experienced, she had gained international recognition for her exploratory work in many underground caverns around the world. In early 2011, she entered Tank Cave, near Mount Gambier, a seven-kilometre maze of narrow tunnels - yet ones she had explored many times before. Deep inside, she parted company from her dive buddy to explore a tight passageway through which only one person could pass. What happened next will never be exactly known, but the nature of the cave suggests that she became disoriented during a 'silt-out'. Unable to manoeuvre quickly, with visibility almost zero, she could not find her way back, and her air ran out.

Thinking of these last moments is disturbing, but illustrates the obvious dangers of cave diving. When anything goes wrong, divers cannot swim vertically to the surface, but must instead navigate the entire way back. The dive is immediately abandoned, but even with the full team at hand, the return is complicated by narrow tunnels, often lined with sand, mud, or clay, all of which can be easily disturbed - the dreaded 'silt-out' - where, in a few seconds, the diver is in a panic-inducing soup of sediment, virtually blind. Artificial light is swallowed in the pitch blackness, and there always needs to be sufficient breathing gas. In short, cave diving seems an insanely dangerous activity.

Yet the cave-diving community disputes this, arguing that their sport is actually safer than normal open-sea recreational diving. This is due to the much greater degrees of experience and training, and the special equipment used. Most fatalities that have occurred are a result of breaking accepted protocols, where improperly trained and inadequately equipped divers take on caves well beyond their capabilities. Cave divers maintain that, if the rules and guidelines are followed, their sport becomes acceptably safe. In the rare cases where deaths have happened while following these, there have

typically been unusual circumstances, such as unexpected currents or rock falls.

So, what are those protocols? There are five major ones, all decided upon after extensive accident analysis (the breaking down of accident reports to find their most common causes). Firstly, a cave diver should be trained and experienced. This is done in carefully documented components, each dealing with increasingly complex facets of cave diving, and accompanied with relevant, dive time before progression onwards is allowed. The next rule is the same as with all diving, whether open-sea or cave. It concerns the maximum depths and the decompression stops needed to allow the release of dissolved nitrogen from the blood. This is all carefully calculated in a dive plan before entering the water, and every diver must strictly adhere to this.

The next two protocols each concern a vital piece of equipment. Firstly, a guide rope is an absolute necessity. This is secured at the cave entrance, and fed into the cave by the lead diver. Sufficient tension is always maintained, and often the rope is tied up at regular lengths within the cave interior to ensure this. In the event of a silt-out, all divers, in theory, can find this rope, using it to guide their way back to the cave entrance. Equally crucial are the lights. A diver without lights is effectively marooned, unable to go anywhere. Each diver is therefore required to have three independent sources: a primary, and two backups. These are checked under the water when entering the cave, and the protocol states that if even one of these fails, the dive is abandoned for all members of the team.

The final protocol is, in some ways, the most basic, and concerns the breathing gas. With no quick escape, the 'rule of thirds' prevails. Here, one third of the gas is reserved for exploring into the cave, one third for retreating out of it, and one third as a reserve in the event of an emergency, or to support fellow divers. Most protocols suggest keeping each third in a separate air system, so that the loss of one - for example, due to a valve rupture - will not imperil the other two. Another variation is to ensure that these three separate systems are used equally, so that the remaining air is kept balanced. Again, this is a defence against the loss of one system, maximising the amount of air remaining for the return.

By following all such protocols, the risk is minimised, so that cave diving, as far as can be proven with the limited statistics available, is said to be safer than driving a car. Yet, as the sad death of Agnes Milowka shows, lethal mishaps can always occur. The question to be asked then is why anyone would want to dive into cold, confined, pitch-dark, subterranean cave systems in the first place. The answer is supplied by a cave-diving leader: 'You get to see things that human beings have never seen before. Nothing on Earth can compare to that.'

Questions 14-16

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

[Access <https://ieltonlinetests.com/for/practices>](https://ieltonlinetests.com/for/practices)

14 Agnes Milowka was

- A famous for her photography.
- B familiar with Tank Cave.
- C diving alone.
- D manoeuvring too quickly.

15 In cave-diving emergencies,

- A the return is difficult.
- B there is vertical escape.
- C divers often experience silt-outs.
- D some team members stay behind.

16 Cave-diving accidents usually happen

- A when equipment breaks.
- B more than in open-sea diving.
- C with bad equipment.
- D with a lack of equipment.

Questions 17-23

Complete the table.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer

	Protocol	Detail
1st	have sufficient training and experience	Progression not permitted unless there is 17 _____
2nd	18 _____ must be followed.	must have sufficient 19 _____
3rd	must use a 20 _____	must keep 21 _____

4th	must have at least three independent lights	Dives do not go ahead if 22 _____
5th	must obey rule of thirds	each system usually kept separate, sometimes breathed 23 _____

Questions 24-26

Complete the summary,

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

After she 24 _____ from her diving companion, Agnes Milowka died, illustrating the dangers involved in cave diving, yet there are 25 _____ which prove it is acceptably safe, and the attraction of seeing sights 26 _____ before lures people on.

Reading Passage 3

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



Criminal Rehabilitation: A Difficult Issue

When convicted criminals have served long terms of imprisonment, it is obvious that, upon their release, one cannot necessarily expect them to be reformed and able to reintegrate into society. In the potentially rough and violent ganglands of prisons, quite the opposite may occur, which raises a difficult dilemma in the criminal justice system. To maintain social order, those who break the law are expected to be punished, yet that same maintenance of order means that rehabilitation must be given a high emphasis.

The ethic of rehabilitation is based on the assumption that criminal tendencies are not necessarily permanent, and that former inmates can successfully lead lives in which they contribute positively to society. The ultimate goal is to prevent them from reoffending, an event technically known as criminal recidivism. Prisons therefore contain systems of education or therapy, as well as assessment to determine whether inmates have truly developed remorse for past misdeeds, an ability to reintegrate into society, and intentions to do so. Assessing this accurately is a difficult issue, and it must be accepted that there are some people who can never be rehabilitated, however much we try.

The term psychopath is often used here, one of the key determiners of this condition being an inability to learn from past mistakes. Techniques towards improving their behaviour are thus unlikely to work. Obviously, recidivism is highly correlated with this condition, yet studies have shown that psychopathic prisoners are equally likely to be released from prisons as non-psychopathic ones. This is often explained by the fact that psychopathic individuals develop better strategies at disguising their intentions, and become more adept at tricking others. Treatment and therapy merely give them knowledge of penal and judicial procedures, which they can then twist to their advantage, colloquially known as 'system cracking'.

Cases such as these reveal the biggest problem with rehabilitation: the difficulty of reading the deepest intentions of human beings. Nevertheless, inmates will be released, and consequently need assistance for their reintegration into society. This is most commonly done through parole, which involves serving the remainder of a sentence outside of prison. This is different from probation, which is used instead of prison sentences, and consequently places greater restrictions upon the subject. A similar system is supervised release, where the subject faces the same restrictions as probation, but only after serving the entire prison sentence. Whatever the case, the parole officer will monitor the released inmate, offering support and assistance wherever possible.

The decision about whether to grant parole usually lies with a parole board. Members may be judges, psychiatrists, criminologists, and appointed citizens from the local community. The common factor is that they all have a good education, and are judged to be of high moral standing. Yet again, trying to assess the inmate's psychological state and what intentions lie within is problematic at best. Good conduct while inside the prison system is the most obvious prerequisite, but other factors based on the support networks existing outside also play a role. Having already established a permanent residence, and having gained employment, is usually mandatory.

Upon being released on parole, there are still a variety of regulatory conditions to be met. These include the obvious, such as obeying the law, and contacting the parole officer at specified intervals, but may be more individual and specific, such as the non-use of drugs and alcohol, and return to the home residence before a certain time (known as a curfew). Upon ignoring any of these, an arrest warrant is issued, parole time is stopped, and there follows a parole violation hearing. The parole board then makes a decision about whether to revoke the parole (which sees the subject reincarcerated) or to allow parole to continue. As mentioned, such decisions are not a hard science, and mistakes can be made.

It is this which can make parole a controversial and politically charged issue. It only takes one highly publicised crime from a person on parole to sway public opinion violently against this system. Thus, the political will is often lacking, which has seen, for example, some US states abolish the parole system completely, and others having done so for specific offences. This is often a response to public pressure, rather than a considered assessment of the pros and cons. As always, the same argument applies without parole as an intermediate step, released inmates may face an uphill battle to avoid recidivism, costing society much more in the longer term.

A more innovative method to encourage rehabilitation is 'time off for good behaviour'. For each year of imprisonment, it automatically allots inmates who exhibit good behaviour a certain number of days. This means that, year after year, the 'good time' is accrued, resulting in an eventual release perhaps one third of the sentence earlier. However, if the inmates commit more than a certain number of infractions, or particularly serious ones,

they then forfeit their time, and must complete the full, duration of their sentence.

Questions 27-31

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

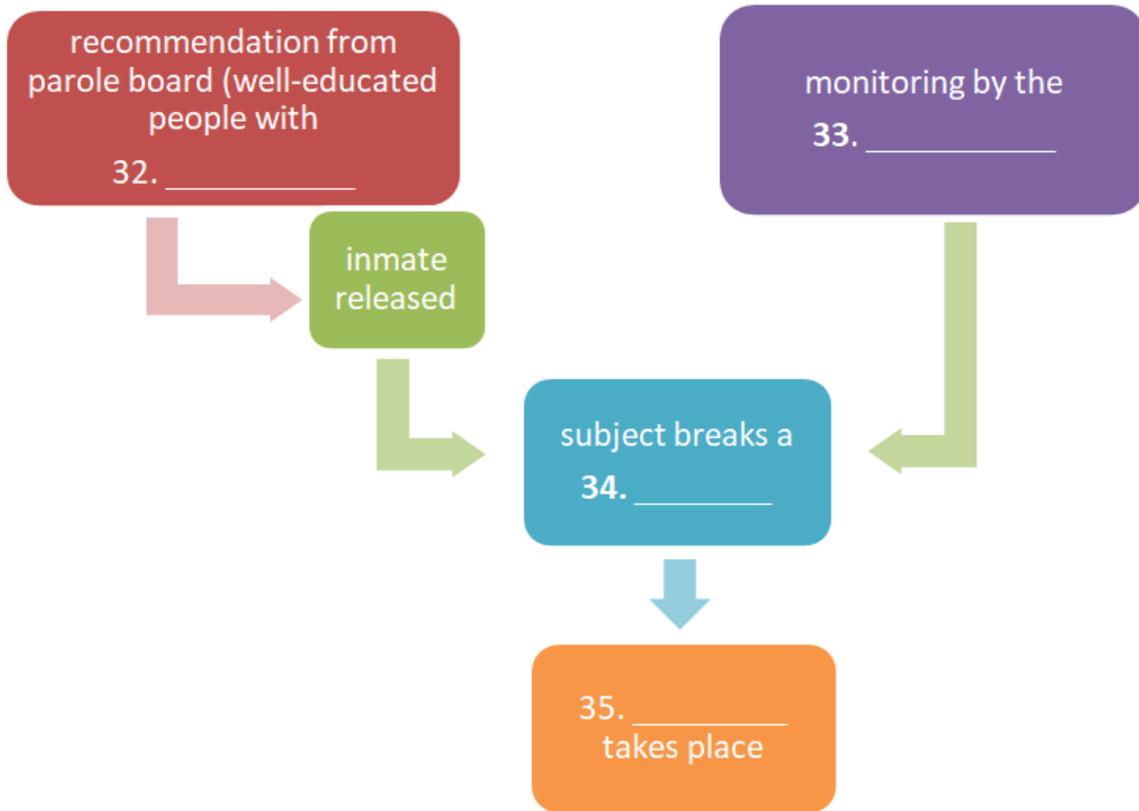
- 27 Many prison inmates can become worse in prison.
- 28 Prisons usually have good education and therapy systems.
- 29 Psychopathic prisoners often reoffend after being released.
- 30 Supervised release is stricter than parole.
- 31 The abolition of the parole system is usually done after much thought.

Questions 32-35

Complete the flow chart.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer

A failure of parole



- 32 _____
 33 _____
 34 _____
 35 _____

Questions 36-40

Write the specific term for each definition.

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

Specific Term	Definition
36 _____	reoffending, after being released from prison
37 _____	manipulating prison officials and procedures
38 _____	an alternative to prison sentences
39 _____	having to be at one's home by a predetermined time

40 _____	time deducted from the sentences of well-behaved prisoners
----------	--



Solution:

27 TRUE

28 NOT GIVEN

29 TRUE

30 TRUE

31 FALSE

32 high moral standing

33 parole officer

34 regulatory condition

35 parole violation hearing

36 criminal recidivism

37 system cracking

38 probation

39 (a) curfew

40 good time

1 growth ring

2 Methuselah sprouted

3 (pine) cones

4 durable

5 NOT GIVEN

6 TRUE

7 FALSE

8 TRUE

$\frac{9}{11}$ A,C,D

12 A

13 D

14 B

15 A

16 D

17 relevant dive time

18 (a) dive plan

19 decompression stops

20 guide rope

21 sufficient tension

22 one fails

23 equally

24 parted (company)

25 statistics

26 never seen

Review and Explanations

27 Answer: **TRUE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q27 Many prison inmates can become worse in prison.</p>	<p>When convicted criminals have served long terms of imprisonment, it is obvious that, upon their release, one cannot necessarily expect them to be reformed and able to reintegrate into society. In the potentially rough and violent ganglands of prisons, quite the opposite may occur, which raises a difficult dilemma in the criminal justice system.</p>
<p>Key The keywords concerned in Q27 are prison inmates, worse and in prison. According to the passage, criminal serving long terms of imprisonment can be worse because of rough and violent ganglands of prison, which matched with information in Q27. For that reason, the answer of Q27 is TRUE.</p>	

28 Answer: **NOT GIVEN**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q28 Prisons usually have good education and therapy systems.</p>	<p>Prisons therefore contain systems of education or therapy, as well as assessment to determine whether inmates have truly developed remorse for past misdeeds, an ability to reintegrate into society, and intentions to do so.</p>
<p>Key The keywords concerned in Q28 are prisons, good education and therapy systems. It is stated in the passage that prisons do have education and therapy systems. However, the author didn't mention anything about the quality of these systems. For that reason, the answer of Q28 is NOT GIVEN.</p>	

29 Answer: **TRUE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q29 Psychopathic prisoners often reoffend after being released.</p>	<p>The term psychopath is often used here, one of the key determiners of this condition being an inability to learn from past mistakes. Techniques towards improving their behaviour are thus unlikely to work. Obviously, recidivism is highly correlated with this condition, yet studies have shown that psychopathic prisoners are equally likely to be released from prisons as non-psychopathic ones.</p>
<p>Key The keywords concerned in Q29 are psychopathic and reoffend. According to the passage, psychopathic prisoners cannot learn from past mistakes and psychopath is highly correlated with recidivism, which matches with information in Q29. For that reason, the answer of Q29 is TRUE.</p>	

30 Answer: **TRUE**

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

<p>Q30 Supervised release is stricter than parole.</p>	<p>Nevertheless, inmates will be released, and consequently need assistance for their reintegration into society. This is most commonly done through parole, which involves serving the remainder of a sentence outside of prison. This is different from probation, which is used instead of prison sentences, and consequently places greater restrictions upon the subject. A similar system is supervised release, where the subject faces the same restrictions as probation, but only after serving the entire prison sentence. Whatever the case, the parole officer will monitor the released inmate, offering support and assistance wherever possible.</p>
<p>Key The keywords concerned in Q30 are supervised release, stricter and parole. According to the passage, parole is serving the remainder of a sentence outside of prison while supervised release is referred to as having the same restrictions as probation but only after serving the entire prison sentence, meaning that supervised release is stricter than parole. This information matches with the information in Q30. For that reason, the answer of Q30 is TRUE.</p>	

31 Answer: **FALSE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q31 The abolition of the parole system is usually done after much thought.</p>	<p>Thus, the political will is often lacking, which has seen, for example, some US states abolish the parole system completely, and others having done so for specific offences. This is often a response to public pressure, rather than a considered assessment of the pros and cons. As always, the same argument applies without parole as an intermediate step, released inmates may face an uphill battle to avoid recidivism, costing society much more in the longer term.</p>
<p>Key The keywords concerned in Q31 are abolition, parole and done after much thought. According to the passage, the abolition of the parole system is considered to be a response to public pressure but not a considered assessment of pros and cons, meaning that it was done without much thought, which contradicts with information in Q31. For that reason, the answer of Q31 is FALSE.</p>	

32 Answer: **high moral standing**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q32 Recommendation from parole board (well-educated people with _____)</p>	<p>The decision about whether to grant parole usually lies with a parole board. Members may be judges, psychiatrists, criminologists, and appointed citizens from the local community. The common factor is that they all have a good education, and are judged to be of high moral standing.</p>
<p>Key The keywords concerned in Q32 are recommendation, board and well-educated. From the question, we can assume that the answer should be a noun, something well-educated people have. According to the passage, members of parole board are well-educated people with high moral standing. For that reason, the answer of Q32 is high moral standing.</p>	

33 Answer: **parole officer**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q33 inmate released Monitoring by the _____	Whatever the case, the parole officer will monitor the released inmate, offering support and assistance wherever possible
Key The keywords concerned in Q33 are released and monitoring . From the question, we can assume that the answer should be a noun. According to the passage, once inmates are released on parole, they are expected to obey the law and to contact the parole officer at specified intervals, who monitors the parole. For that reason, the answer of Q33 is parole officer .	

34 Answer: **regulatory condition**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q34 Subject breaks a _____ arrest warrant issued.	Upon being released on parole, there are still a variety of regulatory conditions to be met. These include the obvious, such as obeying the law, and contacting the parole officer at specified intervals, but may be more individual and specific, such as the non-use of drugs and alcohol, and return to the home residence before a certain time (known as a curfew). Upon ignoring any of these , an arrest warrant is issued,
Key The keywords concerned in Q34 are arrest warrant and break . From the question, we can assume that the answer should be a noun in its singular form. According to the passage, when subject breaks any of regulatory conditions, an arrest warrant is issued. For that reason, the answer of Q34 is regulatory condition . Remember to write condition in its singular form because it follows the article "a".	

35 Answer: **parole violation hearing**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q35 arrest warrant issued _____ takes place	Upon ignoring any of these, an arrest warrant is issued, parole time is stopped, and there follows a parole violation hearing .
Key The keywords concerned in Q35 are arrest warrant and takes place . From the question, we can assume that the answer should be a noun. According to the passage, after an arrest warrant is issued, a parole violation hearing will take place. For that reason, the answer of Q35 is parole violation hearing .	

36 Answer: **criminal recidivism**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q36: _____: reoffending , after being released from prison	The ethic of rehabilitation is based on the assumption that criminal tendencies are not necessarily permanent, and that former inmates can successfully lead lives in which they contribute positively to society. The ultimate goal is to prevent them from reoffending , an event technically known as criminal recidivism .

Key

The keyword concerned in Q36 is **reoffending**.

According to the passage, reoffending after being released is technically known as criminal recidivism.

For that reason, the answer of Q36 is **criminal recidivism**.

37 Answer: **system cracking**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q37 _____ : manipulating prison officials and procedures	Treatment and therapy merely give them knowledge of penal and judicial procedures , which they can then twist to their advantage , colloquially known as ' system cracking '.
Key The keywords concerned in Q37 are manipulating , officials and procedures . According to the passage, the term "system cracking" is used to describe psychopathic individuals manipulate prison officials and procedures to to their advantage. For that reason, the answer of Q37 is system cracking .	

38 Answer: **probation**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q38 _____ : an alternative to prison sentences	This is different from probation , which is used instead of prison sentences , and consequently places greater restrictions upon the subject.
Key The keywords concerned in Q38 are alternative and sentences . According to the passage, probation is used as an alternative for prison sentences. For that reason, the answer of Q38 is probation .	

39 Answer: **(a) curfew**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q39 _____ : having to be at one's home by a predetermined time	These include the obvious, such as obeying the law, and contacting the parole officer at specified intervals, but may be more individual and specific, such as the non-use of drugs and alcohol, and return to the home residence before a certain time (known as a curfew).
Key The keywords concerned in Q39 are be at one's home and predetermined time . According to the passage, curfew is the term used to describe when the subject has to return to the home residence before a certain time. For that reason, the answer of Q39 is curfew .	

40 Answer: **good time**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q40 _____ : time deducted from the sentences of well-behaved prisoners	A more innovative method to encourage rehabilitation is ' time off for good behaviour '. For each year of imprisonment, it automatically allots inmates who exhibit good behaviour a certain number of days. This means that, year after year, the ' good time ' is accrued, resulting in an eventual release perhaps one third of the sentence earlier.

Key

The keywords concerned in Q40 are **time deducted** and **well-behaved**.

According to the passage, time off for good behaviour or good time is the time deducted from the sentences of well-behaved prisoners.

For that reason, the answer of Q40 is **good time**.

1 Answer: growth ring

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q1 Every year, pine trees gain another _____	Yet mature they do, as with all pines becoming fractionally thicker every year as another growth ring is added to their trunk.
Key The keywords concerned in Q1 are every year , pine trees and gain . From the question, we can assume that the answer should be a noun. According to the passage, every year, pine trees gain another growth ring, which is added to their trunk. For that reason, the answer of Q1 is growth ring .	

2 Answer: Methuselah sprouted

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q2 The pyramids were built hundreds of years after _____	By counting these, we can accurately state that, as of 2011, Methuselah was 4,842 years old, meaning that it sprouted as a seedling in 2832 BC, centuries before the ancient Egyptians began building their pyramids.
Key The keywords concerned in Q2 are pyramids , built , hundreds of years and after . From the question, we can assume that the answer should be a noun, an event or a point of time. According to the passage, the Methuselah sprouted centuries before the pyramids were built. For that reason, the answer of Q2 is Methuselah sprouted .	

3 Answer: (pine) cones

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q3 Typical of all pines are their _____	These trees certainly have many telltale characteristics. They are evergreen, usually with needle-like foliage and a sharp pleasant 'pine smell. They are often large and imposing, with thick scaly bark, and always produce their signature pine cones .
Key The keywords concerned in Q3 are typical , all pines and their . From the question, we can assume that the answer should be a noun. According to the passage, all pines produce their signature pine cones. For that reason, the answer of Q3 is pine cones or cones .	

4 Answer: durable

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q4 The wood from pines is not very _____	The wood is fragrant, but prone to decay, so it is most suitable for indoor or dry carpentry, rather than outdoors, where more durable varieties are necessary.

Key

The keywords concerned in Q4 are **wood** and **not very**.

From the question, we can assume that the answer should be an adjective describing wood from pines.

According to the passage, wood from pines is fragrant, prone to decay and not very durable, meaning that it is not suitable to be used outdoors, where more durable varieties are necessary.

For that reason, the answer of Q4 is **durable**.

Don't be misled by adjectives like fragrant or prone to decay, as the answer must go with the phrase "not very".

5 Answer: **NOT GIVEN**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q5 Ponderosa pines are the largest .	Pines can be small, such as the Siberian Dwarf Pine, or huge , such as the Ponderosa Pine in the wilds of Oregon, and there are over 100 varieties in all.
Key The keywords concerned in Q5 are ponderosa and largest . According to the passage, Ponderosa is a huge kind of pines. However, the author didn't mention anything about whether Ponderosa is the largest or not. For that reason, the answer of Q5 is NOT GIVEN .	

6 Answer: **TRUE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q6 Pines are familiar to most people .	They have been introduced in to the more temperate portions of the Southern Hemisphere, where they are now grown widely, becoming a familiar feature in parks and gardens. It would not be too much of an exaggeration to say that almost everyone knows pines .
Key The keywords concerned in Q6 are pines and familiar to most people . According to the passage, almost everyone knows pines. Pines are grown widely, becoming a familiar feature in parks and gardens, which matches with information in Q6. For that reason, the answer of Q6 is TRUE .	

7 Answer: **FALSE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q7 Birds usually spread pine seeds .	As the cone opens, the seeds eventually fall out, mostly to be dispersed by the wind, or sometimes by birds .
Key The keywords concerned in Q7 are birds , usually , spread and seeds . According to the passage, there are 2 ways for pine seeds to be spread, the first way is by the wind and the second is by birds. However, birds sometimes spread pine seeds, which contradicts with the information in Q7 (usually). For that reason, the answer of Q7 is FALSE .	

8 Answer: **TRUE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q8 Lightning storms benefit pine barrens .	This last fact - the need for wildfires for regeneration - is another fascinating aspect of many pine species. In fire-prone areas, it can result in extensive stands of pines, a good example being in 'pine barrens'

Key

The keywords concerned in Q8 are lightning storms, benefit and barrens.

According to the passage, in fire-prone areas, it can result in extensive stands of pines, a good example being in 'pine barrens', which matches with information in Q8.

For that reason, the answer of Q8 is **TRUE**.

9-11 Answer: **A,C,D**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q9-11 Which THREE groups of people, A-F, particularly like pine trees? A. Plantation owners B. Outdoor carpenters C. People interested in craft D. Certain native communities E. Factory owners F. Users of turpentine</p>	<p>As these trees grow fast, can be planted in dense arrays, and produce attractive and easily moulded wood, they are favourites for commercial plantations. The wood is fragrant, but prone to decay, so it is most suitable for indoor or dry carpentry, rather than outdoors, where more durable varieties are necessary.</p> <p>In a more homely sense, perhaps what people most like are the cones, the largest of which are regularly used by children and craft enthusiasts.</p> <p>Many people lament that modern manufactured toys in the more affluent of these countries have displaced cones, although some Nordic communities still teach traditional 'cone-craft' in high schools.</p> <p>As for other uses of pines, their branches are valued as Christmas trees, and their wood is also pulped in factories for paper and chipboard production.</p> <p>Pine resin is a byproduct, and this is collected for distillation into turpentine, an important industrial solvent.</p>

Key

The keywords concerned in Q9-11 are three, groups of people and like pine trees.

To answer this kind of question, we can use the method crossing out the wrong options while reading.

Option A is correct because it is stated in the passage that pines can produce attractive and easily moulded wood, therefore, they are favourites for commercial plantations.

Option B is incorrect because according to the passage, wood from pines are not durable enough to be used outdoors.

Option C is correct. According to the passage, pine trees are regularly used by children and craft enthusiasts.

Option D is correct. It is stated in the passage that some Nordic communities still like pine trees and teach traditional con-craft in high schools.

Option E is incorrect. According the passage pine wood is pulped in factories for paper and chipboard production. However, there is no information about where factory owners like pine trees or not.

Option F is incorrect. Although it is stated in the passage that pine resin, a byproduct, is collected for distillation into turpentine, there is no information about the preference of users of turpentine.

All things considered, the answer of Q9-11 are **A,C,D**.

12 Answer: **A**

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

<p>Q12 Pine cones are A. complicated B. male C. mostly the same size. D. often used as toys in affluent countries.</p>	<p>They are often large and imposing, with thick scaly bark, and always produce their signature pine cones. These formations are certainly not simple. They can be male (small, inconspicuous, and shedding pollen) or female (large, woody, and containing seeds), even when appearing on the same tree. Pines can be small, such as the Siberian Dwarf Pine, or huge, such as the Ponderosa Pine in the wilds of Oregon, and there are over 100 varieties in all Many people lament that modern manufactured toys in the more affluent of these countries have displaced cones.</p>
<p>Key To answer this kind of question, we can use the method crossing out the wrong options while reading. Option B is incorrect. According to the passage, pine trees can be male or female, even when appearing on the same tree. Option C is also incorrect. Pine trees can be small or huge, which contradicts with information in option C. Option D is incorrect. According to the passage, modern manufactured toys in the more affluent of these countries have displaced cones. Option A is correct. According to the passage, pine cones formations are certainly not simple, which matches with the information in option A. For that reason, the answer of Q12 is A. complicated.</p>	

13 Answer: **D**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q13 Methuselah is A. 4,842 years old. B. the oldest tree ever. C. visited by tourists. D. not subject to much sunshine.</p>	<p>By counting these, we can accurately state that, as of 2011, Methuselah was 4,842 years old, meaning that it sprouted as a seedling in 2832 BC, centuries before the ancient Egyptians began building their pyramids. In 1964, a student was taking a coring sample from another bristlecone pine in the area. His coring toll broke, so the tree was cut down to allow dating by an examination of a cross-section of its trunk. Upon doing this, to the astonishment of all, 4,844 rings were counted, signifying that the tree was even older than Methuselah. That's one reason why we keep the location of Methuselah a secret. This tree is precious, and must be kept free from all human interference.</p>
<p>Key To answer this kind of question, we can use the method crossing out the wrong options while reading. Option A is incorrect. It is stated in the passage that Methuselah was 4,842 years old (in the past), which doesn't match with information in Q13 (Methuselah is 4,842 - at present). Option B is also incorrect because another tree is said to be older than Methuselah. Option C is incorrect. It is stated in the passage that they keep the location of Methuselah in secret, free from human interference. Option D is correct. The phrase "not subject to much sunshine" is used figuratively to say that the location of Methuselah is a secret. For that reason, the answer of Q13 is D. not subject to much sunshine</p>	

14 Answer: **B**

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

<p>Q14 Agnes Milowka was A. famous for her photography.</p> <p>B. familiar with Tank Cave.</p> <p>C. diving alone. D. manoeuvring too quickly.</p>	<p>Female, photogenic, and experienced, she had gained international recognition for her exploratory work in many underground caverns around the world In early 2011, she entered Tank Cave, near Mount Gambier, a seven-kilometre maze of narrow tunnels - yet ones she had explored many times before. Deep inside, she parted company from her dive buddy to explore a tight passageway through which only one person could pass. Unable to manoeuvre quickly, with visibility almost zero, she could not find her way back, and her air ran out.</p>
<p>Key To answer this kind of question, we can use the method crossing out the wrong options while reading. Option A is incorrect as Agnes Milowka was said to be photogenic, being attractive in photos but not famous for her photography. Option B is correct because according to the passage, Agnes Milowka entered Tank Cave in 2011, where she had explored many times before. Option C is incorrect. In the passage, the author did mention about Agnes Milowka's dive buddy, which means that she didn't dive alone. Option D is incorrect, too. It is stated in the passage that Agnes Milowka was unable to manoeuvre quickly, which contradicts with information in Q14. For that reason, the answer of Q14 is B. familiar with Tank Cave.</p>	

15 Answer: **A**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q15 In cave-diving emergencies, A. the return is difficult.</p> <p>B. there is vertical escape C. divers often experience silt-outs.</p> <p>D. some team members stay behind.</p>	<p>the return is complicated by narrow tunnels, often lined with sand, mud, or clay, all of which can be easily disturbed - the dreaded 'silt-out' - where, in a few seconds, the diver is in a panic-inducing soup of sediment, virtually blind. When anything goes wrong, divers cannot swim vertically to the surface, but must instead navigate the entire way back. The dive is immediately abandoned, but even with the full team at hand, the return is complicated by narrow tunnels, often lined with sand, mud, or clay, all of which can be easily disturbed - the dreaded 'silt-out' - where, in a few seconds, the diver is in a panic-inducing soup of sediment, virtually blind.</p>

Key

The keyword concerned in Q15 is emergencies.

To answer this kind of question, we can use the method crossing out the wrong options while reading.

Option B is incorrect. According to the passage, in cave-diving emergencies, divers cannot swim vertically to the surface.

Option C is also incorrect. Silt-outs were mentioned in the passage, however, the author didn't say anything about the frequency of experiencing silt-outs.

Option D is incorrect. There is no information about whether the team members stay behind or not in cave-diving emergencies.

Option A is the correct answer. The return is stated to be complicated by narrow tunnels, often lined with sand, mud, or clay, all of which can be easily disturbed.

For that reason, the answer of Q15 is **A. the return is difficult.**

16 Answer: **D**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q16 Cave-diving accidents usually happen A. when equipment breaks. B. more than in open-sea diving. C. with bad equipment. D. with a lack of equipment.	Yet the cave-diving community disputes this, arguing that their sport is actually safer than normal open-sea recreational diving. Most fatalities that have occurred are a result of breaking accepted protocols, where improperly trained and inadequately equipped divers take on caves well beyond their capabilities.
Key The keyword concerned in Q16 is cave-diving accidents. To answer this kind of question, we can use the method crossing out the wrong options while reading. Option B is incorrect. According to the passage, cave-diving is considered to be safer than open-sea diving. Other options (A,C and D) are about equipment. It is stated in the passage that cave-diving emergencies happen when divers are inadequately equipped, which matches with information in option D. The author didn't mention anything about broken or bad equipment. For that reason, the answer of Q16 is D. with a lack of equipment.	

17 Answer: **relevant dive time**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q17 1 st Protocol - have sufficient training and experience Progression not permitted unless there is _____	Firstly, a cave diver should be trained and experienced. This is done in carefully documented components, each dealing with increasingly complex facets of cave diving, and accompanied with relevant dive time before progression onwards is allowed.
Key The keywords concerned in Q17 are 1 st protocol, progression, not permitted and unless. From the question, we can assume that the answer should be a noun in its singular form. According to the passage, progression is allowed if there is relevant dive time. For that reason, the answer of Q17 is relevant dive time.	

18 Answer: **(a) dive plan**

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

<p>Q18 2nd Protocol _____ must be followed.</p>	<p>The next rule is the same as with all diving, whether open-sea or cave. It concerns the maximum depths and the decompression stops needed to allow the release of dissolved nitrogen from the blood. This is all carefully calculated in a dive plan before entering the water, and every diver must strictly adhere to this.</p>
<p>Key The keywords concerned in Q18 are 2nd Protocol and followed. From the question, we can assume that the answer must be a noun, something must be followed and is referred to in the 2nd protocol. According to the passage, a dive plan must be carefully calculated and strictly followed. For that reason, the answer of Q18 is A) dive plan.</p>	

19 Answer: **decompression stops**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q19 2nd Protocol must have sufficient _____</p>	<p>The next rule is the same as with all diving, whether open-sea or cave. It concerns the maximum depths and the decompression stops needed to allow the release of dissolved nitrogen from the blood. This is all carefully calculated in a dive plan before entering the water, and every diver must strictly adhere to this.</p>
<p>Key The keywords concerned in Q19 are 2nd protocol and sufficient. From the question, we can assume that the answer should be a noun. According to the passage, the 2nd protocol is about the maximum depths and the decompression stops needed. For that reason, the answer of Q19 is decompression stops.</p>	

20 Answer: **guide rope**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q20 3rd Protocol must use a _____</p>	<p>The next two protocols each concern a vital piece of equipment. Firstly, a guide rope is an absolute necessity.</p>
<p>Key The keywords concerned in Q20 are 3rd protocol and must use. From the question, we can assume that the answer should be a noun in its singular form. According to the passage, the 3rd protocol is about vital piece of equipment, including a guide rope, an absolute necessity. For that reason, the answer of Q20 is guide rope.</p>	

21 Answer: **sufficient tension**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q21 3rd Protocol Must use a guide rope Detail: must keep _____</p>	<p>The next two protocols each concern a vital piece of equipment. Firstly, a guide rope is an absolute necessity. This is secured at the cave entrance, and fed into the cave by the lead diver. Sufficient tension is always maintained,</p>

Key

The keywords concerned in Q21 are 3rd protocol and keep.
 From the question, we can assume that the answer should be a noun.
 According to the passage, sufficient tension must be kept (maintained) and often the rope is tied up at regular lengths within the cave interior to ensure this.
 For that reason, the answer of Q21 is **sufficient tension**.

22 Answer: **one fails**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q22 4 th protocol Must have at least three independent lights Dives do not go ahead if _____	Each diver is therefore required to have three independent sources: a primary, and two backups. These are checked under the water when entering the cave, and the protocol states that if even one of these fails , the dive is abandoned for all members of the team.
Key The keywords concerned in Q22 are three independent lights and do not go ahead. From the question, we can assume that the answer should be a clause. According to the passage, if one lights fails, the dive is abandoned for all members of the team or in other words, dives do not go ahead. For that reason, the answer of Q22 is one fails . The word "lights" can be omitted because lights have been mentioned in the previous sentence.	

23 Answer: **equally**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q23 5 th protocol Must obey rule of thirds each system usually kept separate, sometimes breathed _____	With no quick escape, the rule of thirds' prevails. Here, one third of the gas is reserved for exploring into the cave, one third for retreating out of it, and one third as a reserve in the event of an emergency, or to support fellow divers. Most protocols suggest keeping each third in a separate air system, so that the loss of one - for example, due to a valve rupture - will not imperil the other two. Another variation is to ensure that these three separate systems are used equally , so that the remaining air is kept balanced.
Key The keywords concerned in Q23 are rule of thirds, system, separate and breathed. From the question, we can assume that the answer should be an adjective. According to the passage, each system is kept separately used (breathed) equally. For that reason, the answer of Q23 is equally .	

24 Answer: **parted (company)**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q24 After she _____ from her diving companion, Agnes Milowka died, illustrating the dangers involved in cave diving	Deep inside, she parted company from her dive buddy to explore a tight passageway through which only one person could pass.

Key

The keywords concerned in Q24 are **diving companion** and **Agnes Milowka**.
 From the question, we can assume that the answer should be a verb in past form.
 According to the passage, Agnes Milowka died after she parted company from her dive buddy.
 For that reason, the answer of Q24 is **parted company**.

25 Answer: **statistics**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q25 yet there are _____ which prove it is acceptably safe ,	By following all such protocols, the risk is minimised, so that cave diving, as far as can be proven with the limited statistics available, is said to be safer than driving a car.
Key The keywords concerned in Q25 are prove and acceptably safe . From the question, we can assume that the answer should be a noun in its plural form. According to the passage, cave diving is proven to be safer than driving a car in some statistics. For that reason, the answer of Q25 is statistics .	

26 Answer: **never seen**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q26 the attraction of seeing sights _____ before lures people on .	The question to be asked then is why anyone would want to dive into cold, confined, pitch-dark, subterranean cave systems in the first place. The answer is supplied by a cave-diving leader: 'You get to see things that human beings have never seen before . Nothing on Earth can compare to that.'
Key The keywords concerned in Q26 are attraction , seeing sights and lures people on . From the question, we can assume that the answer should be an adjective or a phrase relating to the attraction of seeing sights luring people on. According to the passage, people find cave diving attractive because they can see sights they have never seen before. For that reason, the answer of Q26 is never seen .	