



IELTS Mock Test 2023

January

Reading Practice Test 1

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READING PASSAGE 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1-14, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.

THE VIKINGS WAYFARING WAY



The vikings wayfaring way

In the last century, Vikings have been perceived in numerous different ways – vilified as conquerors and romanticised as adventurers. How Vikings have been employed in nation-building is a topic of some interest.

In English, Vikings are also known as Norse or Norsemen. Their language greatly influenced English, with the nouns, ‘Hell’, ‘husband’, ‘law’, and ‘window’, and the verbs, ‘blunder’, ‘snub’, ‘take’, and ‘want’, all coming from Old Norse. However, the origins of the word ‘Viking’, itself, are obscure: it may mean ‘a Scandinavian pirate’, or it may refer to ‘an inlet’, or a place called Vik, in modern-day Norway, from where the pirates came. These various names – Vikings, Norse, or Norsemen, and doubts about the very word ‘Viking’ suggest historical confusion.

Loosely speaking, the Viking Age endured from the late eighth to the mid-eleventh centuries. Vikings sailed to England in AD 793 to storm coastal monasteries, and subsequently, large swathes of England fell under Viking rule – indeed several Viking kings sat on the English throne. It is generally agreed that the Battle of Hastings, in 1066, when the Norman French invaded, marks the end of the English Viking Age, but the Irish Viking age ended earlier, while Viking colonies in Iceland and Greenland did not dissolve until around AD 1500.

How much territory Vikings controlled is also in dispute – Scandinavia and Western Europe certainly, but their reach east and south is uncertain. They plundered and settled down the Volga and Dnieper rivers, and traded with modern-day Istanbul, but the archaeological record has yet to verify that Vikings raided as far away as Northwest Africa, as some writers claim.

The issue of control and extent is complex because many Vikings did not return to Scandinavia after raiding but assimilated into local populations, often becoming Christian. To some degree, the Viking Age is defined by religion. Initially, Vikings were polytheists, believing in many gods, but by the end of the age, they had permanently accepted a new monotheistic religious system – Christianity.

This transition from so-called pagan plunderers to civilised Christians is significant and is the view promulgated throughout much of recent history. In the UK, in the 1970s for example, schoolchildren were taught that until the Vikings accepted Christianity they were nasty heathens who rampaged throughout Britain. By contrast, today's children can visit museums where Vikings are celebrated as merchants, pastoralists, and artists with a unique worldview as well as conquerors.

What are some other interpretations of Vikings? In the nineteenth century, historians in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden constructed their own Viking ages for nationalistic reasons. At that time, all three countries were in crisis. Denmark had been beaten in war and ceded territory to what is now Germany. Norway had become independent from Sweden in 1905 but was economically vulnerable, so Norwegians sought to create a separate identity for themselves in the past as well as the present. The Norwegian historian, Gustav Storm, was adamant it was *his* forebears and not the Swedes' or Danes' who had colonised Iceland, Greenland, and Vinland, in what is now Canada. Sweden, meanwhile, had relinquished Norway to the Norwegians and Finland to the Russians; thus, in the late nineteenth century, Sweden was keen to boost its image with rich archaeological finds to show the glory of its Viking past.

In addition to augmenting nationalism, nineteenth-century thinkers were influenced by an Englishman, Herbert Spencer, who described peoples and cultures in evolutionary terms similar to those of Charles Darwin. Spencer coined the phrase 'survival of the fittest', which includes the notion that, over time, there is not only technological but also moral progress. Therefore, Viking heathens' adoption of Christianity was considered an advantageous move. These days, historians do not compare cultures in the same way, especially since, in this case, the archaeological record seems to show that heathen Vikings and Christian Europeans were equally brutal.

Views of Vikings change according to not only to forces affecting historians at the time of their research but also according to the materials they read. Since much knowledge of Vikings comes from literature composed up to 300 years after the events they chronicle, some Danish historians call these sources 'mere legends'.

Vikings did have a written language carved on large stones, but as few of these survive today, the most reliable contemporary sources on Vikings come from writers from other cultures, like the ninth-century Persian geographer, Ibn Khordadbeh.

In the last four decades, there have been wildly varying interpretations of the Viking influence in Russia. Most non-Russian scholars believe the Vikings created a kingdom in western Russia and modern-day Ukraine led by a man called Rurik. After AD 862, Rurik's descendants continued to rule. There is considerable evidence of this colonisation: in Sweden, carved stones, still standing, describe the conquerors' journeys; both Russian and Ukrainian have loan words from Old Norse; and, Scandinavian first names, like Igor

and Olga, are still popular. However, during the Soviet period, there was an emphasis on the Slavic origins of most Russians. (Appearing in the historical record around the sixth century AD, the Slavs are thought to have originated in Eastern Europe.) This Slavic identity was promoted to contrast with that of the neighbouring Viking Swedes, who were enemies during the Cold War.

These days, many Russians consider themselves hybrids. Indeed recent genetic studies support a Norse-colonisation theory: western Russian DNA is consistent with that of the inhabitants of a region north of Stockholm in Sweden.

The tools available to modern historians are many and varied, and their findings may seem less open to debate. There are linguistics, numismatics, dendrochronology, archaeozoology, palaeobotany, ice crystallography, climate and DNA analysis to add to the translation of runes and the raising of mighty warships. Despite these, historians remain children of their times.

Questions 1-5

Complete the notes below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER** for each answer

Write your answers in boxes **1-5** on your answer sheet.

Origins:	Word 'Viking' is 1 <input type="text"/> Vikings came from Scandinavia.
Dates of the Viking Age	In Britain: AD 2 <input type="text"/> -1066 Length varies elsewhere
Territorial extent:	In doubt – but most of Europe Possibly raided as far away as 3 <input type="text"/>
End of the Viking Age:	Vikings had assimilated into 4 <input type="text"/> , & adopted a new 5 <input type="text"/> system.

Questions 6-13

Look at the following statements and the list of times and places below.

Match each statement with the correct place or time: **A-H**.

Write the correct letter, **A-H**, in boxes **6-13** on your answer sheet.

6 A geographer documents Viking culture as it happens.

7 A philosopher classifies cultures hierarchically.

- 8 Historians assert that Viking history is based more on legends than facts.
- 9 Young people learn about Viking cultural and economic activities.
- 10 People see themselves as unrelated to Vikings.
- 11 An historian claims Viking colonists to modern-day Canada came from his land.
- 12 Viking conquests are exaggerated to bolster the country's ego after a territorial loss.
- 13 DNA tests show locals are closely related to Swedes.

List of times & places	
A	In the UK today
B	In 19th-century Norway
C	In 19th-century Sweden
D	In 19th-century England
E	In Denmark today
F	In 9th-century Persia
G	In mid-20th century Soviet Union
H	In Russia today

Question 14

Choose the correct letter **A-E**.

Write the correct letter in box **14** on your answer sheet.

14 Which might be a suitable title for passage?

- ☐ **A** A brief history of Vikings
- ☐ **B** Recent Viking discoveries
- ☐ **C** A modern fascination with Vikings
- ☐ **D** Interpretations of Viking history

E ☐ Viking history and nationalism

READING PASSAGE 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 15-27, which are based on Reading Passage 2 below.



The future never dies?

The prospects for humanity and for the world as a whole are somewhere between glorious and dire. It is hard to be much more precise.

A

By 'glorious', I mean that our descendants – all who are born on to this Earth – could live very comfortably and securely, and could continue to do so for as long as the Earth can support life, which should be for a very long time indeed. We should at least be thinking in terms of the next million years. Furthermore, our descendants could continue to enjoy the company of other species – establishing a much better relationship with them than we have now. Other animals need not live in constant fear of us. Many of those fellow species now seem bound to become extinct, but a significant proportion could and should continue to live alongside us. Such a future may seem ideal, and so it is. Yet I do not believe it is fanciful. There is nothing in the physical fabric of the Earth or in our own biology to suggest that this is not possible.

B

'Dire' means that we human beings could be in deep trouble within the next few centuries, living but also dying in large numbers in political terror and from starvation, while huge numbers of our fellow creatures would simply disappear, leaving only the ones that we find convenient – chickens, cattle – or that we can't shake off, like flies and mice. I'm taking it to be self-evident that glory is preferable.

C

Our future is not entirely in our own hands because the Earth has its own rules, is part of the solar system and is neither stable nor innately safe. Other planets in the solar system

are quite beyond habitation, because their temperature is far too high or too low to be endured, and ours, too, in principle could tip either way. Even relatively unspectacular changes in the atmosphere could do the trick. The core of the Earth is hot, which in many ways is good for living creatures, but every now and again, the molten rock bursts through volcanoes on the surface. Among the biggest volcanic eruptions in recent memory was Mount St Helens, in the USA, which threw out a cubic kilometre of ash – fortunately, in an area where very few people live. In 1815, Tambora (in present-day Indonesia) expelled so much ash into the upper atmosphere that climatic effects seriously harmed food production around the world for the season after season. Entire civilisations have been destroyed by volcanoes.

D

Yet nothing we have so far experienced shows what volcanoes can really do. Yellowstone National Park in the USA occupies the caldera (the crater formed when a volcano collapses) of an exceedingly ancient volcano of extraordinary magnitude. Modern surveys show that its centre is now rising. Sometime in the next 200 million years, Yellowstone could erupt again, and when it does, the whole world will be transformed. Yellowstone could erupt tomorrow. But there's a very good chance that it will give us another million years, and that surely is enough to be going on with. It seems sensible to assume that this will be the case.

E

The universe at large is dangerous, too: in particular, we share the sky with vast numbers of asteroids, and now and again, they come into our planet's atmosphere. An asteroid the size of a small island, hitting the Earth at 15,000 kilometres an hour (a relatively modest speed by the standards of heavenly bodies), would strike the ocean bed like a rock in a puddle, send a tidal wave around the world as high as a small mountain and as fast as a jumbo jet, and propel us into an ice age that could last for centuries. There are plans to head off such disasters (including rockets to push approaching asteroids into new trajectories), but in truth, it's down to luck.

F

On the other hand, the archaeological and the fossil evidence shows that no truly devastating asteroid has struck since the one that seems to have accounted for the extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. So again, there seems no immediate reason for despair. The Earth is indeed an uncertain place, in an uncertain universe, but with average luck, it should do us well enough. If the world does become inhospitable in the next few thousand or million years, then it will probably be our own fault. In short, despite the underlying uncertainty, our own future and that of our fellow creatures are very much in our own hands.

G

Given average luck on the geological and the cosmic scale, the difference between glory and disaster will be made and is being made, by politics. Certain kinds of political systems and strategies would **predispose** us to long-term survival (and indeed to comfort and security and pleasure of being alive), while others would take us more and more **frenetically** towards collapse. The broad point is, though, that we need to look at ourselves – humanity – and at the world in general in a quite new light. Our material problems are fundamentally those of biology. We need to think, and we need our politicians to think, biologically. Do that, and take the ideas seriously, and we are in with a chance. Ignore biology and we and our fellow creatures haven't a hope.


Questions 15-20

Do the following statements reflect the claims of the writer in Reading Passage?


In boxes 15-20 on your answer sheet write:


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


15  It seems predictable that some species will disappear.

16  The nature of the Earth and human biology make it impossible for human beings to survive another million years.

17  An eruption by Yellowstone is likely to be more destructive than previous volcanic eruptions.

18  There is a greater chance of the Earth being hit by small asteroids than large ones.

19  If the world becomes uninhabitable, it is most likely to be as a result of a natural disaster.

20  Politicians currently in power seem unlikely to change their way of thinking.

Questions 21-26

Complete the summary below.

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

Write your answers in boxes 21-26 on your answer sheet.

The Earth could become uninhabitable, like other planets, through a major change in the 21 _____. Volcanic eruptions of 22 _____ can lead to shortages of 23 _____ in a wide area. An asteroid hitting the Earth could create a 24 _____ that would result in a new 25 _____. Plans are being made to use 26 _____ to deflect asteroids heading for the Earth.

Question 27

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

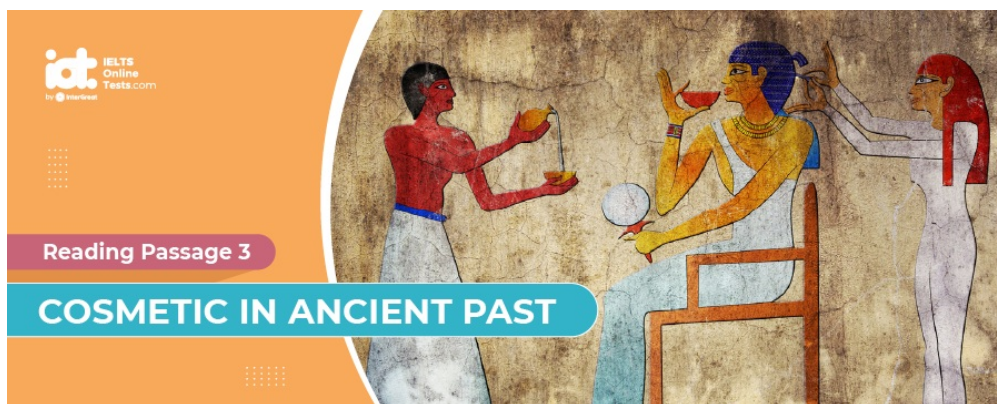
Write your answer in box 26 on your answer sheet.

27 What is the writer's purpose in Reading Passage 2?

- A** ☐ to propose a new theory about the causes of natural disasters
- B** ☐ to prove that generally held beliefs about the future are all mistaken
- C** ☐ to present a range of opinions currently held by scientists
- D** ☐ to argue the need for a general change in behavior

READING PASSAGE 3

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 28-40, which are based on Reading Passage 3 below.



Cosmetics in Ancient Past

A

Since cosmetics and perfumes are still in wide use today, it is interesting to compare the attitudes, customs and beliefs related to them in ancient times to those of our own day and age. Cosmetics and perfumes have been popular since the dawn of civilization; it is shown by the discovery of a great deal of pertinent archaeological material, dating from the third millennium BC. Mosaics, glass perfume flasks, stone vessels, ovens, cooking-pots, clay jars, etc., some inscribed by the hand of the artisan. Evidence also appears in the Bible and other classical writings, where it is written that spices and perfumes were prestigious products known throughout the ancient world and coveted by kings and princes. The written and pictorial descriptions, as well as archaeological findings, all show how important body care and aesthetic appearance were in the lives of the ancient people. The chain of evidence spans many centuries, detailing the usage of cosmetics in various cultures from the earliest period of recorded history.

B

In antiquity, however, at least in the onset, cosmetics served in religious ceremonies and for healing purposes. Cosmetics were also connected with cultic worship and witchcraft: to appease the various gods, fragrant ointments were applied to the statuary images and even to their attendants. From this, in the course of time, developed the custom of personal use, to enhance the beauty of the face and the body, and to conceal defects.

C

Perfumes and fragrant spices were precious commodities in antiquity, very much in demand, and at times even exceeded silver and gold in value. Therefore they were luxury products, used mainly in the temples and in the homes of the noble and wealthy. The

Judean kings kept them in treasure houses (2 Kings 20:13). And the Queen of Sheba brought to Solomon “camels laden with spices, gold in great quantity and precious stones.” (1 Kings 10:2, 10). However, within time, the use of cosmetics became the custom of that period. The use of cosmetics became widespread among the lower classes as well as among the wealthy; in the same way, they washed the body, so they used to care for the body with substances that softened the skin and anoint it with fragrant oils and ointments.

D

Facial treatment was highly developed and women devoted many hours to it. They used to spread various scented creams on the face and to apply makeup in vivid and contrasting colors. An Egyptian papyrus from the 16th century BC contains detailed recipes to remove blemishes, wrinkles, and other signs of age. Greek and Roman women would cover their faces in the evening with a “beauty mask” to remove blemishes, which consisted mainly of flour mixed with fragrant spices, leaving it on their face all night. The next morning they would wash it off with asses’ milk. The very common creams used by women in the ancient Far East, particularly important in the hot climate and prevalent in that area of the globe, were made up of oils and aromatic scents. Sometimes the oil in these creams was extracted from olives, almonds, gourds, sesame, or from trees and plants; but, for those of limited means, scented animal and fish fats were commonly used.

E

Women in the ancient past commonly put colors around their eyes. Besides beautification, its purpose was also medicinal as covering the sensitive skin of the lids with colored ointments that prevented dryness and eye diseases: the eye-paint repelled the little flies that transmitted eye inflammations. Egyptian women colored the upper eyelid black and the lower one green and painted the space between the upper lid and the eyebrow gray and blue. The women of Mesopotamia favored yellows and reds. The use of kohl for painting the eyes is mentioned three times in the Bible, always with disapproval by the sages (2 Kings, 9:30; Jeremiah 4:30; Ezekiel 23:40). In contrast, Job named one of his daughters “Keren Happukh”- “horn of eye paint” (Job 42:14)

F

Great importance was attached to the care for hair in ancient times. Long hair was always considered a symbol of beauty, and kings, nobles and dignitaries grew their hair long and kept it well-groomed and cared for. Women devoted much time to the style of the hair; while no cutting, they would apply much care to it by arranging it skillfully in plaits and “building it up” sometimes with the help of wigs. Egyptian women generally wore their hair flowing down to their shoulders or even longer. In Mesopotamia, women cherished long hair as a part of their beauty, and hair flowing down their backs in a thick plait and tied with a ribbon is seen in art. Assyrian women wore their hair shorter, braiding and

binding it in a bun at the back. In Ancient Israel, brides would wear their hair long on the wedding day as a sign of their virginity. Ordinary people and slaves, however, usually wore their hair short, mainly for hygienic reasons, since they could not afford to invest in the kind of treatment that long hair required.

G

From the Bible and Egyptian and Assyrian sources, as well as the words of classical authors, it appears that the centers of the trade in aromatic resins and incense were located in the kingdoms of southern Arabia, and even as far as India, where some of these precious aromatic plants were grown. "Dealers from Sheba and Rammah dealt with you, offering the choicest spices..." (Ezekiel 27:22). The Nabateans functioned as the important middlemen in this trade; Palestine also served as a very important component, as the trade routes crisscrossed the country. It is known that the Egyptian Queen Hatsheput (15th century BC) sent a royal expedition to the Land of Punt (Somalia) in order to bring back myrrh seedlings to plant in her temple. In Assyrian records of tribute and spoils of war, perfumes and resins are mentioned; the text from the time of Tukulti-Ninurta II (890-884 BC) refers to balls of myrrh as a part of the tribute brought to the Assyrian king by the Aramaean kings. The trade in spices and perfumes are also mentioned in the Bible as written in Genesis (37:25-26), "Camels carrying gum tragacanth and balm and myrrh".

Questions 28-34

Reading Passage has 7 paragraphs A-G

Which paragraph contains the following information?

Write your answers in boxes 28-34 on your answer sheet.


- 28 recipes to conceal facial defects caused by aging
- 29 perfumes were presented to conquerors in war
- 30 long hair of girls had special meanings in marriage
- 31 evidence exists in abundance showing cosmetics use in ancient times
- 32 protecting eyes from fly-transmitted diseases
- 33 from witchcraft to beautification
- 34 more expensive than gold


Questions 35-40

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


In boxes 35-40 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


35  The written record for cosmetics and perfumes dates back to the third millennium BC.

36  Since perfumes and spices were luxury products, their use was exclusive to the noble and the wealthy.

37  In the ancient Far East, fish fats were used as a cream by a woman from poor households.

38  The teachings in the Bible were repeatedly against the use of kohl for painting the eyes.

39  Long hair as a symbol of beauty was worn solely by women of ancient cultures

40  The Egyptian Queen Hatsheput sent a royal expedition to Punt to establish a trade route for myrrh



Solution:

14 D

28 D

29 G

30 F

31 A

32 E

33 B

34 C

35 NOT GIVEN

36 FALSE

37 TRUE

38 TRUE

39 FALSE

40 NOT GIVEN

1 obscure

2 793

3 Northwest Africa

4 local populations

5 religious

6 F

7 D

8 E

9 A

10 G

11 B

12 C

13 H

15 YES

16 NO

17 YES

18 NOT GIVEN

19 NO

20 NOT GIVEN

21 temperature

22 (molten) rock / ash

23 food

24 tidal wave

25 ice age

26 rockets

27 D

Review and Explanations

14 Answer: **D**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q14: A A brief history of Vikings B Recent Viking discoveries C A modern fascination with Vikings D Interpretations of Viking history E Viking history and nationalism	
Note: Although it's true that A, B, C and E are mentioned in the passage, they only cover a small part of the big picture. A is true for the 1st half. E is true for the second half. B and C only represent one paragraph each. The answer should be D because it's the most general idea Answer: D	

28 Answer: **D**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q28: recipes to conceal facial defects caused by aging	An Egyptian papyrus from the 16th century BC contains detailed recipes to remove blemishes, wrinkles, and other signs of age
Note: Answer: D	

29 Answer: **G**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q29: perfumes were presented to conquerors in war	In Assyrian records of tribute and spoils of war, perfumes and resins are mentioned: the text from the time of Tukulti-Ninurta II (890-884 BC) refers to balls of myrrh as a part of the tribute brought to the Assyrian king by the Aramaean kings
Note: Answer: G	

30 Answer: **F**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
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Q30: long hair of girls had special meanings in marriage	In Ancient Israel, brides would wear their hair long on the wedding day as a sign of their virginity
Note: Answer: F	

31 Answer: **A**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q31: evidence exists in abundance showing cosmetics use in ancient times	Cosmetics and perfumes have been popular since the dawn of civilization; it is shown by the discovery of a great deal of pertinent archaeological material, dating from the third millennium BC. Mosaics, glass perfume flasks, stone vessels, ovens, cooking-pots, clay jars, etc., some inscribed by the hand of the artisan.
Note: Answer: A	

32 Answer: **E**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q32: protecting eyes from fly-transmitted diseases	the eye-paint repelled the little flies that transmitted eye inflammations
Note: Answer: E	

33 Answer: **B**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q33: from witchcraft to beautification	Cosmetics were also connected with cultic worship and witchcraft From this, in the course of time, developed the custom of personal use, to enhance the beauty of the face and the body, and to conceal defects.
Note: Answer: B	

34 Answer: **C**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q34: more expensive than gold	and at times even exceeded silver and gold in value
Note: Answer: C	

35 Answer: **NOT GIVEN**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q35: The written record for cosmetics and perfumes dates back to the third millennium BC.	it is shown by the discovery of a great deal of pertinent archaeological material, dating from the third millennium BC
Note: The passage does mention archeological evidence found in history "dating from the third millennium BC ". However it doesn't say anything about "written record" Answer: NOT GIVEN	

36 Answer: **FALSE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q36: Since perfumes and spices were luxury products, their use was exclusive to the noble and the wealthy.	Therefore they were luxury products, used mainly in the temples and in the homes of the noble and wealthy
Note: Perfumes and spices were not exclusively used for the noble and wealthy since they were also used in temples Answer: FALSE	

37 Answer: **TRUE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
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Q37: In the ancient Far East, fish fats were used as a cream by a woman from poor households.	Sometimes the oil in these creams was extracted from olives, almonds, gourds, sesame, or from trees and plants; but, for those of limited means , scented animal and fish fats were commonly used.
Note: Due to the scarcity of oil from olives, almonds, gourds, sesame ... (limited means), poor woman commonly use fish fats instead Answer: TRUE	

38 Answer: **TRUE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q38: The teachings in the Bible were repeatedly against the use of kohl for painting the eyes.	The use of kohl for painting the eyes is mentioned three times in the Bible, always with disapproval by the sages (2 Kings, 9:30; Jeremiah 4:30; Ezekiel 23:40)
Note: Answer: TRUE	

39 Answer: **FALSE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q39: Long hair as a symbol of beauty was worn solely by women of ancient cultures	Long hair was always considered a symbol of beauty, and kings , nobles and dignitaries grew their hair long and kept it well-groomed and cared for
Note: Long hair was also worn by kings. So saying it's "worn solely by women" is false Answer: FALSE	

40 Answer: **NOT GIVEN**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q40: The Egyptian Queen Hatsheput sent a royal expedition to Punt to establish a trade route for myrrh	It is known that the Egyptian Queen Hatsheput (15th century BC) sent a royal expedition to the Land of Punt (Somalia) in order to bring back myrrh seedlings to plant in her temple

Note:

There is nothing in the text that says “establish a trade route”.

Answer: **NOT GIVEN**

1 Answer: obscure

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q1: Word ‘Viking’ is	However, the origins of the word ‘Viking’, itself, are obscure : it may mean ‘a Scandinavian pirate’, or it may refer to ‘an inlet’, or a place called Vik, in modern-day Norway, from where the pirates came.
Note: The missing word should be an adjective. The keywords we need to look for are “Origins” and “Viking”, both are quite easy to find. Once we locate the sentence from “However ...”, there is only one adjective that can be filled in the gap which is “obscure”. Answer: obscure	

2 Answer: 793

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q2: In Britain: AD ... -1066	Vikings sailed to England in AD 793 to storm coastal monasteries, and subsequently, large swathes of England fell under Viking rule – indeed several Viking kings sat on the English throne.
Note: We can be sure that the blank should be a number stating the beginning of a period. Looking for the keys “Britain” and “AD”, we can see there are words like “England” and “AD” which tell us the answer must be around and it’s the number “793” Answer: 793	

3 Answer: Northwest Africa

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q3: Possibly raided as far away as	They plundered and settled down the Volga and Dnieper rivers, and traded with modern-day Istanbul, but the archaeological record has yet to verify that Vikings raided as far away as Northwest Africa , as some writers claim.

Note:

The answer is a noun and possibly a location, name of a region / land / country.

It's quite clear that the key "as far away as" is in the next paragraph, followed by "Northwest Africa" - name of a region.

Answer: **Northwest Africa**

4 Answer: local populations

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q4: Vikings had assimilated into	The issue of control and extent is complex because many Vikings did not return to Scandinavia after raiding but assimilated into local populations , often becoming Christian.
Note: Similar to Q3, Q4 has an exact keyword in the passage which is "assimilated into". So the answer is "local populations". Answer: local populations	

5 Answer: religious

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q5: & adopted a new ... system	To some degree, the Viking Age is defined by religion. Initially, Vikings were polytheists, believing in many gods, but by the end of the age, they had permanently accepted a new monotheistic religious system – Christianity.
Note: Q4 and Q5 are in the same section so the texts containing information of Q5 must be close. In the next sentence, "accepted" is synonymous with "adopted" and the word "system" is there as well. You can write either "monotheistic religious" or "religious". Both are correct. Answer: religious	

6 Answer: F

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q6: A geographer documents Viking culture as it happens.	Vikings did have a written language carved on large stones, but as few of these survive today, the most reliable contemporary sources on Vikings come from writers from other cultures, like the ninth-century Persian geographer, Ibn Khordadbeh.

Note:

The keyword that gives us a signal to read in detail is “Persian geographer”.

“Ninth-century Persian ...” - “In 9th-century Persia”

Matching keywords:

“Documents” - “sources on Vikings come from writers ...”

“As it happens” - “contemporary” and “ninth-century” (Viking era)

Answer: **F**

7 Answer: D

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q7: A philosopher classifies cultures hierarchically.	In the UK , in the 1970s for example, schoolchildren were taught that until the Vikings accepted Christianity they were nasty heathens who rampaged throughout Britain.

Note:

“UK”, “1970s” - “In 19th-century England”

This is a tough question. You can leave it till the end and choose the answer by the process of elimination; or you need to actually understand the word “hierarchically”.

Hierarchical: a system, especially in a society or an organisation, in which people are organised into different levels of importance from highest to lowest

The word “nasty heathens” infers that they consider the Vikings before accepting Christianity as inferior / lower class / barbaric. And that is “classifies cultures hierarchically”

Answer: **D**

8 Answer: E

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q 8 : Historians assert that Viking history is based more on legends than facts.	Since much knowledge of Vikings comes from literature composed up to 300 years after the events they chronicle, some Danish historians call these sources ‘mere legends’.

Note:

“Danish” - “In Denmark today”

Matching keywords:

“Assert” - “call”

And of course “legends”

Answer: **E**

9 Answer: **A**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q9: Young people learn about Viking cultural and economic activities.	By contrast, today's children can visit museums where Vikings are celebrated as merchants, pastoralists, and artists with a unique worldview as well as conquerors.
<p>Note:</p> <p>We are still at the paragraph about the UK and there is the keyword "today's children" which tells us to read further about feature A - "In the UK today"</p> <p>Matching keywords:</p> <p>"Young people" - "children"</p> <p>"Cultural" activities - "artists with a unique worldview"</p> <p>"Economic activities" - "merchants"</p> <p>Answer: A</p>	

10 Answer: **G**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q 10: People see themselves as unrelated to Vikings.	However, during the Soviet period, there was an emphasis on the Slavic origins of most Russians. (Appearing in the historical record around the sixth century AD, the Slavs are thought to have originated in Eastern Europe.) This Slavic identity was promoted to contrast with that of the neighbouring Viking Swedes, who were enemies during the Cold War.
<p>Note:</p> <p>The word "Soviet period" only appears once in the entire passage so it's safe to assume that we should read closely to see which statement matches with "In mid-20th century Soviet Union".</p> <p>This is the part where you need to understand the texts to answer. We have "Slavic origins", "Slavic identity" as opposed to "Vikings". People in Soviet period promoted themselves as "Slavic" to separate from "Vikings" - their enemy's ancestors; or we can understand it as they don't want to be "related" to "Vikings"</p> <p>Answer: G</p>	

11 Answer: **B**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
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<p>Q 11 : An historian claims Viking colonists to modern-day Canada came from his land.</p>	<p>The Norwegian historian, Gustav Storm, was adamant it was his forebears and not the Swedes' or Danes' who had colonised Iceland, Greenland, and Vinland, in what is now Canada.</p>
<p>Note:</p> <p>The word "Norway" only shows up once in this passage which gives us a signal that we should read closely to match the feature B "In 19th-century Norway".</p> <p>Matching keywords:</p> <p>"Claims" - "was adamant"</p> <p>"Viking colonists" - "his forebears", "colonised"</p> <p>"Modern-day Canada" - "what is now Canada"</p> <p>Answer: B</p>	

12 Answer: C

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q 12 : Viking conquests are exaggerated to bolster the country's ego after a territorial loss.</p>	<p>Sweden, meanwhile, had relinquished Norway to the Norwegians and Finland to the Russians; thus, in the late nineteenth century, Sweden was keen to boost its image with rich archaeological finds to show the glory of its Viking past.</p>
<p>Note:</p> <p>Sweden appears in 2 different paragraphs but there is only one that mentions the "19th-century" - "1905".</p> <p>Matching keywords:</p> <p>"Territorial loss" - "relinquished Norway to .. Russians"</p> <p>"Bolster the country's ego" - "boost its image"</p> <p>Answer: C</p>	

13 Answer: H

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
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<p>Q 13: DNA tests show locals are closely related to Swedes.</p>	<p>These days, many Russians consider themselves hybrids. Indeed recent genetic studies support a Norse-colonisation theory: western Russian DNA is consistent with that of the inhabitants of a region north of Stockholm in Sweden.</p>
<p>Note:</p> <p>This one is simple because the key “DNA” is quite easy to find and it only shows up once.</p> <p>“ In Russia today” - “These days, many Russians”</p> <p>“DNA tests” - “Russian DNA”</p> <p>“Closely related” - “is consistent with”</p> <p>“Swedes” - “inhabitants of” ... “in Sweden”</p> <p>Answer: H</p>	

15 Answer: YES

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q15: It seems predictable that some species will disappear.</p>	<p>Many of those fellow species now seem bound to become extinct, but a significant proportion could and should continue to live alongside us.</p>
<p>Note:</p> <p>Tips for locating information: This is the 1st question so It’s very likely that the texts containing the information should be around 1st or 2nd paragraph.</p> <p>By scanning, we can see that the key “species” is in the 1st paragraph.</p> <p>Matching keywords:</p> <p>“Seems predictable” - “seem bound to become”</p> <p>“Disappear” - “extinct”</p> <p>Answer: YES</p>	

16 Answer: NO

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
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<p>Q16: The nature of the Earth and human biology make it impossible for human beings to survive another million years.</p>	<p>By 'glorious', I mean that our descendants – all who are born on to this Earth – could live very comfortably and securely, and could continue to do so for as long as the Earth can support life which should be for a very long time indeed. We should at least be thinking in terms of the next million years.</p>
<p>Note:</p> <p>This is a tricky one because the needed information appears before the texts of Q1.</p> <p>We can see some matching keywords such as:</p> <p>“nature of the Earth and human biology” - “could live very comfortably and securely, and could continue to do so for as long as the Earth can support life”</p> <p>“survive another million years” - “We should at least be thinking in terms of the next million years.”</p> <p>But the key “impossible” completely contradicts the idea in the text.</p> <p>Answer: NO</p>	

17 Answer: YES

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q17: An eruption by Yellowstone is likely to be more destructive than previous volcanic eruptions.</p>	<p>Modern surveys show that its centre is now rising. Sometime in the next 200 million years, Yellowstone could erupt again, and when it does, the whole world will be transformed</p>
<p>Note:</p> <p>The keyword we need to scan for is “Yellowstone” and it appears only in paragraph D.</p> <p>Matching keywords:</p> <p>“An eruption by Yellowstone” - “Yellowstone could erupt again”</p> <p>“is likely to be more destructive” - “the whole world will be transformed”</p> <p>Answer: YES</p>	

18 Answer: NOT GIVEN

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
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<p>Q18: There is a greater chance of the Earth being hit by small asteroids than large ones.</p>	<p>The universe at large is dangerous, too: in particular, we share the sky with vast numbers of asteroids, and now and again, they come into our planet's atmosphere. An asteroid the size of a small island, hitting the Earth at 15,000 kilometres an hour (a relatively modest speed by the standards of heavenly bodies), would strike the ocean bed like a rock in a puddle, send a tidal wave around the world as high as a small mountain and as fast as a jumbo jet, and propel us into an ice age that could last for centuries</p>
<p>Note:</p> <p>To locate the texts quickly, we only need to scan for "asteroids" and it is in paragraph F.</p> <p>This part of the passage only describes what would happen if there was an asteroid as big as an island hitting the Earth. There is no comparison between small and large asteroids.</p> <p>Answer: NOT GIVEN</p>	

19 Answer: NO

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q 19: If the world becomes uninhabitable, it is most likely to be as a result of a natural disaster.</p>	<p>If the world does become inhospitable in the next few thousand or million years, then it will probably be our own fault. In short, despite the underlying uncertainty, our own future and that of our fellow creatures are very much in our own hands.</p>
<p>Note:</p> <p>This statement is incorrect because the texts say that "it will probably be our own fault" which is the opposite of "result of a natural disaster"</p> <p>Answer: NO</p>	

20 Answer: NOT GIVEN

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q 20: Politicians currently in power seem unlikely to change their way of thinking.</p>	<p>Given average luck on the geological and the cosmic scale, the difference between glory and disaster will be made and is being made, by politics. Certain kinds of political systems and strategies would predispose us to long-term survival (and indeed to comfort and security and pleasure of being alive), while others would take us more and more frenetically towards collapse.</p>

Note:

This part of the passage only compares different political systems and strategies without mentioning anything about “unlikely to change their way of thinking”

Answer: **NOT GIVEN**

21 Answer: temperature

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q 21 : The Earth could become uninhabitable, like other planets, through a major change in the ...	Other planets in the solar system are quite beyond habitation, because their temperature is far too high or too low to be endured, and ours, too, in principle could tip either way.

Note:

The keyword you should scan for is “other planets”. As we’ve found the key in paragraph C, it’s time to look closer to the question 7.

We need a Noun and it’s something that can change.

There is only one noun in this part which is “temperature”. It can have major change - “far too high or too low”

Answer: **temperature**

22 Answer: (molten) rock / ash

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q22: Volcanic eruptions of ... can lead to shortages of ...	The core of the Earth is hot, which in many ways is good for living creatures, but every now and again, the molten rock bursts through volcanoes on the surface. Among the biggest volcanic eruptions in recent memory was Mount St Helens, in the USA, which threw out a cubic kilometre of ash – fortunately, in an area where very few people live.

Note:

As we’ve read the paragraph to solve YNNG questions earlier, we know that paragraph C and E contain the details about “volcanic eruption”.

The answer must be a Noun - something comes out of the Volcanos

Matching keywords:

“Eruptions” - “bursts through” & “threw out”

Answer: **(molten) rock / ash**

23 Answer: **food**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q23: can lead to shortages of ... in a wide area	In 1815, Tambora (in present-day Indonesia) expelled so much ash into the upper atmosphere that climatic effects seriously harmed food production around the world for the season after season. Entire civilisations have been destroyed by volcanoes.
Note: The blank should be filled with a Noun. Matching keywords: “Shortages of” - “harmed food production” “A wide area” - “around the world” Answer: food	

24 Answer: **tidal wave**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q24: An asteroid hitting the Earth could create a ... that would result in a new	An asteroid the size of a small island, hitting the Earth at 15,000 kilometres an hour (a relatively modest speed by the standards of heavenly bodies), would strike the ocean bed like a rock in a puddle, send a tidal wave around the world as high as a small mountain and as fast as a jumbo jet, and propel us into an ice age that could last for centuries.
Note: You should scan for the word “asteroid” and find the information location in the paragraph E. It’s a Noun - something created after an asteroid hitting the Earth Matching keywords: “An asteroid hitting the Earth” - “An asteroid the size of a small island, hitting the Earth” “Could create” - “send” Answer: tidal wave	

25 Answer: **ice age**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
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Q25: that would result in a new ...	An asteroid the size of a small island, hitting the Earth at 15,000 kilometres an hour (a relatively modest speed by the standards of heavenly bodies), would strike the ocean bed like a rock in a puddle, send a tidal wave around the world as high as a small mountain and as fast as a jumbo jet, and propel us into an ice age that could last for centuries.
Note: Following the previous question, we have “result in” synonymous with “propel us into”. Hence, the answer is “ice age” Answer: ice age	

26 Answer: **rockets**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q26: Plans are being made to use ... to deflect asteroids heading for the Earth.	There are plans to head off such disasters (including rockets to push approaching asteroids into new trajectories), but in truth, it's down to luck.
Note: Scanning for “plans”, we can see that the following texts does contain the answer. The answer must be a Noun - something can be used Keywords: “deflect asteroids heading for the Earth” - “push approaching asteroids into new trajectories” Answer: rockets	

27 Answer: **D**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q27: to argue the need for a general change in behavior	Our material problems are fundamentally those of biology. We need to think, and we need our politicians to think, biologically. Do that, and take the ideas seriously, and we are in with a chance. Ignore biology and we and our fellow creatures haven't a hope.

Note:

We can summarise the passage as the following:

The future of humanity could be “glorious” or “dire” (para A & B)

Some natural disasters could make the “dire” situation reality such as volcanic eruptions and asteroids which are out of our control; but the chance of them happening is very unlikely. (para C, D, E, F)

The greatest impact is made through our action - political systems and strategies.

So we need a big change in our behavior. (para G)

Answer: **D**