



IELTS Practice Test Volume 6

Reading Practice Test 1

HOW TO USE

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Reading Passage 1

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



Coming of Age

A. Three striking facts highlight the dramatic shift in recent years in the relative economic balance of “first-world” and “third-world” economies. Last year, according to our estimates, emerging economies produced slightly more than half of world output measured at purchasing-power parity. Second, they also accounted for more than half of the increase in global GDP in current-dollar terms. And third, perhaps most striking of all, the 32 biggest emerging economies grew in both 2004 and 2005. Every previous year during the past three decades saw at least one country in recession - if not a deep crisis. Some economies will inevitably stumble over the coming years, but, thanks to sounder policies, most can look forward to rapid long-term growth. The young emerging economies have grown up in more ways than one.

B. Such happenings are part of the biggest shift in economic strength since the emergence of the United States more than a century ago. As developing countries and the former Soviet block have embraced market-friendly economic reforms and opened their borders to trade and investment, more countries are industrialising than ever before - and more quickly. During their industrial revolutions, America and Britain took 50 years to double their real incomes per head; today China is achieving that in a single decade. In an open world, it is much easier to catch up by adopting advanced countries' technology than it is to be an economic leader that has to invent new technologies in order to keep growing. The shift in economic power towards emerging economies is therefore likely to continue. This is returning the world to the sort of state that endured throughout most of its history. People forget that, until the late 19th century, China and India were the world's two biggest economies and today's “emerging economies” accounted for the bulk of world production.

C. Many bosses, workers, and politicians in the rich world fear that the success of these newcomers will be at their own expense. However, rich countries will gain more than they lose from the enrichment of others. Fears that the third world will steal rich-world output

and jobs are based on the old fallacy that an increase in one country's output must be at the expense of another's. But more exports give developing countries more money to spend on imports - mainly from developed economies. Faster growth in poor countries is therefore more likely to increase the output of their richer counterparts than to reduce it. The emerging economies are helping to lift world GDP growth at the very time when the rich world's ageing populations would otherwise cause growth to slow.

D. Although stronger growth in emerging economies will make developed countries as a whole better off, not everybody will be a winner. Globalisation is causing the biggest shift in relative prices (of labour, capital, commodities, and goods) for a century, and this in turn is causing a significant redistribution of income. Low-skilled workers in developed economies are losing out relative to skilled workers. And owners of capital are grabbing a bigger slice of the cake relative to workers as a whole.

E. As a result of China, India, and the former Soviet Union embracing market capitalism, the global labour force has doubled in size. To the extent that this has made labour more abundant, and capital relatively scarcer, it has put downward pressure on wages relative to the return on capital. Throughout the rich world, profits have surged to record levels as a share of national income, while the workers' slice has fallen. Hence, Western workers as a whole do not appear to have shared fully in the fruits of globalisation; many low-skilled ones may even be worse off. However, this is only part of the story. Workers' wages may be squeezed, but as consumers they benefit from lower prices. As shareholders and future pensioners, they stand to gain from a more efficient use of global capital. Competition from emerging economies should also help to spur rich-world productivity growth and thus average incomes,

F. To the extent that rich economies as a whole gain from the new wealth of emerging ones, governments have more scope to compensate losers. Governments have another vital role to play, too. The intensifying competition from emerging economies makes flexible labour and product markets even more imperative, so as to speed up the shift from old industries to new ones. That is why Europe and Japan cannot afford to drag their heels over reform or leave workers ill-equipped to take up tomorrow's jobs. Developed countries that are quick to abandon declining industries and move upmarket into new industries and services will fare best as the emerging economies come of age. Those that resist change can look forward to years of relative decline. Those that embrace it can best share in the emerging economies' astonishing new wealth.

Questions 1-4

The text has 6 paragraphs (A - F).

Which paragraph contains each of the following pieces of information?

A	B	C	D	E	F
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- 1 Drag your answer Advice for developed countries
- 2 The reason that it is faster to develop nowadays
- 3 The fact that in the 30 years before 2004, not all large developing economies grew
- 4 The fact that domination of the global economy by Western countries is unusual in global history

Questions 5-8

Complete the following sentences using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the text for each gap.

Developing economies can catch up with developed ones faster because they don't have to 5

Growth in developing countries helps developed economies because of spending 6

Capital is being used more efficiently because it is 7

Economic 8 is required in many developed economies.

Questions 9-13

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

In boxes 9 - 13 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

9

 Large developing economies should not have any problems in

the future.

10 If one country increases production, another country will have to reduce its production.

11 Globalisation is causing greater differences in income.

12 Low-skilled workers in developed economies are earning less.

13 Japan is not spending enough on education.

Reading Passage 2

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



British Universities Seek Quantity and Quality

A. Pity the poor British professor. Once upon a time in the halcyon 1960s, his students were a privileged few, an academic elite drawn from the top four per cent of the population. New university arrivals were literate and numerate; crimes against grammar were the exception rather than the rule. According to a new comprehensive survey of British university faculty and staff, all that has changed. "They [incoming students] don't know how to write essays they just assemble bits from the Internet," commented a disgruntled Oxford tutor. Even the cream of candidates do not necessarily know how to use an apostrophe," added another.

B. The decline in student competence parallels a dramatic increase in British university and college enrolment over the past decade, spurred in recent years by Prime Minister Tony Blair's push to get half of all young Britons a university degree. As professors and business owners alike decry the quality of university students and graduates, more than a few observers are questioning the wisdom of packing ivory towers with the masses. Students themselves may begin to question whether higher education is overvalued, with tuition rates set to rise steeply next fall.

C. British universities and colleges are teeming with almost 2.5 million young adults, a 12-fold increase of 1960s numbers, and up almost fifty per cent over the past decade alone. A report published last month for the Association of Graduate Recruiters found that almost half of the top 200 employers of university graduates were unhappy with the calibre of candidates. The recent survey, conducted by Oxford University and Universities & Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), listed a catalogue of complaints about freshmen

which had led in some cases to year long courses being deferred by a year.

D. "You are getting students going to higher education now who wouldn't have done so 20 years ago, and in some ways that's a good thing, as it widens opportunity," says Geoff Hayward, lecturer at Oxford University's educational studies department. There were, he adds, "genuine concerns about young people and their capacity to benefit from higher education". Part of the problem, Mr. Hayward says, lies in the way teenagers are taught in school, prepped assiduously for exams at the expense of broader understanding. Despite the students' academic failings, the Oxford/UCAS survey did find they were more tech-savvy and better at oral communication than their predecessors.

E. Nevertheless, concerns about the state of Britain's university system are deepening this year as its funding faces one of its biggest shake-ups in decades. Following the lead of America, Australia, and New Zealand among others, universities will introduce a new annual £3,000 (\$6,000) tuition fee for students next year - nearly triple the current fee. The charge, brought in by the government to drum up cash for a perennially under-funded sector, is expected to saddle graduates with debts of at least £12,000 (\$24,000), according to the National Union of Students (NUS), making some think twice about whether to study. Already, official figures show the number of university applicants fell this year for the first time in six years, by 3.4 per cent.

F. "We've said all along that this policy will deter prospective students from going to university," says Julian Nicholds, NUS vice president for education. "About 13,000 fewer prospective students have applied this year, and that is only attributable to the threat of debt in the future." For the government, the fall in applicants is slightly awkward. Tony Blair's Labour administration has committed itself to boosting the number of young people in higher education to fifty per cent by 2010. That might prove tricky if teenagers - and their parents - are deterred by the burgeoning cost of study.

G. Alison Wolf, an expert at King's College London and author of a book called "Does Education Matter," concedes that the added fees might make students think twice but says the price increase won't turn them away. "When a degree has become as important as ours, all the evidence is that fees will not have an impact because it's still economically worthwhile to get a degree," says Ms. Wolf. Estimates suggest graduates will still earn as much as £400,000 (\$800,000) more over a lifetime than non-graduates: A little debt will be worth it in the long run, she says.

H. Bill Rammell, higher education minister, says Blair's target of fifty per cent enrolment is "an economic and social necessity". He also points out that by 2012, an estimated 6.8 million graduate jobs will have been created, requiring increasing numbers of university-educated workers. "It is therefore crucial that we are able to produce sufficient numbers of highly skilled, employable graduates to fill those posts," says Mr. Rammell. "Most industrialised countries have targets to expand university numbers."

I. However, Wolf says the government's fifty per cent target is "nuts". "There is no evidence that it is important for economic growth," she contends. "Switzerland is the richest country in Europe and has one of the lowest numbers of graduates." A market based society, she says, is capable of working out what kind of workers it needs without government-mandated quotas, which may end up encouraging people to go to university who might do better pursuing vocational endeavours. "It would make more sense for society if lots of people didn't go to university for the wrong reasons," she says, "but as long as employers continue to use degrees as a filter device for screening candidates, demand for degrees will remain high."

Questions 14-17

The text has 9 paragraphs (A -I).

Which paragraph does each of the following headings best fit?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
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14	<div>Drag your answer</div>	Higher fees
15		Many employers unhappy
16		Government's push for numbers
17		Paying is worth it.

Questions 18-22

According to the text, **FIVE** of the following statements are true.

Write the corresponding letters in answer boxes 18 to 22 in any order.

- ☐ A Higher education is overvalued.
- ☐ B Certain students have had to postpone taking courses.
- ☐ C Students nowadays are better at using technology.
- ☐ D The number of university applications has declined this year.
- ☐ E The government wants 50% of young people in higher education.

- F** ☐ Alison Wolf agrees with Julian Nicholds.
- G** ☐ Bill Rammell agrees with Tony Blair.
- H** ☐ Switzerland is following Britain's example.

Questions 23-26

According to the information given in the text, choose the correct answer or answers from the choices given.

23

University students nowadays are criticised for their lack of

- A** ☐ mathematical ability.
- B** ☐ essay writing ability.
- C** ☐ criminal behaviour.

24

Geoff Hayward is concerned about

- A** ☐ the quality of students.
- B** ☐ the ability of students to communicate properly.
- C** ☐ there being too much focus on examinations at schools.

25

Bill Rammell points out that

- A** ☐ Britain doesn't have enough graduates.
- B** ☐ there are 6.8 million graduates in Britain.
- C** ☐ other countries want to increase the number of graduates.

26

Wolf believes

- A** ☐ Switzerland is better than Britain.
- B** ☐ market forces should determine how many people go to university.
- C** ☐ employers use degrees to shorten lists of applicants.

Reading Passage 3

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



Are You Experienced?

How we spend our money is changing. In the new “experience economy”, we pay to do things, not have things. Trevor Beattie, the advertising supremo, has earned millions by devising original and controversial publicity campaigns. His agency assembled the arresting FCUK logo for French Connection. However, he doesn’t believe in amassing expensive emblems of success, instead lavishing his fortune on such ephemeral things as flights in a MiG jet, or flying his mum on Concorde. He says that buying a Porsche is the saddest thing in the history of money.

Beattie is not alone in prizing memories above materialism. For a truly special birthday party, a Ferrari in a ribbon will no longer cut it. What the super-rich really want is their own private . Rolling Stones concert (cost: £2 million) or a trip into space (£100,000, courtesy of Virgin Galactic). Even the rest of us don’t particularly want stuff any more: we’d rather enjoy a day at the races, a massage, a ride in a hot-air balloon, or a weekend cookery course run by a Michelin-starred chef. These are all symptomatic of the growing “experience economy”, which has evolved out of a culture of mass affluence. With our basic needs satisfied - the disposable income of Britons is double what it was in 1980 - we are becoming increasingly choosy about how we spend our money.

Rather than upgrading our car or television, we'll spend the cash in coffee shops, hotels, restaurants, sports clubs, and theme parks. We'll splash out on European city breaks or walking the Inca Trail. Experiences, in other words, the amount that British people spend on retail goods as a proportion of consumer spending has gone down in the past ten years. That money has migrated to restaurants, leisure and budget travel, as well as

mobile phone calls.

Even that most acquisitional of pursuits, shopping, has had to wake up to the experience economy. Shopping malls such as Bluewater have acknowledged the arrival of the experience economy by restyling themselves as destinations for a family day out. You can browse, dine, and take in a film; the shopping is optional. Companies such as Marks & Spencer recognise the trend, which is why they've started putting coffee shops and bookshops in their stores. The experience of shopping is just as important to us as what we end up taking home.

The "experience economy" was first predicted in a 1998 article in the Harvard Business Review by James Gilmore, an American business consultant who advocates, among other things, sleep deprivation as an idea booster. The idea was later expanded into *The Experience Economy: Work is Theatre & Every Business a Stage*. Written with B. Joseph Pine, the book posits that we are in the middle of a profound economic shift. Just as we moved from a goods to a service economy, now we are shifting from a service to an experience economy.

Accordingly, to stand out in the marketplace, companies need to offer not just goods and services but experiences. Companies are no longer mere suppliers but staggers of events designed to be experienced. The newest retail stores prove the point: the flagship Toys "R" Us shop in Times Square in New York is no "pile 'em high, sell 'em cheap" emporium. Visitors are immersed in the Toys "R" Us experience as soon as they encounter the Ferris wheel at the front door. Other attractions include two floors designed as a Barbie house, and an animatronic dinosaur. Shoppers are called guests.

The idea is to foster an emotional attachment between company and consumer, and hope that "guests" will want to acquire a memento that reminds them of the warm fuzzy feelings they had during the experience. The hippest companies of the moment - Starbucks, Apple and, on a smaller scale, the drinks company Innocent - are all admired within the business industry for their ability to connect emotionally with their consumers and for proving that people will pay a premium to buy into their world. An Innocent fruit smoothie, for example, costs about £2, much more than a non-branded smoothie. Magazine reviews of the Apple iPod, which always criticise its battery life and exorbitant price tag, are inevitably forgiving because of the iPod's iconic design and an enduring affection for the company's perceived ability to do things differently. Visitors to Apple's six British stores are encouraged to use an "online concierge" to help them to plan their trip, showing that progressive companies have bought in fully to the hospitality concept.

The conveyor belt of business publishing also attests to the increasing importance of the customer experience. Pine and Gilmore's groundbreaking offering was followed by such tomes as *Priceless: Turning Ordinary Products into Extraordinary Experiences* (which became required reading at IBM, Estee Lauder and Pizza Hut) and *Making Meaning: How*

Successful Businesses Deliver Meaningful Customer Experiences. They all preach the same gospel: that, contrary to what companies think, not all consumers are focused on bagging the cheapest product. The buying experience is critical (which is why we have not all switched to Internet shopping or no-frills airlines).

The most notable aspect of the experience economy is how much we are prepared to pay for a purely non-material experience, such as a day in a spa or a trip to Prague. A collision of social trends is responsible. This era is unique in the coming together of various trends such as globalism, multiculturalism, and a demographic shift in terms of longevity. There are more leisure activities around today than twenty years ago. We are aware of these other activities and cultures, and we now have the money to experience them. Now that we are living longer, we have more time to try different things.

Questions 27-30

For each question, only **ONE** of the choices is correct.

Write the corresponding letter in the appropriate box on your answer sheet.

27 Trevor Beattie is least likely to

- ☐ A think of a good way of advertising something.
- ☐ B fly in a military plane.
- ☐ C buy a nice, fast car.

28 An “experience economy” has grown in Britain because

- ☐ A most people have enough things.
- ☐ B people like new ideas.
- ☐ C buying things has become too expensive.

29 Shopping malls such as Bluewater

- ☐ A are changing the way they present themselves.
- ☐ B have been slow to recognise changes in consumer behaviour.
- ☐ C are unhappy with the idea of an “experience economy”.

30 Retailers focusing more on “experiences” still aim to make sales through

- ☐ A better marketing techniques.

- B** ☐ calling customers “guests”.
- C** ☐ selling customers things that remind them of their experiences.

Questions 31-35

Complete the following sentences using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the text for each gap.

James Gilmore thinks that people become more creative when subjected to
31 _____

Starbucks is a company that has managed to develop an 32 _____ with its customers.

Pine and Gilmore’s books suggest that not all consumers focus on buying the
33 _____

Internet shopping lacks the 34 _____

People have time for more experiences partly because they are 35 _____

Questions 36-40

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 3?

In boxes 36 - 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

36 In Britain, the total amount of money spent on buying things has gone down in the last ten years.

37 Some shopping malls have a cinema to enhance people’s shopping experience.

38 iPods are often criticised for being too expensive.

39 Apple is considered to be a creative company.

40



Companies believe there is a clear limit to how much people will pay for “experience”.



Solution:

27 C

28 A

29 A

30 C

31 sleep deprivation

32 emotional attachment

33 cheapest product

34 buying experience

35 living longer

36 NOT GIVEN

37 TRUE

38 TRUE

39 TRUE

40 NOT GIVEN

1 F

2 B

3 A

4 B

- 14 E
- 15 C
- 16 B
- 17 G
- 5 invent new technologies
- 6 on imports
- 7 relatively scarcer
- 8 reform
- $\frac{18}{22}$ B,C,D,E,G
- 9 FALSE
- 10 FALSE
- 11 TRUE
- 12 NOT GIVEN
- 13 NOT GIVEN
- 23 A,B
- 24 A,C
- 25 C
- 26 B,C

Review and Explanations

27 Answer: **C**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q27: Trevor Beattie is least likely to</p> <p>A . think of a good way to advertise something</p> <p>B. fly in a military plane</p> <p>C. buy a nice, fast car</p>	<p>Trevor Beattie, the advertising supremo, has earned millions by devising original and controversial publicity campaigns. His agency assembled the arresting FCUK logo for French Connection. However, he doesn't believe in amassing expensive emblems of success, instead lavishing his fortune on such ephemeral things as flights in a MiG jet, or flying his mum on Concorde. He says that buying a Porsche is the saddest thing in the history of money.</p>
<p>Note:</p> <p>The keyword to answer Q1 is 'Trevor Beattie', and we're looking for something he wouldn't do</p> <p>According to the passage, Trevor is an advertising supremo, and he earns lots of money from making advertisements (publicity campaigns), and for that reason, answer A is incorrect.</p> <p>In terms of option B, the author said he spent money on flights in a MiG jet, a kind of military plane. Therefore, B is also incorrect.</p> <p>Turning to option C, he said buying a Porsche, a kind of nice, fast car, is the saddest thing, which means he didn't like the idea of having a nice car.</p> <p>All thing considered, the answer is C.</p>	

28 Answer: **A**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
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<p>Q28: An “experience economy” has grown in Britain because</p> <p>A. most people have enough things</p> <p>B. people like new ideas</p> <p>C. buying things has become too expensive</p>	<p>Even the rest of us don’t particularly want stuff any more: we’d rather enjoy a day at the races, a massage, a ride in a hot-air balloon, or a weekend cookery course run by a Michelin-starred chef. These are all symptomatic of the growing “experience economy”, which has evolved out of a culture of mass affluence. With our basic needs satisfied - the disposable income of Britons is double what it was in 1980 - we are becoming increasingly choosy about how we spend our money.</p>
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Note

The keywords to answer Q28 are "experience economy" and "Britain".

According to this paragraph, The Britons feel their basic needs satisfied (enough), so they don't particularly want stuff anymore, which is the reason why experience economy started to grow, therefore, A is correct

In addition, information of option B and C cannot be found in the passage.

Therefore, **the answer is A.**

29 Answer: **A**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q29</p> <p>Shopping malls such as Bluewater</p> <p>A. are changing the way they present themselves</p> <p>B. has been slow to recognize changes in consumer behavior</p> <p>C. are unhappy with the idea of an “experience economy”</p>	<p>Even that most acquisitional of pursuits, shopping, has had to wake up to the experience economy. Shopping malls such as Bluewater have acknowledged the arrival of the experience economy by restyling themselves as destinations for a family day out. You can browse, dine, and take in a film; the shopping is optional.</p>

Note

The keywords to answer Q3 is Bluewater'

According to the passage, shopping malls such as Bluewater are restyling to suit the experience economy. Therefore, A is the correct option as 'changing' dissimilar to 'restyle'.

Moreover, there is no clue for option B and C in the passage

For all reasons above, **the answer is A.**

30 Answer: **C**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q30</p> <p>Retailers focusing more on "experiences" still aim to make sales through</p> <p>A. better marketing techniques</p> <p>B. calling customers "guests".</p> <p>C. selling customers things that reminds them of their experiences.</p>	<p>Accordingly, to stand out in the marketplace, companies need to offer not just goods and services but experiences. Companies are no longer mere suppliers but stagers of events designed to be experienced. The newest retail stores prove the point: the flagship Toys "R" Us' shop in Times Square in New York is no "pile 'em high, sell 'em cheap" emporium. Visitors are immersed in the Toys "R" Us experience as soon as they encounter the Ferris wheel at the front door. Other attractions include two floors designed as a Barbie house, and an animatronic dinosaur. Shoppers are called guests.</p> <p>The idea is to foster an emotional attachment between company and consumer, and hope that "guests" will want to acquire a memento that reminds them of the warm fuzzy feelings they had during the experience.</p>
<p>Note</p> <p>As you can see from the passage, the writer suggests that companies need to offer not just goods and services but experiences, a memento that reminds them of the feelings. For that reason, option C is correct. In addition, information of option A cannot be found in the passage, and option B is just a minor part, not the main idea.</p> <p>Therefore, the answer is C.</p>	

31 Answer: **sleep deprivation**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q31 James Gilmore thinks that people become more creative when subjected to _____	The “experience economy” was first predicted in a 1998 article in the Harvard Business Review by James Gilmore, an American business consultant who advocates, among other things, sleep deprivation as an idea booster.
Note The needed words to fill in the blank should be a noun (be subjected to sth) To answer this question, we look for keywords “James Gilmore” According to the passage, James Gilmore considered sleep deprivation as an idea booster, which mean getting more creative Therefore, the answer for Q5 is “sleep deprivation” .	

32 Answer: **emotional attachment**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q32 Starbucks is a company that has managed to developan_____with its customers.	The idea is to foster an emotional attachment between company and consumer, and hope that “guests” will want to acquire a memento that reminds them of the warm fuzzy feelings they had during the experience. The hippest companies of the moment - Starbucks, Apple and, on a smaller scale, the drinks company Innocent - are all admired within the business industry for their ability to connect emotionally with their consumers and for proving that people will pay a premium to buy into their world.
Note The answer should be a noun (after an) The keyword for this question is ‘Starbucks’ And as we can see from the passage, Starbucks is admired because they can connect emotionally with their consumers (customers), which is called emotional attachment. Therefore, the answer here is “emotional attachment” .	

33 Answer: **cheapest product**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q33 Pine and Gilmore's books suggest that not all consumers focus on buying the _____	Pine and Gilmore's groundbreaking offering was followed by such tomes as Priceless: Turning Ordinary Products into Extraordinary Experiences (which became required reading at IBM, Estee Lauder and Pizza Hut) and Making Meaning: How Successful Businesses Deliver Meaningful Customer Experiences. They all preach the same gospel: that, contrary to what companies think, not all consumers are focused on bagging the cheapest product.
Note The answer should be a noun (after the) The keyword here is 'Pine and Gilmore'. In the passage, it is stated that not all consumers want to buy the cheapest product. Therefore, the answer is "cheapest product" .	

34 Answer: **buying experience**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q34 Internet shopping lacks the _____	The buying experience is critical (which is why we have not all switched to Internet shopping or no-frills airlines).
Note The answer of Q34 is a noun. The keyword in this question 'internet shopping'. As you can see in the passage, we have not all switched to internet shopping because it doesn't give us the buying experience. Therefore, the answer is "buying experience" .	

35 Answer: **living longer**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q35 People have time for more experiences partly because they are _____	Now that we are living longer, we have more time to try different things.

Note

The answer might be an adj or a present participle. To answer this question, we use scanning, looking for the keyword “have time for more experiences”.

As can be seen from the passage, we have more time to try different things (experience) because we are now living longer.

Therefore, **the answer should be “living longer”**.

36 Answer: **NOT GIVEN**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q36 In Britain, the total amount of money spent on buying things has gone down in the last ten years.	With our basic needs satisfied - the disposable income of Britons is double what it was in 1980 - we are becoming increasingly choosy about how we spend our money.
Note According to the passage, people in Britain are becoming increasingly choosy about how they spend their money, but nothing about the amount of money they spent on buying things last ten years was mentioned. Therefore, the answer is NOT GIVEN .	

37 Answer: **TRUE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q37 Some shopping malls have a cinema to enhance people's shopping experience.	Shopping malls such as Bluewater have acknowledged the arrival of the experience economy by restyling themselves as destinations for a family day out. You can browse, dine, and take in a film; the shopping is optional. Companies such as Marks & Spencer recognise the trend, which is why they've started putting coffee shops and bookshops in their stores. The experience of shopping is just as important to us as what we end up taking home.
Note As we can see from the passage, shopping malls were restyled so that people could not only buy things but also experience with family like watching a film (at the cinema). For that reason, the answer is TRUE .	

38 Answer: **TRUE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q38 iPods are often criticised for being too expensive.	Magazine reviews of the Apple iPod, which always criticise its battery life and exorbitant price tag, are inevitably forgiving because of the iPod's iconic design and an enduring affection for the company's perceived ability to do things differently.
Note In the passage, Apple iPod is criticized for the exorbitant (expensive) price tag. For that reason, we can conclude that the answer is TRUE .	

39 Answer: **TRUE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q39 Apple is considered to be a creative company.	Magazine reviews of the Apple iPod, which always criticise its battery life and exorbitant price tag, are inevitably forgiving because of the iPod's iconic design and an enduring affection for the company's perceived ability to do things differently.
Note From the passage, we can see people love Apple for its ability to do things differently (creative). Therefore, the answer is TRUE .	

40 Answer: **NOT GIVEN**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q40 Companies believe there is a clear limit to how much people will pay for "experience".	The most notable aspect of the experience economy is how much we are prepared to pay for a purely non-material experience, such as a day in a spa or a trip to Prague. A collision of social trends is responsible. This era is unique in the coming together of various trends such as globalism, multiculturalism, and a demographic shift in terms of longevity.

Note

How much people will pay for experience was mentioned as the most notable aspect, but there was no clue relating to its limit.

Therefore, **the answer of Q40 is NOT GIVEN.**

1 Answer: **F**

2 Answer: **B**

3 Answer: **A**

4 Answer: **B**

14 Answer: **E**

15 Answer: **C**

16 Answer: **B**

17 Answer: **G**

5 Answer: **invent new technologies**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q5 Developing economies can catch up with developed ones faster because they don't have to _____	During their industrial revolutions, America and Britain took 50 years to double their real incomes per head; today China is achieving that in a single decade. In an open world, it is much easier to catch up by adopting advanced countries' technology than it is to be an economic leader that has to invent new technologies in order to keep growing.

Note

The needed words to fill in the blank should be a verb (have to do something)

To answer this question, we look for keywords "catch up with"

According to the passage, it is much easier (faster) for emerging countries to catch up with their developed counterparts because they just need to adopt new technologies, no need to invent new ones.

Therefore, **the answer for Q5 is "invent new technologies".**

6 Answer: **on imports**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
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Q6 Growth in developing countries helps developed economies because of spending _____.	However, rich countries will gain more than they lose from the enrichment of others. Fears that the third world will steal rich-world output and jobs are based on the old fallacy that an increase in one country's output must be at the expense of another's. But more exports give developing countries more money to spend on imports - mainly from developed economies.
Note The answer should be a noun or gerund (spend on (doing) sth) The keyword for this question is 'spend' Rich countries will gain more when the third world exports more, because more exports give developing countries more money to spend on imports. Therefore, the answer here is "on imports" .	

7 Answer: **relatively scarcer**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q7 Capital is being used more efficiently because it is _____.	As a result of China, India, and the former Soviet Union embracing market capitalism, the global labour force has doubled in size. To the extent that this has made labour more abundant, and capital relatively scarcer, it has put downward pressure on wages relative to the return on capital.
Note The answer should be an adj (after to be) The keyword here is 'capital'. In the passage, it is stated that because labour became more abundant, capital got relatively scarcer, so pressure had been put on wages to return the capital, which means capital is used more efficiently. Therefore, the answer is "relatively scarcer" .	

8 Answer: **reform**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
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<p>Q8</p> <p>Economic _____ is required in many developed economies.</p>	<p>The intensifying competition from emerging economies makes flexible labour and product markets even more imperative, so as to speed up the shift from old industries to new ones. That is why Europe and Japan cannot afford to drag their heels over reform or leave workers ill-equipped to take up tomorrow's jobs. Developed countries that are quick to abandon declining industries and move upmarket into new industries and services will fare best as the emerging economies come of age.</p>
<p>Note</p> <p>The answer should be a noun (after adj)</p> <p>The keyword here is 'required', though we cannot find that it in the passage, we find the phrase "cannot afford to drag their heels over", which means "must not do sth slowly" and can be considered as "required". Europe must quickly reform if they don't want to leave workers ill-equipped to take up tomorrow's jobs.</p> <p>Therefore, the answer is "reform".</p>	

18-22 Answer: **B,C,D,E,G**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>A - Higher education is overvalued</p>	<p>Students themselves may begin to question whether higher education is overvalued, with tuition rates set to rise steeply next fall.</p> <p>.... "When a degree has become as important as ours, all the evidence is that fees will not have an impact because it's still economically worthwhile to get a degree," says Ms. Wolf.</p>
<p>Note</p> <p>From the passage, we can see that some students thought that higher education is overvalued. However, later on we see that this thought was not correct, as Ms. Wolf pointed out that degrees still have a value in the market. For that reason, A is incorrect.</p>	

B- Certain students have had to postpone taking courses.	The recent survey, conducted by Oxford University and Universities & Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), listed a catalogue of complaints about freshmen which had led in some cases to year long courses being deferred by a year.
As we can see here, some freshmen had to defer (postpone) courses due to the complaints. For that reason, we can conclude that B is CORRECT.	
C- Students nowadays are better at using technology.	Despite the students' academic failings, the Oxford/UCAS survey did find they were more tech-savvy and better at oral communication than their predecessors.
Note The content of F is confirmed in the passage. Therefore, C is CORRECT.	
D - The number of university applications has declined this year.	Already, official figures show the number of university applicants fell this year for the first time in six years, by 3.4 per cent.
Note It is easy to find out the answer for this one, as “declined” is a synonym of “fell”. Therefore, D is CORRECT.	
E- The government wants 50% of young people in higher education.	For the government, the fall in applicants is slightly awkward. Tony Blair's Labour administration has committed itself to boosting the number of young people in higher education to fifty per cent by 2010.
Note It is clear in the passage that the government want to boost the number of students in higher education to 50%. Therefore, E is CORRECT.	

<p>F - Alison Wolf agrees with Julian Nicholds.</p>	<p>"We've said all along that this policy will deter prospective students from going to university," says Julian Nicholds, NUS vice president for education.</p> <p>"When a degree has become as important as ours, all the evidence is that fees will not have an impact because it's still economically worthwhile to get a degree," says Ms. Wolf. Estimates suggest graduates will still earn as much as £400,000 (\$800,000) more over a lifetime than non- graduates: A little debt will be worth it in the long run, she says.</p>
<p>Note</p> <p>Julian believed the price increase would deter students from going to university, but Wolf believed that fees would not have an impact, as it's still economically worthwhile to get a degree. Therefore, F is incorrect.</p>	
<p>G -Bill Rammell agrees with Tony Blair.</p>	<p>Bill Rammell, higher education minister, says Blair's target of fifty per cent enrolment is "an economic and social necessity".</p>
<p>Note</p> <p>It is confirmed in the passage that Bill considered Blair's target "an economic and social necessity"., which means he agreed with Blair. Therefore, G is CORRECT.</p>	
<p>H-Switzerland is following Britain's example.</p>	<p>"Switzerland is the richest country in Europe and has one of the lowest numbers of graduates."</p>
<p>Note</p> <p>The author used Switzerland as an example of a rich country with the low number of graduates. Nothing about whether Switzerland was following Britain's example was mentioned. Therefore, H is incorrect.</p>	
<p>Note for Q18-22</p> <p>All thing considered, the answers for Q18-22 are B, C, D, E, G</p>	

9 Answer: **FALSE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
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<p>Q9</p> <p>Large developing economies should not have any problems in the future.</p>	<p>And third, perhaps most striking of all, the 32 biggest emerging economies grew in both 2004 and 2005. Every previous year during the past three decades saw at least one country in recession - if not a deep crisis. Some economies will inevitably stumble over the coming years, but, thanks to sounder policies, most can look forward to rapid long-term growth.</p>
<p>Note</p> <p>In the passage, it is said that 32 biggest emerging economies (large developing) grew in 2004 and 2005, but some will stumble over (fall, make a mistake), which means they will have a problem in the coming years (future). Therefore, this statement is incorrect</p> <p>The answer here is FALSE</p>	

10 Answer: **FALSE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q10</p> <p>If one country increases production, another country will have to reduce its production.</p>	<p>Fears that the third world will steal rich-world output and jobs are based on the old fallacy that an increase in one country's output must be at the expense of another's. But more exports give developing countries more money to spend on imports - mainly from developed economies. Faster growth in poor countries is therefore more likely to increase the output of their richer counterparts than to reduce it.</p>
<p>Note</p> <p>According to the passage, people usually think that if one country produces more, another country will buy more, which means they will produce less. However, this is not correct, as the sentence right after it, with a strong signal word 'But', points out that more exports will also lead to more imports in the same countries, so it will benefit both parties. Therefore, the answer is FALSE.</p>	

11 Answer: **TRUE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q11</p> <p>Globalisation is causing greater differences in income.</p>	<p>Globalisation is causing the biggest shift in relative prices (of labour, capital, commodities, and goods) for a century, and this in turn is causing a significant redistribution of income.</p>

Note

As we can see from the passage, Globalisation are changing prices of labour, capital, commodities and goods, and eventually changing the income. For that reason, **the answer is TRUE.**

12 Answer: **NOT GIVEN**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q12 Low-skilled workers in developed economies are earning less..	Low-skilled workers in developed economies are losing out relative to skilled workers. And owners of capital are-grabbing a bigger slice of the cake relative to workers as a whole.
Note Low-skilled workers in developed economies is mentioned in the paragraph. However, they are only losing jobs to skilled workers, there is no clue relating to their income becoming less. For that reason, we can conclude that the answer is NOT GIVEN.	

13 Answer: **NOT GIVEN**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q13 Japan is not spending enough on education.	The intensifying competition from emerging economies makes flexible labour and product markets even more imperative, so as to speed up the shift from old industries to new ones. That is why Europe and Japan cannot afford to drag their heels over reform or leave workers ill-equipped to take up tomorrow's jobs.
Note According to the passage, Japan cannot leave workers ill-equipped to take up tomorrow's jobs, which means can be referred that they will spend more on education. But nothing about how much they will spend on education is mentioned. Therefore, the answer of Q14 is NOT GIVEN.	

23 Answer: **A,B**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
From Q23 to Q26, we continue to use scanning to locate where the correct answer is <i>You should read the questions and answers first, underline keywords, and then read the passage to find the correct answer or answers (You can choose more than one correct answers)</i>	

<p>Q23: University students nowadays are criticised for their lack of</p> <p>A. mathematical ability</p> <p>B. essay writing ability</p> <p>C. criminal behaviour</p>	<p>New university arrivals were literate and numerate; crimes against grammar were the exception rather than the rule. According to a new comprehensive survey of British university faculty and staff, all that has changed. "They [incoming students] don't know how to write essays they just assemble bits from the Internet," commented a disgruntled Oxford tutor. Even the cream of candidates do not necessarily know how to use an apostrophe," added another.</p>
<p>Note:</p> <p>The keywords to answer Q23 is "lack of"</p> <p>According to this paragraph, new university arrivals (students) were literate (able to read and write) and numerate (able to calculate), but they also pointed out in a survey that, all that has changed, which means students nowadays are not literate and numerate (mathematical ability) and don't know how to write essay (essay writing ability) so A and B is correct</p> <p>In addition, information of option C cannot be found in the passage.</p> <p>Therefore, the answer is A, B.</p>	

24 Answer: **A,C**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q24: Geoff Hayward is concerned about</p> <p>A. the quality of students</p> <p>B. the ability of students to communicate properly</p> <p>C. there being too much focus on examinations at school</p>	<p>"You are getting students going to higher education now who wouldn't have done so 20 years ago, and in some ways that's a good thing, as it widens opportunity," says Geoff Hayward, lecturer at Oxford University's educational studies department. There were, he adds, "genuine concerns about young people and their capacity to benefit from higher education". Part of the problem, Mr. Hayward says, lies in the way teenagers are taught in school, prepped assiduously for exams at the expense of broader understanding. Despite the students' academic failings, the Oxford/UCAS survey did find they were more tech-savvy and better at oral communication than their predecessors.</p>

Note

The keywords to answer Q24 is "Geoff Hayward"

According to this paragraph, Hayward was concerned about whether students would be about to benefit from higher education, which is their quality, so A is correct

He's also concerned with the way students were taught at school, with too much focus on exams, so C is correct.

In addition, information of option B is opposite with what can be found in the passage, students are better at communication.

Therefore, **the answer is A, C.**

25 Answer: **C**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
<p>Q25: Bill Rammell points out that</p> <p>A. Britain doesn't have enough graduates</p> <p>B. there are 6.8 million graduates in Britain</p> <p>C. other countries want to increase the number of graduates</p>	<p>Bill Rammell, higher education minister, says Blair's target of fifty per cent enrolment is "an economic and social necessity". He also points out that by 2012, an estimated 6.8 million graduate jobs will have been created, requiring increasing numbers of university- educated workers. "It is therefore crucial that we are able to produce sufficient numbers of highly skilled, employable graduates to fill those posts," says Mr. Rammell. "Most industrialised countries have targets to expand university numbers."</p>

Note

The keywords to answer Q3 is 'Bill Rammell'

According to Bill, Britain should be able to produce sufficient numbers of highly skilled, employable graduates, but he didn't say Britain doesn't have enough graduates. Therefore, A is incorrect.

In terms of option B, he pointed out that there would be 6.8 million graduate jobs by 2012, not 6.8 million graduates in Britain, so B is also incorrect.

Moreover, He also mentioned other countries also had targets to expand (increase) university numbers. So C is correct.

For all reasons above, **the answer is C.**

26 Answer: **B,C**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
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<p>Q26: Wolf believes</p> <p>A. Switzerland is better than Britain</p> <p>B. market forces should determine how many people go to university</p> <p>C. employers use degrees to shorten lists of applicants</p>	<p>However, Wolf says the government's fifty per cent target is "nuts". "There is no evidence that it is important for economic growth," she contends. "Switzerland is the richest country in Europe and has one of the lowest numbers of graduates." A market based society, she says, is capable of working out what kind of workers it needs without government-mandated quotas, which may end up encouraging people to go to university who might do better pursuing vocational endeavours. "It would make more sense for society if lots of people didn't go to university for the wrong reasons," she says, "but as long as employers continue to use degrees as a filter device for screening candidates, demand for degrees will remain high."</p>
<p>Note</p> <p>Wolf mentioned Switzerland as an example of a rich country with the low number of graduates. No comparison between Switzerland and Britain was made. Therefore, A is incorrect.</p> <p>He also suggested that the market should be the one that determine (work out) what kind of workers it needs, which would eventually reveal the number of people going to university. Therefore, B is correct.</p> <p>He also pointed out that many employers used degrees as a filter device for screening (shorten lists of) candidates (applicants). So, C is correct.</p> <p>Therefore, the answer is B, C.</p>	