



Prepare for IELTS General Training Volume 1

Reading Practice Test 1

HOW TO USE

You have 2 ways to access the test

1. Open this URL <http://link.intergreat.com/deQS4> on your computer
2. Use your mobile device to scan the QR code attached



Reading passage 1

Read the text below and answer Questions 1-8.



How to become a successful crime writer

British authors have always excelled in one genre in particular: that of crime fiction. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie for some are synonymous with the genre, attaining the same celebrity status as their fictional creations, the eponymous Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot, respectively. In the creation of such memorable characters, these two authors raised the bar for future crime fiction writers. So how can you, too, write gripping fiction that also will stand the test of time? Here are some simple tips that will help you on your way and improve your chances of getting into print.

Tip 1 The fiction world is awash with different types of crime novels. Before you put pen to paper, devour as many fiction novels as possible with varying storylines. In this way you will learn how to create credible fictional characters and plots. Of course the make-or-break in any crime novel is the ending. Surprise revelations or an unexpected turn of events will delight readers. After all, even the experienced armchair detective likes to be kept guessing until the end.

Tip 2 We have established that a great cliffhanger of a novel is the key ingredient to all crime novels. But how do we build up the suspense and throw the reader off the scent of the real culprit? Well, the answer is to use as many red herrings and subplots as possible without becoming too involved. The subplots and false clues should never obscure the main plot entirely; otherwise, the reader will become lost in all the intricacies and minutiae of the subplots.

Tip 3 It is important to establish your facts. If the setting of your novel is in the past, beware of including modern-day devices or inventions that did not exist at the time you are writing. Many a Hollywood blockbuster has been spoiled by anachronisms; the wearing of a watch in 'Gladiator' set in the Roman era is one such example. The same holds true for the written word.

If, on the other hand, you are using a contemporary setting then ensure you are fully knowledgeable of modern hi-tech detection methods and forensic techniques. Internet search engines such as Google will help you get your head around the most up-to-date

procedures. Your research should include:

- DNA analysis
- Forensic anthropology and pathology
- Forensic criminology, psychiatry and psychology
- Fingerprinting
- Interviewing techniques
- Computer forensics

Tip 4 Don't lose the plot! Keep a track of not just your leading but also minor characters and their actions. It is important to have good continuity throughout. Whilst people may not be so rational or consistent in real life, your fictional creations need to have a certain level of consistency in their thoughts and actions, otherwise they may cease to maintain credibility with the reader. Sketching out a general overview of the plot before writing will also help to maintain structure to your novel.

Tip 5 Lacking Inspiration? They say truth is stranger than fiction so why not look to real-life events to inspire you? A rummage through a few local and national papers may uncover a potential storyline. After all, it worked for celebrated crime author Jeffrey Archer, so why not you? It goes without saying that a degree of fictional embellishment of real-life people is necessary to avoid being accused of libel and a sudden curtailing of an otherwise budding career.

Tip 6 Now you have written your best-selling novel all you need to do is find a publisher! Again, research on the internet will reveal a list of publishers most likely to publish your literary genre. Should you fail to find a publisher keep trying. After all, some of the most celebrated authors were initially turned down on their first attempt!

Read the texts below and answer Questions 9-14.

A. Buttercup Cafe

Enjoy the cosy atmosphere of this cafe and sample the good, 'no-frills' honest home-cooked food. If, however, you are looking for a light snack, then sample one of our delicious sandwiches filled with locally sourced, fresh ingredients. The cafe is not licensed but there is a large selection of teas and soft drinks available.

Cafe open: Mon-Fri 10am-5pm

Weekends: Sat 11am-6pm Sundays closed

C. Chiquito Restaurant

Presented with an extensive menu, you really are spoilt for choice at Chiquito's, if Mexican

is your thing. The kitchen team offers a first-rate experience for all diners, no matter what the occasion is. With a variety of meat dishes ranging from succulent chicken served over fajita vegetables to beef chilli burgers or a full rack of lip-smacking ribs, whatever you choose, you can't go far wrong.

Opening hours:

Weekdays 12pm-10pm

Weekends 11am-1pm

B. Dolce Vita Restaurant

Antonio and Lucia are the proud owners of this small, authentic Italian pizzeria which has been recently awarded Trip Advisor's 'Certificate of Excellence'. Whilst Antonio is essentially responsible for front-of-house duties, he has been known to give a hand in the kitchen, turning out his own speciality pizza.

His wife usually stays behind the scenes turning out simply delicious dishes, the recipes for which were handed down from her grandmother. For that Special occasion, tailor-made private parties and large dinner groups can be accommodated. A striking function room, ideal for an intimate gathering, is also available.

Restricted weekday opening (please check our website for details). Open every weekend from Ham-midnight. Website: www.dolceyita.com

E. Gelato Gusto

Extending over two storeys this cafe is bright, stylish and down-to-earth. The sheer variety of ice cream flavours available is impressive. Bespoke concoctions also on offer. You can also buy takeaway tubs of ice cream to enjoy at your leisure.

D. Frankie and Benny's

A great little restaurant with plenty of atmosphere. This is a family-run restaurant where everyone in the family helps with the cooking in equal measure. All the delicious dishes have been created by the two head chefs, Dario and Alessandro and their highly trained team. Together they have created a menu of contemporary dishes which is quite regularly updated. Diners are encouraged to make use of the covered terrace for a spot of alfresco dining and people-watching.

Questions 1-8

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text?

In boxes 1-8 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

- 1 So famous were the fictional characters of Conan Doyle and Christie's crime novels that they eclipsed the fame of their authors.
- 2 The novels of Conan Doyle and Christie are less accomplished than those of modern crime writers.
- 3 It is more challenging to portray fictional than real-life characters in a novel.
- 4 To write about modern crime detection techniques, some knowledge of forensics may be required.
- 5 Would-be crime authors should always write about their own life experiences.
- 6 Creating characters based on real-life people is a practice best avoided
- 7 First-time crime authors may be turned down by publishers.
- 8 Seasoned crime novel readers like being able to guess the culprit in advance.

Questions 9-14

Look at the five advertisements, A-E.

Which venue offers the following?

Write the correct letter, A-E, in **boxes 9-14** on your answer sheet.

You may use any **letter more than once**.

- 9 Only non-alcoholic drinks
- 10 Custom-made orders
- 11 An outside seating area
- 12 A room especially designated for small parties

13 A constantly changing menu

14 Simply cooked food

Reading passage 2

Read the text below and answer Questions 25-21.



The Art of Gift-Giving

A. Anticipation builds, the wrapping paper is ripped off in happy expectation... And then, our enthusiasm takes a downturn as we extricate a jokey Christmas pullover, a pair of woolen socks or a knitted tea cosy. Yes, we have all been there. However, recent scientific research on how to give the ideal gift could be set to change all that.

B. Yale researcher Novemsky claims to have singled out the factor that deter mines if a gift will be well received or not. Perceived ease of use is apparently paramount in the eyes of the recipient. A non-user-friendly gift will therefore lead to disappointment, however expensive the actual gift might have been.

C. Another tip for successful gift-giving is to avoid giving unsolicited presents. We often try to second-guess the would-be recipient's taste, believing our personal effort will be appreciated. But this invariably results in disappointment for the recipient of the gift. Far better is a gift that has actually been explicitly requested by the recipient than one chosen by the giver, according to a study conducted by researchers Francis Flynn and Francesca Gina (Journal of Experimental and Social Psychology 2011). So, best to save fruitless hours spent trawling the internet for gifts or pounding the high streets in vain and just be direct: ask the recipient what they want, then give it to them; simple as that!

D. A further tip which flies in the face of conventional thinking with regard to present-giving is to err on the side of frugality. In accordance with a 2014 study by Flynn and Gabriella Adams, the receiver's happiness was not found to be directly proportional to the money spent on a gift. In the study, recipients were given cheaper and more expensive versions of a variety of items, ranging from an iPad to jewellery, wine and books. In all cases, the costlier gift was not valued more than the cheaper option. The thought, therefore, really does count.

E. An interesting extension to this study is that this finding holds true for one of the most

expensive and status-conscious gifts: that of the engagement ring. Whilst diamonds may be a girl's best friend, as the saying goes, they do not necessarily have to be top-of-the-range to win a girl's heart. Cheaper alternatives are just as valued as their costlier counterparts.

F. If you have successfully negotiated the mine-field of present-buying, then you still aren't home and dry yet. Another hurdle has yet to be overcome: present-wrapping. Failure to appropriately wrap a present can undo all the effort you have put into buying the gift so far. A perfectly wrapped present is always more welcome than a hastily wrapped one, unless the gift is markedly less attractive than its outward wrapping, as found by Novemsky and Yale colleague, Ravi Dhar, since this creates a dissonance between the anticipated and real worth of a gift.

G. Should all the above advice seem bewildering, then never fear. According to the 2011 study by Flynn and Francesca Gina, gift recipients are more than happy to receive cash in place of an actual gift.

Read the text below and answer Questions 22-28.

A. Those who have not entertained the idea that research into family ancestry might reveal a blue-blooded relative or historical celebrity must be few and far between. Most of us are intrigued with our origins and if genealogical research turns up a famous family member on the way, then so much the better.

B. Accordingly, there is a plethora of genealogy websites ready to be accessed on the internet to satiate the curiosity of those so inclined. Just type in the name of one of your ancestors into a search engine and you will be immediately inundated with genealogy sites. Whilst some sites may be free, others will be on a pay-as-you-go or subscription basis. Often the sheer number of websites can initially overwhelm the would-be genealogist.

C. So by what criteria do you select a website to aid your research into your family tree? Whilst free websites may seem the most attractive option, they may not adequately meet your needs. A fee-paying website, however, might provide access to a wider range of resources, such as birth and death certificates, or at least indexes to the certificates, as well as census returns. Such resources and access to them are fundamental to your research.

D. When you access certificates, try to ensure that they are a digitised form of the original copy, since transcripts are usually poor substitutes for the original. Whenever possible, opt for the copies of the original thereby obviating the possibility of human error in copied or miscopied transcripts.

E. Having obtained or accessed, at least, essential documents, you can then proceed to more specialised websites providing military or employment information. Before paying

for access to such sites, first establish if the site contains the records you are seeking. You shouldn't have to pay access to the site to do so.

F. Ideally, find out if there is a contact name or address for whoever is responsible for the site. A specialist on hand to answer more detailed queries is always a bonus.

G. Finally, if websites fail to uncover the information you are seeking you can always try good old-fashioned archives. Not all information is available on websites, so, sooner or later you will probably find yourself doing research in an archive anyway. Hopefully, a combination of websites and archives will deliver the information you require and uncover a fascinating heritage to boot.

Questions 15-21

The text on the next page has seven sections, **A-G**.

Choose the correct heading for each section from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number, **i-x**, in boxes **15-21** on your answer sheet.

15  Section A

16  Section B

17  Section C

18  Section D

19  Section E

20  Section F

21  Section G

List of Headings	
i	Money can buy happiness
ii	It's what is inside that counts more
iii	Recipients of gifts are rarely grateful
iv	A familiar feeling
v	Practicality is the key
vi	It is better to give than to receive
vii	Romance need not come at a price
viii	Present-giving has become more challenging
ix	Recipients value inexpensive gifts and pricey gadgets alike
x	Don't waste time and energy

Questions 22-23

Complete the sentences below.

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

Write your answers in boxes 22-23 on your answer sheet.

There is such a wealth of genealogy sites available online that at times you may feel
22 _____ information.

It is preferable to 23 _____ in their original rather than transcribed form.

Questions 24-28

Complete the summary below.

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

Write your answers in boxes 24-28 on your answer sheet.

Many people are curious to find out about their family tree. Follow these steps to ensure you access the information you require.

First, enter the name of a family ancestor into 24 _____

Next, choose a website that will 25 _____ by providing sufficient information on your family tree.

When accessing a document from your chosen website, avoid 26 _____ whenever possible, favouring instead the original version.

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Once you have done the essential groundwork to obtain necessary documents to continue your search, you require access to more 27 _____. This may require a financial outlay.

Finally, if your research still fails to turn up the information you require, then it is best to resort to 28 _____ as a back-up.

Reading passage 3

Read the text below and answer Questions 29-35.



How a Humble Vegetable Changed the World

A. A fashionable adornment, aphrodisiac or cause of fever, leprosy and widespread famine? The perceived attributes of a humble tuber, otherwise known as the potato, have certainly varied over historical eras and with shifts in belief systems. Accordingly, attitudes towards the potato have ranged from curiosity and acceptance to fear and suspicion and even downright hostility, as the British population took to the streets in the 18th century to denounce the tuber in public protests, rallying under the cry ‘No Potatoes, No Popery!’

B. So, why did a humble tuber excite so much suspicion and mistrust? One has but to look to the roots - if you will pardon the pun - of the controversial crop to understand how the potato managed to initially incite such distrust in many, despite saving millions from starvation in later centuries.

C. The potato, together with the eggplant (aubergine) and tomato, originates from the same family as the deadly belladonna (also known as deadly nightshade) and equally toxic, henbane. Common to all these plants is the presence of the lethal toxin solanine, a neurological poison. Ingestion of the toxin may lead to paralysis and death. In addition, the presence of another toxin, tomatine, in potatoes is similarly potentially deadly. One might be forgiven in thinking, therefore, that the potato is not an attractive item to have on the menu. Add to this the belief that the tuber was thought to be a source of leprosy too, then it is little wonder that the potato took time to win acceptance in European circles after its introduction in the 16th century.

D. Obviously, the potatoes we eat today bear little resemblance to the toxin-laden wild potatoes of Peru from where they originate. There, the potatoes in their natural form are so toxic that they can only be ingested if accompanied by clay particles. As far back as the 16th century, Peruvian Indians were utilising such knowledge, dipping the bitter potatoes

in a gravy mix of water and clay particles. The latter served to absorb excess solanine thereby rendering the potato edible. Nowadays, centuries of crossbreeding between species has greatly diluted the toxin and its lethal potential.

E. Today, the potato is hailed as a saviour. A French pharmacist named Parmentier is to be largely credited with the about-face in attitude towards the potato as a food source in the 17th century. Prior to this period, public repugnance towards the vegetable as much as reluctance to use it other than as cattle fodder prevented its appearance on the dining table. A prior ill-fated introduction of the tuber by Sir Walter Raleigh to the court of Elizabeth I had done the tuber no favours: the decision of the queen's cook to serve up the plant's indigestible leaves as opposed to the edible tubers had resulted in universal indigestion amongst court members on this occasion. Parmentier, however, turned public opinion regarding the tuber by encouraging its addition to the menus of Louis XVI's court. So successful was his personal campaign for the potato's introduction that the queen, Marie Antoinette, enthusiastically adorned her hair with potato flowers, sparking off a fashionable trend amongst court circles.

F. Parmentier's intervention on behalf of the humble potato was timely and without doubt ultimately saved millions from starvation. Public acceptance of the potato, however, initially lagged significantly behind that of court circles. In fact, it took an edict from the Paris Faculty of Medicine in 1772, verifying that potatoes were edible, in addition to the famine of 1785 to bring the public around. Thereafter, the potato became a staple in the diet of the rich and the poor alike.

G. So significant a role is the potato thought to have played in world history, with regard to staving off famine and aiding population increase, that historian W.H. McNeill has attributed the building of empires to the humble tuber. The potato, he argues, fuelled the rise of the West between 1750 and 1950 as European nations became no longer beholden to famine and were able to take dominion over other countries.

H. The rise of the potato from maligned tuber to worldwide food source, becoming the fifth most important crop globally after wheat, corn, rice and sugar cane, also had its downside. The over-dependence of European countries on the potato, arising in a virtual monoculture, led to the Irish Famine and mass emigration when crops failed in 1845. Subsequently, increased knowledge of pesticides and more stringent controls over crop production have largely warded off the significant crop failures that were so devastating in the past.

Questions 29-35

The text has eight paragraphs, A-H.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

Write the correct letter, A-H, in boxes 29-35 on your answer sheet

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A B C D E F G H

Drag your answer



29

deadly relations

30

the potato as a catalyst for change

31

the authorities intervene

32

pioneers meet with varied success

33

prejudices incite public action

34

about a demographic shift

unsound agricultural practice brings

35

common problem

historical and modern solutions to a

Questions 36-40

Complete the summary below.

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

Write your answers in boxes **36-40** on your answer sheet.

The potato polarised public opinion from the outset. Whilst the potato won 36 _____ with some, others reacted with extreme actions of prejudice.

Unwillingness to accept the potato was perfectly understandable. Coming from the same family as its deadlier counterparts, belladonna and henbane, the potato was believed to be poisonous and certainly not 37 _____. Those who did eat potatoes in the wild state had to neutralise the main 38 _____ present in the tuber by the addition of clay particles.

Various attempts over the centuries were made by historical figures and authorities alike to try and encourage the public to eat potatoes. Only later did the potato become a 39 _____ European foodstuff.

So important was the potato as a source of calories and nutrients to the Europeans that it is said to have sustained European populations to such an extent that they were able to build global empires.

Unfortunately, 40 _____ on just one crop proved Ireland's undoing. Many died after the Irish Famine whilst others were forced to migrate en masse in order to survive.



Solution:

- | | |
|-------------|---------|
| 1 FALSE | 2 FALSE |
| 3 NOT GIVEN | 4 TRUE |
| 5 FALSE | 6 FALSE |
| 7 TRUE | 8 FALSE |
| 9 A | 10 E |
| 11 D | 12 B |
| 13 D | 14 A |
| 15 iv | 16 v |
| 17 x | 18 ix |
| 19 vii | 20 ii |

21 i

22 inundated with

23 access certificates

24 a search engine

25 meet your needs

26 transcripts

27 specialised websites

28 (good old-fashioned) archives

29 C

30 G

31 F

32 E

33 A

34 H

35 D

36 acceptance

37 edible

38 toxin

39 staple

40 over-dependence

Review and Explanations

1 Answer: **FALSE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q1: So famous were the fictional characters of Conan Doyle and Christie's crime novels that they eclipsed the fame of their authors.	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie for some are synonymous with the genre, attaining the same celebrity status as their fictional creations, the eponymous Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot, respectively.
Note: After skimming, we can find that information of Q1 should be found in the second sentence of the first paragraph. "Eclipsed the fame" means to make the two authors less famous. While the fictional characters Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot are said to be very more well-known than the authors in the question, the passage mentions that they had the same celebrity status with sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie. Considering every details in Q1 and in the passage, we can conclude that the answer is FALSE.	

2 Answer: **FALSE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q2: The novels of Conan Doyle and Christie are less accomplished than those of modern crime writers.	In the creation of such memorable characters, these two authors raised the bar for future crime fiction writers.
Note: The keywords are "less accomplished" and "modern crime writers." We can find the information in the next sentence after question 1. It is obvious that sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie set the standards (synonym with "raised the bar") for future crime fiction writers after the two fictional characters had appeared. However, the question is in contrast to what the passage says. ("less accomplished" relates to the imperfection). For that reason, we can conclude that the answer is FALSE.	

3 Answer: **NOT GIVEN**

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

Q3 It is more challenging to portray fictional than real-life characters in a novel.	
Note After skimming, we can see that the passage 2, 3 and 4 indicates how to portray a fictional character that attracts readers. There are no clues about whether it is more difficult to do that than to draw a real- life character or not. All thing considered, the answer for Q3 is NOT GIVEN.	

4 Answer: **TRUE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q4: To write about modern crime detection techniques, some knowledge of forensics may be required.	If, on the other hand, you are using a contemporary setting then ensure you are fully knowledgeable of modern hi-tech detection methods and forensic techniques. Internet search engines such as Google will help you get your head around the most up-to-date procedures. Your research should Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA analysis • Forensic anthropology and pathology • Forensic criminology, psychiatry and psychology • Fingerprinting • Interviewing techniques • Computer forensics
Note The keyword is “knowledge of forensics”. We can find it in the 5 th paragraph and can assert that the answer is true. Because in this passage, it says that we must ensure our knowledge of the two categories if we want to write about the modern crime techniques. In addition, it lists a lot of examples regarding to the knowledge of forensics, which is very compatible with the question. All thing considered, we can conclude that the answer for Q4 is TRUE.	

5 Answer: **FALSE**

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

Q5 Would-be crime authors should always write about their own life experiences.	Whilst people may not be so rational or consistent in real life, your fictional creations need to have a certain level of consistency in their thoughts and actions, otherwise they may cease to maintain credibility with the reader.
Note: The needed information is in the next passage (tip 4). In this case, the author uses the phrase “fictional creations”- which means you can use your imagination to create a character. Therefore, this is completely contrary to the phrase “own life experiences” used in the question. For that reason, the answer is FALSE.	

6 Answer: **FALSE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q6 Creating characters based on real-life people is a practice best avoided	They say truth is stranger than fiction so why not look to real-life events to inspire you? A rummage through a few local and national papers may uncover a potential storyline.
Note Looking at the passage of tip 5, we can find the clues there. The question says that you should steer clear of (synonym with “avoid”) drawing characters based on real- life people. The passage advises you to draw inspiration from real life if you lack of idea how to create a character. Hence, the two sentence is not similar to each other. For that reason, we can conclude that the answer is FALSE.	

7 Answer: **TRUE**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q7 First-time crime authors may be turned down by publishers.	After all, some of the most celebrated authors were initially turned down on their first attempt!

Note:

Looking at the last passage, we can see that the information in the question is well-matched with the sentence.

It is clearly stated that even the most authors were denied at the first time. The two important words are “initially” and “first attempt”, which both have similar meanings (at the beginning or at the start).

Thus, **the answer is TRUE.**

8 Answer: **FALSE**

Q8:

Seasoned crime novel readers like being able to guess the culprit in advance.

Note

After scanning, we have to turn back to passage 2 to find the clues.

Although “experienced armchair detective” (relates to “seasoned readers”) is thought to be able to guess the criminal (the culprit), the important thing is that these readers can only know till the end, not in advance (which means immediately).

Therefore, **the answer is FALSE.**

9 Answer: **A**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q9: Only non-alcoholic drinks	The cafe is not licensed but there is a large selection of teas and soft drinks available.
Note <p>After scanning, we find that the key word “non- alcoholic drinks” can only be found in the passage A.</p> <p>Passage C is about meat dishes. Passage B talks about Italian food, pizza in particular. The two rest paragraphs are talking about food, too.</p> <p>In addition, it is clearly stated that the cafe is not allowed (synonym with licensed). Tea and soft drinks have no alcohol themselves.</p> <p>For that reason, A is the correct answer.</p>	

10 Answer: **E**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q10: Custom-made orders	The sheer variety of ice cream flavours available is impressive. Bespoke concoctions also on offer. You can also buy takeaway tubs of ice cream to enjoy at your leisure.
Note <p>The key word is “custom- made” means there is a variety choices of food ordered. You can buy takeaway food or eat at this place. Besides, there is food specially made for a particular person, which you can order what you want to eat. The phrase “bespoke concoctions” can be understood in this way.</p> <p>Other passages talk about the features of them, do not mention if they have custom-made orders or not.</p> <p>Therefore, the correct answer is E.</p>	

11 Answer: **D**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q11 An outside seating area	A great little restaurant with plenty of atmosphere. Diners are encouraged to make use of the covered terrace for a spot of alfresco dining and people-watching.
Note <p>The key word is “outside seating”.</p> <p>Passage A, C and E tell us about the kinds of food they have, do not mention whether we can eat in an outside area or not.</p> <p>Passage B talks about the place you can eat, but it is inside the restaurant.</p> <p>In passage D, the author states that you can enjoy your meal outside (the phrase “covered terrace for a spot of alfresco” relates to this) and observe people as well as go sight- seeing.</p> <p>For that reason, the answer is D.</p>	

12 Answer: **B**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
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Q12 A room especially designated for small parties	For that Special occasion, tailor-made private parties and large dinner groups can be accommodated.
Note <p>When scanning, we can find that “room for small party” only appeared in the paragraph B. It is said to be especially designated for private parties and dinner groups, which is very compatible with the question 12.</p> <p>For that reason, we can conclude that the answer is B.</p>	

13 Answer: **D**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q13 A constantly changing menu	Together they have created a menu of contemporary dishes which is quite regularly updated.
Note <p>Question 13 is asking about the constantly changing menu, which is paraphrased by the phrase “regularly updated” in passage D. It is easily changing because there is a menu of contemporary dishes.</p> <p>Passage A, C, B and E just mention some kinds of food in their menu, do not say whether they can be easily changed or not.</p> <p>For that reason, the answer is D.</p>	

14 Answer: **A**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q14 Simply-cooked food	Enjoy the cosy atmosphere of this cafe and sample the good ‘no-frills’ honest home-cooked food. If, however, you are looking for a light snack, then sample one of our delicious sandwiches filled with locally sourced, fresh ingredients.
Note <p>Looking at the paragraph A, we can immediately answer this question. Food in Buttercup Cafe is cooked with fresh, light ingredients. The word “no-frills” makes a contribution to explain this problem. A no-frills product is a product in which has neither extra nor unnecessary ingredients.</p> <p>Therefore, the answer is A.</p>	

15 Answer: **iv**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q15 Section A	Anticipation builds, the wrapping paper is ripped off in happy expectation... And then, our enthusiasm takes a downturn as we extricate a jokey Christmas pullover, a pair of woolen socks or a knitted tea cosy. Yes, we have all been there.
Note <p>In this case, the author talked about the familiar feelings they have when doing these things respectively. Firstly, they expect happily when the paper is ripped off, then they turn to disappointment in the next moment. All the feelings mentioned here are similar to the authors.</p> <p>For that reason, the answer is iv.</p>	

16 Answer: **v**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q16 Section B	Perceived ease of use is apparently paramount in the eyes of the recipient. A non-user-friendly gift will therefore lead to disappointment, however expensive the actual gift might have been.
Note <p>The paragraph indicates the real feelings when receive gifts. Hence, practicality is the most suitable word to describe the main idea of this passage. The author also gives some example when people receive impractical (synonym with “non- user- friendly”) gift, they will be disappointed even if the gifts are costly.</p> <p>Thus, the answer is v.</p>	

17 Answer: **x**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q17 Section C	We often try to second-guess the would-be recipient's taste, believing our personal effort will be appreciated. But this invariably results in disappointment for the recipient of the gift. So, best to save fruitless hours spent trawling the internet for gifts or pounding the high streets in vain and just be direct: ask the recipient what they want, then give it to them; simple as that!

Note

In this passage, it is clearly stated that you spend time making attempts to guess what gifts the receiver do like will be wasted as they may not meet their taste.

Therefore, to satisfy both givers and receivers, the best way is to ask them what they want and give it to them. The answer x is compatible with the main idea of this paragraph.

All thing considered, **the answer is x.**

18 Answer: **ix**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q18 Section D	In accordance with a 2014 study by Flynn and Gabriella Adams, the receiver's happiness was not found to be directly proportional to the money spent on a gift. In all cases, the costlier gift was not valued more than the cheaper option.
Note Question 18 is asking about the idea of passage D and we can find the two main sentences to describe this. It is stated that the receiver's satisfaction was not directly comparative with the value of the presents. Both expensive gifts and inexpensive services can equally make the receivers happy, as long as they meet their hobbies. Hence, the idea of sentence ix is similar to these things. All thing considered, ix is the correct answer.	

19 Answer: **vii**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q19 Section E	...that of the engagement ring. Whilst diamonds may be a girl's best friend, as the saying goes, they do not necessarily have to be top-of-the-range to win a girl's heart. Cheaper alternatives are just as valued as their costlier counterparts.
Note It is obvious that engagement ring and diamonds represent for love and romance. The thing is girls love them too much doesn't mean they will always fall in love with those who have them. More importantly, other cheaper things can win a girl's heart as long as she is interested in these alternatives. Therefore, romance doesn't need to come as a price. All thing considered, the answer is vii.	

20 Answer: **ii**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q20 Section F	A perfectly wrapped present is always more welcome than a hastily wrapped one, unless the gift is markedly less attractive than its outward wrapping, as found by Novemsky and Yale colleague, Ravi Dhar, since this creates a dissonance between the anticipated and real worth of a gift.
Note It is clearly stated that if the gift is not marked less attractive than its outward wrapping, it will lead to a disharmony (synonym with “dissonance”). Therefore, we should pay attention to the inside present. All thing considered, the answer is ii.	

21 Answer: **i**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q21 Section G	According to the 2011 study by Flynn and Francesca Gina, gift recipients are more than happy to receive cash in place of an actual gift.
Note Looking at the rest of the list answer for heading, we can see that either “gift” or “cash” relates to “money”. Cash is an another way to describe money. Moreover, the authors say that gifts will make the receivers happy. Because money can buy both cheap and expensive gifts, there is no exaggeration to say that money can buy happiness too. Therefore, the answer is i.	

22 Answer: **inundated with**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q22 There is such a wealth of genealogy sites available online that at times you may feel information.	Accordingly, there is a plethora of genealogy websites ready to be accessed on the internet to satiate the curiosity of those so inclined. Just type in the name of one of your ancestors into a search engine and you will be immediately inundated with genealogy sites.

Note

The blank should be filled with an adjective as it is behind the linking verb “feel”.

The key word is “genealogy sites” and we can find it in the passage B. We need an adjective indicating a feeling of people when access to genealogy sites. The phrase “inundated with” is absolutely suitable for this blank.

Thus, **the answer is “inundated with”**.

23 Answer: **access certificates**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q23 It is preferable toin their original rather than transcribed form.	When you access certificates, try to ensure that they are a digitised form of the original copy, since transcripts are usually poor substitutes for the original.
Note In this blank, we should find a verb as it is behind “to”. The key words are “original” and “transcribed”. It is clear that the two words are located in paragraph D. We need a verb to indicate what is better to do in the original form than in transcribed one. Hence, the answer is “access certificates as it is compatible with the idea of the question. Thus, the answer is “access certificates” .	

24 Answer: **a search engine**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q24 First, enter the name of a family ancestor into	Just type in the name of one of your ancestors into a search engine and you will be immediately inundated with genealogy sites.
Note The blank should be filled with a noun as there is a preposition (into) before it. It is quite easy to understand this question. After scanning, we can find the needed information is in the passage B. “Enter the name” is paraphrased by “type in the name” and the rest of the sentence is quite similar. Therefore, the answer is “a search engine” .	

25 Answer: **meet your needs**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
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Q25 Next, choose a website that will... by providing sufficient information on your family tree.	So by what criteria do you select a website to aid your research into your family tree? Whilst free websites may seem the most attractive option, they may not adequately meet your needs.
Note We should find a verb to fill in this question as it is behind the word "will". In the next paragraph (paragraph C), it is clearly stated that although free websites may attract you, it is not the best option because it may not meet your needs. Therefore, the answer for this question is "meet your needs".	

26 Answer: **transcripts**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q26 When accessing a document from your chosen website, avoid whenever possible, favouring instead the original version.	When you access certificates, try to ensure that they are a digitised form of the original copy, since transcripts are usually poor substitutes for the original.
Note A noun should be filled in this blank as it is behind the verb "avoid". We can see the key word "access a document" (synonym with certificates) in the passage D. The passage indicates that we should not use transcripts, as it is poor (which means it may not meet the needs of users). This is completely similar to the idea of the question. Thus, the answer is "transcripts".	

27 Answer: **specialised websites**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q27 Once you have done the essential groundwork to obtain necessary documents to continue your search, you require access to more.... This may require a financial outlay.	Having obtained or accessed, at least, essential documents, you can then proceed to more specialised websites providing military or employment information.

Note

This blank should be filled with a noun, as it is asking what you require access to more.

Looking at the passage E, we can find the key word “necessary documents”. The sentence “you require access to more” is paraphrased by “you proceed to more”. Therefore, **“specialised websites” is a noun we are finding.**

28 Answer: **(good old-fashioned) archives**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q28 Finally, if your research still fails to turn up the information you require, then it is best to resort to... as a back-up.	Finally, if websites fail to uncover the information you are seeking you can always try good old-fashioned archives.
Note This blank should be filled with a noun as it is behind a verb “resort to”. The word “finally” in the paragraph G is a signal for us to find the needed information. The passage advises us to try “good old-fashioned archives” if we can’t manage to find the information. In parallel, the question also asks this problem. The word “resort to” means to use something, so this is a synonym with “try” in the passage. All thing considered, the answer is “(good old- fashioned) archieves.	

29 Answer: **C**

30 Answer: **G**

31 Answer: **F**

32 Answer: **E**

33 Answer: **A**

34 Answer: **H**

35 Answer: **D**

36 Answer: **acceptance**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q36 Whilst the potato won...with some, others reacted with extreme actions of prejudice.	Parmentier’s intervention on behalf of the humble potato was timely and without doubt ultimately saved millions from starvation. Public acceptance of the potato, however, initially lagged significantly behind that of court circles.

Note

The blank should be filled with a noun as it is behind the verb “won”.

Looking back at the passage F, which was talking about the changes when authorities intervene, there is a sentence suitable for the main idea of the question. It is said that while public accepted potato, there were some extreme prejudices for this.

Thus, **the word “acceptance” can be filled in this blank.**

37 Answer: **edible**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q37 Coming from the same family as its deadlier counterparts, belladonna and henbane, the potato was believed to be poisonous and certainly not....	There, the potatoes in their natural form are so toxic that they can only be ingested if accompanied by clay particles. The latter served to absorb excess solanine thereby rendering the potato edible.
Note In this blank, we should find an adjective as it is behind adverb “certainly”. The key word is “poisonous”, which relates to the word “toxic” in the passage D. It is said that potato at first cannot be eaten, so the needed word is “edible”. Hence, the answer is “edible”.	

38 Answer: **toxin**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q38 Those who did eat potatoes in the wild state had to neutralise the main...	Nowadays, centuries of crossbreeding between species has greatly diluted the toxin and its lethal potential.
Note The blank should be filled with a noun as there is an adjective (main) before it. After scanning, we can find the needed information is in the last sentence of passage D. Because the word “neutralize” is paraphrased by “diluted”, which means to release or weaker toxic liquid. Thus, we can conclude that “toxin” is the needed word. All thing considered, the answer is “toxin”.	

39 Answer: **staple**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
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Q39 Only later did the potato become a... European foodstuff.	Thereafter, the potato became a staple in the diet of the rich and the poor alike.
Note We should find a noun to fill in this question. In the paragraph F, it is clear to see that potato became a food source of the rich and the poor, which relates to the phrase “European foodstuff” in the question. Therefore, we need to find a noun before. All thing considered, the answer is “staple” .	

40 Answer: **over-dependence**

Keywords in Questions	Similar words in Passage
Q40 Unfortunately, ... on just one crop proved Ireland's undoing.	The over-dependence of European countries on the potato, arising in a virtual monoculture, led to the Irish Famine and mass emigration when crops failed in 1845.
Note A noun should be filled in this blank as it describes something of Ireland. In this case, “Ireland” is obviously a key word as it is a name of a nation. We can easily find this word in the last passage (passage H) because the passage contains the word “Irish” indicating citizens in this country. The phrase “on just one crop” is the explanation for the word “monoculture”, so we have to find a noun before it to fill in the blank. Therefore, “over-dependence” is the only word suitable. All thing considered, the answer is “over-dependence” .	