



IELTS

READING

(ACADEMIC)

Actual Tests With Answers

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TARGET SERIES



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Preface

As far as you know, IELTS candidates will have only 60 minutes for this IELTS Reading part with a total of 40 questions. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that you invest time in practicing the real IELTS reading tests for this module.

Besides Cambridge IELTS Practice Tests series published by Oxford University Press, IELTS Reading Recent Actual Tests with Answers aims to develop both test-taking skills and language proficiency to help you achieve a high IELTS Reading score. It contains IELTS Reading Tests in the chronological order starting from the recent tests and an Answer Key. Each test contains three reading passages which cover a rich variety of topics and give a lot of practice for a wide range of question types used in the IELTS Exam such as multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, sentence completion, summary completion, classification, matching lists / phrases, matching paragraph headings, identification of information – True/False/Not Given, etc. When studying IELTS with this e-book, you can evaluate at the nearest possibility how difficult the IELTS Reading Section is in the real exam, and what the top most common traps are. Moreover, these tests are extracted from authentic IELTS bank source; therefore, you are in all probability to take these tests in your real examinations.

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IELTS Reading Test 1

Section 1

Instructions to follow

- You should spend 20 minutes on Questions 1-13 which are based on Reading Passage 1

Health in the Wild

Many animals seem able to treat their illnesses themselves. Humans may have a thing or two to learn from them.

- A.** For the past decade Dr Engel, a lecturer in environmental sciences at Britain's Open University, has been collating examples of self-medicating behaviour in wild animals. She recently published a book on the subject. In a talk at the Edinburgh Science Festival earlier this month, she explained that the idea that animals can treat themselves has been regarded with some scepticism by her colleagues in the past. But a growing number of animal behaviourists now think that wild animals can and do deal with their own medical needs.
- B.** One example of self-medication was discovered in 1987. Michael Huffman and Mohamedi Seifu, working in the Mahale Mountains National Park in Tanzania, noticed that local chimpanzees suffering from intestinal worms would dose themselves with the pith of a plant called Veronia. This plant produces poisonous chemicals called terpenes. Its pith contains a strong enough concentration to kill gut parasites, but not so strong as to kill chimps (nor people, for that matter; locals use the pith for the same purpose). Given that the plant is known locally as "goat-killer", however, it seems that not all animals are as

smart as chimps and humans. Some consume it indiscriminately and succumb.

- C. Since the Veronia-eating chimps were discovered, more evidence has emerged suggesting that animals often eat things for medical rather than nutritional reasons. Many species, for example, consume dirt a behaviour known as geophagy. Historically, the preferred explanation was that soil supplies minerals such as salt. But geophagy occurs in areas where the earth is not a useful source of minerals, and also in places where minerals can be more easily obtained from certain plants that are known to be rich in them. Clearly, the animals must be getting something else out of eating earth.
- D. The current belief is that soil—and particularly the clay in it—helps to detoxify the defensive poisons that some plants produce in an attempt to prevent themselves from being eaten. Evidence for the detoxifying nature of clay came in 1999, from an experiment carried out on macaws by James Gilardi and his colleagues at the University of California, Davis.

Macaws eat seeds containing alkaloids, a group of chemicals that has some notoriously toxic members, such as strychnine. In the wild, the birds are frequently seen perched on eroding riverbanks eating clay. Dr Gilardi fed one group of macaws a mixture of harmless alkaloid and clay, and a second group just the alkaloid. Several hours later, the macaws that had eaten the clay had 60% less alkaloid in their bloodstreams than those that had not, suggesting that the hypothesis is correct.

- E. Other observations also support the idea that clay is detoxifying. Towards the tropics, the amount of toxic compounds in plants increases—and so does the amount of earth eaten by herbivores. Elephants lick clay from mud holes all year round, except in September when they are bingeing on fruit which, because it has evolved to be eaten, is not toxic. And the addition of clay to the diets of domestic cattle increases the amount of nutrients

that they can absorb from their food by 10-20%.

- F.** A third instance of animal self-medication is the use of mechanical scours to get rid of gut parasites, in 1972 Richard Wrangham, a researcher at the Gombe Stream Reserve in Tanzania, noticed that chimpanzees were eating the leaves of a tree called *Aspilia*. The chimps chose the leaves carefully by testing them in their mouths. Having chosen a leaf, a chimp would fold it into a fan and swallow it. Some of the chimps were noticed wrinkling their noses as they swallowed these leaves, suggesting the experience was unpleasant. Later, undigested leaves were found on the forest floor.
- G.** Dr Wrangham rightly guessed that the leaves had a medicinal purpose—this was, indeed, one of the earliest interpretations of a behaviour pattern as self-medication. However, he guessed wrong about what the mechanism was. His (and everybody else's) assumption was that *Aspilia* contained a drug, and this sparked more than two decades of phytochemical research to try to find out what chemical the chimps were after. But by the 1990s, chimps across Africa had been seen swallowing the leaves of 19 different species that seemed to have few suitable chemicals in common. The drug hypothesis was looking more and more dubious.
- H.** It was Dr Huffman who got to the bottom of the problem. He did so by watching what came out of the chimps, rather than concentrating on what went in. He found that the egested leaves were full of intestinal worms. The factor common to all 19 species of leaves swallowed by the chimps was that they were covered with microscopic hooks. These caught the worms and dragged them from their lodgings.
- I.** Following that observation, Dr Engel is now particularly excited about how knowledge of the way that animals look after themselves could be used to improve the health of livestock. People might also be able to learn a thing or two, and may, indeed, already have

done so. Geophagy, for example, is a common behaviour in many parts of the world. The medical stalls in African markets frequently sell tablets made of different sorts of clays, appropriate to different medical conditions.

- J. Africans brought to the Americas as slaves continued this tradition, which gave their owners one more excuse to affect to despise them. Yet, as Dr Engel points out, Rwandan mountain gorillas eat a type of clay rather similar to kaolinite – the main ingredient of many patent medicines sold over the counter in the West for digestive complaints. Dirt can sometimes be good for you, and to be “as sick as a parrot” may, after all, be a state to be desired.

Questions 1-4

Instructions to follow

- Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?
TRUE if the statement is true
FALSE if the statement is false
NOT GIVEN if the information is not given in the passage

- 1 It is for 10 years that Dr Engel has been working on animal self-medication.
- 2 In order to find plants for medication, animals usually need to walk a long distance.
- 3 Birds such as Macaw, are seen eating clay because it is a part of their natural diet.
- 4 According to Dr Engel, it is exciting that research into animal self-medication can be helpful in the invention of new painkillers.

Questions 5-9

Instructions to follow

- Complete the notes below using NO MORE THAN ONE WORD from the passage.

Date	Name	Animal	Food	Mechanism
1987	Michael Huffman and Mohamedi Seifu	Chimpanzee	5 of Veronia	Contained chemicals named 6 which can kill parasites
1999	James Gilardi and his colleagues	Macaw	Seeds (contain 7) and clay	Clay can 8 the poisonous contents in food
1972	Richard Wrangham	Chimpanzee	Leaves with tiny 9 on surface	Such leaves can catch and expel worms from intestines

Questions 10-13

Instructions to follow

- Write your answer, A-H, in boxes 10-13 on your answer sheet.
- Use the words mentioned in the box to answer the questions.

Though often doubted, the self-medicating behaviour of animals has been supported by an increasing amount of evidence. One piece of evidence particularly deals with 10 , a soil-consuming behaviour commonly found across animals species, because the earth, often clay, can neutralize the 11 content of their diet. Such behaviour can also be found among humans in Africa, where people purchase 12 at market stalls as a kind of medication

to their illnesses. Another example of this is found in chimps eating leaves of often **13**..... taste but with no apparent medicinal value until its unique structure came into light.

- A mineral
- B plants
- C unpleasant
- D toxic
- E clay tablets
- F nutritional
- G geophagy
- H harmless

Section 2

Instructions to follow

- You should spend 20 minutes on Questions 14-27 which are based on Reading Passage 2

The Nagymaros Dam

When Janos Vargha, a biologist from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, began a new career as a writer with a small monthly nature magazine called *Buvar*, it was 9 years after the story behind the fall of the Berlin Wall had started to unfold. During his early research, he went to a beauty spot on the river Danube outside Budapest known as the Danube Bend to interview local officials about plans to build a small park on the site of an ancient Hungarian capital.

One official mentioned that passing this tree-lined curve in the river, a popular tourism spot for Hungarians was monotonous. Also, it was to be submerged by a giant hydroelectric dam in secret by a much-feared state agency known simply as the Water Management.

Vargha investigated and learned that the Nagymaros dam (pronounced “nosh-marosh”) would cause pollution, destroy underground water reserves, dry out wetlands and wreck the unique ecosystem of central Europe’s longest river. Unfortunately, nobody objected. “Of course, I wrote an article. But there was a director of the Water Management on the magazine’s editorial board. The last time, he went to the printers and stopped the presses, the article was never published. I was frustrated and angry, but I was ultimately interested in why they cared to ban my article,” he remembers today.

He found that the Nagymaros dam was part of a joint project with neighbouring Czechoslovakia to produce hydroelectricity, irrigate farms and enhance navigation. They would build two dams and re-engineer the Danube for 200 kilometres where it created the border between them. “The Russians were working together, too. They wanted to take their big ships from the Black Sea right up the Danube to the border with Austria.”

Vargha was soon under vigorous investigation, and some of his articles got past the censors. He gathered supporters for some years, but he was one of only a few people who believed the dam should be stopped. He was hardly surprised when the Water Management refused to debate the project in public. After a public meeting, the bureaucrats had pulled out at the last minute. Vargha knew he had to take the next step. “We decided it wasn’t enough to talk and write, so we set up an organization, the Danube Circle. We announced that we didn’t agree with censorship. We would act as if we were living in a democracy.” he says.

The Danube Circle was illegal and the secret publications it produced turned out to be samizdat leaflets. In an extraordinary act of defiance, it gathered 10,000 signatures for a petition objecting to the dam and made links with environmentalists in the west, inviting them to Budapest for a press conference.

The Hungarian government enforced a news blackout on the dam, but articles about the Danube Circle began to be published and appear in the western media. In 1985, the Circle and Vargha, a public spokesman, won the Right Livelihood award known as the alternative Nobel prize. Officials told Vargha he should not take the prize but he ignored them. The following year when Austrian environmentalists joined a protest in Budapest, they were met with tear gas and batons. Then the Politburo had Vargha taken from his new job as editor of the Hungarian version of *Scientific American*.

The dam became a focus for opposition to the hated regime. Communists tried to hold back the waters in the Danube and resist the will of the people. Vargha says, "Opposing the state directly was still hard." "Objecting to the dam was less of a hazard, but it was still considered a resistance to the state."

Under increasing pressure from the anti-dam movement, the Hungarian Communist Party was divided. Vargha says, "Reformists found that the dam was not very popular and economical. It would be cheaper to generate electricity by burning coal or nuclear power." "But hardliners were standing for Stalinist ideas of large dams which mean symbols of progress." Environmental issues seemed to be a weak point of east European communism in its final years. During the 1970s under the support of the Young Communist Leagues, a host of environmental groups had been founded. Party officials saw them as a harmless product of youthful idealism created by Boy Scouts and natural history societies.

Green idealism steadily became a focal point for political opposition. In Czechoslovakia, the human rights of Charter 77 took up environmentalism. The green-minded people of both Poland and Estonia participated in the Friends of the Earth International to protest against air pollution. Bulgarian environmentalists built a resistance group, called Ecoglasnost, which held huge rallies in 1989. Big water engineering projects were potent symbols of the old Stalinism.

Questions 14-21

Instructions to follow

- Complete the summary, using the list of words and phrases, A-L, below.

The story of the fall of the Berlin Wall had started to unfold 9 years earlier, when Janos Vargha visited the river Danube out of Budapest to discuss a matter of **14**..... with executives. However, unfortunately, the tree-lined curve in the river was **15**..... by a colossal dam which caused a lot of fear. He noticed the negative impact of the Nagymaros dam would be **16**..... on the ecosystem around the main river. Besides, the dam was engineering public works, generating hydroelectricity, irrigating farmlands and developing sailing trade which was **17**..... with a border of Czechoslovakia.

After one public meeting, Vargha **18**..... the Danube Circle for showing the autonomy of the people in a democracy. Despite every effort, he who would eventually become the editor of the Hungarian edition was **19**..... by the Politburo. Fortunately, with plenty of pressure from the anti-dam movement, east European communism's final symbol was opposed by the **20**..... Overall, between political processing and environmentalists have been on a **21**..... of views.

- A severe
- B discharged
- C constructing a park of small-scale
- D passed
- E reformist
- F swallowed up
- G separated
- H favourable

- I established
- J collision
- K combined
- L environmentalists

Questions 22-26

Instructions to follow

- Do the following statements reflect the claims of the writer in Reading Passage 2?
- In boxes 22-26 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

- 22 Janos Vargha predicted that the Nagymaros dam would wreck the natural atmosphere before it was built.
- 23 The Nagymaros dam's project was managed by the Russians only.
- 24 The Danube Circle was an unauthorised group for opposing the dam.
- 25 The Politburo accepted Vargha as editor of the Hungarian edition.
- 26 The human rights Charter 77 in Czechoslovakia accepted green thoughts.

Section 3

Instructions to follow

- You should spend 20 minutes on Questions 29-40 which are based on Reading Passage 3

Movie of Metropolis

...being the science-fiction film that is steadily becoming a fact

- A.** When German director Fritz Lang visited the United States in 1924, his first glimpse of the country was a night-time view of the New York skyline from the deck of an ocean liner. This, he later recalled, was the direct inspiration for what is still probably the most innovative and influential science-fiction film ever made – Metropolis.
- B.** *Metropolis* is a bleak vision of the early twenty-first century that is at once both chilling and exhilarating. This spectacular city of the future is a technological marvel of high-rise buildings connected by elevated railways and airships. It's also a world of extreme inequality and social division. The workers live below ground and exist as machines working in an endless routine of mind-numbing 10-hour shifts while the city's elite lead lives of luxury high above. Presiding over them all is the Master of Metropolis, John Fredersen, whose sole satisfaction seems to lie in the exercise of power.
- C.** Lang's graphic depiction of the future is conceived in almost totally abstract terms. The function of the individual machines is never defined. Instead, this mass of dials, levers and gauges symbolically stands for all machines and all industry, with the workers as slave-like extensions of the equipment they have to operate. Lang emphasizes this idea in the famous shift-change sequence at the start of the movie when the workers walk in zombie-

like geometric ranks, all dressed in the same dark overalls and all exhibiting the same bowed head and dead-eyed stare. An extraordinary fantasy sequence sees one machine transformed into a huge open-jawed statue which then literally swallows them up.

- D. On one level the machines and the exploited workers simply provide the wealth and services which allow the elite to live their lives of leisure, but on a more profound level, the purpose of all this demented industry is to serve itself. Power, control and the continuance of the system from one 10-hour shift to the next is all that counts. The city consumes people and their labour and in the process becomes a perverse parody of a living being.
- E. It is enlightening, I think, to relate the film to the modern global economy in which multinational corporations now routinely close their factories in one continent so that they can take advantage of cheap labour in another. Like the industry in Metropolis, these corporations' goals of increased efficiency and profits have little to do with the welfare of the majority of their employees or that of the population at large. Instead, their aims are to sustain the momentum of their own growth and to increase the monetary rewards to a tiny elite – their executives and shareholders.

Fredersen himself is the essence of the big company boss: Rupert Murdoch would probably feel perfectly at home in his huge skyscraper office with its panoramic view of the city below. And it is important that there is never any mention of government in Metropolis – the whole concept is by implication obsolete. The only people who have power are the supreme industrialist, Fredersen, and his magician/scientist cohort Rotwang.

- F. So far so good: when the images are allowed to speak for themselves the film is impeccable both in its symbolism and in its cynicism. The problem with Metropolis is its

sentimental story-line, which sees Freder, Fredersen's son, instantly falling in love with the visionary Maria. Maria leads an underground pseudo-religious movement and preaches that the workers should not rebel but should await the arrival of a 'Mediator' between the 'Head' (capital) and the 'Hands' (labour). That mediator is the 'Heart' – love, as embodied, finally, by Freder's love of Maria and his father's love of him.

- G. Lang wrote the screenplay in collaboration with his then-wife Thea von Harbou. In 1933 he fled from the Nazis (and continued a very successful career in Hollywood). She stayed in Germany and continued to make films under the Hitler regime. There is a constant tension within the film between the too-tidy platitudes of von Harbou's script and the uncompromisingly caustic vigour of Lang's imagery.
- H. To my mind, both in *Metropolis* and in the real world, it's not so much that the 'Head' and 'Hands' require a 'Heart' to mediate between them but that the 'Hands' need to develop their own 'Head', their own political consciousness, and act accordingly – through the ballot box, through buying power and through a sceptical resistance to the materialistic fantasies of the Fredersens.
- I. All the same, *Metropolis* is probably more accurate now as a representation of industrial and social relations than it has been at any time since its original release. And Fredersen is certainly still the most potent movie symbol of the handful of elusive corporate figureheads who increasingly treat the world as a Metropolis-like global village.

Questions 27-30

Instructions to follow

- Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading Passage 3? In boxes 27-30 on your answer sheet, write
YES if the statement is true
NO if the statement is false
NOT GIVEN if the information is not given in the passage

27 The inspiration of the movie-*Metropolis*-comes from the director's visit in the USA in 1924.

28 The Master of Metropolis, John Fredersen, is portrayed from an industrialist that the director met in the US.

29 The start of the movie exhibits the workers working in full energy.

30 The director and his wife got divorced because his wife decided to stay in Germany.

Questions 31-36

Instructions to follow

- Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS form the text for each answer.

The director depicts a world of inequality and 31..... In the future, the mindless masses of workers living underground are treated as 32..... And the master of them is 33....., who is in charge of the whole city. The writer claims that the director, Fritz Lang, presents the movie in an 34..... term, where the 35..... of the individual machines is not defined. Besides the writer compares the film to the modern global economy in which multinational corporations concern more about the growing 36..... and money.

Questions 37-40

Instructions to follow

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

- 37 The first sentence in **paragraph B** indicates
- A the author's fear about technology
 - B the inspiration of the director
 - C the contradictory feelings towards future
 - D the city elite's well management of the workers
- 38 Why the function of the individual machines is not defined?
- A Because Lang sticks to theme in a symbolic way.
 - B Because workers are more important to exploit.
 - C Because the fantasy sequence is difficult to take.
 - D Because the focus of the movie is not about machines.
- 39 The writer's purpose in paragraph five is to
- A emphasize the multinational corporations' profit-oriented goal.
 - B compare the movie with the reality in the modern global economy
 - C exploit the difference between fantasy and reality
 - D enlighten the undeveloped industry

40 What is the writer's opinion about the movie?

- A The movie's story-line is excellent.
- B The movie has a poor implication in symbolism.
- C The movie is perfect in all aspects.
- D The movie is good but could be better.

IELTS Reading Test 2

Section 1

Instructions to follow

- You should spend 20 minutes on Questions 1-14 which are based on Reading Passage 1

- A.** That 'Monday morning feeling' could be a crushing pain in the chest which leaves you sweating and gasping for breath. Recent research from Germany and Italy shows that heart attacks are more common on Monday morning and doctors blame the stress of returning to work after the weekend break.
- B.** The risk of having a heart attack on any given day should be one in seven, but a six-year study coordinated by researchers at the Free University of Berlin of more than 2,600 Germans revealed that the average person had a 20 per cent higher chance of having a heart attack on a Monday than on any other day.
- C.** Working Germans are particularly vulnerable, with a 33 per cent higher risk at the beginning of the working week. Non-workers, by comparison, appear to be no more at risk on a Monday than any other day.
- D.** A study of 11,000 Italians identified 8 am on a Monday morning as the most stressful time for the heart, and both studies showed that Sunday is the least stressful day, with fewer heart attacks in both countries.
- E.** The findings could lead to a better understanding of what triggers heart attacks, according to Dr. Stefan Willich of the Free University. 'We know a lot about long-term risk factors

such as smoking and cholesterol, but we don't know what actually triggers heart attacks, so we can't make specific recommendations about how to prevent them,' he said.

- F. Monday mornings have a double helping of stress for the working body as it makes a rapid transition from sleep to activity, and from the relaxing weekend to the pressures of work. 'When people get up, their blood pressure and heart rate go up and there are hormonal changes in their bodies,' Willich explained. 'All these things can have an adverse effect in the blood system and increase the risk of a clot in the arteries which will cause a heart attack.'

'When people return to work after a weekend off, the pace of their life changes. They have a higher workload, more stress, more anger and more physical activity,' said Willich. 'We need to know how these events cause changes in the body before we can understand if they cause heart attacks.'

- G. But although it is tempting to believe that returning to work increases the risk of a heart attack, both Willich and the Italian researchers admit that it is only a partial answer. Both studies showed that the over-65s are also vulnerable on a Monday morning even though most no longer work. The reason for this is not clear, but the Italian team at the Luigi Sardo Hospital in Milan speculate that social interactions—the thought of facing another week and all its pressures—may play a part.
- H. What is clear, however, is that the Monday morning peak seems to be consistent from northern Germany to southern Italy in spite of the differences in diet and lifestyle.
- I. Willich is reluctant at this stage to make specific recommendations, but he suggests that anyone who suffers from heart disease should take it easy on Monday mornings and leave potentially stressful meetings until midweek. 'People should try to create a pleasant

working environment,' he added. 'Maybe this risk applies only to those who see work as a burden, and people who enjoy their work are not so much at risk. We need to find out more.'

Questions 1 – 4

Instructions to follow

- Read the following statements 1-4. According to the reading passage, write
TRUE if the statement is true
FALSE if the statement is false
NOT GIVEN if there is insufficient evidence

Example: *It was once believed that there was an equal chance of suffering a heart attack on any day of the week.*

Answer: True.

- 1 Unemployed Germans have a higher risk of heart attack than employed Germans.
- 2 Unemployed Italians have a lower risk of heart attack than unemployed Germans.
- 3 German's risk heart attack because of their high consumption of fatty food.
- 4 Cholesterol and smoking cause heart attacks.

Questions 5-13

Instructions to follow

- Read passage 1 and choose the best heading for each paragraph A-I from the list of headings below.
- Write the appropriate number i-ix, in the spaces numbered 5-13 on the answer sheet. Use each heading ONCE only.

- 5 Heading for Paragraph A
- 6 Heading for Paragraph B
- 7 Heading for Paragraph C
- 8 Heading for Paragraph D
- 9 Heading for Paragraph E
- 10 Heading for Paragraph F
- 11 Heading for Paragraph G
- 12 Heading for Paragraph H
- 13 Heading for Paragraph I

List of headings

- i. Exact cause of heart attacks
- ii. The safest day
- iii. Breathless, sweaty and crushed
- iv. Reducing heart attack hazard
- v. High-risk Monday

- vi. Mondays: riskier than food and way of life
- vii. Jobless but safer
- viii. Elderly also at risk
- ix. Bodily adaptations

Question 14

Instructions to follow

- Reading passage 1 is untitled. Select the best title for the entire passage from the choices A-D below.

- A Reduce your chance of having a heart attack
- B Warning: Mondays are bad for your heart
- C The overweight and smokers risk heart attacks
- D Happy and healthy

Section 2

Instructions to follow

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

Growing up in New Zealand

It has long been known that the first one thousand days of life are the most critical in ensuring a person's healthy future; precisely what happens during this period to any individual has been less well documented. To allocate resources appropriately, public health and education policies need to be based upon quantifiable data, so the New Zealand Ministry of Social Development began a longitudinal study of these early days, with the view to extending it for two decades. Born between March 2009 and May 2010, the 6,846 babies recruited came from a densely populated area of New Zealand, and it is hoped they will be followed until they reach the age of 21.

By 2014, four reports, collectively known as *Growing Up in New Zealand (GUiNZ)*, had been published, showing New Zealand to be a complex, changing country, with the participants and their families' being markedly different from those of previous generations.

Of the 6,846 babies, the majority were identified as European New Zealanders, but one quarter was Maori (indigenous New Zealanders), 20% were Pacific (originating in islands in the Pacific), and one in six were Asian. Almost 50% of the children had more than one ethnicity.

The first three reports of *GUiNZ* are descriptive, portraying the cohort before birth, at nine months and at two years of age. Already, the first report, *before we are born*, has

made history as it contains interviews with the children's mothers *and* fathers. The fourth report, which is more analytical, explores the definition of vulnerability for children in their first one thousand days.

Before we are born, published in 2010, describes the hopes, dreams, and realities that prospective parents have. It shows that the average age of both parents having a child was 30, and around two-thirds of parents were in legally binding relationships. However, one-third of the children were born to either a mother or a father who did not grow up in New Zealand – a significant difference from previous longitudinal studies in which a vast majority of parents were New Zealanders born and bred.

Around 60% of the births in the cohort were planned, and most families hoped to have two or three children. During pregnancy, some women changed their behaviour, with regard to smoking, alcohol, and exercise, but many did not. Such information will be useful for public health campaigns.

Now we are born is the second report. 52% of its babies were male and 48% female, with nearly a quarter delivered by caesarean section. The World Health Organisation and New Zealand guidelines recommend babies be breastfed exclusively for six months, but the median age for this in the *GUINZ* cohort was four months since almost one-third of mothers had returned to full-time work. By nine months, the babies were all eating solid food. While 54% of them were living in accommodation their families owned, their parents had almost all experienced a drop in income, sometimes a steep one, mostly due to mothers' not working.

Over 90% of the babies were immunised, and almost all were in very good health. Of the mothers, however, 11% had experienced post-natal depression – an alarming statistic, perhaps, but, once again, useful for mental health campaigns. Many of the babies were

put in childcare while their mothers worked or studied, and the providers varied by ethnicity: children who were Maori or Pacific were more likely to be looked after by grandparents; European New Zealanders tended to be sent to daycare.

Now we are two, the third report, provides more insights into the children's development – physically, emotionally, behaviourally, and cognitively. Major changes in home environments are documented, like the socio-economic situation, and childcare arrangements. Information was collected both from direct observations of the children and from parental interviews. Once again, a high proportion of New Zealand two-year-old were in very good health.

Two-thirds of the children knew their gender, and used their own name or expressed independence in some way. The most common first word was a variation on 'Mum', and the most common favourite first food was a banana. Bilingual or multi-lingual children were in a large minority of 40%. Digital exposure was high: one in seven two-year-old had used a laptop or a children's computer, and 80% watched TV or DVDs daily; by contrast, 66% had books read to them each day.

The fourth report evaluates twelve environmental risk factors that increase the likelihood of poor developmental outcomes for children and draws on experiences in Western Europe, where the specific factors were collated. This, however, was the first time for their use in a New Zealand context. The factors include: being born to an adolescent mother; having one or both parents on income-tested benefits; and, living in cramped conditions.

In addition to descriptive ones, future reports will focus on children who move in and out of vulnerability to see how these transitions affect their later life.

To date, *GUiNZ* has been highly successful with only a very small dropout rate for participants – even those living abroad, predominantly in Australia, have continued to provide information. The portrait *GUiNZ* paints of a country and its people are indeed revealing.

Questions 15-20

Instructions to follow

- Do the following statements agree with the information given in passage 2?
TRUE if the statement agrees with the information
FALSE if the statement contradicts the information
NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

- 15 Findings from studies like *GUiNZ* will inform public policy.
- 16 Exactly 6,846 babies formed the *GUiNZ* cohort.
- 17 *GUiNZ* will probably end when the children reach ten.
- 18 Eventually, there will be 21 reports in *GUiNZ*.
- 19 So far, *GUiNZ* has shown New Zealanders today to be rather similar to those of 25 years ago.
- 20 Parents who took part in *GUiNZ* believe New Zealand is a good place to raise children.

Questions 21-27

Instructions to follow

- Write the correct letter A, B, C or D, in boxes 21-27 on your answer sheet.
- Classify the following things that relate to

A Report 1.

B Report 2.

C Report 3.

D Report 4.

21 This is unique because it contains interviews with both parents.

A B C D

22 This looks at how children might be at risk.

A B C D

23 This suggests having a child may lead to financial hardship.

A B C D

24 Information for this came from direct observations of children.

A B C D

25 This shows many children use electronic devices.

A B C D

26 This was modelled on criteria used in Western Europe.

- A B C D

27 This suggests having a teenage mother could negatively affect a child.

- A B C D

Section 3

Instructions to follow

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

IS AID HURTING AFRICA?

Despite its population of more than one billion and its rich land and natural resources, the continent of Africa remains poor. The combined economies of its 54 states equal that of one European country: the Netherlands.

It is difficult to speak of Africa as a unit as its states differ from each other in culture, climate, size, and political system. Since mid-20th-century independence, many African states have pursued different economic policies. Yet, none of them has overcome poverty. Why might this be?

One theory says Africa is unlucky. Sparsely populated with diverse language and culture, it contains numerous landlocked countries, and it is far from international markets. Dambisa Moyo, a Zambian-born economist, has another theory. In her 2009 book, *Dead Aid*, she proposes that international aid is largely to blame for African poverty because it has encouraged dependence and corruption, and has diverted talented people from the business. One of her statistics is that from 1970-98, when aid to Africa was highest, poverty rose from eleven to 66%. If aid were cut, she believes Africans would utilise their resources more creatively.

When a state lacks the capacity to care for its people, international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), like Oxfam or the Red Cross, assume this role. While NGOs

distribute food or medical supplies, Moyo argues they reduce the ability of the state to provide. Furthermore, during this process, those in government and the military siphon off aid goods and money themselves. Transparency International, an organisation that surveys corruption, rates the majority of African states poorly.

Moyo provides another example. Maybe a Hollywood star donates American-made mosquito nets. Certainly, this benefits malaria-prone areas, but it also draws business away from local African traders who supply nets. More consultation is needed between do-gooder foreigners and local communities.

Moyo also suggests African nations increase their wealth by investment in bonds, or by increased co-operation with China.

The presidents of Rwanda and Senegal are strong supporters of Moyo, but critics say her theories are simplistic. The international aid community is not responsible for geography, nor has it anything to do with the military takeover, corruption, or legislation that hampers trade. Africans have had half a century of self-government and economic control, yet, as the population of the continent doubled, its GDP has risen only 60%. In the same period, Malaysia and Vietnam threw off colonialism and surged ahead economically by investing in education, health, and infrastructure; by lowering taxes on international trade; and, by being fortunate to be surrounded by other successful nations.

The economist Paul Collier has speculated that if aid were cut, African governments would not find alternative sources of income, nor would they reduce corruption. Another economist, Jeffrey Sachs, has calculated that twice the amount of aid currently given is needed to prevent suffering on a grand scale.

In *Dead Aid*, Moyo presents her case through a fictitious country called 'Dongo', but

nowhere does she provide examples of real aid organisations causing actual problems. Her approach may be entertaining, but it is hardly academic.

Other scholars point out that Africa is dominated by tribal societies with military-government elites. Joining the army, rather than doing business, was the easiest route to personal wealth and power. Unsurprisingly, military takeovers have occurred in almost every African country. In the 1960s and 70s, European colonials were replaced by African 'colonials' – African generals and their families. Meantime, the very small, educated bourgeoisie has moved abroad. All over Africa, strongmen leaders have ruled for a long time, or one unstable military regime has succeeded another. As a result, business, separate from the military government is rare, and international investment limited.

Post-secondary education rates are low in Africa. Communications and transportation remain basic although mobile phones are having an impact. The distances farmers must travel to market are vast due to poor roads. High cross-border taxes and long bureaucratic delays are par for the course. African rural populations exceed those elsewhere in the world. Without a decent infrastructure or an educated urbanised workforce, a business cannot prosper.

Recent World Bank statistics show that in southern Africa, the number of companies using the internet for business is 20% as opposed to 40% in South America or 80% in the US. There are 37 days each year without water whereas there is less than one day in Europe. The average cost of sending one container to the US is \$7600, but only \$3900 from East Asia or the Pacific. All these problems are the result of poor state planning.

Great ethnic and linguistic diversity within African countries has led to tribal favouritism. Governments are often controlled by one tribe or allied tribes; civil war is usually tribal. It is estimated each civil war costs a country roughly \$64 billion. Southern Africa had 34 such

conflicts from 1940-2000 while South Asia, the next-affected region, had only 24 in the same period. To this day, a number of bloody conflicts continue.

Other opponents of Moyo add that her focus on market investment and more business with China is shortsighted. The 2008 financial crisis meant that countries with market investments lost money. Secondly, China's real intentions in Africa are unknown, but everyone can see China is buying up African farmland and securing cheap oil supplies.

All over Africa, there are untapped resources, but distance, diversity, and low population density contribute to poverty. Where there is no TV, infrequent electricity, and bad roads, there still seems to be money for automatic weapons just the right size for 12-year-old boys to use. Blaming the West for assisting with aid fails to address the issues of continuous conflict, ineffective government, and little infrastructure. Nor does it prevent terrible suffering.

Has aid caused problems for Africa, or is Africa's strife of its own making or due to geography? Whatever you think, Dambisa Moyo's book has generated lively discussion, which is fruitful for Africa.

Questions 28-38

Instructions to follow

- Choose ONE WORD OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer.

AFRICA'S PROBLEMS

Africa has a lot of people, **28**....., and natural resources.



Yet it is still **29**.....



Moyo's theory

International **30**..... is largely responsible. States now depend on it, and are corrupt as a result. Talented people have been drawn away from **31**..... by working for NGOs. If foreigners help, they ought to involve local **32**..... more. African states should buy into bond markets, and have a closer relationship with **33**.....

Other scholars' theories

This is because Africa is unfortunate due to its **34**..... . It is a long way from international markets. It is also culturally and politically diverse. However, corrupt military-government elites control most of the economy. Many African business-people have left. There is little international **35**..... . **36**..... , communications, and transportation remain under-developed. Numerous civil wars, mostly tribal, have been costly. From 1940-2000, there were **37**..... of these.



Without international aid:

Moyo's theory

Africa would use its resources more creatively.

Other scholars' theories

Africans would experience enormous **38**.....

Questions 39-40

Instructions to follow

- Choose TWO letters: A-E.
- Which of the statements does the writer of passage 3 support?

- A Moyo is right that international aid is causing Africa's problems.
- B Moyo has ignored the role of geography in Africa.
- C Convincing evidence is lacking in Moyo's theory.
- D Most political leaders in Africa agree with Moyo's analysis.
- E Useful discussion about Africa has resulted from Moyo's book.