

Ielts General Reading Practice Test With Answers

ROBOTS AT WORK

A

The newspaper production process has come a long way from the old days when the paper was written, edited, typeset and ultimately printed in one building with the journalists working on the upper floors and the printing presses going on the ground floor. These days the editor, subeditors and journalists who put the paper together are likely to find themselves in a totally different building or maybe even in a different city. This is the situation which now prevails in Sydney. The daily paper is compiled at the editorial headquarters, known as the prepress centre, in the heart of the city, but printed far away in the suburbs at the printing centre. Here human beings are in the minority as much of the work is done by automated machines controlled by computers.

B

Once the finished newspaper has been created for the next morning's edition, all the pages are transmitted electronically from the prepress centre to the printing centre. The system of transmission is an update on the sophisticated page facsimile system already in use on many other newspapers. An imagesetter at the printing centre delivers the pages as film. Each page takes less than a minute to produce, although for colour pages four versions, once each for black, cyan, magenta and yellow are sent. The pages are then processed into photographic negatives and the film is used to produce aluminium printing plates ready for the presses.

C

A procession of automated vehicles is busy at the new printing centre where the Sydney Morning Herald is printed each day. With lights flashing and warning horns honking, the robots (to give them their correct name, the LGVs or laser guided vehicles) look for all the world like enthusiastic machines from a science fiction movie, as they follow their own random paths around the plant busily getting on with their jobs. Automation of this kind is now standard in all modern newspaper plants. The robots can detect unauthorised personnel and alert security staff immediately if they find an "intruder"; not surprisingly, tall tales are already being told about the machines starting to take on personalities of their own.

D

The robots' principal job, however, is to shift the newsprint (the printing paper) that arrives at the plant in huge reels and emerges at the other end some time later as newspapers. Once the size of the

day's paper and the publishing order are determined at head office, the information is punched into the computer and the LGVs are programmed to go about their work. The LGVs collect the appropriate size paper reels and take them where they have to go. When the press needs another reel its computer alerts the LGV system. The Sydney LGVs move busily around the press room fulfilling their two key functions to collect reels of newsprint either from the reel stripping stations, or from the racked supplies in the newsprint storage area. At the stripping station the tough wrapping that helps to protect a reel of paper from rough handling is removed. Any damaged paper is peeled off and the reel is then weighed.

E

Then one of the four paster robots moves in. Specifically designed for the job, it trims the paper neatly and prepares the reel for the press. If required the reel can be loaded directly onto the press; if not needed immediately, an LGV takes it to the storage area. When the press computer calls for a reel, an LGV takes it to the reel loading area of the presses. It lifts the reel into the loading position and places it in the correct spot with complete accuracy. As each reel is used up, the press drops the heavy cardboard core into a waste bin. When the bin is full, another LGV collects it and deposits the cores into a shredder for recycling.

F

The LGVs move at walking speed. Should anyone step in front of one or get too close, sensors stop the vehicle until the path is clear. The company has chosen a laserguide function system for the vehicles because, as the project development manager says "The beauty of it is that if you want to change the routes, you can work out a new route on your computer and lay it down for them to follow". When an LGV's batteries run low, it will take itself off line and go to the nearest battery maintenance point for replacement batteries. And all this is achieved with absolute minimum human input and a much reduced risk of injury to people working in the printing centres.

G

The question newspaper workers must now ask, however is, "how long will it be before the robots are writing the newspapers as well as running the printing centre, churning out the latest edition every morning?"

IELTS General Reading Practice Test with Answers

The IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is a widely recognized English language proficiency exam, and the General Training module is designed for those who want to work, train, or migrate to an English-speaking country. The reading section of the IELTS General Training test assesses a candidate's ability to read and understand a variety of texts, including advertisements,

employment documents, and articles. This article provides a comprehensive overview of the IELTS General Reading practice test, including strategies for preparation, types of questions you might encounter, and a sample practice test with answers.

Understanding the IELTS General Reading Test

The IELTS General Reading test is divided into three sections, each containing a different type of text. The total duration of the reading test is 60 minutes, during which candidates must read the passages and answer a total of 40 questions.

Structure of the Reading Test

- Section 1: Generally consists of two or three short texts. These texts may include advertisements, notices, or informational pamphlets. The questions often involve basic comprehension and locating specific information.
- Section 2: Focuses on work-related topics, such as job descriptions, employee handbooks, or training materials. This section typically requires candidates to understand the main ideas and details relevant to workplace scenarios.
- Section 3: Contains a longer, more complex text, often an article or an essay. This section tests candidates' ability to understand and interpret detailed arguments and opinions.

Types of Questions

Candidates will encounter various question types in the IELTS General Reading test, including:

1. Multiple Choice Questions: These questions provide several options, and candidates must choose the correct answer.
2. True/False/Not Given: Candidates need to determine if the statements are true based on the text, false, or if the information is not mentioned.
3. Matching Headings: This type requires candidates to match headings to paragraphs or sections of the text.
4. Sentence Completion: Candidates fill in the blanks in sentences using words from the text.
5. Short Answer Questions: These ask for specific information from the text, requiring concise responses.

Preparation Strategies for the IELTS General Reading Test

To excel in the IELTS General Reading test, it is crucial to adopt effective preparation strategies. Here are some tips to enhance your reading skills:

1. Familiarize Yourself with the Test Format

Understanding the structure and types of questions will help you navigate the test efficiently. Take practice tests to become comfortable with the timing and question styles.

2. Expand Your Vocabulary

A broad vocabulary will enhance your comprehension skills. Make a habit of reading diverse materials such as newspapers, magazines, and online articles to expose yourself to new words and phrases.

3. Practice Skimming and Scanning

- Skimming: Quickly read through the text to get a general idea of its content and structure.
- Scanning: Look for specific information or keywords without reading every word. This skill is particularly useful for answering questions quickly.

4. Take Practice Tests

Regular practice can significantly improve your reading speed and comprehension. Use IELTS practice books, online resources, and previous test papers to simulate the testing experience.

5. Review Your Answers

After completing practice tests, review your answers thoroughly. Analyze the questions you got wrong and understand the reasoning behind the correct answers. This will help you identify areas for improvement.

Sample IELTS General Reading Practice Test

Below is a simplified version of a practice reading test, complete with questions and answers.

Passage: The Benefits of Volunteering

Volunteering is an activity that many people participate in for various reasons. It can provide an opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people, and contribute to the community. Many organizations

rely heavily on volunteers to help them achieve their goals. For individuals, volunteering can enhance their resumes and provide valuable experience in a specific field.

In addition, volunteering can have positive effects on mental health. Studies show that people who volunteer experience increased feelings of happiness and fulfillment. Furthermore, volunteering can help individuals develop a sense of purpose, which can be particularly beneficial during challenging times in life.

However, it is important for volunteers to find opportunities that align with their interests and skills. This ensures that they have a meaningful experience and can make a real impact on the organization they are working with.

Questions

1. What are two benefits of volunteering mentioned in the passage?
2. How can volunteering positively affect mental health?
3. Why is it important for volunteers to choose opportunities that align with their interests?

Answers

1. Two benefits of volunteering mentioned in the passage are:
 - Learning new skills.
 - Enhancing resumes and providing valuable experience.
2. Volunteering can positively affect mental health by increasing feelings of happiness and fulfillment, and helping individuals develop a sense of purpose.
3. It is important for volunteers to choose opportunities that align with their interests to ensure a meaningful experience and to make a real impact on the organization they are working with.

Conclusion

The IELTS General Reading test is an essential component for those looking to study, work, or migrate to English-speaking countries. Preparing effectively for this section requires a solid understanding of the test format, question types, and effective reading strategies. By practicing regularly with sample tests and developing your vocabulary and comprehension skills, you can enhance your performance on the exam. Remember to review your answers and learn from your mistakes, as this will help you refine your approach and increase your chances of achieving a high score. With dedicated preparation, you can approach the IELTS General Reading test with confidence and readiness.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the structure of the IELTS General Reading test?

The IELTS General Reading test consists of three sections with a total of 40 questions. The sections include a variety of texts, such as advertisements, company handbooks, and articles related to everyday life.

How can I access free IELTS General Reading practice tests?

Free IELTS General Reading practice tests are available on various official websites, including the British Council, IDP, and Cambridge English. Additionally, many online educational platforms offer free resources.

What types of questions are commonly found in the IELTS General Reading test?

Common question types include multiple choice, matching headings, identifying information, true/false/not given, and short answer questions.

How should I manage my time during the IELTS General Reading test?

It is recommended to spend about 20 minutes on each section, leaving time at the end to review your answers. Practice pacing yourself during practice tests to improve your time management.

What is the best way to prepare for the IELTS General Reading section?

The best way to prepare is to practice with a variety of reading materials similar to those found in the test, enhance vocabulary, and familiarize yourself with different question types and test formats.

Are there any specific strategies for answering multiple choice questions in the IELTS General Reading test?

Yes, strategies include reading the questions first, scanning the text for keywords, eliminating obviously wrong answers, and re-reading the relevant section of the text for confirmation.

Can I find IELTS General Reading practice tests with answers?

Yes, many online resources and IELTS preparation books provide practice tests along with detailed answers and explanations to help you understand your mistakes.

How important is vocabulary for the IELTS General Reading test?

Vocabulary is crucial for understanding the texts and questions. A strong vocabulary helps you grasp the meaning of the passages and answer questions accurately.

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