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IELTS PRACTICE TESTS

6 COMPLETE READING TESTS

Topics that are interesting, durable and even controversial have been favoured for inclusion. The aim has been to encourage critical thinking and discussion in IELTS preparation classrooms. All three tests are at a level comparable to the actual IELTS but the later tests pose a slightly higher level of challenge than the earlier ones.

Section 1

Questions 1–14

Read the information below and answer Questions 1–7.

ONLINE *Tutors*



ONLINE Tutors are excellent EFL/ESL teachers from around the world! They can be your private English tutor right on your computer! To send an email message to an ONLINE Tutor, just click on the name and write a short message to introduce yourself!

A

Astrid Manyana (F 46) Chile

Special offer for Spanish speakers: bilingual teaching of English grammar and explanations in Spanish. 25 years' experience teaching all levels from age 15 to 55. Basics, oral, written, specific interests [eg tourism] and preparation for Cambridge and IELTS exams. I can make speaking English easy for you!

B

John Bennett-Smith (M 27) Canada

I have been teaching English conversation as a volunteer in a language centre in my city for about one year. I have also been using e-mail, ICQ and NetMeeting to teach grammar, composition and conversation over the Internet to about 20 or so students for about the same length of time. I am willing to teach [free of charge], privately or to groups, and to teach those language skills which are of interest to a particular student.

C

Pamela Arrowsmith (F 56) Australia

I have taught English for over 30 years, and have developed a range of classroom materials. I offer tutoring assistance in all areas of English, with an emphasis on Business Writing for EFL adults. I can arrange trips to Australia for business and professional adults, either individuals or groups [maximum of four adults] and these can include English classes, if desired.

D

Jean-Pierre Joyal (M 22) France

I really like to create new kinds of teaching materials and I usually create my own activities instead of using the same kind of exercises and texts we all are used to. Let's try that in our classes – it will be fun! I have a BA and a Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language and I have been teaching all levels of ESL students for more than 3 years. I offer a complimentary assessment of your skill level.

E

Naoe Nagayo (F 36) Japan

I have taught English as a Foreign Language for 6 years. I have a TEFL certificate from the USA and a MA in Applied Linguistics from the University of Birmingham, UK. My students range from pre-schoolers to adults. With my experience and knowledge, I can help you to target your learning difficulties and improve your English ability!

Section 3

Questions 28–40

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Laughter is the best medicine



The therapeutic use of laughter — to relieve stress, combat disease and strengthen the immune system — no longer raises medical eyebrows. The idea that humour is healthy and that a hearty laugh can make a person feel much better has gained much medical respectability in the last two decades.

Humour therapy has been accepted on the basis of considerable research conducted in the West. The case of Hunter ‘Patch’ Adams (immortalised by actor Robin Williams in the film *Patch Adams*), who developed laughter therapy over 35 years at the Gesundheit Institute in Virginia, USA, is well-known. The other is the story of Norman Cousins, the late editor of the American paper, *The Saturday Review*, who was taken ill with a severe connective tissue disease where the body just wastes away. When doctors gave up on him, he cured himself with large doses of vitamin C and comedies starring the Marx Brothers. Cousins found that ten minutes of genuine belly laughter had an anaesthetic effect and gave him at least two hours of pain-free sleep. He recorded his experiences of self healing through laughter in a best-selling book, *Anatomy of an Illness*.

This has been an inspiration for many practitioners of laughter therapy, including Dr Madan Kataria, a Mumbai-based general practitioner who has pioneered the concept of laughter clubs in India. As founder of Laughter Club International, Dr Kataria is credited with initiating over 300 laughter clubs throughout India. Each of these conducts regular group laughter sessions on the premise that laughter is healthy for the body and mind.

We still know very little about what happens in the brain when we laugh, but there’s a fair amount of evidence to suggest that laughter has wide-ranging effects on us psychologically and physiologically. The most obvious effect is on our mood but laughter is also known to keep away negative emotions like anxiety and depression, which tend to weaken the immune system. It relieves stress, a common cause of heart and blood

Read the passage below and answer Questions 14–19.

DIVING: TAKE THE PLUNGE

Have you always wanted to learn to dive?

Getting a Diving Certificate will be one of the most exciting experiences of your life as you learn how to explore a new world underwater!

Here's the 10-step path to becoming a certified diver:

STEP 1: Decide you really want to do it.

STEP 2: Find a dive store and dive instructor you like.

STEP 3: Discuss how you will complete your open-water certification: meeting weekly for classroom and pool sessions, weekend classes, home study, class trip for your open-water dives, and more.

STEP 4: With your instructor, decide on a plan that best fits your schedule.

STEP 5: Put on a mask, a snorkel and a pair of fins. These are the basic items of personal equipment that need to be fitted to you by a dive store professional. For reasons of safety and comfort, we recommend that you buy dive equipment only at a dive store.

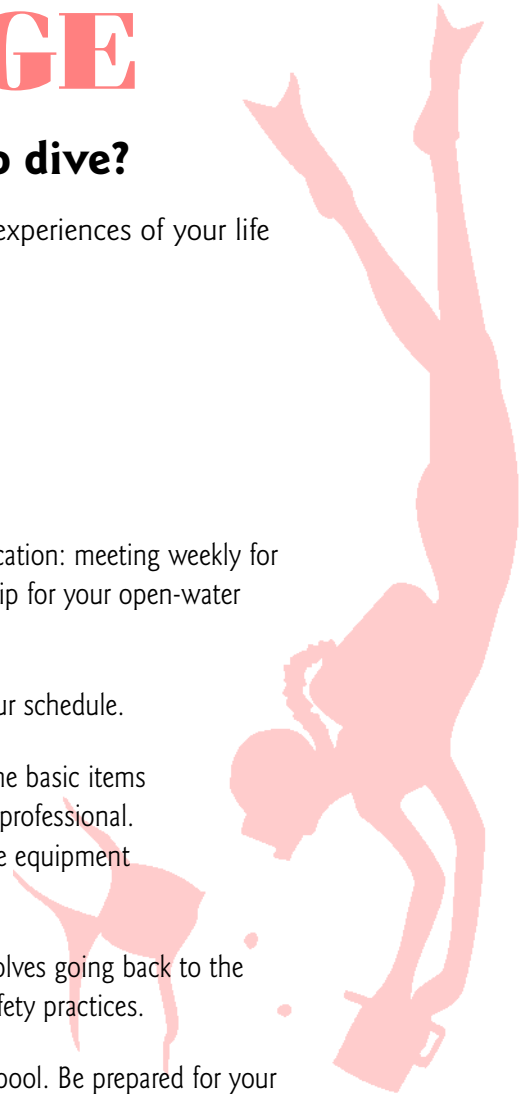
STEP 6: Be enthusiastic. An important part of your training involves going back to the classroom and learning about the dive environment, physics and safety practices.

STEP 7: Get wet! Your first dives will take place in a swimming pool. Be prepared for your first breath on a regulator (breathing apparatus) under water!

STEP 8: Go diving. Your open-water training dives provide the opportunity to practise the skills you learned in your classroom and pool work!

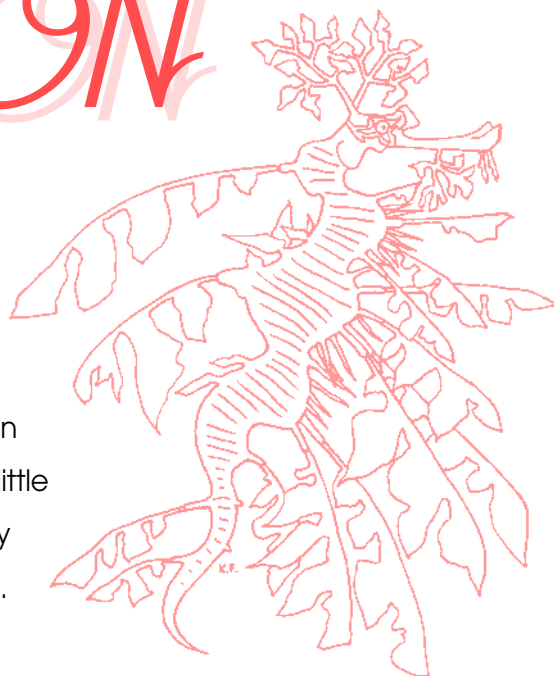
STEP 9: Use your 'C-card' now that you're a certified diver! Only card-carrying divers can buy scuba life-support equipment. We also encourage you to begin right now selecting your personal equipment, especially a regulator, buoyancy compensator and dive computer. Having your own equipment will make you safer and more comfortable under water.

STEP 10: Go for more. Your certification is really just the beginning. You still need to serve a diving internship with your instructor and other experienced divers. Sign up for more training or dives under supervision as soon as you can.



Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

SEADRAGON SEARCH



In appearance, they are unmistakably dragons, but in other ways these delicate creatures of the sea bear little resemblance to their fierce, mythical namesake. They are only 45 cm long, fragile, harmless and vulnerable. Belonging to the same family as seahorses, seadragons come in two different species: 'weedy' (resembling blades of brown seaweed) and the more showy and more endangered 'leafy' (looking like aquatic 'leaves'). They are found only in coastal southern Australian waters and because they resemble swaying seaweed, can be difficult to find in their natural habitat.

Though well camouflaged, their brilliant colours are visible in sun-dappled waters. Both species inhabit rocky reefs, seaweed beds and sea grass meadows colonised by seaweed. They are most often seen in shallow coastal waters. Camouflage is their only protection. Otherwise sea-dragons are poorly equipped for fleeing from pursuers. The outer skin is composed of solid bony plates, which limit mobility. The only way they can propel themselves along is through rapidly oscillating their ventral and dorsal fins. Like sea horses they possess an internal air bladder, used for vertical motion. With little effort, they can rise or settle to another depth simply by changing the air volume within the bladder. Because they blend easily with the background, sea dragons are agile enough to hunt down tiny shrimps, their main quarry.

Perhaps the most extraordinary thing about sea-dragons is that it is actually the male of the species which carries the young. During mating, the female lays 100 - 250 eggs onto the underside of the male's tail, where they are attached and fertilised. After a period of about

Questions 32–36

Do the following statements agree with the information in the passage?

Write:

YES	<i>if the statement agrees with the information</i>
NO	<i>if the statement contradicts the information</i>
NOT GIVEN	<i>if there is no information about this in the passage</i>

- [32] The experiments of Pioneer 10 were powered by solar energy.
- [33] Pioneer 10 lost contact with Earth in 1995.
- [34] Pioneer 11 was launched as a backup because of damage to Pioneer 10.
- [35] Voyager 1 has travelled further than Pioneer 10.
- [36] Pioneer 10 could continue its journey for millions of years.

Questions 37–39

Match each spacecraft with **TWO** achievements from the list (A–G) on the next page.

- [37] Pioneer 10
- [38] Pioneer 11
- [39] Voyager 1

Read the course outline below and answer Questions 21–27 on the following page.

Business School Online

Our courses can be started anytime from anywhere in the world and completed at your own pace. A certificate is issued on successful completion of the course.

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION COURSE

Duration: 100 Hours

Course Materials: Upon enrolment, you will receive all of the materials that are essential to complete the course. Course materials include subject guides, printed notes, textbooks, videos and practical equipment. In certain circumstances you may be required to do extra research – in which case your tutor is able to advise you where necessary.

Course Outline: There are ten lessons in this course, each requiring about 10-12 hours work by the student. This course is designed as a program to help you understand the marketing world, then, to assist you in making decisions and developing skills in marketing. Emphasis is placed on profitability and efficiency!

EXAMPLES OF THE TYPE OF ASSIGNMENTS YOU MIGHT BE ASKED TO UNDERTAKE:

A) Go shopping (your routine weekly shopping if you like). Take notice of how different sales staff communicate with you. Note the techniques they use (verbal and non verbal), and how effective they are. Note the type of impression they seem to be creating. When you come home, write down notes on your observations.

B) Look through newspapers or magazines at advertisements or articles which discuss products offered for sale and find what you consider to be good examples of each of the following types of communication:

- a. Verbal communication
- b. Non verbal communication
- c. Combination of verbal and non-verbal communication

Explain why you think these are good examples?

C) Select a product or service for which you would like to improve the marketing. This might be something you are dealing with in your own business or a business you work for; or it might be something you think has potential — an idea you would like to develop into a business OR something another business is dealing with, but not handling as well as you think they could.

Questions 28–31

Choose the correct answer **A–D**.

- [28] From the research project it was found that...
- A all of Okinawa's centenarians are still living independently.
 - B Okinawa has the lowest rate of cancer in the world.
 - C over 400 centenarians live in Okinawa.
 - D Okinawa has more centenarians than any other country.
- [29] Which of the following does **NOT** contain flavanoids?
- A yoghurt
 - B green tea
 - C soy milk
 - D cranberries
- [30] Fats that are good for you...
- A come from meat and dairy products
 - B produce no cholesterol
 - C are not found in vegetable oils
 - D are found in avocados and almonds
- [31] Okinawans believe that it is advisable to...
- A eat less, 8 meals out of 10
 - B eat smaller, more frequent meals
 - C stop eating before you are full
 - D eat until you are full