

Test 4 answer key with extra explanations

Reading

Reading Passage 1

Questions 1–13

1 The correct answer is 'water': The first paragraph refers to the tree's roots and then says, 'They stretch down 50–80 metres and, as well as sucking up water for the tree, they bring it into the higher subsoil, creating a water source for other plant life.' This means that the roots can reach water a long way below the surface of the soil. Another verb meaning 'reach' or 'be able to obtain (get)' is 'access'.

2 The correct answer is 'diet': The second paragraph says, 'He believes the huarango was key to the ancient people's diet'. If something is 'key to' something else, it means that it is a crucial (very important) part of it. **'Land' and 'crops' are incorrect** because we cannot say that the tree was a part of these things.

3 The correct answer is 'drought': The second paragraph says that the huarango tree 'allowed local people to withstand years of drought when their other crops failed'. 'Withstand' has the same meaning as 'survive' here: it means that the tree enabled people to stay alive during long periods without rain. **'Years' and 'centuries' are incorrect** because they mean the same as 'periods' and so do not give any information.

4 The correct answer is 'erosion': The second paragraph says, 'Cutting down native woodland leads to erosion, as there is nothing to keep the soil in place. So when the huarangos go, the land turns into a desert.' We can understand from this sentence that if native trees (huarangos) are not cut down, then erosion does not happen: soil stays in place and is not eroded (worn away). Other words in the paragraph, such as **'crops', 'desert' and 'land', are incorrect** because only 'erosion' describes something which happens to the soil.

5 The correct answer is 'desert': The second paragraph says, 'Cutting down native woodland leads to erosion, as there is nothing to keep the soil in place. So when the huarangos go, the land turns into a desert.' Huarango trees stop (prevent) the land turning into (becoming) a desert. Words such as **'crops' and 'erosion' are incorrect** because these are not things which land can become; **'woodland' is incorrect** because the text says that the land used to be woodland and the idea is to prevent it becoming something else.

6 The correct answer is 'branches', 'its branches', 'huarango branches' or 'the branches': The third paragraph refers to the huarango tree and says, 'its branches were used for charcoal for cooking and heating'. Substances which are burned for purposes such as cooking and heating are known as fuel. **'Charcoal' is incorrect** because charcoal is a type of fuel made from wood: it is not part of a tree.

7 The correct answers are 'leaves' and 'bark' (or 'bark' and 'leaves'): The third paragraph says, 'Its leaves and bark were used for herbal remedies'. Herbal remedies are natural treatments for illness made from plants. You need to write both words to receive the marks for this question. Other parts of the tree, such as **'seed pods', 'branches' and 'trunk', are incorrect** because the text does not say that these were used in herbal remedies.

8 The correct answer is 'trunk', 'its trunk', 'huarango trunk' or 'the trunk': The third paragraph says, 'its trunk was used to build houses'. Construction is the activity of building houses and other buildings. Other words in the text, such as **'build' and 'houses', are incorrect** because they are not part of a tree. Other parts of the tree, such as **'branches', are incorrect** because the text does not say that these were used to build houses.

9 The correct answer is NOT GIVEN: The fourth paragraph says, 'Whaley is encouraging locals to love the huarangos again' and 'He has already set up a huarango festival to reinstate a sense of pride in their eco-heritage, and [Whaley] has helped local schoolchildren plant thousands of trees.' The fifth paragraph says that Whaley 'has been working with local families to attempt to create a sustainable income from the huarangos by turning their products into foodstuffs.' The text does not mention local families telling him anything.

10 The correct answer is FALSE: The sixth paragraph refers to Alberto Benevides and then says, 'His farm is relatively small and doesn't yet provide him with enough to live on'. This means that he is not making a good profit at the moment.

11 The correct answer is TRUE: The seventh paragraph refers to the larger farms and then says, 'Some of these cut across the forests and break up the corridors that allow the essential movement of mammals, birds and pollen up and down the narrow forest strip. In the hope of counteracting this, he's persuading farmers to let him plant forest corridors on their land.' This means that farmers need to agree to have forest corridors on their land. If they do not agree, Whaley may not be able to preserve the wildlife.

12 The correct answer is FALSE: In the final paragraph, Whaley says, 'Desert habitats can reduce down to very little'. He explains, 'It's not like a rainforest that needs to have this huge expanse (a large area). Life has always been confined to corridors and islands here. If you just have a few trees left, the population can grow up quickly'. This means that even a small area is enough for his project to succeed.

13 The correct answer is NOT GIVEN: The final paragraph says, 'He sees his project as a model that has the potential to be rolled out across other arid areas around the world.' Whaley says, 'If we can do it here, in the most fragile system on Earth, then that's a real message of hope for lots of places, including Africa, where there is drought and they just can't afford to wait for rain.' Whaley mentions the possibility of similar projects in other areas around the world and gives Africa as an example, but the text does not say that he has plans to go to Africa himself.

Questions 14–26

14 The correct answer is NOT GIVEN: The first paragraph says, ‘La Gomera is one of the Canary Islands situated in the Atlantic Ocean off the northwest coast of Africa. This small volcanic island is mountainous, with steep rocky slopes and deep, wooded ravines, rising to 1,487 metres at its highest peak.’ It says it is mountainous but does not say whether it is more mountainous than the other Canary Islands.

15 The correct answer is FALSE: The fifth paragraph refers to the users of Silbo, then says, ‘In daily life they use whistles to communicate short commands, but any Spanish sentence could be whistled.’ If Silbo (whistling) can be used for any Spanish sentence, it is not only appropriate for short and simple messages.

16 The correct answer is TRUE: The sixth paragraph says, ‘The researchers found that other key regions in the [silbadores]’ brain’s frontal lobe also responded to the whistles, including those activated in response to sign language among deaf people. When the experiments were repeated with non-whistlers, however, activation was observed in all areas of the brain.’ This means that the two groups of people produced different results.

17 The correct answer is FALSE: The eighth paragraph says, ‘indigenous Canary Islanders, who were of North African origin, already had a whistled language (Silbo) when Spain conquered the volcanic islands in the 15th century.’ This means that the Spanish did not introduce Silbo to the islands.

18 The correct answer is FALSE: The eighth paragraph says, ‘There are thought to be as many as 70 whistled languages still in use, though only 12 have been described and studied scientifically.’ This means that only a few whistled languages in existence have been described or studied scientifically, so there is no precise data about most of them.

19 The correct answer is TRUE: The final paragraph says, ‘Since 1999, Silbo Gomero has been taught in all of the island’s elementary schools.’ This means that children on the island are learning Silbo.

20 The correct answer is ‘words’: The fourth paragraph says, ‘Silbo is a substitute for Spanish, with individual words recoded into whistles which have high- and low-frequency tones.’ **‘Language’ is incorrect** because there is no ‘the’ before the word ‘Spanish’.

21 The correct answer is ‘finger’: The fourth paragraph says, ‘A whistler – or *silbador* – puts a finger in his or her mouth to increase the whistle’s pitch’. **‘Mouth’ is incorrect** because this does not control the pitch. **‘Hand’ is incorrect** because it is not precise enough.

22 The correct answer is ‘direction’: The third paragraph refers to the silbador putting a finger in their mouth, then says, ‘while the other hand can be cupped to adjust (change) the direction of the sound.’ **‘Pitch’ is incorrect** because this is not what the cupped hand changes.

23 The correct answer is 'commands': The fifth paragraph says, 'In daily life they use whistles to communicate short (brief) commands'. **'Communication' and 'information' are incorrect** because they are uncountable nouns which do not go with the word 'brief'.

24 The correct answer is 'fires': The fifth paragraph says, 'Silbo has proved particularly useful when fires have occurred on the island and rapid communication across large areas has been vital.' None of the other words in this section refer to specific things which people need to know about.

25 The correct answer is 'technology': The final paragraph says, 'But with modern communication technology now widely available, researchers say whistled languages like Silbo are threatened with extinction.' **'Communication' is incorrect** because its meaning is too general.

26 The correct answer is 'award': The final paragraph mentions UNESCO, and then says, 'The local authorities are trying to get an award from the organisation to declare [Silbo Gomero] as something that should be preserved for humanity'. The phrase 'an award from the organisation' has the same meaning as 'a UNESCO award'. 'Award' is the only word in this section which refers to something which can be received. **'Organisation' is incorrect** because the authorities are trying to get something *from* UNESCO, not to get the organisation itself.

Questions 27–40

27 The correct answer is D: The first paragraph says, ‘The environmental practices of big businesses are shaped by a fundamental fact that for many of us offends our sense of justice.’ If someone’s practices offend ‘our sense of justice’, this means that we have doubts about their moral standards. None of the other options either explain or comment on the fact that businesses put making money before concern for the environment.

28 The correct answer is E: The first paragraph says, ‘When government regulation is effective, and when the public is environmentally aware, environmentally clean big businesses may out-compete dirty ones, but the reverse is likely to be true if government regulation is ineffective and if the public doesn’t care.’ Saying that ‘government regulation is ineffective’ has a similar meaning to saying that governments do not have enough control. **A is incorrect** because the text does not say there is a lack of (not enough) funding. **F is incorrect** because there is some government involvement in the form of regulations. **D is incorrect** because the text suggests that it is the businesses which lack moral standards, not the governments.

29 The correct answer is F: The first paragraph says, ‘When government regulation is effective, and when the public is environmentally aware, environmentally clean big businesses may out-compete dirty ones, but the reverse is likely to be true if government regulation is ineffective and if the public doesn’t care.’ If the public does not care, this means that they are not involved. **A and E are incorrect** because there is no mention of public funding or public control. **D is incorrect** because the text suggests that it is the businesses which lack moral standards, not the public.

30 The correct answer is H: The first paragraph mentions environmental damage then gives two examples. The first of these is ‘fishermen in an unmanaged fishery without quotas’. If there is no management or quotas in an area where fishing takes place, there are no limits on the number of fish that can be caught there. This results in the environmental problem of overfishing (the removal of too many fish). **G is incorrect** because the environmental problem of flooding is not mentioned in the text.

31 The correct answer is B: The first paragraph mentions environmental damage and gives a second example of ‘international logging companies with short-term leases on tropical rainforest [who] land in places with corrupt officials and unsophisticated landowners.’ This is a reference to the destruction of trees because ‘logging companies’ cut down trees. **C is incorrect** because there is no specific reference to the destruction of rare species in the text.

32 The correct answer is C: The third paragraph says, ‘In the long run, it is the public, either directly or through its politicians, that has the power to make such destructive [environmental] policies unprofitable and illegal, and to make sustainable environmental policies profitable.’ This means that the public (ordinary people) could prevent businesses from causing further environmental damage. **A is incorrect** because the text says, ‘either directly or through its politicians’. This means that political action is not necessarily required: it is possible for the public to prevent environmental damage through direct action. **B is incorrect** because the paragraph

does not mention the public being ignorant (unaware) of environmental damage caused by businesses. It says that the public is ultimately responsible 'for creating the conditions that let a business profit through destructive environmental policies'. **D is incorrect** because the text does not mention educating business leaders.

33 The correct answer is D: The fourth paragraph begins with the words: 'The public can do that'. The word 'that' refers back to the third paragraph which says that the public has 'the power to make such destructive policies unprofitable and illegal, and to make sustainable environmental policies profitable'. The fourth paragraph then lists how the public can do this. The phrases 'by making employees of companies with poor track records feel ashamed of their company and complain to their own management' and 'by pressing their governments to pass and enforce laws and regulations requiring good environmental practices' are examples of the public influencing businesses and governments. **A is incorrect** because the text refers only to reducing companies' impact on the environment: it does not mention the impact of individuals. **B is incorrect** because no mention is made of the public learning about the impact of business on the environment: this paragraph focuses only on actions which the public can take. **C is incorrect** because the Exxon Valdez disaster is only mentioned as an example of when the public used its power successfully in the past; the actions listed in the paragraph are not ways of raising awareness of (making known) the effects of specific disasters.

34 The correct answer is B: The fifth paragraph refers to meat packers ignoring government rules demanding that they abandon practices associated with the risk of the disease spreading, then says, 'However, when a major fast-food company then made the same demands after customer purchases of its hamburgers plummeted, the meat industry complied within weeks.' The phrase 'the meat industry complied' means that the meat suppliers agreed to the demands and did what the fast-food company told them to do. **A is incorrect** because the text does not say that the meat packers stopped supplying to the fast-food chains: it says that they stopped the practices associated with the spread of BSE. **C is incorrect** because it was the fast-food company which persuaded the meat packers to do something. No mention is made of the meat packers persuading the government to do anything. **D is incorrect** because there is no mention of this happening: the text says that the government introduced the rules 'after the US public became concerned about the spread of a disease known as BSE'. There is no indication in the text that the fast-food company also encouraged the government to introduce this legislation.

35 The correct answer is YES: The sixth paragraph says, 'I also believe that the public must accept the necessity for higher prices for products to cover the added costs, if any, of sound environmental practices.' If you 'accept the necessity for higher prices to cover' something, this means that you are prepared to fund it.

36 The correct answer is NOT GIVEN: The sixth paragraph says, 'My views may seem to ignore the belief that businesses should act in accordance with moral principles even if this leads to a reduction in their profits.' The text mentions the idea of businesses acting with moral principles, but the writer does not say whether there is any difference between the moral principles of businesses.

37 The correct answer is NO: The final paragraph says, 'My conclusion is not a moralistic one about who is right or wrong, admirable or selfish, a good guy or a bad guy.' The writer is pointing out that this conclusion is not a matter of deciding whose behaviour is right and whose behaviour is wrong.

38 The correct answer is YES: The final paragraph says, 'In the past, businesses have changed when the public came to expect and require different behavior, to reward businesses for behavior that the public wanted, and to make things difficult for businesses practicing behaviors that the public didn't want.' These are all examples of ways that the public successfully influenced business.

39 The correct answer is NOT GIVEN: The final paragraph says, 'I predict that in the future, just as in the past, changes in public attitudes will be essential for changes in businesses' environmental practices.' The writer suggests that public attitudes will affect 'changes in businesses' environmental practices' but does not say whether businesses will actually show more concern for the environment in the future.

40 The correct answer is D: 'Are big businesses to blame for the damage they cause the environment?' would be the best subheading because the passage answers this question. The message of the passage is that rather than blaming the big businesses, the public should use their power to persuade the businesses to change their environmental practices. The text does not answer the other questions. **B is incorrect** because although the passage suggests that big businesses are driven by profit, it does not say how to discourage them from this.