

Test 1 answer key with extra explanations

Reading

Reading Passage 1

Questions 1–13

1 The correct answer is 'oval': The text says that the tree has 'tough, dark green oval leaves'. The word 'oval' refers to the shape of the leaves.

2 The correct answer is 'husk': The text says, 'The fruit is encased in a fleshy husk. When the fruit is ripe, this husk splits into two halves.' If something is encased in something else, this means that it is surrounded by it.

3 The correct answer is 'seed': The text says, 'These are the sources of the two spices nutmeg and mace, the former being produced from the dried seed and the latter from the aril.' The phrase 'the former' means the first of two things that have been mentioned, so this refers to the spice nutmeg. This means that the seed is used to produce the spice nutmeg.

4 The correct answer is 'mace': The text says, 'These are the sources of the two spices nutmeg and mace, the former being produced from the dried seed and the latter from the aril.' The phrase 'the latter' means the second of two things that have been mentioned, so this refers to the spice mace. This means that the aril is used to produce the spice mace.

5 The correct answer is FALSE: The text says that the Arabs, who were the only people who imported nutmeg to Europe, 'never revealed the exact location of the source of this extremely valuable commodity'. This means that most people in Europe did not know where nutmeg came from.

6 The correct answer is NOT GIVEN: The text says that the VOC was founded in 1602 and that it became the world's 'richest commercial operation'. The text does not tell us about any other trading companies at that time, so we do not know whether or not the VOC was the first company of this kind.

7 The correct answer is TRUE: The text says, 'There was only one obstacle to Dutch domination' and this was the fact that the island of Run was under British control. The text also tells us that the Dutch wanted Run because they were 'Intent on securing their hold over every nutmeg-producing island'. The Treaty of Breda gave the Dutch control of Run, which meant that the Dutch then had control over all the islands where nutmeg grew.

8 The correct answer is 'Arabs': The text mentions the Middle Ages and then says that 'Throughout this period, the Arabs were the exclusive importers of the spice to Europe'. This tells us that it was the Arabs who brought nutmeg to Europe.

9 The correct answer is 'plague': The text mentions some dates in the 17th century and then says, 'At the same time, thousands of people across Europe were dying of the plague, a highly contagious and deadly disease.' This tells us that this disease was known as the plague.

10 The correct answer is 'lime': The text mentions some things that the Dutch did to protect their new investment, and then adds that 'all exported nutmeg was covered with lime to make sure there was no chance a fertile seed which could be grown elsewhere would leave the islands.' 'all exported nutmeg' means all the nutmeg which left the islands. The Dutch put lime on all this nutmeg so that none of the seeds which left the islands were fertile, which meant that they could not be cultivated (grown) anywhere outside the islands.

11 The correct answer is 'Run': The text says, 'the Dutch offered a trade: if the British would give them the island of Run, they would in turn give Britain a distant and much less valuable island in North America. The British agreed.' As the British agreed to this exchange, this means that the Dutch obtained the island from the British.

12 The correct answer is 'Mauritius': The text says, 'Then, in 1770, a Frenchman named Pierre Poivre successfully smuggled nutmeg plants to safety in Mauritius, an island off the coast of Africa.' The verb 'smuggle' means to take something from one place to another without anybody knowing, so the text is telling us that nutmeg plants were secretly taken to Mauritius.

13 The correct answer is 'tsunami': The text says, 'in 1778, a volcanic eruption in the Banda region caused a tsunami that wiped out half the nutmeg groves.' The phrase 'wiped out' means destroyed, and 'groves' has a similar meaning to plantations, so we know that that a tsunami destroyed half of the Banda Islands' nutmeg plantations.

Questions 14–26

14 The correct answer is C: Section C says, ‘At present, the average car spends more than 90 percent of its life parked.’ The phrase ‘more than 90 percent of its life’ is an amount of time, and if a car is ‘parked’, it is not in use.

15 The correct answer is B: As well as mentioning safety, Section B says that drivers can be free to do other things while the automation systems are in control. It also says that older and disabled travellers may be able to enjoy greater travel autonomy. Other sections mention advantages on wider scale for society, transport and the environment, but B is the only section which refers to advantages for individuals.

16 The correct answer is E: Section E says that ‘drivers will have the freedom to select one that best suits their needs for a particular journey’. ‘select’ means choose, the car that ‘best suits their needs’ is the most appropriate vehicle, and ‘journey’ has the same meaning as trip.

17 The correct answer is G: Section G begins by mentioning problems, saying ‘It’s clear that there are many challenges that need to be addressed’. It then goes on to say that ‘these can most probably be conquered within the next 10 years’. The verb ‘conquer’ means overcome and ‘most probably ... within the next 10 years’ is an estimate of how long this will take.

F is incorrect: Although Section F also begins by mentioning problems: ‘There are a number of hurdles to overcome’, it does not say anything about how long it could take to overcome them.

18 The correct answer is D: Section D describes a possible impact of driverless vehicles on car use, and then says, ‘vehicle production will not necessarily decrease’. This means that the number of vehicles manufactured might stay the same.

19 The correct answer is ‘human error’: Section B says, ‘research at the UK’s Transport Research Laboratory has demonstrated that more than 90 percent of road collisions involve human error as a contributory factor, and it is the primary cause in the vast majority’. Both these facts mean that most motor accidents are partly due to human error.

20 The correct answer is ‘car sharing’ or ‘car-sharing’: Section C says, ‘Automation means that initiatives for car-sharing become much more viable, particularly in urban areas with significant travel demand.’ The word ‘initiatives’ can be used for schemes, the word ‘viable’ can mean workable’, and the phrase ‘urban areas’ is equivalent to ‘towns and cities’.

21 The correct answer is ‘ownership’: Section D says, ‘automated vehicles might reduce vehicle ownership by 43 percent’. If something is reduced by 43 percent, this is the same as a 43 percent drop.

22 The correct answer is ‘mileage’: Section D says that ‘vehicles’ average annual mileage would double as a result’. If a figure doubles, this means that it will be twice as high.

23 and 24 The correct answers are C and D (in either order): Section B says, 'If the vehicle can do some or all of the driving, it may be possible to be productive, to socialise or simply to relax' so **C is correct**. Section B says, 'those who are challenged by existing mobility models – such as older or disabled travellers – may be able to enjoy significantly greater travel autonomy' so **D is correct**.

A is incorrect because the text does not say anything about travellers saving money. **B is incorrect** because the text does not say anything about finding parking spaces. **E is incorrect** because the text does not mention pollution.

25 and 26 The correct answers are A and E (in either order): Section F mentions 'the societal changes that may be required for communities to trust and accept automated vehicles' so **A is correct**. Section F refers to 'ensuring that the vehicle works reliably in the infinite range of traffic, weather and road situations it might encounter' so **E is correct**.

B is incorrect because the text does not mention the pace (speed) of changing to automated vehicles. **C is incorrect** because the text does not say anything about professional drivers. **D is incorrect** because the text does not say anything about making roads suitable.

Reading Passage 3

Questions 27–40

27 The correct answer is A: The writer says, ‘Our desire to discover, and then share that new-found knowledge, is part of what makes us human.’ The rest of the paragraph gives examples which illustrate this idea of exploration being intrinsic to humans, including the reference to New York. **B is incorrect** because the writer does not say what proportion of people are enthusiastic. **C is incorrect** because the writer does not refer to results. **D is incorrect** because the writer does not mention people finding exploration daunting.

28 The correct answer is C: The writer says, ‘we all have this enquiring instinct’. If a quality is ‘common to everyone’, this means that everyone has it. **A is incorrect** because the writer does not refer to any benefits or disadvantages. **B is incorrect** because the writer does not say anything about teaching others. **D is incorrect** because the writer mentions professions but does not say why explorers are attracted to them.

29 The correct answer is C: The writer says that Hardy ‘used the landscape to suggest the desires and fears of his characters’ and then goes on to say that ‘He is delving into matters we all recognise’. ‘Delving into’ means ‘investigating’, and the matters referred to are the ‘desires and fears’ (emotional states) mentioned in the previous sentence. **A is incorrect** because the writer does not mention Hardy’s own experience. **B is incorrect** because the writer does not suggest that Hardy was mistaken. **D is incorrect** because the writer does not say anything about people being attracted to isolation.

30 The correct answer is D: The writer refers to people seeing the 19th century as the ‘golden age’ but claims they were wrong to believe that the importance of exploration has declined since that time. The two phrases beginning ‘as if’ indicate that this idea is untrue. The writer then mentions scientific species, the ocean floor and the human brain as examples of areas where exploration is still necessary. **The other answers are incorrect** because they all imply a decline of some kind – an idea which the writer rejects. **A is incorrect** because the writer does not say that useful information has decreased. **B is incorrect** because the writer does not state that fewer people are interested in exploring. **C is incorrect** because the writer does not mention any recent development or the idea that exploration is less exciting.

31 The correct answer is A: The writer says, ‘Each definition is slightly different – and tends to reflect the field of endeavour of each pioneer’ and then gives examples of two professionals, a historian and a scientist, who each define exploration in relation to their own interests. **B is incorrect** because the writer does not say that people are likely to misunderstand the nature of exploration. **C is incorrect** because the writer does not say that there is an accepted definition or make any reference to changes over time. **D is incorrect** because the writer compares ordinary people with scientists and historians in terms of their motivation but does not say anything about how they define exploration.

32 The correct answer is B: The writer says, ‘this is what interests me: how a fresh interpretation, even of a well-travelled route, can give its readers new insights’. ‘a well-travelled route’ suggests places that are familiar to people, and the ideas of ‘a fresh interpretation’ and ‘new insights’ both suggest ways of shining new light on these places. **A is incorrect** because the writer does not refer to people’s personalities. **C is incorrect** because the writer mentions that the world has changed but does not say that travel writing has changed. **D is incorrect** because the writer does not mention people’s feelings about the places they visit.

33 The correct answer is E: Wilfred Thesiger is the only explorer who refers to the relevance of a form of transport. Thesiger is quoted as saying, ‘If I’d gone across by camel when I could have gone by car, it would have been a stunt.’

34 The correct answer is A: Peter Fleming is the only explorer who refers to his feelings on coming home. The text says, ‘Peter Fleming talks of the moment when the explorer returns to the existence he has left behind with his loved ones’.

35 The correct answer is D: Robin Hanbury-Tenison is the only explorer described as working for the benefit of specific groups of people. The text refers to him as ‘a campaigner on behalf of remote so-called “tribal” peoples’.

36 The correct answer is E: Wilfred Thesiger is the only explorer who refers to learning about oneself. The text says, ‘To him, exploration meant bringing back information from a remote place regardless of any great self-discovery.’

37 The correct answer is B: Ran Fiennes is the only explorer who defines exploration in this way. He is quoted as saying ‘An explorer is someone who has done something that no human has done before – and also done something scientifically useful.’ The first part of this quote refers to doing something that is unique and the second part refers to the value that it has for others.

38 The correct answer is ‘expeditions’ or ‘unique expeditions’: The writer says, ‘I’ve done a great many expeditions and each one was unique.’

39 The correct answer is ‘uncontacted’ or ‘isolated’: The writer says, ‘I’ve lived for months alone with isolated groups of people all around the world, even two “uncontacted tribes”.’

40 The correct answer is ‘surface’ or ‘land surface’: The writer says, ‘We know how the land surface of our planet lies; exploration of it is now down to the details’.