

Test 1 answer key with extra explanations

Reading

Section 1

Questions 1–5

- 1 The correct answer is C Lost and Found Counter:** The text says, ‘You can proceed to the Lost and Found Counter for advice if you ... would like to report damaged baggage.’ **H Baggage Claim Belt is incorrect** because baggage claim belts are the places where arriving passengers go to pick up their luggage, not places to ask for help if a suitcase is damaged (split or broken).
- 2 The correct answer is G Reception Desk:** The text under the heading ‘Hotel reservations’ says, ‘For these (transit hotels), go to the Reception Desk on Level Three.’ **B Hotel Reservation Counter is incorrect** because the text says, ‘These counters (Hotel Reservations) do not handle (deal with) the transit hotels.’
- 3 The correct answer is D Red Channel:** The text says, ‘Please use the Red Channel if you have items to declare or are in doubt (unsure whether you have gone over the limit of your duty-free allowance).’ **E Green Channel is incorrect** because the text says that channel is for people who are sure they ‘have not exceeded [their] Duty-Free Concession (allowance)’.
- 4 The correct answer is F Level Two:** The text says, ‘You can refer to the flight information television screens on Level Two for the allocation of your baggage claim belt.’ This means passengers can check on screen which baggage claim belt their suitcases will be on. **H Baggage Claim Belt is incorrect** because passengers who are unsure where to collect their suitcases need to find out the number of the belt first before going to the Baggage Claim area.
- 5 The correct answer is A Information Desk:** The text says, ‘porters are at your service on request. Should (If) you require their assistance with carrying luggage, please ask at the Information Desk’. **G Reception Desk is incorrect** because that deals with reservations for transit hotels.

Questions 6–10

6 The correct answer is FALSE: The text says, ‘A 3% Goods and Services Tax (GST) is levied on (asked for with) the sale of all goods imported into Singapore.’ However, it continues, ‘If you are a visitor, returning citizen or permanent resident of Singapore, you may be granted GST relief (may not have to pay the tax) under certain conditions.’ In other words, not everyone has to pay this tax.

7 The correct answer is TRUE: The text says, ‘you can apply for a refund (get money back) at Customs of the 3% GST (the tax) on goods purchased during your stay in Singapore, provided (if) you: shop at stores with the “Tax Free Shopping” logo’.

8 The correct answer is FALSE: The text says, ‘you can apply for a refund at Customs of the 3% GST on goods purchased during your stay in Singapore, provided you: spend a minimum amount of S\$100 at any one shop, and at least S\$300 in total’. Although S\$150 is more than the minimum amount for spending at one shop, it is less than the minimum total required to get a refund.

9 The correct answer is NOT GIVEN: The text says, ‘When collecting your refund you have several choices – cash, bank cheque, or Changi Airport Shopping Voucher’, but there is no mention of a time limit for reclaiming the tax.

10 The correct answer is TRUE: The text says, ‘Please note that a handling fee will be deducted from the GST amount for the refund service.’ A ‘handling fee’ is an amount of money that is charged by the Customs Officers for dealing with the tax refund.

Questions 11–14

11 The correct answer is ‘eye-catching landmark’: The text says, ‘The route begins just opposite the Orchard MRT station at the Singapore Marriott Hotel. This eye-catching landmark has a distinctive Chinese-styled green roof and red pillars.’

12 The correct answer is ‘cemetery’: The text says, ‘Tang built a department store on what was then a cheap, isolated plot of land. The plot faced a cemetery’. **‘Station’ is incorrect** because it is the Marriott Hotel which is opposite the station. The text does not say that Tang had anything to do with the hotel. He built a department store. It is important not to choose an answer quickly when a key word in the question appears in the text. Instead, read the text carefully before deciding on the answer.

13 The correct answer is ‘(unique) (Chinese) architecture’: The text says, ‘Even when the original building was torn down in 1982 to give way to the present superstore and skyscraper hotel, it retained (kept) its unique Chinese architecture.’ **‘Department store’ is incorrect** because it would need to be the department store *in* the new building, rather than of the new building. Also, there is no information in the text to say that the old department store was similar to the new superstore.

14 The correct answer is ‘(self-booking) computer terminals’ or ‘terminals for self-booking’: The text says, ‘there is also a Singapore Airlines Service Centre to facilitate bookings and offer information to tourists. Also available are a number of computer terminals for self-booking’.

Questions 15–20

- 15 The correct answer is ‘personality’:** The text says, ‘It’s almost as if the majority of job seekers are afraid to let their own personality shine through.’ **‘Individual’ is incorrect** because it means a single human being and that would not fit in the gap referring to something the job applicants have.
- 16 The correct answer is ‘dull’:** The text says, ‘you want your CV to stand out and yet at the same time are afraid of saying anything that might make you stand out? The problem with the above thinking is painfully clear. Your CV will be dull (boring)’. **‘Clear’ is incorrect** because ‘clear’ in relation to a CV is a positive description, while the sentence requires a negative adjective. A dull CV is not likely to attract an employer.
- 17 The correct answer is ‘qualities’:** The text says, ‘it’s about choosing words that describe the qualities that drive your success’. **‘Brand’ is incorrect** because it is a singular noun and the verb after the gap requires a plural noun. The verb ‘define’ in the text may make ‘brand’ look tempting because the same verb is in the question, but it is important to check any identical words carefully before making a choice.
- 18 The correct answer is ‘viewpoints’:** The text says, ‘Writing about oneself can sometimes be difficult. It involves the ability to see yourself from different people’s viewpoints.’
- 19 The correct answer is ‘colleague’:** The text says, ‘Asking a colleague that you trust is also a good way to find out how others see your strengths (good points)’. **‘CV writer’ is incorrect** because it is two words and the task instructions say that one word only is to be used.
- 20 The correct answer is ‘clichés’ or ‘cliches’:** The text says, ‘Try not to use classic recruitment clichés (words or phrases that are used too often). Everyone (many people) says they have great “communication” or “organisational” skills. This gets ignored by recruiters.’

Questions 21–27

- 21 The correct answer is ‘stationery’:** The text says, ‘Cut down documents and stationery to the bare essentials (the minimum that is necessary).’ **‘Documents’ is incorrect** because that has the same meaning as paperwork, the word which comes after the gap.
- 22 The correct answer is ‘photos’:** The text says, ‘One or two carefully selected photos to make your desk feel like home are fine, but avoid too many.’ **‘Documents’ is incorrect** because they are work-related and not *personal* items. **‘Stationery’ is incorrect** for the same reason and additionally it is an uncountable word that would not follow the phrase ‘number of’ in the question.
- 23 The correct answer is ‘locations’:** The text says, ‘Create locations where you will keep all your work materials to make retrieval (finding them) easy. Do this logically based on where you tend to use the items; for example, store spare copy paper near the printer. Move outside your immediate reach anything you use infrequently (hardly ever).’
- 24 The correct answer is ‘labels’:** The text says, ‘Eliminate desktop chaos (confusion) by using trays, magazine files, or whatever you fancy and add clear labels such as “In”, “Out”...’ **‘Categories’ is incorrect** because it means groups or classes of things and the question requires something specific to identify the different containers.
- 25 The correct answer is ‘requirement’:** The text says, ‘Be brutally honest about what you must keep. Studies suggest that 80% of what we file is never accessed again. Ask: do I know of a tax or legal (official) requirement for retaining (keeping or storing) it?’
- 26 The correct answer is ‘focus’:** The text says, ‘Implementing regular planning strategies will sharpen (improve) your focus, thereby keeping you on track with your work.’ **‘Track’ is incorrect** because the phrase ‘keep on track’ means to make progress as planned not to improve anything. The word ‘track’ by itself means a path and would not make sense in the gap.
- 27 The correct answer is ‘tasks’:** The text says, ‘Start planning today for tomorrow. Near the close of each work day, implement a 10- to 15-minute routine to wrap up loose ends and prioritise key tasks.’ ‘Prioritise’ in this context means deciding which tasks are more important and need urgent attention.

Section 3

Questions 28–32

- 28 The correct answer is iv:** Section A describes how ‘as coal mines became deeper, miners encountered a new and terrible problem – firedamp. This was a natural gas, principally consisting of methane, that exploded on contact with a naked flame.’ **Heading ii is incorrect:** It may look possible because Section A mentions that ‘coal mines became deeper’, but this part of the text focuses on one of the dangers involved in deep mining rather than on the quality of the coal.
- 29 The correct answer is vi:** Section B states how ‘The earliest forms of safety lighting sought to produce light without using a naked flame (a flame that is not covered).’ It goes on to describe two of these early methods to provide lighting. **Heading v is incorrect:** It may look possible as the beginning of Section B mentions that the ‘ventilation’ in many mines needed improving, but the section does not deal with the effect of poor ventilation on miners’ health.
- 30 The correct answer is iii:** Section C says that ‘the clerical, medical and legal professions were beginning to take notice. After 92 men and boys were killed in 1812 by an explosion at Felling Colliery in northern England, several professional people took action and a society was set up to raise funds for the discovery of new methods of lighting and ventilating mines’.
- 31 The correct answer is i:** Section D says, ‘The general belief nowadays is that [Davy] was the inventor of the first miners’ safety lamp, in which the flame was enclosed by a mesh screen containing very small holes ... Davy presented a paper describing the lamp in November 1815 ... However, a few weeks prior to Davy’s presentation, an engineer called George Stephenson had independently designed and demonstrated a lamp based on the same scientific principles. After much discussion and argument, he was eventually recognised as deserving equal credit for the discovery’. Thus, two versions of the safety lamp were designed and there was disagreement about which came first. **Heading vi is incorrect:** It may look possible because Section D describes two attempts to provide lighting, but both Davy and Stephenson designed a lamp ‘in which the flame was enclosed by a mesh screen containing very small holes’.
- 32 The correct answer is viii:** Section E says, ‘the real inventor of the safety lamp was a man called Dr William Reid Clanny, who in 1813 had been awarded a silver medal by the Royal Society of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce for his own version of a safety lamp’. This indicates that Clanny received some recognition. However, the section goes on to describe his work and concludes, ‘to this day Dr Clanny remains a forgotten hero’. Therefore, he did not receive full recognition for his work.

Questions 33–36

33 The correct answer is ‘explosion’: In Section A, the text says, ‘miners encountered a new and terrible problem – firedamp. This was a natural gas ... that exploded on contact with a naked flame. The first known major firedamp explosion ... took place in Belgium in 1514 and as new technology was used to mine at increasingly deep levels, the problem got worse’.

34 The correct answer is ‘shaft’: In Section B, the text says, ‘Many mines had only one shaft leading from the surface down to the working area below. Ventilation could be improved to some extent by dividing (separating) this into a downcast (bringing in fresh air) and an upcast (returning foul air and firedamp to the surface).’

35 The correct answer is ‘sparks’: In Section B, the text says, ‘An alternative was a device ... consisting of a flint which struck against a piece of iron when a handle was turned, creating a shower of sparks which lit up the surrounding area. These were believed to be too cool to ignite firedamp (the gas).’

36 The correct answer is ‘manpower’: In Section B, the text says, ‘extra manpower had to be used to operate [the device] continuously’. **‘Maintenance’ is incorrect** because although the device did require maintenance, this word already appears after the gap.

Questions 37–40

37 The correct answer is A: In Section C, the text says, ‘Some mines were being forced to stop production, with serious economic consequences for the mine owners and local communities. The general response, however, was to keep going and reluctantly accept the inevitable deaths from ignition of firedamp as a regrettable, but not especially remarkable, consequence of coal mining.’

B and C are incorrect because there is no mention in the text that ‘By about 1810’ the mine owners were being criticised for the conditions in their mines or that they used unfair pressure to keep the mines open.

D is incorrect because the text says that the mine owners had to ‘reluctantly accept the inevitable deaths from ignition of firedamp’, so they were aware of the dangers in the mines.

38 The correct answer is B: In Section C, the text says, ‘After 92 men and boys were killed in 1812 by an explosion at Felling Colliery in northern England, several professional people (not the mine owners) took action and a society was set up to raise funds for the discovery of new methods of lighting and ventilating mines.’ The founding of this society indicates that members of the public had started to take mine safety seriously.

A is incorrect because there is no mention of legal protection for miners in the text. The text says, ‘the clerical, medical and legal professions were beginning to take notice’, but this means they were taking notice of mine safety, not that they were providing legal protection for miners.

C is incorrect because the explosion did not demonstrate any lack of concern. In fact, the news of the explosion caused some people to be so concerned about the miners’ safety that they set up a society to improve their conditions.

D is incorrect because there is no mention in the text of the miners receiving training in safety procedures.

39 The correct answer is D: In Section D, the text says, ‘the flame was enclosed by a mesh screen containing very small holes. Air could enter the lamp through the holes, but they were too small to allow the flame of the lamp to pass through them’.

A is incorrect because there is no information in the text about the length of time the lamp could stay alight.

B is incorrect because the text does not mention the size of the flame. The only mention of size comes when the text says that the holes in the mesh ‘were too small to allow the flame of the lamp to pass through them and ignite any firedamp present in the mine tunnels’, referring to the holes not the flame.

C is incorrect because the flame did have contact with the air. The text says, ‘Air could enter the lamp through the holes’.

40 The correct answer is D: In Section D, the text says, ‘a few weeks prior to Davy’s presentation, an engineer called George Stephenson had independently designed and demonstrated a lamp’. The fact that Stephenson had ‘demonstrated’ a lamp indicates that he had shown people an example of a safety lamp that was working.

A is incorrect because although the text mentions trialling, this is with reference to Davy’s not Stephenson’s lamp: ‘Davy presented a paper describing the lamp in November 1815, and it was trialled in January 1816.’

B is incorrect because there is no mention in the text that Davy refused to accept Stephenson’s work.

C is incorrect because Stephenson did not claim Davy’s work was based on false (incorrect) principles. In fact, ‘George Stephenson had independently designed and demonstrated a lamp based on the *same* scientific principles.’