

# ROAD TO IELTS

IELTS preparation and practice



## Reading

General Training module  
Practice test 9

Candidate Number

Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_

**INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM****General Training Reading****PRACTICE TEST**

1 hour

**Time** 1 hour

ROAD TO IELTS  
www.takeIELTS.britishcouncil.org

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Do not open this question paper until you are told to do so.

**Write your name and candidate number in the spaces at the top of this page.**

Read the instructions for each part of the paper carefully.

Answer all the questions.

Write your answers on the answer sheet. Use a pencil.

You **must** complete the answer sheet within the time limit.

At the end of the test, hand in both this question paper and your answer sheet.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

There are 40 questions on this question paper.

Each question carries one mark.

## SECTION 1      Questions 1-13

Read the text below and answer Questions 1 - 6.

A)

### **FIRST MONTH FREE**

2 bedroom, 2 bath with washing machine.  
Large kitchen with custom cabinets and  
professional appliances

High ceilings, hardwood flooring, large  
closet and private balcony

Gated community, two parking spaces and  
bicycle racks. Convenient location close to  
three highways. 15 minute drive to  
downtown.

Walking distance to convenience shops,  
supermarkets and restaurants.

\$2995/month, 130 m<sup>2</sup>

B)

### **\$1400/month - 92 m<sup>2</sup> - No Security Deposit**

This large studio is one open area. There is a kitchen and a shared laundry machine is included.

Large window in the front of the room. Huge closet; new stove; air conditioning. Tenant pays electric  
& gas. Parking available. Bus stop, all major lines, just steps away. Landlord lives in the building.

C)

\$3225/month - 185 m<sup>2</sup>

Your Own Elevator!

Luxury living available now! Top floor with private 27 m<sup>2</sup> roof space. Live near all the great restaurants, clubs  
and theaters. Newer construction with gorgeous features including high ceilings.

Large master bedroom with two large closets. Bedrooms two and three have one closet each. Garage parking  
space included!

D)

\$1795/month - 139 m<sup>2</sup>

Beautiful, fully re-decorated 2-bedroom shared house in the suburbs. Close to Harmony primary academy. Covered parking, laundry in the basement, free storage closet. Rent includes utilities. You pay for rubbish removal. Convenient to shopping centers and the airport. Older couple live downstairs. Please no noise after 9pm.

E)

**\$6750/month**

This stunning, five-bedroom lake house was designed with many green components. Other features include: exposed steel beams and concrete floors. Lower level includes massive home entertainment/media/exercise room. 3 car attached garage. Boat dock included for an extra fee. Pets ok.

F)

**Beautiful, historic home! \$2750/month**

Washing machine, high-speed internet and microwave. Two bedrooms and two bathrooms. Five-minute drive to downtown. Walking distance to book stores, central library and coffee shops. Farmer's market right outside every Wednesday and Saturday. Electric and gas only \$50 a month.

G)

**\$1000/month - Live Near The Zoo**

**Be the first to live in this new 55m<sup>2</sup> unit right next to a beautiful park and river walking trail - and the City Zoo! Features brand new everything - kitchen cabinets, appliance package with washing machine, wood floors, & tile bathroom. Storage and laundry conveniently on site. City center just a 20 minute drive away!**

### Questions 1-6

Look at the seven rental home advertisements A-G on page \_\_\_\_ and read the descriptions of the people below

Which is the most suitable rental home for people who....?

... do not want to pay separately for electricity and have a young child.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

...are students and prefer a unique place to live

2. \_\_\_\_\_

...live with their extended family and enjoy outdoor activities

3. \_\_\_\_\_

...are on a budget who and do not own transportation

4. \_\_\_\_\_

...often have guests and enjoy night life

5. \_\_\_\_\_

...enjoy cooking and prefer a secure place to live

6. \_\_\_\_\_

Read the text below and answer questions 7-14

### Road Safety Tips - What to do if your vehicle is having problems

First, you should note your vehicle's location. If you encounter a problem while driving, make sure you are aware of your surroundings and general location. Know where you are in relation to a major exit or cross street and look for lighted areas. If you are on an interstate highway, note the kilometre marker, last exit number or nearest rest area. Your next step is to assess the problem. While driving, be aware of and know how to respond to warning signs such as steering problems, unusual noises or steam or smoke coming from under the hood. If it's a flat tire or you run out of gas, try not to panic. Signal, slow down gradually and carefully pull onto the shoulder of the road, avoiding any sudden moves.

Be careful when pulling off the road. On most roads, you should exit onto the far right shoulder, as far off the road as possible while remaining on level ground. If you are driving on an interstate or multiple-lane highway with islands or separations, you may consider the left shoulder, again pulling as far away from traffic as possible. If you exit the vehicle, never stand behind or directly in front of it to help avoid injuries if your car is struck by another vehicle. Also, Be sure to alert other drivers. Make sure your vehicle is visible to other drivers, remembering that they may be traveling at a high rate of speed. Then, turn on the emergency flashers, especially at night or during bad weather.

Finally, always communicate your situation. Once you and any passengers are in a safe location, inform others of your vehicle breakdown. Make note of your surroundings and any buildings or road signs. If you have a cell phone, immediately use it to call for help and make the call from inside your vehicle if you are safely out of traffic. Otherwise, do so at a safe distance from the vehicle and road. The most important thing is to remain with your vehicle at all times. Safety experts agree that under most circumstances if you are able to pull away from traffic, it is safest to remain in your vehicle until a police officer arrives.

### Questions 7-14

Complete the sentences below

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the text for each answer

Be aware of your location and try to spot **7.** \_\_\_\_\_.

Remain calm when dealing with minor issues, such as a **8.** \_\_\_\_\_.

You should always exit to the right side of the road, unless it has **9.** \_\_\_\_\_.

Since other cars are moving quickly, yours should be easily seen by **10.** \_\_\_\_\_.

Let others know what happened to your car as soon as you are in **11.** \_\_\_\_\_.

If your car is stopped in traffic, only use your phone away from the **12.** \_\_\_\_\_.

and **13.** \_\_\_\_\_ believe that it is best to stay inside your car and wait for a

**14.** \_\_\_\_\_.

## SECTION 2      Questions 15–28

*Read the text below and answer Questions 15 - 21.*

### **Leadership**

Leaders help themselves and others to do the right things. They set direction, build an inspiring vision, and create something new. Leadership is about mapping out where you need to go to "win" as a team or an organization. Yet, while leaders set the direction, they must also use management skills to guide their people to the right destination, in a smooth and efficient way. An effective leader is a person who creates an inspiring vision of the future and motivates and inspires people to engage with that vision. They also manage delivery of the vision and coach and build a team so that it is more effective at achieving the vision.

In business, a vision is a realistic, convincing and attractive depiction of where you want to be in the future. Vision provides direction, sets priorities, and provides a marker, so that you can tell that you've achieved what you wanted to achieve. To create a vision, leaders focus on an organization's strengths by using a wide variety of tools and analyses. They have to think about how their industry is likely to evolve, and how their competitors are likely to behave. Leaders also feel it's important to look at how they can innovate successfully and shape their businesses and strategies to succeed in future marketplaces. Therefore, leadership is proactive and leaders remain engaged in problem solving and looking ahead.

Once they have developed their visions, leaders must make them compelling and convincing. A compelling vision is one that people can see, feel and understand. Effective leaders provide a rich picture of what the future will look like when their visions have been realized. They tell inspiring stories, and explain their visions in ways that everyone can relate to. Leadership combines the analytical side of vision creation with the passion of shared values, creating something that's really meaningful to the people being led. While a compelling vision provides the foundation for leadership, it is the leaders'



ability to consistently motivate and inspire people that helps them to deliver that vision.

For example, when you start a new project, you will probably have lots of enthusiasm for it at the beginning. However, it can be difficult to find ways to keep your vision inspiring after the initial enthusiasm fades. Leaders recognize this important fact, and they work hard throughout the project to connect their vision with people's individual needs, goals and aspirations.

## Questions 15-21

Choose the correct letter **A**, **B** or **C**.

- 15.** What kind of ability do leaders use to ensure their workers are going in the right direction?
- A. competition
  - B. administration
  - C. persuasion
- 16.** Realizing a vision requires leaders to do what with teams?
- A. create
  - B. deliver
  - C. evolve
- 17.** Why is it important for businesses to have a vision?
- A. it allows them to check their progress
  - B. it exposes key weaknesses
  - C. both A and B
- 18.** Anticipating problems and focusing on the future are examples of what kind of behavior?
- A. attractive
  - B. connective
  - C. proactive
- 19.** What should an inspiring vision be?
- A. detailed and easily understood
  - B. communicated from the leader to their workers
  - C. both A and B
- 20.** A vision can become reality when a leader does what?
- A. makes their workers rich
  - B. keeps their workers focused
  - C. recognizes their workers' importance
- 21.** What is perhaps the most challenging part of keeping a vision alive?
- A. maintaining passion from beginning to end
  - B. shaping a company's strategy
  - C. telling encouraging stories

Read the text below and answer Questions 22-28.

### **Team Building Approaches**

Team building refers to different types of activities that can improve social relations and define roles within teams. Team training, on the other hand, is designed to improve team efficiency, rather than the relationships between team members. Many team building exercises aim to expose and address problems between group members. That is why it is one of the pillars of organizational development. All types of groups, including sports teams, school classes, military units or flight crews all use it to improve performance.

The formal definition of team building includes: aligning around goals, building effective working relationships, reducing team members' role confusion and finding solutions to team problems. Of all organizational activities, one study found team development to have the strongest effect for improving an organizations' performance. A 2008 analysis found that team enhancement activities improve both a team's objective performance and that team's subjective ratings from their superiors. Improving a group's ability to work together benefits the individual, their work unit and the organization as a whole.

There are four main approaches to team building: setting goals, role clarity, problem solving and inter personal (IP) relations. Goal setting emphasizes the importance of clear objectives and individual and team goals. Team members are involved in action planning to identify ways to define success and failure and achieve goals. This is intended to strengthen motivation and foster a sense of ownership. If work mates are involved in setting their own goals, it is more likely that they will achieve them. Teams can also measure their progress by identifying specific outcomes and tests of gradual success. Many organizations negotiate a team charter with the team leaders. This ensures that everyone's efforts move in the same direction.

Role clarity focuses on improving team members' understanding of their own and others' respective roles and duties. This reduces confusion and promotes understanding of the importance of structure. It also places importance on members' support and the value of having each member focus on their own role in the team's success. Problem solving, on the other hand, focuses on identifying major problems within the team and working together to find solutions. This can have the added benefit of enhancing critical thinking. Finally, the field of IP relations tends to increase teamwork skills, such as giving and receiving support, communication and sharing. Teams with fewer IP conflicts generally function more effectively than others.

## Questions 22-28

*Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text?*

*Answer **True**, **False**, or **Not Given** to questions 15 - 21*

- 22. Team building activities fix group members' relationship problems.
- 23. Team building can be useful for athletic organizations but not pilots and plane officers.
- 24. Team participants make plans to accomplish their aims.
- 25. Setting general goals is the best way for team to monitor advancement.
- 26. Role clarity seeks to minimize doubt and define boundaries.
- 27. Team building has little impact on organizational effectiveness.
- 28. Teams focusing on inter personal (IP) relations tend to receive more awards.

### SECTION 3      Questions 29–40

*Read the text below and answer questions 29 - 40*

#### **Caving**

**29.** \_\_\_\_\_ Caving is the recreational pastime of exploring wild cave systems. In contrast, "speleology" is the scientific study of caves and the cave environment. The challenges involved in caving vary according to the cave being visited, but, in addition to the total absence of light beyond the entrance, often include the negotiation of steep angles, squeezes and water hazards. Cave diving is a distinct, and more hazardous, specialty undertaken by a small minority of technically proficient cavers. In an area of overlap between recreational pursuit and scientific study, the most devoted and serious minded cavers become accomplished at the surveying and mapping of caves and the formal publication of their efforts. Many caving skills overlap with those involved in canyoning, as well as mine and urban exploration. Sometimes categorized as an extreme sport, it is not commonly considered as such by long-time enthusiasts, who may dislike the term for its connotation of disregard for safety.

**30.** \_\_\_\_\_ Caving has also been described as an "individualist's team sport" by some, as cavers can often make a trip without direct physical assistance from others but will generally go in a group for companionship or to provide emergency help if needed. Some, however, consider the assistance cavers give each other as a typical team sport activity. Too much emphasis on the labeling of caving as a sport can narrow the goals of caving as a whole. Caving is often undertaken for the enjoyment of the outdoor activity or for physical exercise, as well as original exploration, similar to mountaineering or diving. Caving often puts the needs and welfare of a cave before those of the active participants. It is fair to say that while caving shares some

attributes of sport activities, for many it goes beyond sports as many cavers pursue cave science, mapping, and the management and conservation of cave resources.

**31. \_\_\_\_\_** Physical or biological science is also an important goal for some cavers. Virgin cave systems comprise some of the last unexplored regions on Earth and much effort is put into trying to locate, enter and survey them. In well-explored regions, the most accessible caves have already been explored, and gaining access to new caves often requires cave digging or cave diving. Caving, in certain areas, has also been utilized as a form of eco and adventure tourism. Tour companies have established an industry leading and guided tours into and through caves. Depending on the type of cave and the type of tour, the experience could be adventurous or ecological. In many areas, there are tours led through lava tubes by a guiding service. Exploring such structures is not without some element of risk.

**32. \_\_\_\_\_** Caves can be dangerous places; dangerously low body temperature, falling, flooding, falling rocks and physical exhaustion are the main risks. Rescuing people from underground is difficult and time-consuming, and requires special skills, training, and equipment. Hard hats are worn to protect the head from bumps and falling rocks. The caver's primary light source is usually mounted on the helmet in order to keep the hands free. Electric LED lights are most common. Many cavers carry two or more sources of light - one as primary and the others as backup in case the first fails. More often than not, a second light will be mounted to the helmet for quick transition if the primary fails. Clothing is also of vital importance. The type of clothes worn underground varies according to the environment of the cave being explored, and the local culture. In cold caves, the caver may wear a warm base layer that retains its insulating properties when wet, such as a fleece suit, and an over suit of hard-wearing or waterproof material. Lighter clothing may be worn in warm caves, particularly if the cave is dry, and in tropical caves thin clothing is used to provide

some scratch protection whilst remaining as cool as possible. Other specialized equipment, also used in climbing, is important to have on-hand.

**33.** \_\_\_\_\_ Ropes, for example, are used for descending or ascending pitches or for protection. Knots commonly used in caving are the figure-of-eight-loop, bowline, alpine butterfly, and Italian hitch. Ropes are usually rigged using bolts, slings, and carabiners. In some cases cavers may choose to bring and use a flexible metal ladder. In addition to the equipment already described, cavers frequently carry packs containing first-aid kits, emergency equipment, and food. Containers for securely transporting waste are also commonly carried. During very long trips, it may be necessary to camp in the cave - some cavers have stayed underground for many days, or in particularly extreme cases, for weeks at a time. This is particularly the case when exploring or mapping very extended cave systems, where it would be impractical to go back over the route back to the surface regularly.

### Questions 29-33

Select the most appropriate heading for each paragraph above from the heading options box. Write the letter of the heading next to each paragraph.

Heading Options
A. Be careful
B. Caving for discovery
C. Be prepared
D. A responsible activity
E. Caving explained
F. Digging and diving
G. Caving culture

### Questions 34-40

Complete the sentences below. Use **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer

34. Cave diving is only done by a \_\_\_\_\_ of very experienced cavers.
35. Cavers often explore caves without \_\_\_\_\_ from others.
36. Many people believe that caving \_\_\_\_\_ sports.
37. Some tour guides lead cavers through an adventurous tour of \_\_\_\_\_.
38. People wear \_\_\_\_\_ to protect their heads while caving.
39. Thin clothing is worn in \_\_\_\_\_ caves.
40. It is sometimes required to \_\_\_\_\_ in caves during long trips.