

IELTS General Reading Test 1

Section 1

Instructions to follow

- You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1–13**, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.

The Earth

(A) The Earth is the third planet from the Sun and it is the only planet known to have life on it. The Earth formed around 4.5 billion years ago. It is one of four rocky planets on the inside of the Solar System. The other three are Mercury, Venus, and Mars.

(B) The large mass of the Sun makes the Earth move around it, just as the mass of the Earth makes the Moon move around it. The Earth also turns round in space, so different parts face the Sun at different times. The Earth goes around the Sun once (one "year") for every 365¼ times it turns all the way around (one "day").

(C) The Moon goes around the Earth about every 27½ days, and reflects light from the Sun. As the Earth goes round the Sun at the same time, the changing light of the Moon takes about 29½ days to go from dark to bright to dark again. That is where the idea of "month" came from. However, now most months have 30 or 31 days so they fit into one year.

(D) The Earth is the only planet in our Solar System that has a large amount of liquid water. About 71% of the surface of the Earth is covered by oceans. Because of this, it is sometimes called the "Blue Planet".

(E) Because of its water, the Earth is home to millions of species of plants and animals. The things that live on Earth have changed its surface greatly. For example, early cyanobacteria changed the air and gave it oxygen. The living part of the Earth's surface is called the "biosphere".

(F) The Earth is part of the eight planets and many thousands of small bodies that move around the Sun as its Solar System. The Solar System is moving through the Orion Arm of the Milky Way Galaxy now, and will be for about the next 10,000 years.

(G) The Earth is generally 150,000,000 kilometers or 93,000,000 miles away from the Sun (this distance is named an "Astronomical Unit"). The Earth moves along its way at an average speed of about 30 km or 19 mi a second. The Earth turns all the way around about $365\frac{1}{4}$ times in the time it takes for the Earth to go all the way around the Sun. To make up this extra bit of a day every year, an additional day is used every four years. This is named a "leap year".

(H) The Moon goes around the Earth at an average distance of 400,000 kilometers (250,000 mi). It is locked to Earth, so that it always has the same half facing the Earth; the other half is called the "dark side of the Moon". It takes about $27\frac{1}{3}$ days for the Moon to go all the way around the Earth but, because the Earth is moving around the Sun at the same time, it takes about $29\frac{1}{2}$ days for the Moon to go from dark to bright to dark again. This is where the word "month" came from, even though most months now have 30 or 31 days.

Questions 1–8

Instructions to follow

- Reading Passage 1 has eight paragraphs **A–H**. Which paragraph contains the following information?
- Write the correct letter, **A–H**, in boxes **1–8** on your answer sheet.

- 1 Earth's natural satellite
- 2 Distance between Earth and Sun
- 3 General information about Earth
- 4 The Solar System
- 5 Length of most months
- 6 Another name for Earth
- 7 The living part of the Earth's surface
- 8 The movements of Earth around the Sun

Questions 9-13

Instructions to follow

- Complete the sentences below.
- Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the text for each answer.
- Write your answers in boxes **9-13** on your answer sheet.

9. Apart from Earth, other rocky planets in our Solar Systems are Venus, Mars and _____.
10. Moon _____ from the Sun on Earth.
11. There are millions of _____ of plants and animals that inhabit Earth.
12. Now the Solar System is travelling through _____ &.
13. The dark side of the Moon is the side, which _____ faces Earth.

Section 2

Instructions to follow

- You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 14-27**. Read the texts below and answer the following questions.

1. The Vitamin Shoppe: 1,946 part-time openings.

The Vitamin Shoppe is a New Jersey-based retailer of nutritional supplements. They also operate stores in Canada under the name "VitaPath". The company provides approximately 8,000 different SKU's of supplements through its retail stores and over 20,000 different SKU's of supplements through its online retail websites.

Employee Review: "Good growth opportunities and stores opening all over the US all year 'round. Company based out of NJ, so more progressive policies on employment and benefits. Good vacation, health, and dental benefits. Payment is above average. Good policies on customer service interaction as well. Focus on Customer service vs. pushing products."

2. Chipotle: 1,553 part-time openings.

Chipotle is known for its use of organic meats throughout its more than 1,500 restaurants, which are located in 45 states. Since having been founded in 1993, the chain has since exploded and now counts some 37,000 employees. It is a pioneer in the "fast casual" dining movement.

Employee Review: "The people I work with are awesome and the food is good. It pays my bills and makes me laugh. The schedule is super flexible but it's a lot of work. If you're looking for something easy and laid back, keep looking."

3. Advantage Sales & Marketing: 1,742 part-time openings.

Advantage Sales & Marketing provides outsourced sales, merchandising, and marketing services to consumer goods and food product manufacturers and suppliers. Owning more than 65 offices in the US and Canada, ASM does merchandising for 1,200 clients -- including Johnson & Johnson, Mars, Unilever, Energizer.

Employee Review: "Long lasting business, able to adapt to changes in market. Well-thought out schedule, and flexible time off for both vacation and illness."

4. Universal Protection Service: 1,219 part-time openings.

Universal Protection Service is one of the largest providers of security services in the U.S. They offer an expansive range of security solutions for airports, healthcare facilities, office buildings, and more.

Employee Review: "Good pay depending on where you work. Room for advancement based on availability. Better company than any other I have worked for in security."

5. PSA Healthcare: 1,295 part-time openings

PSA Healthcare, also known as Pediatric Services of America, provides comprehensive home health services through a branch of office across the United States. The company is headquartered in Atlanta, Ga.

Employee Review: "I love working one-on-one with the pediatric patient and their families. You have the time needed to give great compassionate care! Office staff and supervisors are very good with both employees and clients. There is a lot of flexibility with staffing. I never received grief for requesting a day off."

Questions 14-22

Instructions to follow

- Choose the correct letter, **A, B, C** or **D**.
- Write the correct letter in boxes **14–22** on your answer sheet.

14 Which offer has the most part-time openings?

A ☐ Chipotle **B** ☐

PSA Healthcare

C ☐ The Vitamin Shoppe

D ☐ Advantage Sales & Marketing

15 Which of these companies operate both in USA and Canada?

A ☐ The Vitamin Shoppe and Advantage Sales & Marketing

B ☐ PSA Healthcare and Advantage Sales & Marketing

B ☐ Chipotle and PSA Healthcare

D ☐ PSA Healthcare and The Vitamin Shoppe

16 Review of which company says that it is the best security company he/she worked for?

A ☐ Chipotle

B ☐ The Vitamin Shoppe

B ☐ Universal Protection Service

D ☐ PSA Healthcare

17 Which company was founded in 1993?

A ☐ The Vitamin Shoppe

- ☐ B Universal Protection Service
- ☐ B PSA Healthcare
- ☐ D Chipotle

18. Main office of which company is situated in Atlanta?

- ☐ A The Vitamin Shoppe
- ☐ B PSA Healthcare
- ☐ B Chipotle
- ☐ D Advantage Sales & Marketing

19. VitaPath is the other name of which company?

- ☐ A PSA Healthcare
- ☐ B Universal Protection Service
- ☐ B The Vitamin Shoppe
- ☐ D Advantage Sales & Marketing

20. Which review doesn't mention a comfortable timetable?

- ☐ A Chipotle
- ☐ B Advantage Sales & Marketing
- ☐ B The Vitamin Shoppe
- ☐ D PSA Healthcare

21. Which company is described as a long lasting business?

- ☐ A PSA Healthcare
- ☐ B Advantage Sales & Marketing
- ☐ B Universal Protection Service

☒ D ☐ Chipotle

22. Organic meat is used by what company?

☐ A ☐ Chipotle

☐ B ☐ The Vitamin Shoppe

☐ B ☐ Advantage Sales & Marketing

☐ D ☐ None of them

Questions 23-26

Instructions to follow

- Do the following statements agree with the information given in Section 2?
- In boxes **23–26** on your answer sheet, write
- **TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information
- **FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information
- **NOT GIVEN** if there is no information on this

23. The Vitamin Shoppe has an above average salary, according to the review.

24. Reviewer of the company Chipotle says that working there is both fun and earns enough money.

25. Advantage Sales & Marketing owns 65 offices all over the world.

26. Universal Protection Service offers various security services in the USA.

Section 3

Instructions to follow

- You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 27-40**, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.

A History of Fingerprinting

A. To detectives, the answers lie at the end of our fingers. Fingerprinting offers an accurate and infallible means of personal identification. The ability to identify a person from a mere fingerprint is a powerful tool in the fight against crime. It is the most commonly used forensic evidence, often outperforming other methods of identification. These days, older methods of ink fingerprinting, which could take weeks, have given way to newer, faster techniques like fingerprint laser scanning, but the principles stay the same. No matter which way you collect fingerprint evidence, every single person's print is unique. So, what makes our fingerprints different from our neighbour's?

B. A good place to start is to understand what fingerprints are and how they are created. A fingerprint is the arrangement of skin ridges and furrows on the tips of the fingers. This ridged skin develops fully during foetal development, as the skin cells grow in the mother's womb. These ridges are arranged into patterns and remain the same throughout the course of a person's life. Other visible human characteristics, like weight and height, change over time whereas fingerprints do not. The reason why every fingerprint is unique is that when a baby's genes combine with environmental influences, such as temperature, it affects the way the ridges on the skin grow. It makes the ridges develop at different rates, buckling and bending into patterns.

As a result, no two people end up having the same fingerprints. Even identical twins possess dissimilar fingerprints.

C. It is not easy to map the journey of how the unique quality of the fingerprint came to be discovered. The moment in history it happened is not entirely dear. However, the use of fingerprinting can be traced back to some ancient civilisations, such as Babylon and China, where thumbprints were pressed onto clay tablets to confirm business transactions. Whether people at this time actually realised the full extent of how fingerprints were important for identification purposes is another matter altogether. One cannot be sure if the act was seen as a means to confirm identity or a symbolic gesture to bind a contract, where giving your fingerprint was like giving your word.

D. Despite this uncertainty, there are those who made a significant contribution towards the analysis of fingerprinting. History tells us that a 14th century Persian doctor made an early statement that no two fingerprints are alike. Later, in the 17th century, Italian physician Marcello Malpighi studied the distinguishing shapes of loops and spirals in fingerprints.

In his honour, the medical world later named a layer of skin after him. It was, however, an employee for the East India Company, William Herschel, who came to see the true potential of fingerprinting. He took fingerprints from the local people as a form of signature for contracts, in order to avoid fraud. His fascination with fingerprints propelled him to study them for the next twenty years. He developed the theory that fingerprints were unique to an individual and did not change at all over a lifetime. In 1880 Henry Faulds suggested that fingerprints could be used to identify convicted criminals. He wrote to Charles Darwin for advice, and the idea was referred on to Darwin's cousin, Sir Francis Galton. Galton eventually published an in-depth study of fingerprint science in 1892.

E. Although the fact that each person has a totally unique fingerprint pattern had been well documented and accepted for a long time, this knowledge was not exploited for criminal identification until the early 20th century. In the past branding, tattooing and maiming had been used to mark the criminal for what he was. In some countries, thieves would have their hands cut off. France branded criminals with the fleur-de-lis symbol. The Romans tattooed mercenary soldiers to stop them from becoming deserters.

F. For many years police agencies in the Western world were reluctant to use fingerprinting, much preferring the popular method of the time, the Bertillon System, where dimensions of certain body parts were recorded to identify a criminal. The turning point was in 1903 when a prisoner by the name of Will West was admitted into Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary. Amazingly, Will had almost the same Bertillon measurements as another prisoner residing at the very same prison, whose name happened to be William West. It was only their fingerprints that could tell them apart. From that point on, fingerprinting became the standard for criminal identification.

G. Fingerprinting was useful in identifying people with a history of crime and who were listed on a database. However, in situations where the perpetrator was not on the database and a crime had no witnesses, the system fell short. Fingerprint chemistry is a new technology that can work alongside traditional fingerprinting to find more clues than ever before. From organic compounds left behind on a print, a scientist can tell if the person is a child, an adult, a mature person or a smoker, and much more. It seems, after all these years, fingers continue to point the way.

Questions 27-32

Instructions to follow

- Reading Passage 3 has seven paragraphs, A-G.
- Choose the correct heading for paragraphs B-G from the list of headings below.

List of Headings

- i. Key people that made a difference
- ii. An alternative to fingerprinting
- iii. The significance of prints
- iv. How to identify a criminal
- v. Patterns in the making
- vi. Family connections
- vii. Exciting new developments
- viii. A strange coincidence
- ix. Punishing a criminal
- x. An uncertain past

Example	Answer
iii	Paragraph A

- 27. Paragraph B
- 28. Paragraph C
- 29. Paragraph D
- 30. Paragraph E
- 31. Paragraph F
- 32. Paragraph G

Question 33- 35

Instructions to follow

- Complete the sentences.
- Choose NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the passage for each answer.

33. Unlike other _____ characteristics that you can see, fingerprints never change.
34. Although genetically the same _____, identical twins do not share the same fingerprints.
35. A fingerprint was a substitute for a _____ signature in Indian contracts.

Question 36 - 40

Instructions to follow

- Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?
- For questions numbering from 33- 35, You have to write:
- **TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information
- **FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information
- **NOT GIVEN** if there is no information on this

36. Fingerprinting is the only effective method
37. for identifying criminals. The ridges and
38. patterns that makeup fingerprints develop before birth. Malpighi conducted his studies in Italy.
39. Roman soldiers were tattooed to prevent them from
40. committing violent crimes. Fingerprint chemistry can identify if a fingerprint belongs to an elderly person.