

IELTS General Reading Test 5

Section 1

Instructions to follow

- Read the text below and answer Questions 1-6.

"Sustainable School Travel Strategy" & "Flu: the facts"

Sustainable School Travel Strategy

Over the last 20 years, the number of children being driven to school in England has doubled. National data suggests that one in five cars on the road at 8.50 am is engaged in the school run. Children are subject to up to 3.9 times more pollution in a car that is standing in traffic than when walking or cycling to school. Reducing cars around schools makes them safer places, and walking and cycling are better for health and the environment. It has been noted by teachers that children engaging in active travel arrive at school more alert and ready to learn.

The County Council has a strong commitment to supporting and promoting sustainable school travel. We collect data annually about how pupils get to school, and our report on the Sustainable School Travel Strategy sets out in detail what we have achieved so far and what we intend to do in the future. Different parts of the County Council are working together to address the actions identified in the strategy, and we are proud that we have been able to reduce the number of cars on the daily school run by an average of 1% in each of the last three years, which is equivalent to taking approximately 175 cars off the road annually, despite an increase in pupil numbers.

All schools have a School Travel Plan, which sets out how the school and the Council can collaborate to help reduce travel to school by car and encourage the use of public transport. Contact your school to find out what they are doing as part of their School Travel Plan to help you get your child to school in a sustainable, safe way.

Questions 1-6

Instructions to follow

- Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text?
- In boxes 1-6 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

1. More children are injured when walking or cycling to school than when travelling by car.
2. Children who are driven to school are more ready to learn than those who walk or cycle.
3. Every year the Council gathers information about travel to schools.
4. The Council is disappointed with the small reduction in the number of cars taking children to school.
5. The number of children in schools has risen in recent years.
6. Parents can get help with paying for their children to travel to school by public transport.

Flu: the facts

Instructions to follow

- Read the text below and answer Questions 7-14.

A. Flu (influenza) is an acute viral respiratory infection. It spreads easily from person to person: at home, at school, at work, at the supermarket or on the train.

B. It gets passed on when someone who already has flu coughs or sneezes and is transmitted through the air by droplets, or it can be spread by hands infected by the virus.

C. Symptoms can include fever, chills, headache, muscle pain, extreme fatigue, a dry cough, sore throat and stuffy nose. Most people will recover within a week but flu can cause severe illness or even death in people at high risk. It is estimated that 18,500-24,800 deaths in England and Wales are attributable to influenza infections annually.

D. Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent infection. Although anyone can catch flu, certain people are at greater risk from the implications of flu, as their bodies may not be able to fight the virus. If you are over 65 years old, or suffer from asthma, diabetes, or certain other conditions, you are considered at greater risk from flu and the implications can be serious. If you fall into one of these 'at-risk' groups, are pregnant or a carer, you are eligible for a free flu vaccination.

E. If you are not eligible for a free flu vaccination, you can still protect yourself and those around you from flu by getting a flu vaccination at a local pharmacy.

F. About seven to ten days after vaccination, your body makes antibodies that help to protect you against any similar viruses that may infect you. This protection lasts about a year.

G. A flu vaccination contains inactivated, killed virus strains so it can't give you the flu. However, a flu vaccination can take up to two weeks to begin working, so it is possible to catch flu in this period.

H. A flu vaccination is designed to protect you against the most common and potent strains of flu circulating so there is a small chance you could catch a strain of flu not contained in the flu vaccine.

I. The influenza virus is constantly changing and vaccines are developed to predicted strains each year so it is important to get vaccinated against the latest strains.

Speak to your GP or nurse today to book your flu vaccination.

Questions 7-14

Instructions to follow

- The text has nine sections, A-I. Which sections contain the following information?
- Write the correct letter, A-I, in boxes 7-14 on your answer sheet.
- NB You may use any answer more than once.

7. examples of people who are likely to be particularly badly affected by flu

8. how to get a vaccination if you choose to pay for it

- 9. why new vaccines become available
- 10. how long a vaccine remains effective
- 11. reference to the possibility of catching a different type of flu from the ones in the vaccine
- 12. categories of people who do not have to pay for vaccination
- 13. information about what a vaccine consists of
- 14. signs that you might have flu

Section 2

Question 15-27

Instructions to follow

- You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 15-27.

Choosing premises for a new business & California State College

Instructions to follow

- Read the text below and answer Questions 15-20.

Choosing Premises For a New Business

What you need

Three factors dominate the priorities of small businesses looking for premises: cost, cost and cost. Nobody ever has enough money, so there is an overwhelming temptation to go for the cheapest property. It is a mistake that can take decades to rectify - and even threaten the future of a promising business.

Ironically some firms swing too far in the other direction, committing themselves to a heavy initial outlay because they believe in the importance of image - and that does not come cheap. Finding the right premises is the real secret. That can, and will, vary enormously according to the type of business. But there are some general rules that apply to any operation.

Location

High street premises are important for shops which rely on passing trade - but these are expensive. Rents fall quickly within a few metres of main roads. Offices, however, need not be located centrally, particularly if most business is done on the phone or via email.

Manufacturing and storage relies heavily on access. Think about how vans and lorries will deliver and collect goods from the premises. Nearby parking can be important for staff, and public transport can be even more so, as traffic restrictions tighten.

Size

This is a crucial decision. Health and Safety laws provide basic guidance on how much room is required per office desk or manufacturing operation. But remember to allow for growth.

Growth

Every small business aims to become a big business, but this prospect can be obstructed if the wrong decisions are made early on. It is important to consider flexibility from the start. Can a building be physically altered internally by knocking down walls or by extending outwards or adding extra floors? Is there spare land next door to expand later if necessary?

Landlords obviously have to agree to any changes so it is important that the contract includes details of what will be allowed and how much extra will be charged on top of the costs of rebuilding or alteration. Planning rules must also be considered. Local authorities are not always open to discussion about the future of premises. They may have rigid rules about increasing density of development. The building may be in a conservation area or near housing, in which case it will be much more difficult to consider changes.

Questions 15-20

Instructions to follow

- Complete the sentences below.
- Choose NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the text for each answer.
- Write your answers in boxes 15-20 on your answer sheet.

- 15 Some people choose expensive premises because they want to create an impressive for their company.
- 16 Businesses which depend onneed to be on or near the principal shopping areas.
- 17 Businesses which produce goods must check there is.....to the premises for delivery vehicles.
- 18 When choosing a building for your premises, find out whethercould be removed to create more room.
- 19 Make sure that the states what type of building alterations might be permitted.
- 20 If business premises are located close to....., extensions may not be allowed.

California State College

Working Conditions And BENEFITS For Employees

Instructions to follow

- Read the text below and answer Questions 21-27.

Payday

Employees are paid every other Friday. If Friday is a holiday, payday will be the following Monday. Generally, employees pick up the pay checks in their department; if not, they may be picked up at the Business Office.

Overtime

All time worked over eight hours in one day and forty hours in a workweek, and also the first eight hours worked on the seventh day of work in a workweek is considered overtime for non-exempt employees. The supervisor must approve all overtime before overtime occurs. Hours in excess of eight hours on the seventh day and in excess of twelve hours in one day will be paid at double time. Exempt employees receive no additional compensation for overtime hours.

Parking

All employees who will be parking in a staff parking zone must obtain a parking permit. A monthly pre-tax payroll deduction can be made by visiting Human Resources. If you wish to pay cash, present your staff I.D. and license number to the Cashier's Office. The Safety Department will ticket cars without a parking permit and a fine will be applied.

I.D. Card

All employees are required to carry an I.D. card. If an employee loses his/her card, there will be an automatic charge of \$5.00 to issue a duplicate. If an employee gives up employment, his/her I.D. card must be returned prior to the release of the final paycheck.

Holidays

All regular and temporary full-time employees generally receive approximately 13 paid holidays during the course of each calendar year. Regular part-time employees will receive holiday benefits worked out using a prorated system. The holiday schedule is initiated annually.

Personal Holiday

Each employee is granted one extra day as a Personal Holiday at the time of hire, and at the beginning of each calendar year, Personal Holiday hours must be taken at one time (eight hours full-time or prorated based on the employee's time). Employees requesting Personal Holiday will be required to complete 'Leave Request' forms. No more than one Personal Holiday is authorized annually.

Birthday Holiday

All regular and temporary full-time or part-time employees are entitled to take their birthday off with pay. An employee has a fifteen-day span before and following his/her birthday to take the paid day off. What is known as a grace period through January 15th is given to those employees whose birthdays fall between December 16th and the end of the year.

Questions 21-27

Instructions to follow

- Answer the questions below
- Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the text for each answer.
- Write your answers in boxes 21-27 on your answer sheet.

21. Where do most employees collect their wages?

22. Who has to authorise any overtime an employee wishes to do?

23. Who is not paid extra for working more than 40 hours a week?

24. Where should employees go if they wish to have the parking charge taken off their salary?

25. What method is used to calculate part-time employees' holidays?

26. Which documents must employees fill in to select their Personal Holiday?

27. What is the name of the special entitlement provided to employees with birthdays in the second half of December?

Section 3

Question 28-40

Instructions to follow

- You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 28-40.
- Read the text below and answer Questions 28-40.

A Very Special Dog

Florence is one of a new breed of dog who is making the work of the Australian Customs much easier.

It is 8.15 a.m. A flight lands at Melbourne's Tullamarine International Airport. Several hundred pieces of baggage are rushed from the plane onto a conveyor belt in the baggage reclaim annexe. Over the sound of roaring engines, rushing air vents and grinding generators, a dog barks. Florence, a sleek black labrador, wags her tail.

Among the cavalcade of luggage passing beneath Florence's all-smelling nose, is a nondescript hardback suitcase. Inside the case, within styrofoam casing, packed in loose pepper and coffee, wrapped in freezer paper and heat-sealed in plastic, are 18 kilograms of hashish.

The cleverly concealed drugs don't fool super-sniffer Florence, and her persistent scratching at the case alerts her handler. Florence is one of a truly new breed: the product of what is perhaps the only project in the world dedicated to breeding dogs solely to detect drugs. Ordinary dogs have a 0.1% chance of making it in drug detection. The new breeding programme, run by the Australian Customs, is so successful that more than 50% of its dogs make the grade.

And what began as a wholly practical exercise in keeping illegal drugs out of Australia may end up playing a role in an entirely different sphere - the comparatively esoteric world of neurobiology. It turns out that it's not Florence's nose that makes her a top drug dog, but her unswerving concentration, plus a few other essential traits. Florence could help neurobiologists to understand both what they call 'attention processing', the brain mechanisms that determine what a person pays attention to and for how long, and its flip side, problems such as Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). As many as 3 to 5% of children are thought to suffer from the condition in the US, where the incidence is highest, although diagnosis is often controversial.

The Australian Customs has used dogs to find drugs since 1969. Traditionally, the animals came from pounds and private breeders. But, in 1993, fed up with the poor success rate of finding good dogs this way, John Vandeloo, senior instructor with the Detector Dog Unit, joined forces with Kath Champness, then a doctoral student at the University of Melbourne, and set up a breeding programme.

Champness began by defining six essential traits that make a detector dog. First, every good detector dog must love praise because this is the only tool trainers have at their disposal, but the dog must still be able to work for long periods without it. Then it needs a strong hunting instinct and the stamina to keep sniffing at the taxing rate of around 300 times per minute. The ideal detector is also fearless enough to deal with jam-packed airport crowds and the roaring engine rooms of cargo ships.

The remaining two traits are closely related and cognitive in nature. A good detector must be capable of focusing on the task of searching for drugs, despite the distractions in any airport or dockside. This is what neurobiologists call 'selective attention'. And finally, with potentially tens

of thousands of hiding places for drugs, the dog must persevere and maintain focus for hours at a time. Neurobiologists call this 'sustained attention'.

Vandeloo and Champness assess the dogs' abilities to concentrate by marking them on a scale of between one and five according to how well they remain focused on a toy tossed into a patch of grass. Ivan scores a feeble one. He follows the toy, gets half-way there, then becomes distracted by places where the other dogs have been or by flowers in the paddock. Rowena, on the other hand, has phenomenal concentration; some might even consider her obsessive.

When Vandeloo tosses the toy, nothing can distract her from the searching, not other dogs, not food. And even if no one is around to encourage her, she keeps looking just the same. Rowena gets a five.

A person's ability to pay attention, like a dog's, depends on a number of overlapping cognitive behaviours, including memory and learning - the neurobiologist's attention processing. Attention in humans can be tested by asking subjects to spot colours on a screen while ignoring shapes, or to spot sounds while ignoring visual cues, or to take a 'vigilance test'. Sitting a vigilance test is like being a military radar operator. Blips appear on a cluttered monitor infrequently and at irregular intervals. Rapid detection of all blips earns a high score. Five minutes into the test, one in ten subjects will start to miss the majority of the blips, one in ten will still be able to spot nearly all of them and the rest will come somewhere in between.

Vigilance tasks provide signals that are infrequent and unpredictable - which is exactly what is expected of the dogs when they are asked to notice just a few odour molecules in the air, and then to home in on the source. During a routine mail screen that can take hours, the dogs stay so focused that not even a postcard lined with 0.5 grams of heroin and hidden in a bulging sack of letters escapes detection.

With the current interest in attentional processing, as well as human conditions that have an attention deficit component, such as ADHD, it is predicted that it is only a matter of time before the super-sniffer dogs attract the attention of neurobiologists trying to cure these conditions.

Questions 28-32

Instructions to follow

- Choose the correct letter, A, B, C, or D.
- Write the correct letter in boxes 28-32 on your answer sheet.

28. The drugs in the suitcase

- A ☐ were hidden inside the lining.
- B ☐ had pepper and coffee around them.
- B ☐ had previously been frozen.
- D ☐ had a special smell to repel dogs.

29. Most dogs are not good at finding drugs because

- A ☐ they don't work well with a handler.
- B ☐ they lack the right training.
- B ☐ the drugs are usually very well hidden.
- D ☐ they lack certain genetic qualities.

30. Florence is a good drug detector because she

- A ☐ has a better sense of smell than other dogs.
- B ☐ is not easily distracted.
- B ☐ has been specially trained to work at airports.

☒ D ☐ enjoys what she is doing.

31. Dogs like Florence may help scientists understand

- ☐ A ☐ how human and dog brains differ.
- ☐ B ☐ how people can use both sides of their brain.
- ☐ B ☐ why some people have difficulty paying attention.
- ☐ D ☐ the best way for people to maintain their focus.

32. In 1993, the Australian Customs

- ☐ A ☐ decided to use its own dogs again.
- ☐ B ☐ was successful in finding detector dogs.
- ☐ B ☐ changed the way it obtained dogs.
- ☐ D ☐ asked private breeders to provide more dogs.

Questions 33-36

Instructions to follow

- Choose FOUR letters, A-J. Write the correct letters in boxes 33-36 on your answer sheet.

The writer mentions a number of important qualities that detector dogs must have. Which FOUR of the following qualities are mentioned by the writer of the text?

- ☒ A. a good relationship with people
- ☒ B. a willingness to work in smelly conditions
- ☒ C. quick reflexes

- D.** an ability to work in noisy conditions
- E.** an ability to maintain concentration
- F.** a willingness to work without constant encouragement
- G.** the skill to find things in long grass
- H.** experience as hunters
- I.** a desire for people's approval
- J.** the ability to search a large number of places rapidly

33

- A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G** ☐ **H** ☐ **I** ☐ **J** ☐

34

- A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G** ☐ **H** ☐ **I** ☐ **J** ☐

35

- A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G** ☐ **H** ☐ **I** ☐ **J** ☐

Questions 37-40

Instructions to follow

- Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text?
- In boxes 37-40 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

37. Methods of determining if a child has ADHD are now widely accepted.
38. After about five minutes of a vigilance test, some subjects will still notice some blips.
39. Vigilance tests help improve concentration.
40. If a few grams of a drug are well concealed, even the best dogs will miss them.