

CAMBRIDGE IELTS 9 - TEST 3 - READING

READING PASSAGE 1

Question 1-8:

1. YES (para 1, first 2 lines: “It is not easy to be systematic and objective about language study. Popular linguistic debate regularly deteriorates into invective and polemic. Language belongs to everyone, so most”)
2. NO (para 1, last 2 lines: “can run high. Arguments can start as easily over minor points of usage as over major policies of linguistic education”)
3. YES (para 2, line 2-3: “and criticised. No part of society or social behaviour is exempt: linguistic factors influence how we judge personality, intelligence, social status, educational standards, job aptitude”)
4. NOT GIVEN
5. YES (para 5, first 2 lines: “These attitudes are still with us, and they motivate a widespread concern that linguistic standards should be maintained. Nevertheless, there is an alternative point of view that”)
6. YES
7. NO
(para 5, line 4-8: “summarised in the statement that it is the task of the grammarian to describe, not prescribe — to record the facts of linguistic diversity, and not to attempt the impossible tasks of evaluating language variation or halting language change. In the second half of the 18th century, we already find advocates of this view, such as Joseph Priestley, whose Rudiments”)
8. YES (para 6, first 2 lines: “In our own time, the opposition between ‘descriptivists’ and ‘prescriptivists’ has often become extreme, with both sides painting unreal pictures of the other. Descriptive”)

Question 9-12:

9. H – prescriptivists (para 3, first 2 lines: “In its most general sense, prescriptivism is the view that one variety of language has an inherently higher value than others, and that this ought to be imposed on the whole of”)

10. F – rules (para 4, line 6-7: “to errors, in order to ‘improve’ the language. The authoritarian nature of the approach is best characterised by its reliance on ‘rules’ of grammar. Some usages are ‘prescribed’, to be”)
11. A – descriptivists
12. C – popular speech
(para 5, line 4-12: “summarised in the statement that it is the task of the grammarian to describe, not prescribe — to record the facts of linguistic diversity, and not to attempt the impossible tasks of evaluating language variation or halting language change. In the second half of the 18th century, we already find advocates of this view, such as Joseph Priestley, whose Rudiments of English Grammar (1761) insists that ‘the custom of speaking is the original and only just standard of any language’. Linguistic issues, it is argued, cannot be solved by logic and legislation. And this view has become the tenet of the modern linguistic approach to grammatical analysis”)

Question 13:

13. B

READING PASSAGE 2

Question 14-17:

14. C (para C, first 2 lines: “Work on designs for the new turbine blades and sites are well advanced at the University of Southampton’s sustainable energy research group. The”)
15. E (para E, last 3 lines: “powerful currents. The single undersea turbine farm would produce far more power than needed for the Channel Islands and most would be fed into the French Grid and be re-imported into Britain via the cable under the Channel”)
16. A (para A, first 2 lines: “powerful currents. The single undersea turbine farm would produce far more power than needed for the Channel Islands and most would be fed into the French Grid and be re-imported into Britain via the cable under the Channel”)
17. C (para C, line 8-9: “and constant. The technology for dealing with the hostile saline environment under the sea has been developed in the North Sea oil industry and much”)

Question 18-22:

18. A (para A, line 3: “but, unlike wind, the tides are predictable and the power input is constant”)
19. D (para A, line 5: “but, unlike wind, the tides are predictable and the power input is constant”)
20. E (para A, line 6-7: “tide, wind and wave power are all developed, Britain would be able to close gas, coal and nuclear power plants and export renewable power to other”)
21. F (para A, line 8-11: “parts of Europe. Unlike wind power, which Britain originally developed and then abandoned for 20 years allowing the Dutch to make it a major industry, undersea turbines could become a big export earner to island nations such as Japan and New Zealand”)
22. J (para B, last 3 lines: “Britain’s largest and newest nuclear plant, Sizewell B, in Suffolk. Other sites identified include the Bristol Channel and the west coast of Scotland, particularly the channel between Campbeltown and Northern Ireland”)

Question 23-26:

23. Maintenance (para D, last 3 lines: “national power supply grid via underwater cables. The towers will stick out of the water and be lit, to warn shipping, and also be designed to be lifted out of the water for maintenance and to clean seaweed from the blades”)
24. Slow-turning (para D, line 4-5: “wind power, there are unlikely to be environmental objections. Fish and other creatures are thought unlikely to be at risk from the relatively slow-turning”)
25. Low-pressure
26. Cavitation
(para F, first 2 lines: “One technical difficulty is cavitation, where low pressure behind a turning blade causes air bubbles. These can cause vibration and damage the blades”)

READING PASSAGE 3

Question 27-32:

27. D (para D, line 2-5: “Information theory generalises this idea via theorems that capture the effects of noise with mathematical precision. In particular, Shannon showed that noise sets a limit on the rate at which information can pass along communication channels while remaining error-free. This rate depends on the relative strengths of the signal”)
28. F (para F, line 3-4: “information. As mobile phone text messages like ‘I CN C U’ show, it is often possible to leave out a lot of data without losing much meaning. As with error correction”)
29. B (para B, line 6-7: “computer technology when still a student. While at Bell Laboratories, Shannon developed information theory, but shunned the resulting acclaim. In the 1940s”)
30. E (para E, line 2-5: “proved crucial in many technological feats. The Voyager spacecraft transmitted data using codes which added one extra bit for every single bit of information; the result was an error rate of just one bit in 10,000 — and stunningly clear pictures of the planets. Other codes have become part of everyday life — such as the Universal”)
31. A (para A, line 2-7: “of information theory. The space probe, Voyager I, launched in 1977, had sent back spectacular images of Jupiter and Saturn and then soared out of the Solar System on a one-way mission to the stars. After 25 years of exposure to the freezing temperatures of deep space, the probe was beginning to show its age. Sensors and circuits were on the brink of failing and NASA experts realised that they had to do something or lose contact with their probe forever. The solution was to get a message to Voyager”)
32. C (para C, line 5-7: “of ‘information’. The most basic form of information, Shannon argued, is whether something is true or false — which can be captured in the binary unit, or ‘bit’, of the form 1 or 0. Having identified this fundamental unit, Shannon set about defining”)

Question 33-37:

33. Jupiter & Saturn (para A, line 2-3: “of information theory. The space probe, Voyager I, launched in 1977, had sent back spectacular images of Jupiter and Saturn and then soared out of the Solar System on a”)
34. Solar system (para A, line 3: “spectacular images of Jupiter and Saturn and then soared out of the Solar System on a”)
35. Sensors & circuits (para A, line 4-6: “one-way mission to the stars. After 25 years of exposure to the freezing temperatures of deep space, the probe was beginning to show its age. Sensors and circuits were on the brink of failing and NASA experts realised that they had to do something or”)
36. Spares (para A, line 7-8: “lose contact with their probe forever. The solution was to get a message to Voyager I to instruct it to use spares to change the failing parts. With the probe 12 billion”)
37. Radio dish (para A, line 9-10: “kilometres from Earth, this was not an easy task. By means of a radio dish belonging to NASA’s Deep Space Network, the message was sent out into the depths of space”)

Question 38-40:

38. TRUE (para C, line 5-7: “of ‘information’. The most basic form of information, Shannon argued, is whether something is true or false — which can be captured in the binary unit, or ‘bit’, of the form 1 or 0. Having identified this fundamental unit, Shannon set about defining”)
39. TRUE (para D, line 2-6: “Information theory generalises this idea via theorems that capture the effects of noise with mathematical precision. In particular, Shannon showed that noise sets a limit on the rate at which information can pass along communication channels while remaining error-free. This rate depends on the relative strengths of the signal and noise travelling down the communication channel, and on its capacity (its ‘bandwidth’)
40. FALSE (para E, last 4 lines: “crisps. As recently as 1993, engineers made a major breakthrough by discovering so-called turbo codes — which come very close to Shannon’s ultimate limit for the maximum rate that data can be transmitted reliably, and now play a key role in the mobile videophone revolution”)