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General Training Reading Practice Test

A full-length practice test written by joinIELTS: 3 sections, 40 questions, 60 minutes.

Instructions

- Time: **60 minutes**. There is **no extra time** to copy answers, so write them on the answer sheet (page 8) as you go.
- Answer **all** questions. A wrong answer does not lose marks.
- Section 1 has **14** questions, Section 2 has **13** and Section 3 has **13**. Section 3 has the longest text.
- Spelling counts. Use the words in the text exactly as they appear. Respect the word limit in each task.
- Do not use a dictionary. Check your work against the answer key (page 9) only when you finish.

How to use the result

Count your correct answers out of 40 and look up the approximate band on the last page. The conversion is a guide only: the exact table changes slightly from one official test to the next.

All texts, names, prices and figures in this test were written for practice and are not real. Any resemblance to real businesses or people is accidental.

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SECTION 1 · Questions 1–14

Read the texts below and answer Questions 1–14.

Local services in Brightwell

A · Greenfield Garden Services
Lawn mowing, hedge trimming and general tidying for gardens of all sizes. Prices start at £15 a visit, and we always give a free quote. We bring our own tools and take away all garden waste. We work on weekday evenings and on Saturdays. 10% discount for customers over 65. Call Mark on 555 0142.

B · Bright Start Childcare
A friendly nursery for children aged six months to five years. Open 7.30 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday. Hot meals and snacks are included in the fees. New families get their first week free. Places are limited. Come and look around any Tuesday morning: you do not need to book.

C · Quick Fix Computer Repairs
We repair laptops, tablets and phones. Most problems are fixed on the same day. **No fix, no fee.** Free collection and delivery within ten miles. Open 9 am to 7 pm, seven days a week. Every repair has a three-month guarantee.

D · Harbour Street Dance Studio
Beginner classes in salsa, ballroom and hip-hop, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7 pm. You do not need a partner. Your first class is free, and we can lend you dance shoes if you do not have any. Places can be reserved online only, at our website.

E · Lakeside Driving School
Lessons in manual and automatic cars with friendly, patient instructors. Female instructors are available on request. Pay as you go, or buy a block of ten lessons and save 15%. Pupils receive our theory-test practice app free of charge.

Questions 1–7

*Look at the five advertisements, **A–E**. Which advertisement says each of the following? Write the correct letter, **A–E**, next to Questions 1–7. You may use any letter more than once.*

1 This service does not charge if it cannot solve the problem. _____

2 This service offers a lower price to older customers. _____

3 You can visit this business without making an appointment. _____

4 This business will lend customers something they may need. _____

5 You can only reserve a place with this business on the internet. _____

6 This service gives a discount if you pay for several sessions together. _____

7 This service is open on Sundays. _____

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SECTION 1 (continued)

Harbourside Leisure Centre: Information for members

Your membership card. Please swipe your card at the entrance every time you visit. If you lose your card, you can get a replacement from reception for £5. The pool is open from 6.30 am to 9 pm on weekdays and from 8 am to 6 pm at weekends. Before 9 am the pool is for lane swimming only.

The gym. All new members must complete a free induction before they use the gym. Inductions last about 45 minutes and must be booked at reception. Anyone under the age of 16 may not use the gym equipment. Lockers cost £1, but the coin is returned when you open the locker again.

Changes to your membership. If you cannot use the centre for medical reasons, you can freeze your membership for up to three months. You will need to show a doctor's note. To cancel, you must give 30 days' notice in writing. Annual members receive two free guest passes every month.

Getting here. Members can park free for three hours in the centre's car park. The café on the first floor is open from 8 am until one hour before the centre closes.

Questions 8–14

*Do the following statements agree with the information in the text? Write **TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information, **FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information, or **NOT GIVEN** if there is no information on this.*

8 A member who loses a membership card must pay for a new one. _____

9 The pool is open for longer on Saturdays than on weekdays. _____

10 New members have to attend an induction before using the gym equipment. _____

11 Gym inductions take place on the first Monday of every month. _____

12 Membership can be frozen for up to six months for any reason. _____

13 Annual members get guest passes every month. _____

14 The café sells vegetarian food. _____

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SECTION 2 · Questions 15–27

Read the texts below and answer Questions 15–27.

Job vacancy: Team Leader, Northway Distribution

Northway Distribution is looking for an experienced **Team Leader** to work on the night shift at our Eastfield warehouse. The shift runs from 10 pm to 6 am, four nights a week. The salary is £29,500 a year, plus a shift allowance of £2,400 a year.

Duties. The Team Leader will supervise a team of 12 staff, make sure that all safety rules are followed, check deliveries against orders and report each week to the Operations Manager. New employees must be trained by the Team Leader during their first two weeks.

Requirements. Applicants must have at least two years' experience of warehouse work and hold a current forklift licence (we will pay for renewal). Good IT skills are essential, because we use a stock-control system called StockTrack. You must also be able to lift 20 kg.

Benefits. 25 days' paid holiday a year; free parking; a staff canteen with meals at £1.50; a pension scheme, which you can join after six months.

How to apply. Send your CV and a covering letter to Helen Ward in the Human Resources department. Applications must arrive by 14 November. Interviews will be held in the week beginning 23 November. We do not accept applications from agencies.

Questions 15–21

*Complete the sentences below. Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the text for each answer.*

15 The Team Leader will work _____ nights each week.

16 The extra payment for working at night is _____ a year.

17 The Team Leader will be in charge of a group of _____ staff.

18 New staff must be trained during their first _____.

19 Applicants must hold a current _____ licence.

20 Employees can buy a meal in the canteen for _____.

21 Applications must reach Helen Ward by _____.

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SECTION 2 (continued)

Staff handbook: Leave and absence

A Annual leave must be requested at least two weeks in advance on the online form. Line managers approve requests in the order in which they arrive. During the summer, no more than two weeks may be taken in a row.

B If you cannot come to work because you are ill, you must telephone your manager before 8.30 am on the first day of absence. An email, or a message passed on by a colleague, is not enough.

C Staff who have worked for the company for more than a year may apply for up to five days of paid leave a year to attend an approved course. The course must be related to your job, and you will be asked to share what you have learnt with your team.

D Employees who are off sick for more than seven days must give their manager a doctor's note. Full pay continues for the first eight weeks of absence, followed by half pay for a further eight weeks.

E If a close relative becomes seriously ill, or if there is an accident at home, you may take up to three days of unpaid leave. Please inform your manager as soon as possible and complete the form when you return.

F After an absence of more than four weeks, employees have a short meeting with their manager. At this meeting, any changes at work are explained, and a gradual return to a full workload can be agreed if it is needed.

Questions 22–27

*The text has six paragraphs, **A–F**. Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below. Write the correct number, **i–ix**, next to Questions 22–27.*

List of headings

i Reporting an absence because of illness
ii Rules for taking holiday
iii Time off for family emergencies
iv Payment during long-term sickness
v Working from home
vi Leave for study and training
vii Public holidays
viii Returning after a long absence
ix Planning for retirement

22 Paragraph **A** _____

23 Paragraph **B** _____

24 Paragraph **C** _____

25 Paragraph **D** _____

26 Paragraph **E** _____

27 Paragraph **F** _____

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SECTION 3 · Questions 28–40

Read the text below and answer Questions 28–40.

Fruit for everyone: the rise of the community orchard

A Twenty years ago, the idea of planting fruit trees on public land would have seemed foolish to many city councils. Fallen fruit, they argued, would attract wasps, and rotting apples would make pavements dangerous. Today, however, community orchards are appearing in parks, school grounds and even on the roofs of car parks, and many councils now encourage them actively.

B The movement owes much to a small group of volunteers in a northern town who, in 2009, asked for permission to plant thirty apple and pear trees on a neglected strip of land beside a railway line. The council agreed, partly because the land was costing money to maintain. Within five years the site was producing more than two tonnes of fruit a year and, more importantly, a regular group of about sixty residents had begun to meet there to prune, pick and share the harvest.

C Organisers say that the fruit is almost a side effect. "People come for the trees, but they stay for each other," says one coordinator. A survey by a university research team found that people who lived within a five-minute walk of an orchard knew, on average, twice as many of their neighbours as people who lived further away.

D Choosing the right trees is less simple than it sounds. Traditional varieties, many of which have disappeared from supermarket shelves, tend to resist local diseases better and to flower later, which protects the blossom from spring frosts. Modern commercial varieties, bred for uniform size and long storage, often need regular spraying. Many orchards therefore plant old varieties, and some have become informal libraries of rare apples, with labels that explain each tree's history.

E Not everyone is convinced. Some residents complain about litter and noise, and a few councils worry about who would be responsible if someone fell from a ladder. Insurance has proved a particular obstacle, because small groups cannot always afford the cost. In response, several regional charities now offer a shared policy that covers dozens of orchards at a fraction of the price of individual cover.

F Teachers have been quick to see the possibilities. At one primary school, pupils measure the growth of each tree, record the first blossom every spring and use the harvest in cookery lessons. Staff report that children who help to grow food are more willing to try fruit and vegetables at lunchtime, although they admit that there is no firm evidence that this changes eating habits at home.

G The future of the movement may depend on how well it deals with its own success. As orchards mature, they produce more fruit than volunteers can use, and some groups have begun to press juice or make jam to sell. This raises delicate questions: should the money be kept by the group, shared with the council or given to charity? Most organisers prefer the last option, believing that selling fruit for profit would damage the goodwill that made the project possible.

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SECTION 3 (continued)

Questions 28–32

*Do the following statements agree with the information in the text? Write **TRUE**, **FALSE** or **NOT GIVEN**.*

28 Councils used to be worried that fallen fruit could cause problems. _____

29 The council refused permission for the first orchard at first. _____

30 About sixty residents took part regularly in the activities of the first orchard. _____

31 Traditional apple varieties generally need more spraying than modern ones. _____

32 Teachers have proved that growing food at school changes how children eat at home. _____

Questions 33–36

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

33 What is the main point of paragraph C?

- **A** Most people join an orchard to collect free fruit.
- **B** Surveys about orchards are not reliable.
- **C** Orchards help neighbours to get to know one another.
- **D** People prefer to live near an orchard.

34 Why do many orchards choose traditional varieties?

- **A** They suffer less from disease and flower later.
- **B** They taste sweeter than modern varieties.
- **C** They can be stored for longer.
- **D** They are cheaper to buy than modern varieties.

35 What has helped small groups to deal with the cost of insurance?

- **A** A grant from the government.
- **B** A ban on climbing the trees.
- **C** A payment from the local council.
- **D** A shared policy offered by charities.

36 What do most organisers think should happen to money made from selling fruit?

- **A** It should be paid to the council.
- **B** It should be given to charity.
- **C** It should be shared among volunteers.
- **D** It should be used to buy new trees.

Questions 37–40

*Complete the summary below. Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the text for each answer.*

Many mature orchards produce more fruit than volunteers can use. Some groups therefore press **(37)** _____ or make **(38)** _____ to sell. Most organisers, however, believe that any money should be given to **(39)** _____, because selling fruit for profit could damage the **(40)** _____ that the projects depend on.

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Answer sheet

Write your answers here. Do not look at the answer key until you have finished.

1	_____	**11**	_____	**21**	_____	**31**	_____
2	_____	**12**	_____	**22**	_____	**32**	_____
3	_____	**13**	_____	**23**	_____	**33**	_____
4	_____	**14**	_____	**24**	_____	**34**	_____
5	_____	**15**	_____	**25**	_____	**35**	_____
6	_____	**16**	_____	**26**	_____	**36**	_____
7	_____	**17**	_____	**27**	_____	**37**	_____
8	_____	**18**	_____	**28**	_____	**38**	_____
9	_____	**19**	_____	**29**	_____	**39**	_____
10	_____	**20**	_____	**30**	_____	**40**	_____

Total correct: _____ / 40 Approximate band: _____

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Answer key

Where more than one answer is shown, any one of them is correct. Capital letters do not matter.

Q	Answer	Where to find it / why
1	**C**	Advert C: “No fix, no fee.”
2	**A**	Advert A: 10% discount for customers over 65.
3	**B**	Advert B: look around any Tuesday morning, no need to book.
4	**D**	Advert D: “we can lend you dance shoes”.
5	**D**	Advert D: places “can be reserved online only”.
6	**E**	Advert E: a block of ten lessons saves 15%.
7	**C**	Advert C: open seven days a week.
8	**TRUE**	Paragraph 1: a replacement card costs £5.
9	**FALSE**	Weekdays 6.30 am–9 pm (14.5 hours); weekends 8 am–6 pm (10 hours).
10	**TRUE**	Paragraph 2: “must complete a free induction before they use the gym”.
11	**NOT GIVEN**	No information about when inductions take place.
12	**FALSE**	Up to three months, and only for medical reasons.
13	**TRUE**	“Annual members receive two free guest passes every month.”
14	**NOT GIVEN**	The café’s opening hours are given, but not its menu.
15	**four / 4**	“four nights a week”
16	**£2,400**	“shift allowance of £2,400 a year”
17	**12 / twelve**	“a team of 12 staff”
18	**two weeks**	“during their first two weeks”
19	**forklift**	“a current forklift licence”
20	**£1.50**	“a staff canteen with meals at £1.50”
21	**14 November**	“Applications must arrive by 14 November.”
22	**ii**	A: annual leave, two weeks’ notice, two-week limit in summer.
23	**i**	B: phone before 8.30 am if ill.
24	**vi**	C: paid leave to attend an approved course.
25	**iv**	D: doctor’s note, full pay then half pay.
26	**iii**	E: unpaid leave for a seriously ill relative or an accident.
27	**viii**	F: meeting after an absence of more than four weeks.
28	**TRUE**	Paragraph A: councils feared wasps and dangerous pavements.
29	**NOT GIVEN**	Paragraph B says the council agreed; it does not say it refused first.
30	**TRUE**	Paragraph B: “a regular group of about sixty residents”.
31	**FALSE**	Paragraph D: modern varieties need regular spraying.
32	**FALSE**	Paragraph F: “no firm evidence” of a change at home.
33	**C**	Paragraph C: residents near an orchard know twice as many neighbours.
34	**A**	Paragraph D: they resist local diseases and flower later.
35	**D**	Paragraph E: a shared policy from regional charities.
36	**B**	Paragraph G: selling for profit would damage goodwill; most prefer giving to charity.
37	**juice**	Paragraph G: “press juice”
38	**jam**	Paragraph G: “make jam”
39	**charity**	Paragraph G: “the last option” = given to charity
40	**goodwill**	Paragraph G: “the goodwill that made the project possible”

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Approximate band score (General Training Reading)

Correct answers	Band
40	9
39	8.5
37–38	8
36	7.5
34–35	7
32–33	6.5
30–31	6
27–29	5.5
23–26	5
19–22	4.5
15–18	4

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