



EnglishScore

Reading Practice Questions

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About the Reading practice questions

There are four different types of question in the Reading part of the test.

There is an example at the start of each question type.

The difficulty level of the questions increases as you continue.

You can find answers to all the questions on the last page.

Complete the text

Example

Mia at college

Mia is studying English at Manchester College. She is a good student and can speak English well, but

Choose the best words to complete the text.

- A. she phones her family every weekend
- B. she has difficulties with her writing ✓
- C. she lives a long way from the college

1

Cousin in town

My cousin is visiting this weekend, _____, but I'm free next week if you want to do something then.

Choose the best words to complete the text.

- A. and I think you'll really like him**
- B. so I can't come to dinner on Saturday**
- C. so I cleaned the house all morning yesterday**

2

Travelling home

I'm really sorry, but the last train left ten minutes ago. _____, or I can help you call a taxi if that's easier.

Choose the best words to complete the text.

- A. There is a bus you can take**
- B. The next train is in thirty minutes**
- C. The station will close soon**

Put the sentences in the correct order

Example

Plastic in the environment

- 🔒 One good thing about plastic is that it is strong and lasts a long time.
- A. The result of this is there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans by 2050.
- B. Not all plastic can be recycled, however, and much of it ends up in the sea.
- C. That's why it is the perfect material for so many different purposes.

Put the sentences in the correct order to complete the text.

C. B. A. ✓

1

Customer review about computer

🔒 I don't usually write reviews online for products I buy, but I had to share my thoughts on this computer.

- A. The best thing about it, however, is the battery, which can last for more than ten hours.
- B. First of all, it's very fast, and I can use many different programs at the same time without a problem.
- C. This is by far the best computer I have ever had for the following reasons.

Put the sentences in the correct order to complete the text.

2

Support for employees

🔒 I think it's important to remember that most people have good and bad days at work.

- A. But issues outside of work can put us in a negative mood and affect the way we do our job.
- B. This is why employers must offer support to their teams, both in the office and in general.
- C. Not just at work, actually – a bad day is usually because of something in an employee's personal life.

Put the sentences in the correct order to complete the text.

Choose the best heading

Example

The director of an environmental think-tank has pointed to a new study as evidence that social policy has a role to play in the fight against global warming. Richard Wilcott, head of the Institute for Environment Research (IER), said the study found that the rate of global warming dropped in conjunction with historical events that slowed economic activity. Mr Wilcott said the study proved it was necessary to strictly control activities known to be linked to global warming. There is clear agreement in the scientific community that the effects of global warming will be increasingly harmful, so the government needs to respond promptly.

Choose the best heading for the text.

- A. Immediate actions against global warming are needed ✓**
- B. The role of historical events in economic activity**
- C. The place of public policy to stop global warming**

1

Advertising has always played a critical role in companies' success. Interesting ads can attract new consumers, while badly designed ads may evoke negative reactions. The biggest problem that companies face is that it's very hard to determine whether an ad will be successful or not. While big corporations in particular may employ thousands of experts, they still find themselves wasting millions on ads that do not have the intended effect. Recent technological developments have focused on fixing this problem. Software that tracks eye movement and machines that can track viewers' emotional responses are increasingly being used to test new adverts. Will this transform the advertising world? Only time will tell.

Choose the best heading for the text.

- A. Using technology in advertising is not cost-effective**
- B. The role of advertising throughout history**
- C. Improving the efficacy of advertising**

2

Our new Platinum Credit Card is available to new and existing customers – restrictions apply. To apply for our Platinum card, you must be aged 18 or over, be a permanent resident of the United States (proof of address and proof of identity required), have a current US bank or credit union account and no history of bad debt (checks will be carried out before applications can be approved). Your credit limit will be determined based on income – please note that a minimum salary of \$30,000 per annum (or equivalent) is required.

Choose the best heading for the text.

- A. Determining whether you qualify for a credit card**
- B. How to apply for a new credit card**
- C. Product information about a new credit card**

Answer three questions

Example

Law targeting commerce tricks

A new law is being considered in the United Kingdom to target ‘scalpers’ – people who buy products and services online only to then sell them on to others for profit. Currently, it is illegal to purchase football game tickets and sell them for a higher price, but everything else is fair game for scalpers – including concert tickets, theatre tickets and even things like video game consoles or shoes. In fact, there are people who do this professionally: buying multiple things they know are low in stock, so they can sell them afterwards for double the price, or even more. These professional scalpers do this with the help of computer programs that can automatically buy products on their behalf as soon as they become available and before any regular customer can get their hands on them.

The biggest problem this proposed legislation faces is that it’s impossible to ban the sale of second-hand goods. Indeed, being able to sell items you don’t need – be they old or brand-new – is a fundamental right in the current capitalist system, and also pivotal to achieving sustainability goals. To bypass this issue, the government has suggested it will be focusing on the technologies used by scalpers instead. In effect, the goal is to stop scalpers from using programs to do their buying for them, creating a fairer system for all customers.

What about scalpers themselves? Many must be acutely aware that what they do is, although not currently illegal, certainly morally dubious. But as long as the law allows them to, the money’s probably just too good to give up.

Answer three questions about the text.

1. Why is 'scalping' such a big problem?

- A. Because scalping creates supply issues for companies
- B. Because scalpers are using an unfair advantage to profit ✓
- C. Because scalping is forcing businesses to raise their prices

2. Which of the following problems is the new law facing?

A. It can only be applied to services, not goods

B. It doesn't target the methods that scalpers use

C. It conflicts with environmental objectives ✓

3. What is the author's opinion?

A. Scalping is the result of living in a capitalist world

B. Scalping is an unethical but lucrative business ✓

C. There is no law that can effectively eliminate scalping

1

Email from client

Dear Wándé

I have just returned from observing the three-day sales training course in Islamabad, Pakistan, and I would like to provide some feedback regarding the event.

Firstly, please extend my congratulations to your course management team for the choice of venue. The auditorium was not only roomy and airy but also equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, which is exactly what I had in mind when we booked this course. My delegates travelling from other cities were particularly pleased that their hotel rooms were in the same building as the conference rooms. Their feedback on the amenities was extremely positive as well, though I did receive a couple critical comments regarding the catering selection. Not your fault, though!

The trainer was fantastic. I knew it was a smart choice not to go with the first sales trainer you recommended – I'm sure he's excellent at his job, but I don't think he would've been able to build rapport with my team as quickly as Elspeth did. I especially appreciated the team-building activities. Those can frequently be quite stale, but Elspeth's friendly behaviour and humour made them a delight.

Overall, I think the first course was a smashing success, and I look forward to the next course in a month's time. I do hope we don't encounter any delays with shipping the materials for the cost this time. I know there were some issues with the post office, but perhaps you could dispatch everything a week earlier for the next workshop?

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

Jenna Noble, Sales Director

Answer three questions about the text.

1. What does the email say about the training course venue?

A. The lecture hall was spacious

B. The food options were well received

C. The course equipment was antiquated

2. What best describes Jenna's attitude regarding the instructor?

A. Relieved

B. Amused

C. Validated

3. What is the style of this email?

A. Formal and inquisitive

B. Constructive and encouraging

C. Judgemental and meticulous

2

Importance of sleep

Sleep is one of the most universal experiences in the history of the world. Everybody sleeps; everybody needs sleep. Some need sleep more than others: babies, for example, but also certain animals. Why is sleep so important, though? How does a bad night of sleep affect our brains and the way we do things?

Numerous researchers have tried to find answers to these questions, and some of the results they have produced have been illuminating. We now know, for example, that sleep helps us to learn things better. When we sleep, our brains process knowledge they've acquired through the day, helping us to retain it – a process known as 'consolidation'. What's more, despite past assumptions, consolidation takes place throughout the course of a person's life, not just when we're young. In fact, while many people believe sleep becomes less important as we age, this couldn't be further from the truth. Sleeping well keeps our brains 'sharp' – meaning that we're less likely to experience mental health problems and cognitive decline if we have a good 'sleep hygiene', i.e. we rest consistently at night throughout our lifetimes.

So, how can we force ourselves to sleep better? According to experts, there are some simple steps everyone can take to improve their sleep habits. Adjusting the light in the bedroom, making sure that the temperature is comfortable and that no outside noises can be heard are all easy changes that can be implemented. Other recommendations include avoiding eating or exercising late at night. If none of this works, then meditation may be helpful.

Answer three questions about the text.

1. What is 'consolidation' according to the text?

- A. A process that helps us to understand what we learn**
- B. A process that helps us to collect information**
- C. A process that helps us to avoid forgetting something**

2. Which of the following is true about sleep hygiene?

- A. It usually stays static throughout a person's life**
- B. It decreases in significance as humans grow old**
- C. It has an impact on psychological well-being**

3. What best describes the text's tone?

- A. Neutral and informative**
- B. Flippant and casual**
- C. Critical and incredulous**

Answers

Complete the text

- 1 B. so I can't come to dinner on Saturday
- 2 A. There is a bus you can take

Choose the best heading

- 1 C. Improving the efficacy of advertising
- 2 A. Determining whether you qualify for a credit card

Put the sentences in the correct order

- 1 C. B. A.
- 2 C. A. B.

Answer 3 questions

- 1 1.A 2.C 3.B
2. 1.C 2.C 3.A