Listening and Reading

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

LISTENING

Task 1

For items **1-10** listen to part of an interview about statistics and decide whether the statements **(1-10)** are **TRUE (A),** or **FALSE (B)** according to the text you hear. You will hear the text **TWICE**.

1. More than half of the British people believe that the probability of tossing a coin twice and getting two heads is 25%.

A. True **B. False**

2. Tom Hunter believes that we don't make use of statistics and probabilities in our daily life.

A. True **B. False**

3. Good statistics are associated with companies' profits, while bad statistics are associated with companies' losses.

A. True **B. False**

4. Researchers may be forced to find positive results because they are afraid to lose their jobs.

A. True **B. False**

5. The results are more valid if you ask 50 people on the social media than choose 5000 respondents randomly.

A. True **B. False**

6. Even respected journals may publish incorrect results.

A. True **B. False**

7. The case of Company A and Company B shows that absolute and relative figures can lead to different conclusions.

A. True **B. False**

8. Tom Hunter believes that most people are good at basic maths.

A. True **B. False**

9. The probability of random events is always 50%.

A. True **B. False**

10. TV sales and crime rates are strongly correlated.

A. True **B. False**

Task 2

For items **11-15** listen to the telephone conversation. Choose the correct answer (**A, B** or **C**) to answer questions **11-15**. You will hear the text **only ONCE**.

11. Katherine says the delivery

A. hasn't come yet.

B. came on Monday.

C. came in the morning.

12. Katherine says the sales

A. took off.

B. grew slightly.

C. dropped.

13. Sam's child is

A. nearly two years old.

B. nearly one year old.

C. just born.

14. Mary has been away

A. in the hospital.

B. on holiday.

C. on business.

15. The holiday in Crete was not

A. lovely.

B. necessary.

C. long.

INTEGRATED LISTENING AND READING

Task 3

Read the text below, then listen to part of an interview on the same topic. You will notice that some ideas coincide and some differ in them. Answer questions **16-25** by choosing **A** if the idea is expressed in **both** materials, **B** if it can be found **only in the reading text**, **C** if it can be found **only in the audio-recording**, and **D** if **neither** of the materials expresses the idea.

Now you have 10 minutes to read the text.

Based on research over the last 20 years, teenagers that don't read books are less likely to attend college, have reduced language skills, experience depression more frequently, and have lower paying jobs. That is a lot to be alarmed about. Research also notes that reading fiction has significant benefits to the brain including increasing attention span, developing empathy, improving overall social cognition and enhancing reasoning ability. Reading books benefits our teenagers in many ways.

The problem is that many teenagers are not reading books. Sure, they could be reading more text messages, emails, Facebook updates, and Wikipedia facts, but a significant number are not reading books – whether a printed book or one downloaded on a tablet. A study from Scotland showed that 33 out of 100 teenagers aged 15 did not read books. In fact, 20 out of 100 said reading was a waste of time. Surprisingly, Scotland has one of the highest literacy rates in the world. A 2007 American study found that 66 out of 100 thirteen-year-olds are not daily readers. For those aged seventeen the number of non-readers doubled from 1984 to 2007.

The other problem is adults are also reading less or can't read at all. Are children not looking at their parents for inspiration and guidance? If adults who are illiterate cannot influence their child's interest in reading, and we continue to lay off school librarians, who will be there to inspire children and teenagers to be interested in reading books? Also, if media continues to attract the attention of adults during the day (TV,

social networking, gaming, email, texting) what time is left to show children how enjoyable and important reading books can be?

Research is showing that there is a significant correlation between reading aloud to children and educational advantages. Reading aloud promotes vocabulary development, listening skills, attention span and other emergent literacy skills. More importantly, if reading aloud is not modeled to children as a pleasurable activity how many of these children will discover this fact themselves as teenagers?

Given the information above one can easily understand why reading books for pleasure is declining for both adults and teenagers. There is a lot to do to reverse this trend both at the parent and school level. As a society we have to address adult illiteracy and increase funding to schools to promote a love for reading books. More importantly, the competition for the teenager's time in terms of media usage may be a reality we cannot change. This fact then brings to light how the brain of a teenager will change as a result. We may not be providing enough opportunities for teenagers to further develop empathy, social cognition, attention, language, and reasoning skills.

Now listen to part of an interview on the same topic and then do the tasks (questions 16-25), comparing the text above and the interview. You will hear the interview TWICE.

16 Research showed that one third of US high school students did not read books for fun in 2016.

17 In the 20th century more than half of teenagers read something daily.

18 Nowadays, instead of reading books, teenagers read e-mails and other digital messages.

19 Social media influences teenagers' ability to gather data.

20 Reading aloud helps to enrich one's vocabulary.

21 Teens who don't read are less likely to get good jobs.

22 School librarians tend to lose their jobs.

23 Parents should limit time children spend on websites, including educational ones.

24 The books that teens read have a massive impact on their ability to understand exam questions.

25 Funding to schools should be increased to rectify the situation with reading books.

READING

Task 4

Read the text and answer questions **26-40 below**. Match the information **(26-40)** and the sections of the text **(A-E)**. Choose only one letter for each number. Some of the choices may be required more than once.

In which section is the following mentioned?

26. surprise that reefs flourish in a part of the sea that should be incapable of sustaining life

27. circumstances in which polluters have been made to contribute towards the repair of coral reefs

28. the relative ignorance that exists about damage to the sea as compared to awareness of other environmental issues

29. a factor that makes extensive human repair to coral reefs problematic

30. the fact that the range of species supported by coral reefs is comparable to another habitat

31. the importance of limiting damage to coral reefs in order to allow self-repair to occur

32. the fact that people living near coral reefs have always taken advantage of their resources

33. the relative difficulty of evaluating different reefs according to how they are exploited

34. the cost of constructing sea barriers to perform the same function as coral reefs

35. the fact that the size of coral reefs cannot protect them against the pollution and damage caused by people

36. the reason why the capacity of coral reefs for self-repair is being diminished

37. the considerable progress that has been made in improving public awareness of the threat to coral reefs

38. growing acceptance of the view that polluters should be made accountable for environmental damage

39. the fact that as the threat to coral reefs has increased so has awareness of the benefits they offer

40. the two aspects of the modern world that have altered the impact local communities have on coastal areas

Coral Reefs

Over the ages coral reefs have proved extraordinarily resilient, yet sadly their health and, in some cases, their very survival is now being threatened. Sue Wells and Nick Hanna explain.

A

A thriving coral reef is one of the most glorious natural phenomena on our planet. For sheer colour and exuberance, reefs can arguably outdo any other natural habitat, and in the huge diversity and number of plants and animals they support, they are second only to rainforests. And yet, paradoxically, these 'rainforests of the ocean' are found only in shallow tropical seas where the nutrients essential to growth are practically non-existent.

Coral reefs have existed for 450 million years, making them probably the oldest ecosystems on the planet. Coral animals, the remarkable little creatures that build reefs, are responsible for creating the largest structures made by life on earth - big enough, in some cases, to dwarf even the most ambitious edifices constructed by humankind. But this extraordinary ability is no defence against the assaults suffered by reefs as a direct result of human activities. Sewage and toxic chemicals are pumped over them, silt from construction sites chokes them, soil run-off smothers them, and boat and cruise ship anchors smash into them.

B

Ironically, as reefs have become even more stressed, their value to people has been thrown into sharp focus. Since the dawn of humanity, the biological abundance of coral reefs has provided sustenance for coastal communities in the tropics, yielding a bountiful harvest of food as well as many other products as diverse as building materials, medicines and jewellery.

Reefs are also invaluable as natural breakwaters, protecting the land and coastal

settlements from the violence of the ocean and providing natural harbours. They are an essential defence against rising sea levels, and if they disappear, artificial replacements would mean spending billions of dollars. The very existence of coral islands and many of the sandy beaches so beloved by tourists in the tropics is heavily dependent on healthy reefs, which are, of course, an important attraction in their own right.

Reefs have always been at risk from natural catastrophes, notably, ferocious hurricanes. In normal circumstances, they are remarkably good at regeneration, but the continuous onslaught from human interference is now affecting their ability to recover from natural impacts. And although we can only speculate at present, it is possible that humanity has unleashed the greatest threat to reefs yet, in the form of increased sea temperatures caused by global warming.

C

People have always been drawn to coastlines, as coastal plains provided fertile agricultural land, and the shallow waters above the continental shelf offered abundant fisheries. The patterns of settlement that developed posed few problems in pre-industrial times, but a combination of industrial development and fast-growing populations is now putting enormous pressures on shoreline ecosystems.

All centres of population and industry nowadays, even agricultural land, produce a range of waste products and effluents. In coastal areas, pollutants are habitually discharged into the sea and in many cases the impact on tropical coastlines is still largely unknown. Studies that have so far been carried out have often produced conflicting results, which can make it difficult to use the data to convince people that potentially harmful practices should be changed. The seriousness of the effect of a pollution incident depends on many variables, such as weather, and not just on, say, the size of a toxic discharge. For example, in open water and on well-flushed coastlines, pollutants are dispersed far more easily than in enclosed bays and lagoons.

The world community is now well aware of the plight of the rainforests and the threats posed by deforestation and global warming, but the dangers that face marine ecosystems are not so well known. Over the last decade, though, enormous advances have been made in our understanding of the problems facing reefs and in seeking solutions to safeguard their future.

D

The highest priority in reef management is to remove or at least minimise human causes of reef destruction, and to improve conditions so that natural regeneration of the reefs takes place as quickly as possible. It is most unlikely that a reef could be restored

to its original state in anything other than a timescale of decades, but it may be possible for it to be helped towards a stage where normal processes can start to function.

Large-scale replanting of corals has proved difficult to carry out successfully, largely because of the amount of diving labour required. When a reef is damaged by a hurricane, much of the regrowth takes place by regeneration of the broken coral fragments, but large numbers also die. Similarly, when a reef is being replanted manually, numerous fragments of coral have to be planted if a significant number are to flourish.

Active reef restoration is perhaps most useful and cost-effective where there is a need to increase populations of very rare coral species, or to repair reefs in marine parks or in locations where a great deal of money is earned from tourism.

E

One principle increasingly being recognised in the battle to protect the world's natural resources, is that whoever is engaged in activities that could harm the environment, pays the cost. This is the case whether it involves installing equipment or technology to prevent pollution and other degradation, or to repair any damage that occurs. Ship owners, for example, are now often liable for cleaning up oil spills and paying compensation for any damage caused.

Reefs used for tourism are most obviously of high economic worth, but it may be harder to calculate the worth of reefs used primarily for fishing (particularly subsistence fishing), unless detailed catch statistics are available, which are often not. It is perhaps even harder to put prices based on the scientific or aesthetic value of the reefs - some remote and pristine reefs might be considered especially valuable now for their rarity value.

Clearly this process is complex and the results at present are variable and highly dependent on the site in question, and the amount of information available. But it can provide an indicator of the conservation value of the reef and underlines the importance of preventing damaging activities.

TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR ANSWER SHEET

Listening & Reading v1

KEYS

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