



IELTS Mock Test 2020 October Reading Practice Test 1

HOW TO USE

You have 2 ways to access the test

1. Open this URL <https://link.intergreat.com/y3MEA> on your computer
2. Use your mobile device to scan the QR code attached



READING PASSAGE 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1 -13, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.



ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

A

There are many reasons why we are looking towards alternative energy sources. With many countries signing the Kyoto Treaty, efforts to reduce pollutants and greenhouse gases are a primary focus in today's culture. Alternative, or renewable, energy sources show significant promise in helping to reduce the amount of toxins that are byproducts of energy use. Not only do they protect against harmful by-products, but using alternative energy helps to preserve many of the natural resources that we currently use as sources of energy. To understand how alternative energy use can help preserve the delicate ecological balance of the planet, and help us conserve the non-renewable energy sources like fossil fuels, it is important to know what types of alternative energy are out there.

B

Alternative energy sources are resources that are constantly replaced and are usually less polluting. They are not the result of the burning of fossil fuels or splitting of atoms. The use of renewable energy is contributing to our energy supply. Some alternative energy sources are: biomass energy, geothermal energy, hydroelectric power, solar power, wind power, fuel cells, ocean thermal energy conversion, tidal energy, and wave energy.

C

Biomass is renewable energy that is produced from organic matter. Biomass fuels include wood, forest and mill residues, animal waste, grains, agricultural crops, and aquatic plants. These materials are used as fuel to heat water for steam or processed into liquids and gases, which can be burned to do the same thing. With more use of biomass at lower production costs and better technology, the United States could generate as much as four-and-a-half times more biopower by 2020. It is estimated that biomass will have the largest increase among

[Access <https://ieltsionlinetests.com> for more practices](https://ieltsionlinetests.com)

renewable energy sources, rising by 80 percent and reaching 65.7 billion KW in 2020.

D

Geothermal energy uses heat from within the earth. Wells are drilled into geothermal reservoirs to bring the hot water or steam to the surface. The steam then drives a turbine-generator to generate electricity in geothermal plants. In some places this heat is used directly to heat homes and greenhouses, or to provide process heat for businesses or industries. Reykjavik, Iceland, is heated by geothermal energy. Most geothermal resources are concentrated in the western part of the United States. Geothermal heat pumps use shallow ground energy to heat and cool homes, and this technique can be employed almost anywhere. With technological improvements much more power could be generated from hydrothermal resources. Scientists have been experimenting by pumping water into the hot dry rock that is 3-6 miles below the earth's surface for use in geothermal power plants.

E

Hydroelectric (hydropower) energy employs the force of falling water to drive turbine-generators to produce electricity. Hydropower produces more electricity than any other alternative energy source. It has been estimated that hydroelectric power will decline from 389 billion KW in the US in 1999 to 298 billion KW in 2020. This decline is expected because most of the best sites for hydropower have already been developed and because of concerns about the adverse impact that large-scale hydroelectric facilities may have on the environment.

F

Solar energy is generated without a turbine or electromagnet. Special panels of photovoltaic cells capture light from the sun and convert it directly into electricity. The electricity is stored in a battery. Solar energy can also be used to directly heat water for domestic use (solar thermal technology). The domestic photovoltaic (PV) industry could provide up to 15% of new US peak electricity capacity that is expected to be required in 2020.

G

Wind energy can be used to produce electricity. As wind passes through the blades of a windmill, the blades spin. The shaft that is attached to the blades turns and powers a pump or turns a generator to produce electricity. Electricity is then stored in batteries. The speed of the wind and the size of the blades determine how much energy can be produced. Wind energy is more efficient in windier parts of the country. Most wind power is produced from wind farms — large groups of turbines located in consistently windy locations. Wind, used as a fuel, is free and non-polluting and produces no emissions or chemical wastes. Wind-powered electricity is gaining in popularity.

H

Fuel cells are electrochemical devices that produce electricity through a chemical reaction. Fuel

cells are rechargeable, contain no moving parts, are clean, and produce no noise. Scientists are exploring ways that they could be used as a power source for nearly exhaust-free automobiles and how they can be used as electricity-generating plants. The high cost of manufacturing fuel cells has prevented the mass use of this valuable energy source.

I

Ocean sources; Oceans, which cover more than 70% of the earth, contain both thermal energy from the sun's heat and mechanical energy from the tides and waves. Ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) converts solar radiation to electric power. OTEC power plants use the difference in temperature between warm surface waters heated by the sun and colder waters found at ocean depths to generate electricity. The power of tides can also be harnessed to produce electricity. Tidal energy works by harnessing the power of changing tides but it needs large tidal differences. The tidal process utilises the natural motion of the tides to fill reservoirs, which are then slowly discharged through electricity-producing turbines. Wave energy conversion extracts energy from surface waves, from pressure fluctuations below the water surface, or from the full wave. Wave energy also uses the interaction of winds with the ocean surface. This technology is still in the exploratory phase in the United States.

Questions 1-2

The writer mentions a number of facts relating to alternative power sources.

Which **TWO** of the following facts are mentioned?

- A International co-operation has yet to result in the largescale implementation and effective use of alternative power sources.
- B One alternative energy source in particular will have a great impact in the years to come.
- C A side-effect of one of these forms of energy is the production of chemical waste.
- D Expense is the main factor that is an obstacle to developing one of these forms of energy
- E Approximately one in five US homes will be using one of these forms of energy within twenty years.
- F One attraction of these forms of energy in general is the relatively low production costs.

Questions 3-4

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

3 Geothermal energy is produced by

- A heating the air below the surface of the ground.
- B employing the force of falling water.
- C extracting water or steam from beneath the earth's surface.
- D using the earth's natural electricity.

4 Which form of alternative energy does not involve the use of turbines?

- A wind energy
- B geothermal energy
- C tidal energy
- D fuel cell energy

Questions 5-8

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

In spaces 5-8 below, 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

- 5 Wind power is the most efficient form of alternative energy.
- 6 Wave energy can be derived from a number of sources.
- 7 Alternative energy sources serve several purposes.
- 8 Fossil fuels are needed in at least one of these alternative energy sources.

Questions 9-13

Complete the sentences.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

By using alternative energy sources, we can cut the 9 that are produced by current power sources.

In addition to fossil fuels and atom splitting, we presently use 10 as part of our power source.

Renewable energy called biomass is produced from 11 .

The renewable energy that comes from within the earth is called 12 .

One of the reasons that fuel cells are not widely used is the 13 of manufacturing.

READING PASSAGE 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 14 - 26, which are based on Reading Passage 2 below.



Colour Blindness

Colour blindness results from an absence or malfunction of certain colour-sensitive cells in the retina. The retina is a neuro-membrane lining the inside back of the eye, behind the lens. The retina contains both rod cells (active in low light or night vision but which cannot distinguish colour) and cone cells (active in normal daylight, sensitive to colour). Cone cells, also called photoreceptors, are concentrated mostly in the central part of the retina, in an area called the macula. Cone cells provide clear, sharp colour vision. The cones contain light-sensitive pigments that are sensitive to the range of wavelengths. There are three different types of cones with one sensitive to short wavelengths, or the colour blue, one sensitive to medium wavelengths, or the colour green, and the other sensitive to higher wavelengths, or the colour red. All of these cells send information about colour to the brain via the optic nerve which connects to the¹ retina at a point very close to the macula. Normal persons, referred to as trichromats, are able to match all colours of the spectrum by using a combination of these three fundamental colour sensitivities. Hence, the huge variety of colours we perceive stems from the cone cells' response to different compositions of wavelengths of light.

There are many types of colour blindness. When there are deficiencies in the cones, either at birth or acquired in other ways, the cones are not able to distinguish the particular wavelengths and thus, that colour range is seen differently. Those with defective colour vision have a deficiency or absence in one or more of the pigments. People with a deficiency in one of the pigments (the most common type of colour vision problem) are called anomalous trichromats. When one of the cone pigments is absent and colour is reduced to two dimensions, dichromacy occurs. These individuals normally know they have a colour vision problem and it can affect their lives on a daily basis. They see no perceptible difference between red, orange, yellow, and green. All these colours that seem so different to the normal viewer appear to them to be the same colour. Missing the cones responsible for green and red hues can also affect the

sensitivity to brightness.

Most cases of colour blindness, about 99%, are inherited, resulting from partial or complete loss of function in one or more of the different cone systems and affect both eyes without worsening over time. The most common are red-green hereditary (genetic) photoreceptor disorders collectively referred to as "red-green colour blindness". It affects 8% of all males of European origin and 0.4% of all females. The gene for this is carried in the X chromosome. Since males have an X-Y pairing and females have X-X, colour blindness can occur much more easily in males and is typically passed to them by their mothers. In other words, females may be carriers of colour blindness, but males are more commonly affected. People with this disorder cannot identify red or green by itself but can if among a coloured group. Other forms of colour blindness are much more rare. They include problems in discriminating blues from yellows. Both colours are seen as white or grey. This disorder occurs with equal frequency in men and women and usually accompanies certain other physical disorders, such as liver disease or diabetes.

The rarest form of all is total colour blindness, monochromacy, where one can only see grey or shades of black, grey and white as in a black-and-white film or photograph. Monochromacy occurs when two or all three of the cone pigments are missing and colour and lightness vision is reduced to one dimension. Another term for total colour blindness is achromatopsia, the inability to see colour.

Inherited colour vision problems cannot be treated or corrected. Some acquired colour vision problems can be treated with surgery, such as the removal of a cataract, depending on the cause. Certain types of tinted filters and contact lenses may also help an individual to distinguish different colours better. Additionally, computer software has been developed to assist those with visual colour difficulties and those with mild colour deficiencies to learn to associate colours with certain objects and are usually able to identify colour in the same way as everyone else. One frequent problem encountered is with traffic lights, and worst of all, warning lights: colour-blind people always know the position of the colours on the traffic light - in most situations; red on top, yellow in the centre, green on the bottom. But warning lights present an entirely different problem. In this situation there is only one light; no top or bottom, no right or left, just one light that is either red or yellow.

Colour vision problems can have a significant impact on a person's life, learning abilities and career choices. On an everyday basis, there are some annoyances and frustrations: not being able to differentiate between green or ripe tomatoes when preparing food, for example, or buying clothes that to the 'normal' eye seem positively garish. However, people with colour vision problems usually learn to compensate for their inability to see colours. Although there is little or no treatment for colour blindness, most colour deficient persons compensate well for their defect and may even discover instances in which they can discern details and images that would escape normal-sighted persons. At one time the US Army found that colour-blind

persons can spot camouflage colours in cases where those with normal colour vision are typically fooled.

Questions 14-20

Complete each sentence with the correct ending A - K from the box below.

Write the correct letter A - K in spaces 14-20 below.

14 Colour blindness can be caused by a birth defect, or

15 Surprisingly, some people who are colour blind

16 People with hereditary colour blindness

17 Because of our genetic make-up, colour blindness

18 Red-green genetic photoreceptor disorders mean that people

19 People with monochromacy

20 The inability to see certain lights

A	can see better at night than during the day
B	cannot be treated by surgery
C	can affect men much more easily than women
D	can affect their sensitivity to bright lights
E	can see no colour at all, other than shades of black, grey and white
F	can see things that people with normal vision cannot
G	can have very dangerous consequences for colour-blind people.
H	can be acquired or inherited
I	can mean having to wear contact lenses.
J	cannot distinguish certain colours if they stand alone
K	can match all colours of the spectrum

Questions 21-23

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

21 What causes colour blindness?

- A the absence of rod cells
- B the malfunction of rod cells
- C the malfunction of cone cells
- D the retina's inability to detect light

22 Which group of people are the least common?

- A people who cannot detect blues from yellows
- B anomalous trichromats
- C people with dichromacy
- D people with achromatopsia

23 What would colour-blind people consider an everyday nuisance?

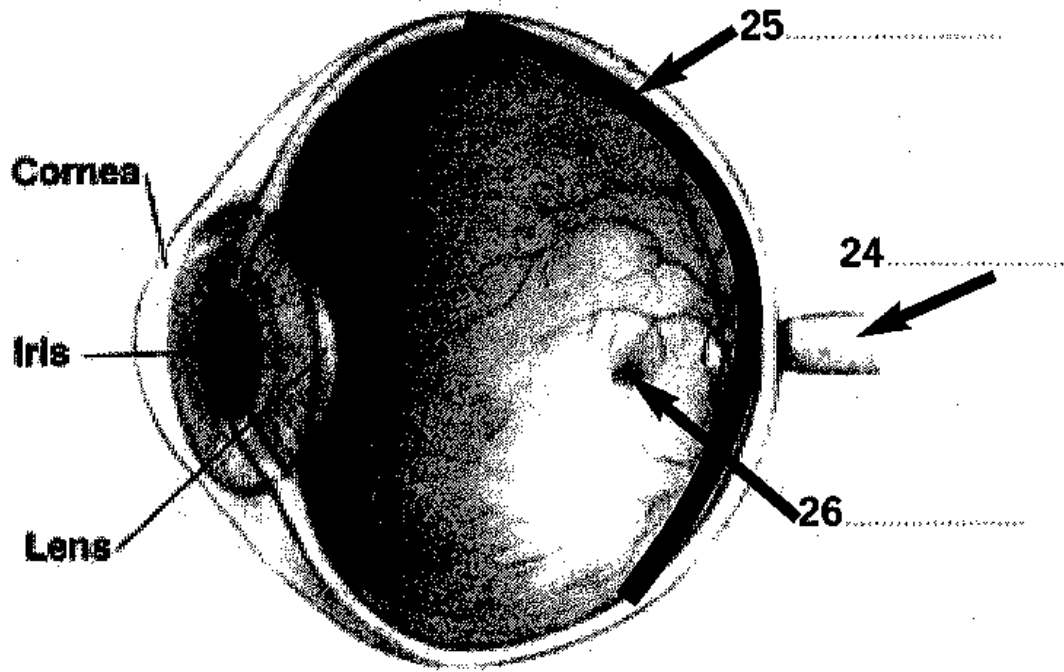
- A not being able to identify the colour of warning lights
- B not being able to tell an apple from a tomato
- C not being able to cook
- D not being able to buy matching clothes

Questions 24-26

Complete the diagram below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Diagram of the Human Eye



24 _____

25 _____

26 _____

READING PASSAGE 3

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 27 - 40, which are based on Reading Passage 3 below.



Population growth sentencing millions to hydrological poverty

A

At a time when drought in the United States, Ethiopia, and Afghanistan is in the news, it is easy to forget that far more serious water shortages are emerging as the demand for water in many countries simply outruns the supply. Water tables are now falling on every continent; literally scores of countries are facing water shortages as the tables fall and wells go dry. We live in a water-challenged world, one that is becoming more so each year as 80 million additional people stake their claims to the Earth's water resources. Unfortunately, nearly all the projected 3 billion people to be added over the next half century will be born in countries that are already experiencing water shortages. Even now, many in these countries lack enough water to drink, to satisfy cleanliness needs, and to produce food.

B

By 2050, India is projected to have added 519 million people and China 211 million. Pakistan is projected to have added nearly 200 million, going from 151 million at present to 348 million. Egypt, Iran, and Mexico are slated to increase their populations by more than half by 2050. In these and other water-short countries, population growth is sentencing millions of people to hydro-logical poverty, a local form of poverty that is difficult to escape.

C

Even with today's 6 billion people, the world has a huge water deficit. Using data on over-pumping for China, India, Saudi Arabia, North Africa, and the United States, Sandra Postel, author of *Pillar of Sand: Can the Irrigation Miracle Last?* reports the annual depletion of aquifer to be at 160 billion cubic meters or 160 billion tons. Using the rule of thumb that it takes 1,000 tons of water to produce 1 ton of grain, this 160-billion-ton water deficit is equal to 160 million

tons of grain or one-half the US grain harvest.

D

Average world grain consumption is just over 300 kilograms per person per annum - one third of a ton per person per year - and grain reserves directly or indirectly feed 480 million people globally. Stated otherwise, 480 million of the world's 6 billion people are being fed with grain produced with the unsustainable use of water.

E

Over-pumping is a new phenomenon, one largely confined to the last half century. Only since the development of powerful diesel- and electrically-driven pumps have we had the capacity to pull water out of aquifer faster than it is replaced by precipitation. Some 70 percent of the water consumed worldwide, including both that diverted from rivers and that pumped from underground, is used for irrigation, while some 20 percent is used by industry, and 10 percent for residential purposes. In the increasingly intense competition for water among sectors, agriculture almost always loses. The 1,000 tons of water used in India to produce 1 ton of wheat worth perhaps \$200 can also be used to expand industrial output by easily \$10,000, or 50 times as much. This ratio helps explain why, in the American West, the sale of irrigation water rights by farmers to cities is an almost daily occurrence.

F

In addition to population growth, urbanisation and industrialisation also expand the demand for water. As developing country villagers, traditionally reliant on the village well, move to urban high-rise apartment buildings with indoor plumbing, their residential water use can easily triple. Industrialisation takes even more water than urbanisation. Rising affluence in itself generates additional demand for water. As people move up the food chain, consuming more beef, pork, poultry, eggs, and dairy products, they use more grain. A US diet rich in livestock products requires 800 kilograms of grain per person a year, whereas diets in India, dominated by a starchy food staple such as rice, typically need only 200 kilograms. Using four times as much grain per person means using four times as much water.

G

Once a localised phenomenon, water scarcity is now crossing national borders via the international grain trade. The world's fastest growing grain import market is North Africa and the Middle East; an area that includes Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, and Iran. Virtually every country in this region is simultaneously experiencing water shortages and rapid population growth.

H

As the demand for water in the region's cities and industries increases, it is typically satisfied by diverting water from irrigation. The loss in food production capacity is then offset by

importing grain from abroad. Since 1 ton of grain represents 1,000 tons of water, this becomes the most efficient way to import water.

I

Last year, Iran imported 7 million tons of wheat, eclipsing Japan to become the world's leading wheat importer. This year, Egypt is also projected to move ahead of Japan. Iran and Egypt have nearly 70 million people each. Both populations are increasing by more than a million a year and both are pressing the limits of their water supplies.

J

The water required to produce the grain and other foodstuffs imported into North Africa and the Middle East last year was roughly equal to the annual flow of the Nile River. Stated otherwise, the fast-growing water deficit of this region is equal to another Nile flowing into the region in the form of imported grain.

K

It is now often said that future wars in the region will more likely be fought over water than oil. Perhaps, but given the difficulty in winning a water war, the competition for water seems more likely to take place in world grain markets. The countries that will "win" in this competition will be those that are financially strongest, not those that are militarily strongest. The world water deficit grows larger with each year, making it potentially more difficult to manage. If we decided abruptly to stabilise water tables everywhere by simply pumping less water, the world grain harvest would fall by some 160 million tons, or 8 percent, and grain prices would go off the chart. If the deficit continues to widen, the eventual adjustment will be even greater.

L

Unless governments in water-short countries act quickly to stabilise their populations and to raise water productivity, their water shortages may soon become food shortages. The risk is that the growing number of water-short countries, including population giants China and India, with rising grain-import needs will overwhelm the exportable supply in food surplus countries, such as the United States, Canada, and Australia. This in turn could destabilise world grain markets. Another risk of delay in dealing with the deficit is that some low-income, water-short countries will not be able to afford to import needed grain, trapping millions of their people in hydrological poverty; thirsty and hungry, unable to escape.

M

Although there are still some opportunities for developing new water resources, restoring the balance between water use and developing a sustainable supply will depend primarily on demand-side initiatives, such as stabilising population and raising water productivity. Governments can no longer separate population policy from the supply of water. And just as the world turned to raising land productivity a half century ago when the frontiers of

agricultural settlement disappeared, so it must now turn to raising water productivity. The first step toward this goal is to eliminate the water subsidies that foster inefficiency. The second step is to raise the price of water to reflect its cost. Shifting to more water-efficient technologies, more water-efficient crops, and more water-efficient forms of animal protein offers a huge potential for raising water productivity. These shifts will move faster if the price of water more closely reflects its real value.

Questions 27-32

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 3?

In spaces 27-32 below, 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

27 Vegetarians drink less water than meat eaters.

28 A typical Indian diet requires less grain than a typical USA diet.

29 Growing grain uses more water than raising beef.

30 People that move from the country to the city may increase their water consumption considerably.

31 Future conflicts will be fought as much over food as they will over oil.

32 Egypt and Japan also import 7 million tons of oil annually.

Questions 33-36

Reading Passage 3 has 13 paragraphs A - M.

Which paragraph contains information about the following threats to water supplies?

Write the correct letter A - M in spaces 33-36 below.

33 The volume of water that is needed for irrigation in grain

production.

34 Over-pumping our underground water supplies.

35 Population growth will be responsible for a new type of water-related poverty.

36 Industrialisation demands greater water supplies.

A	Paragraph A
B	Paragraph B
C	Paragraph C
D	Paragraph D
E	Paragraph E
F	Paragraph F
G	Paragraph G
H	Paragraph H
I	Paragraph I
J	Paragraph J
K	Paragraph K
L	Paragraph L
M	Paragraph M

Questions 37-40

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

37 Our water supply is running low because

- A grain is now exported globally.
- B the world's population is increasing rapidly.
- C more people are moving to cities.
- D people waste water foolishly.

38 People who have a high-meat diet cause more water to be used because

- A it takes more grain to feed livestock than it does a human.
- B the industrial processes to produce meat require a lot of water.
- C livestock drink a lot of water.
- D packaging of meat products goes through an intensive washing process.

39 What would reduce the use of water without adversely affecting the food supply?

- A growing fewer crops
- B increasing water subsidies
- C diverting water from irrigation
- D falling population levels

40 If there is a water war, who will win?

- A the driest countries
- B the richest countries
- C the countries that are more forceful
- D the countries that have the biggest population



Solution:

Part 1: Question 1 - 13

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 1-2 | B,D | 3 | C |
| 4 | D | 5 | NOT GIVEN |
| 6 | TRUE | 7 | TRUE |
| 8 | FALSE | 9 | amount of toxins |
| 10 | renewable energy | 11 | organic matter |
| 12 | geothermal energy | 13 | (high) cost |

Part 2: Question 14 - 26

- | | | | |
|----|-------------|----|--------|
| 14 | H | 15 | F |
| 16 | B | 17 | C |
| 18 | J | 19 | E |
| 20 | G | 21 | C |
| 22 | D | 23 | D |
| 24 | optic nerve | 25 | retina |

26 macula

Part 3: Question 27 - 40

27 NOT GIVEN

28 TRUE

29 NOT GIVEN

30 TRUE

31 FALSE

32 NOT GIVEN

33 C

34 E

35 B

36 F

37 B

38 A

39 D

40 B