IELTS Mock Test 2021 September

Reading Practice Test 2

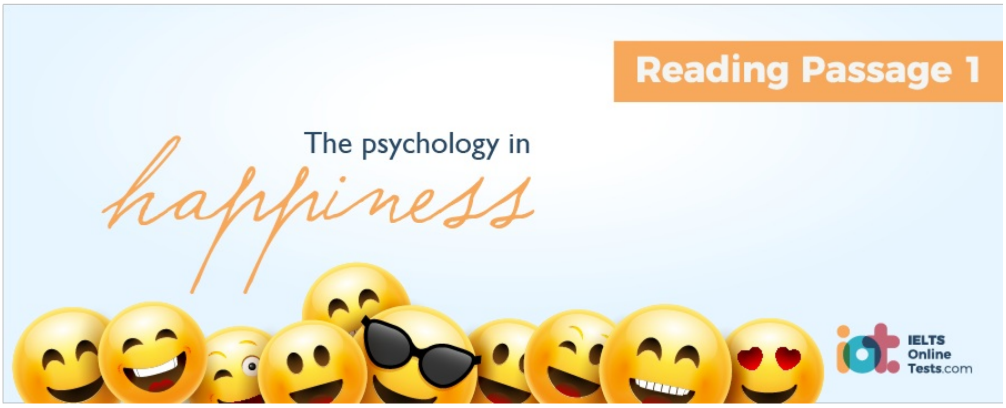
HOW TO USE

You have 2 ways to access the test

1. Open this URL **https://link.intergreat.com/ThRle** 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.*



The psychology in Happiness

A In the late 1990s, psychologist Martin Seligman of the University of Pennsylvania urged colleagues to observe optimal moods with the same intensity with which they had for so long studied pathologies: we would never learn about the full range of human functions unless we knew as much about mental wellness as we do about mental illness. A new generation of psychologists built up a respectable body of research on positive character traits and happiness-boosting practices. At the same time, developments in neuroscience provided new clues to what makes us happy and what that looks like in the brain. Self-appointed experts took advantage of the trend with guarantees to eliminate worry, stress, dejection and even boredom. This happiness movement has provoked a great deal of opposition among psychologists who observe that the preoccupation with happiness has come at the cost of sadness, an important feeling that people have tried to banish from their emotional repertoire. Allan Horwitz of Rutgers laments that young people who are naturally weepy after breakups are often urged to medicate themselves instead of working through their sadness. Wake Forest University's Eric Wilson fumes that the obsession with happiness amounts to a "craven disregard" for the melancholic perspective that has given rise to the greatest works of art. "The happy man" he writes, "is a hollow man."

B After all people are remarkably adaptable. Following a variable period of adjustment, we bounce back to our previous level of happiness, no matter what happens to us. (There are some scientifically proven exceptions, notably suffering the unexpected loss of a job or the loss of a spouse. Both events tend to permanently knock people back a step.) Our adaptability works in two directions. Because we are so adaptable, points out Professor Sonja Lyubomirsky of the University of California, we quickly get used to many of the accomplishments we strive for in life, such as landing the big job or getting married. Soon after we reach a milestone, we start to feel that something is missing. We begin coveting another worldly possession or eyeing a social advancement. But such an approach keeps us tethered to a treadmill where happiness is always just out of reach, one toy or one step away. It's possible to get off the treadmill entirely by focusing on activities that are dynamic surprising, and attention- absorbing, and thus less likely to bore us than, say, acquiring shiny new toys.

C Moreover, happiness is not a reward for escaping pain. Russ Harris, the author of The Happiness Trap, calls popular conceptions of happiness dangerous because they set people up for a "struggle against reality". They don't acknowledge that real life is full of disappointments, loss, and inconveniences. "If you're going to live a rich and meaningful life," Harris says, "you're going to feel a full range of emotions." Action toward goals other than happiness makes people happy. It is not crossing the finish line that is most rewarding, it is anticipating achieving the goal. University of Wisconsin neuroscientist Richard Davidson has found that working hard toward a goal, and making progress to the point of expecting a goal to be realized, not only activates positive feelings but also suppresses negative emotions such as fear and depression.

D We are constantly making decisions, ranging from what clothes to put on, to whom we should marry, not to mention all those flavors of ice cream. We base many of our decisions on whether we think a particular preference will increase our well-being. Intuitively, we seem convinced that the more choices we have, the better off we will ultimately be. But our world of unlimited opportunity imprisons us more than it makes us happy. In what Swarthmore psychologist Barry Schwartz calls "the paradox of choice," facing many possibilities leaves us stressed out – and less satisfied with whatever we do decide. Having too many choices keeps us wondering about all the opportunities missed.

E Besides, not everyone can put on a happy face. Barbara Held, a professor of psychology at Bowdoin College, rails against "the tyranny of the positive attitude". "Looking on the bright side isn't possible for some people and is even counterproductive" she insists. "When you put pressure on people to cope in a way that doesn't fit them, it not only doesn't work, it makes them feel like a failure on top of already feeling bad." The one-size-fits-all approach to managing emotional life is misguided, agrees Professor Julie Norem, author of The Positive Power of Negative Thinking. In her research, she has shown that the defensive pessimism that anxious people feel can be harnessed to help them get things done, which in turn makes them happier. A naturally pessimistic architect, for example, can set low expectations for an upcoming presentation and review all of the bad outcomes that she's imagining, so that she can prepare carefully and increase her chances of success.

F By contrast, an individual who is not living according to their values, will not be happy, no matter how much they achieve. Some people, however, are not sure what their values are. In that case Harris has a great question: "Imagine I could wave a magic wand to ensure that you would have the approval and admiration of everyone on the planet, forever. What, in that case, would you choose to do with your life?" Once this has been answered honestly, you can start taking steps toward your ideal vision of yourself. The actual answer is unimportant, as long as you're living consciously. The state of happiness is not really a state at all. It's an ongoing personal experiment.

Questions 1-6

Reading Passage has six paragraphs, **A–F**.

Which paragraph mentions the following?

Write the correct letter, **A–F**, *in boxes* **1–6** *on your answer sheet.*

NB *You may use any letter more than once.*

1 [ ] the need for individuals to understand what really matters to them

2 [ ] tension resulting from a wide variety of alternatives

3 [ ] the hope of success as a means of overcoming unhappy feelings

4 [ ] people who call themselves specialists

5 [ ] human beings' capacity for coping with change

6 [ ] doing things which are interesting in themselves

Questions 7-8

Choose TWO *letters,* **A-E**.

Write the correct letters in boxes **7** *and* **8** *on your answer sheet*

Which **TWO** of the following people argue against aiming for constant happiness

- **A** ☐ Martin Seligman
- **B** ☐ Eric Wilson
- **C** ☐ Sonja Lyubomirsky
- **D** ☐ Russ Harris
- **E** ☐ Barry Schwartz

Questions 9-10

Choose TWO *letters,* **A-E**.

Write the correct letters in boxes **9** *and* **10**.

Which **TWO** of the following beliefs are identified as mistaken in the text

- **A** ☐ Inherited wealth brings less happiness than earned wealth.
- **B** ☐ Social status affects our perception of how happy we are.
- **C** ☐ An optimistic outlook ensures success.
- **D** ☐ Unhappiness can and should be avoided.
- **E** ☐ Extremes of emotion are normal in the young.

Questions 11-13

Complete the sentences below.

Choose NO MORE THAN ONE WORD *from the passage for each answer.*

*Write your answers in boxes **11-13** on your answer sheet.*

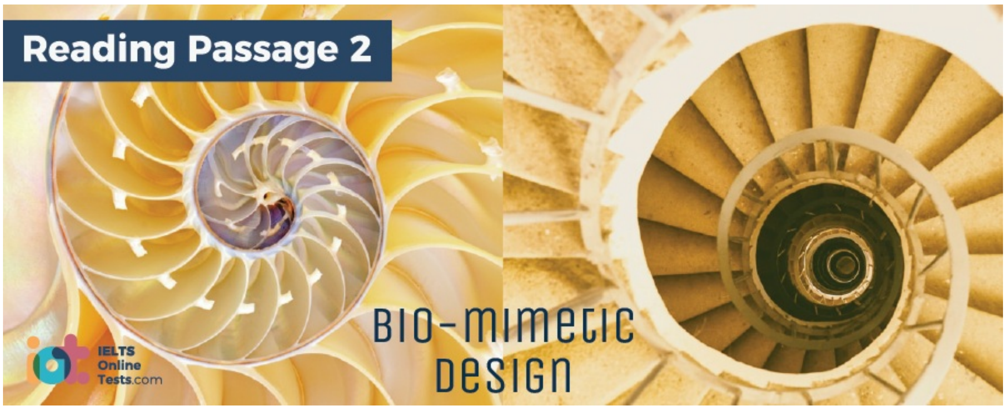
In order to have a complete understanding of how people's minds work, Martin Seligman suggested that research should examine our most positive 11 ______ as closely as it does our psychological problems.

Soon after arriving at a 12 ______ in their lives, people become accustomed to what they have achieved and have a sense that they are lacking something.

People who are 13 ______ by nature are more likely to succeed if they make thorough preparation for a presentation.

READING PASSAGE 2

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



Bio-mimetic Design

What has fins like a whale, skin like a lizard, and eyes like a moth? The future of engineering. Andrew Parker, an evolutionary biologist, knelt in the baking red sand of the Australian outback just south of Alice Springs and eased the right hind leg of a thorny devil into a dish of water.

A “Its back is completely drenched!” Sure enough, after 30 seconds, water from the dish had picked up the lizard’s leg and was glistening all over its prickly hide. In a few seconds more the water reached its mouth, and the lizard began to smack its jaws with evident satisfaction. It was, in essence, drinking through its foot. Given more time, the thorny devil can perform this same conjuring trick on a patch of damp sand – a vital competitive advantage in the desert. Parker had come here to discover precisely how it does this, not from purely biological interest, but with a concrete purpose in mind: to make a thorny-devil-inspired device that will help people collect lifesaving water in the desert. “The water’s spreading out incredibly fast!” he said, as drops from his eyedropper fell onto the lizard’s back and vanished, like magic. “Its skin is far more hydrophobic than I thought. There may well be hidden capillaries, channeling the water into the mouth.”

B Parker’s work is only a small part of an increasingly vigorous, global biomimetics movement. Engineers in Bath, England, and West Chester, Pennsylvania, are pondering the bumps on the leading edges of humpback whale flukes to learn how to make airplane wings for more agile flight. In Berlin, Germany, the fingerlike primary feathers of raptors are inspiring engineers to develop wings that change shape aloft to reduce drag and increase fuel efficiency. Architects in Zimbabwe are studying how termites regulate temperature, humidity, and airflow in their mounds in order to build more comfortable buildings, while Japanese medical researchers are reducing the pain of an injection by using hypodermic needles edged with tiny serrations, like those on a mosquito’s proboscis, minimizing nerve stimulation.

C Ronald Fearing, a professor of electrical engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, has taken on one of the biggest challenges of all: to create a miniature robotic fly that is swift, small, and maneuverable enough for use in surveillance or search-and-rescue operations. Fearing made his own, one of which he held up with tweezers for me to see, a gossamer wand some 11 millimeters long and not much thicker than a cat's whisker. Fearing has been forced to manufacture many of the other minute components of his fly in the same way, using a micromachining laser and a rapid prototyping system that allows him to design his minuscule parts in a computer, automatically cut and cure them overnight, and assemble them by hand the next day under a microscope.

D With the micro laser he cuts the fly's wings out of a two-micron polyester sheet so delicate that it crumples if you breathe on it and must be reinforced with carbon-fiber spars. The wings on his current model flap at 275 times per second – faster than the insect's own wings – and make the blowfly's signature buzz. "Carbon fiber outperforms fly chitin," he said, with a trace of self-satisfaction. He pointed out a protective plastic box on the lab bench, which contained the fly-bot itself, a delicate, origami-like framework of black carbon-fiber struts and hairlike wires that, not surprisingly, looks nothing like a real fly. A month later it achieved liftoff in a controlled flight on a boom.Fearing expects the fly-bot to hover in two or three years, and eventually to bank and dive with flylike virtuosity.

E Stanford University roboticist Mark Cutkosky designed a gecko-insured climber that he christened Stickybot. In reality, gecko feet aren't sticky – they're dry and smooth to the touch – and owe their remarkable adhesion to some two billion spatula-tipped filaments per square centimeter on their toe pads, each filament only a hundred nanometers thick. These filaments are so small, in fact, that they interact at the molecular level with the surface on which the gecko walks, tapping into the low-level van der Waals forces generated by molecules' fleeting positive and negative charges, which pull any two adjacent objects together. To make the toe pads for Stickybot, Cutkosky and doctoral student Sangbae Kim, the robot's lead designer, produced a urethane fabric with tiny bristles that end in 30-micrometer points. Though not as flexible or adherent as the gecko itself, they hold the 500-gram robot on a vertical surface.

F Cutkosky endowed his robot with seven-segmented toes that drag and release just like the lizard's, and a gecko-like stride that snugs it to the wall. He also crafted Stickybot's legs and feet with a process he calls shape deposition manufacturing (SDM), which combines a range of metals, polymers, and fabrics to create the same smooth gradation from stiff to flexible that is present in the lizard's limbs and absent in most man-made materials. SDM also allows him to embed actuators, sensors, and other specialized structures that make Stickybot climb better. Then he noticed in a paper on gecko anatomy that the lizard had branching tendons to distribute its weight evenly across the entire surface of its toes. Eureka."When I saw that, I thought, wow, that's great!" He subsequently embedded a branching polyester cloth "tendon" in his robot's limbs to distribute its load in the same way.

G Stickybot now walks up vertical surfaces of glass, plastic, and glazed ceramic tile, though it will be some time before it can keep up with a gecko. For the moment it can walk only on smooth surfaces, at a mere four centimeters per second, a fraction of the speed of its biological role model. The dry adhesive on Stickybot's toes isn't self-cleaning like the lizard's either, so it rapidly clogs with dirt. "There are a lot of things about the gecko that we simply had to ignore," Cutkosky says. Still, a number of real-world applications are in the offing. The Department of Defense's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), which funds the project, has it in mind for surveillance: an automaton that could slink up a building and perch there for hours or days, monitoring the terrain below. Cutkosky hypothesizes a range of civilian uses. "I'm trying to get robots to go places where they've never gone before," he told me. "I would like to see Stickybot have a real-world function, whether it's a toy or another application. Sure, it would be great if it eventually has a lifesaving or humanitarian role..."

H For all the power of the biomimetics paradigm, and the brilliant people who practice it, bio-inspiration has led to surprisingly few mass-produced products and arguably only one household word – Velcro, which was invented in 1948 by Swiss chemist George de Mestral, by copying the way cockleburs clung to his dog's coat. In addition to Cutkosky's lab, five other high-powered research teams are currently trying to mimic gecko adhesion, and so far none has come close to matching the lizard's strong, directional, self-cleaning grip. Likewise, scientists have yet to meaningfully re-create the abalone nanostructure that accounts for the strength of its shell, and several well-funded biotech companies have gone bankrupt trying to make artificial spider silk.

Questions 14-20

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

*In boxes **14-20** on your answer sheet, 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

14 [ ] Andrew Parker failed to make effective water device which can be used in desert.

15 [ ] Skin of lizard is easy to get wet when it contacts water.

16 [ ] Scientists apply inspiration from nature into many artificial engineering.

17 [ ] Tiny and thin hair under gecko's feet allows it to stick to the

surface of object.

18 [▾] When gecko climbs downward, its feet release a certain kind of chemical to make them adhesive.

19 [▾] Famous cases stimulate a large number of successful products of biomimetics in real life.

20 [▾] Velcro is well-known for its bionics design.

Questions 21-23

Filling the blanks below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each *question of robot below.*

Ronald Fearing was required to fabricate tiny components for his robotic fly 21 ______ by specialized techniques.

The robotic fly's main structure outside is made of 22 ______ and long and thin wires which make it unlike fly at all.

Cutkosky applied an artificial material in Stickybot's 23 ______ as a tendon to split pressure like lizard's does.

Questions 24-26

Fill the blanks below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** *from the passage for each answerabout facts of stickybot.*

Stickybot's feet doesn't have 24 ______ function which makes it only be able to walk on smooth surface.

DARPA are planning to use stickybot for 25 ______

Cutkosky assume that stickybot finally has potential in 26 ______ or other human-related activities.

READING PASSAGE 3

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

The Rainmaker design

A

Sometimes ideas just pop up out of the blue. Or in Charlie Paton's case, out of the rain. 'I was on a bus in Morocco traveling through the desert,' he remembers. 'It had been raining and the bus was full of hot, wet people. The windows steamed up and I went to sleep with a towel against the glass. When I woke, the thing was soaking wet. I had to wring it out. And it set me thinking. Why was it so wet?

B

The answer, of course, was condensation. Back home in London, a physicist friend, Philip Davies, explained that the glass, chilled by the rain outside, had cooled the hot humid air inside the bus below its dew point, causing droplets of water to form on the inside of the window. Intrigued, Paton – a lighting engineer by profession – started rigging up his own equipment. 'I made my own solar stills It occurred to me that you might be able to produce water in this way in the desert, simply by cooling the air. I wondered whether you could make enough to irrigate fields and grow crops.'

C

Today, a decade on, his dream has taken shape as a giant greenhouse on a desert island off Abu Dhabi in the Persian Gulf – the first commercially viable version of his 'seawater greenhouse'. Local scientists, working with Paton, are watering the desert and growing vegetables in what is basically a giant dew-making machine that produces freshwater and cool air from sun and seawater. In awarding Paton first prize in a design competition two years ago, Marco Goldschmied, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, called it 'a truly original idea which has the potential to impact on the lives of millions of people living in coastal water-starved areas around the world'.

D

The seawater greenhouse as developed by Paton has three main parts. They both air-condition the greenhouse and provide water for irrigation. The front of the greenhouse faces into the prevailing wind so that hot dry air blows in through a front wall. The wall is made of perforated cardboard kept moist by a constant trickle of seawater pumped up from the ocean. The purpose is to cool and moisten the incoming desert air. The cool moist air allows the plants to grow faster. And, crucially, because much less water evaporates from the leaves, the plants need much less moisture to grow than if they were being irrigated in the hot dry desert air outside the greenhouse.

E

The air-conditioning of the interior of the greenhouse is completed by the second feature: the roof. It has two layers: an outer layer of clear polyethylene and an inner coated layer that reflects infrared radiation. This combination ensures that visible light can stream through to the plants, maximizing the rate of plant growth through photosynthesis but at the same time heat from the infrared radiation is trapped in the space between the layers, and kept away from the plants. This helps keep the air around the plants cool.

F

At the back of the greenhouse sits the third elements. This is the main water production unit. Here, the air hits a second moist cardboard wall that increases its humidity as it reaches the condenser, which finally collects from the hot humid air the moisture for irrigating the plants. The condenser is a metal surface kept cool by still more seawater. It is the equivalent of the window on Paton's Morcoccan bus. Drops of pure distilled water from on the condenser and flow into a tank for irrigating the crops.

G

The Abu Dhai greenhouse more or less runs itself. Sensors switch everything on when the sun rises and alter flows of air and seawater through the day in response to changes in temperature, humidity, and sunlight. On windless days, fans ensure a constant flow of air through the greenhouse. 'Once it is turned to the local environment, you don't need anymore there for it to work,' says Paton. "We can run the entire operation of one 13-amp plug, and in the future, we could make it entirely independent of the grid, powered from a few solar panels.'

H

Critics point out that construction costs of around $4 a square foot are quite high. By illustration, however, Paton presents that it can cool as efficiently as a 500-kilowatt air conditioner while using less than 3 kilowatts of electricity. Thus the plants need only an eighth of the volume of water used by those grown conventionally. And so the effective cost of the desalinated water in the greenhouse is only a quarter that of water from a standard desalinator, which is good economics. Besides it really suggests an environmentally-friendly way of providing air conditioning on a scale large enough to cool large greenhouses where crops can be grown despite the high outside temperatures.

Questions 27-31

Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading Passage 3?

In boxes 27-31 on your answer sheet, write:

YES	if the statement agrees with the views of the writer
NO	if the statement contradicts the views of the writer
NOT GIVEN	if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

27 The idea just came to Charlie Paton by accident.

28 The bus was well ventilated.

29 After waking up, Paton found his towel was wet.

30 The fan on the bus did not work well.

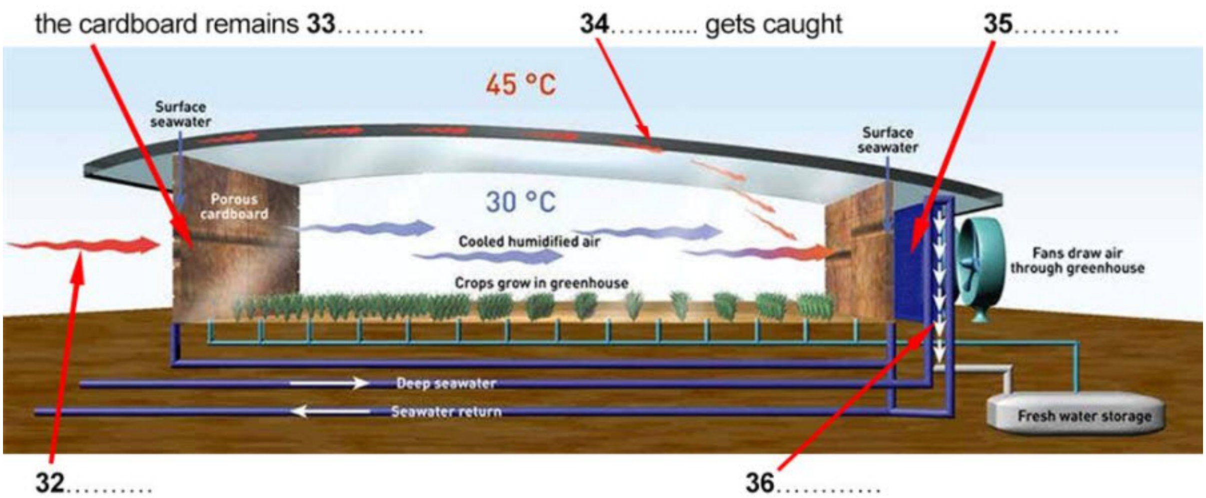
31 Paton immediately operated his own business in the Persian Gulf after talking with Philip Davies.

Questions 32-36

Label the diagram below.

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

Write your answers in boxes 32-36 *on your answer sheet.*



32 ______

33 ______

34 ______

35 ______

36 ______

Questions 37-40

Complete the summary below.

Using NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS *from the Reading Passage for each answer.*

Write your answers in boxes ***37-40*** *on your answer sheet.*

To some extent, the Abu Dhai greenhouse functions automatically. When the day is sunny, the equipment can respond to the changes in several natural elements. When there is no wind, 37 ________ help to retain the flow of air. Even in the future, we have an ideal plan to power the greenhouse from 38 ________ . However, there are still some critics who argue that 39 ________ are not good economics.

To justify himself, Paton presents favorable arguments against these critics and suggests that it is an 40 ________ approach to provide air conditioning in a scale large sense.

Solution:

Part 1: Question 1 - 13

1 F

2 D

3 C

4 A

5 B

6 B

7-8 B,D

9-10 C,D

11 moods

12 milestone

13 pessimistic

Part 2: Question 14 - 26

14 NOT GIVEN

15 FALSE

16 TRUE

17 FALSE

18 NOT GIVEN

19 FALSE

20 TRUE

21 the same way

22 carbon-fiber

23 limbs/legs and feet

24 self-cleaning

25 surveillance

26 lifesaving

Part 3: Question 27 - 40

27 YES

28 NO

29 YES

30 NOT GIVEN

31 NO

32 hot dry air

33 moist

34 infrared radiation

35 pure distilled water

36 condenser

37 fans

38 solar panels

39 construction costs

40 environmentally-friendly