



IELTS Mock Test 2020 November Reading Practice Test 2

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READING PASSAGE 1

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



The Final Frontier for Tourism

A

For some reason humankind has always looked towards the stars and dreamt of one day making the voyage into the unknown and exploring outer space. Perhaps it is our innate curiosity, perhaps the challenge presented by the seemingly impossible; whatever the lure, the quest to venture into space has become an obsession for many.

B

On a memorable July day in 1969 one man made a giant leap for his kind. Neil Armstrong touched down on the moon as the world watched with bated breath. Was this a beginning or the culmination of years of endeavour that pushed science to its very limits? Well, it has been a long time indeed since the last moon landing, more than 40 years, but science has not stood still in the interim, nor have our dreams become any less ambitious. According to NASA, plans are afoot for a manned mission to Mars at some point after 2020. A return to the moon has been scheduled sooner - perhaps 2018 if NASA's new Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) is rolled out on time. It may not be Hollywood razzle-dazzle-style progress; it may even be painstakingly slow, but rest assured that plans are afoot for something very ambitious and special indeed, and NASA may be back in the headlines making waves and history again, just as it did on that faithful day in 1969, in the not-too-distant future.

C

That said, it is the prospect of space tourism for the masses that has captured the headlines recently, and this may not be such a distant dream as people would expect. In 2001, an American multimillionaire, Dennis Tito, became the first space tourist, spending ten days on the International Space Station along with his crew of Russian cosmonauts, and fulfilling a lifelong ambition in the process. He described the experience rather paradoxically as 'indescribable';

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everything that he thought it would be and more. A year later, South African millionaire Mark Shuttleworth followed in his footsteps. On his return to Earth he said, 'every second will be with me for the rest of my life'. Clearly these men had a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but this came at a hefty price, both paying \$20 million for the pleasure of their space adventures.

D

At present, space tourism is undoubtedly reserved for an elite and wealthy few, but what of the future? If Eric Anderson, president of Space Adventures, the company that organised Tito and Shuttleworth's trips, is to be believed, it will be the next big thing. 'Everyone's looking for a new experience', he says. Indeed, Space Adventures is planning to offer rocket trips to the public for \$100,000 within the next few years, so perhaps space tourism is closer than we think. Another company, The Space Island Group, is planning to build a space hotel inspired by the spaceship in the film 2001: A Space Odyssey. Gene Meyers, the company's president, predicts that in 2020 a five-day holiday at the hotel will cost less than \$25,000. Imagine, he says, a five-star hotel with all the usual luxuries, except that each morning you'll be greeted by mind-blowing views of outer space. This is certainly food for thought for adventure-seeking holiday planners. That said, unless there is a serious spike in inflation between now and 2020, \$25,000 will still remain a considerable sum of money to have to part with for a recreational activity, once-in-a-lifetime or not. But that is perhaps missing the point -the prospect of affordable space travel is getting closer and closer and it is only a matter of time before it becomes a reality.

E

Other companies have even more ambitious plans. Bigelow Aerospace is spending close to \$500 million on a project to build a 700-metre spaceship to fly tourists to the moon. The spaceship will be able to hold 100 guests, each with a private room offering truly unique views of the Earth's sunset. Even the Hilton Hotel Group wants to get in on the act with talk of plans to build a Hilton on the moon. For the present, only millionaires can enjoy the privilege of a space journey, but in the words of one Bob Dylan, 'The times they are a changing.' And sooner than you'd think.

Questions 1-5

Reading Passage 1 has five paragraphs A - E.

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph A - E from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number *i - viii* in the spaces 1-5 below.

List of Headings	
i	Not worth the cost
ii	Space travel: past, present and future
iii	Russian innovations
iv	A profitable investment
v	The future of tourism
vi	Insatiable desire for adventure
vii	The first space tourists
viii	Moon hotels

- 1 Paragraph A
- 2 Paragraph B
- 3 Paragraph C
- 4 Paragraph D
- 5 Paragraph E

Questions 6-9

Look at the following people (Questions 6 - 9) and the list of statements below.

Match each person with the correct statement, A - D.

Write the correct letter, A - D, in spaces 6 - 9.

A	touched down on the moon in 1969
B	believes space tourism will be popular in the near future
C	spent ten days on the International Space Station
D	Was the second tourist to travel into space
E	predicts space holidays will be more affordable by 2020
F	will build a hotel inspired by a film

- 6 Dennis Tito
- 7 Mark Shuttleworth
- 8 Eric Anderson

9 Gene Meyers

Questions 10-13

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

In spaces 10-13 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

10 Bigelow Aerospace's spaceship will offer unique views of the Moon's sunset.

11 The Hilton Hotel Group has ambitious plans to organise cheap space journeys.

12 NASA plans to launch a mission to Mars, but first it is hoping to return to the moon.

13 At the moment, space tourism is too expensive for ordinary people, only the very rich can travel to space.

READING PASSAGE 2

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



Arctic Survivors

The Arctic is an area located at the northernmost part of the Earth and includes the Arctic Ocean, Canada, Russia, Greenland, the United States, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland. It consists of an ice-covered ocean, surrounded by treeless permafrost. The area can be defined as north of the Arctic Circle, the approximate limit of the midnight sun and the polar night. The average temperature in July, which is the warmest month, is below 10°C. Colder summer temperatures cause the size, abundance, productivity and variety of plants to decrease. Trees cannot grow in the Arctic, but in its warmest parts, shrubs are common and can reach 2 metres in height.

A thick blanket of snow lies several feet deep all over the ground. The sun appears for only a few brief hours each day before sinking below the horizon as blackness cloaks the land. As it vanishes, a bitter chill tightens its grip. The Arctic is not a place to be in the throes of winter; it is hostile to almost all animal life. Amphibians would freeze solid here. Nor can reptiles withstand the extreme cold. And yet there are animals here, animals that exhibit a remarkable tolerance of the most inhospitable conditions on the planet.

Less than half a metre beneath the surface of the snow, a furry white creature, no bigger than a hamster, scurries along a tunnel. It is a collared lemming. It and other members of its family have excavated a complex home within the snow field, but it costs the lemmings a great deal to survive here. They pay by using some of their precious and scarce food supply to generate heat within their bodies so that their biochemical processes can continue to function efficiently. But in order to keep fuel costs to a minimum, they must conserve as much energy as they can. A thick insulating coat of fine fur covering all but the lemmings' eyes achieves this. Fur is the life preserver of the Arctic.

Only one class of animals has fur - the mammals. Fur is comprised of dense layers of hair

follicles. Hair is composed of a substance called keratin. It grows constantly, its roots embedded in the skin and surrounded by nerve fibres so that its owner can sense any movement of the hair. It is this precious fur that gives land mammals the edge necessary to survive the harsh Arctic winter. Without it, wolves, lemmings and arctic foxes alike would surely perish.

The insulation provided by fur comes not from the fur itself, but largely from the layer of air trapped within the fur. Air is an extremely effective insulator, which is the same as saying it is a poor conductor, i.e. it has a very limited ability to conduct heat away from a warm surface. Studies reveal that if a layer of air of about five centimetres could be held in place close to the skin, it would provide the same insulation as does the impressively dense winter coat of the arctic fox. If an arctic fox or wolf is exposed to an air temperature of about minus ten degrees, the temperature near the tips of the fur will match the air temperature, but at the surface of the skin it will be closer to thirty degrees. This represents a temperature difference of around forty degrees. Such effective insulation is only made possible by the layer of trapped air contained within the long, fine and densely packed fur.

But Arctic mammals have more in their arsenal than just fur to protect them from the elements. Unlike amphibians, reptiles and other classes of animals, they are endotherms, meaning they can generate their own body heat. This is another of the defining characteristics of mammals. It is the mammalian ability to generate heat internally that enables the arctic fox or the lemming to remain warm and active in very cold conditions. Generating heat internally, Arctic mammals can regulate their body temperature independent of external conditions; this is known as thermoregulation. When Arctic mammals are cold, they raise their metabolic rate and produce more heat. When they are warm, the reverse happens. Together, thermoregulation and fur make Arctic mammals perfectly equipped to face the toughest conditions the Arctic can throw at them.

Questions 14-20

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

14 Animals that live in the Arctic

- A can withstand extremely difficult living conditions.
- B often freeze solid during winter.
- C are mainly reptilian.
- D are mostly frogs or toads.

15 Where do lemmings live?

- A on the surface of the snow

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- A on the surface of the snow
- B in tunnels built under the frozen ocean
- C in wide tunnels deep underground
- D about 50cm below the surface of the snow

16 Fur is

- A thick layers of hair.
- B common to all animal classes.
- C unhelpful to Arctic animals.
- D the life preserver only for small Arctic mammals.

17 Why is trapped air a good insulator?

- A It is a good conductor of heat.
- B Air helps us to breathe.
- C It is a bad conductor of heat.
- D It absorbs heat and cold very well.

18 If the temperature at the tip of the fur of an arctic fox is minus ten degrees, the temperature at the surface of the skin will be closer to

- A forty degrees.
- B ten degrees.
- C thirty degrees.
- D thirty-five degrees.

19 What is an endotherm?

- A an animal that can generate heat inside its body.
- B an animal that cannot generate heat inside its body.
- C an animal that never gets cold
- D an animal that has special insulation

20 Thermoregulation and fur help Arctic mammals

- A cope with hot temperatures.
- B protect themselves from the elements.
- C regulate the temperature of their surroundings.
- D create a layer of trapped air within their fur.

Questions 21-26

Complete the summary below.

Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer.

The Arctic: winter is something few animals can survive, but there are a select few that show an amazing 21 _____ of the severe winter conditions.

Those animals have to use their food resources to keep their body temperature high so that the biochemical 22 _____ inside them continue to run. One thing that helps them keep their bodies warm is their 23 _____ which consists of thick layers of hair that provide insulation for their bodies; it is their life 24 _____. The layer of trapped air that they also have provides very effective insulation from cold because it is not a good 25 _____ of heat.

In the case of an Arctic mammal getting cold, it deals with it by increasing its 26 _____ rate to generate more heat.

READING PASSAGE 3

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



Bismarck: A Master of Political and Diplomatic Juggling?

A

Otto Von Bismarck's rise up the political ladder was swift and relentless. Having entered parliament in 1847, he always harboured lofty ambitions, chief among them perhaps being the reunification of Germany into one strong, centrally controlled state, though his own personal thirst for power was arguably even stronger. On becoming Prussian Chancellor, he set about fulfilling his ambitions and in doing so proved himself to be a diplomat of some considerable skill. Victory in the Austro-Prussian war effectively ended Austria as a factor in German affairs. His political and military juggling was taken a step further when he orchestrated a situation where France declared war on Germany in 1870, making the French seem responsible for a conflict he had always intended to create. And following another swift military triumph, this time over the French, the German empire was proclaimed in January 1871.

B

In little more than nine years, Bismarck realised his lifelong ambition, steering Germany to reunification. And by defeating Austria and France in quick succession, he also created a power vacuum on mainland Europe which he was determined to fulfill himself. This was another opportunity for Bismarck to demonstrate his political and diplomatic cunning. He set about creating a dictatorial Germany in which he, as head of the Prussian parliament, would automatically become chancellor of the German empire. He drafted a new German constitution to suit his own purposes and, despite maintaining a veneer of democracy, the German parliament was effectively powerless to oppose him. Provinces that were slow to support him were enticed with bribes and before long the German empire was his to command.

C

It is testament to his political skill that Bismarck achieved so much so quickly. At this point in his colourful political career he did appear, for all intents and purposes, a master of political and diplomatic juggling. But challenges lay ahead and Bismarck's next target was the Catholic church, which he deemed too powerful and a threat to his political dominance. He proceeded to enact a series of laws which seriously eroded the power of the church. However, his plans backfired and Bismarck was forced to make a political U-turn. Though here again, he somehow managed to save face. The damage to his reputation was limited and indeed by the late 1870s he had even managed to win over the church whose support he now needed.

D

Bismarck viewed the growing popularity of the Socialist Democratic Party as a serious threat. He bided his time and used the attempted assassination of the Kaiser as an excuse to attack the socialists in 1878, blaming them for the attempt on the Kaiser's life. He immediately arrested the leaders, banned party meetings and suppressed socialist newspapers. But despite his efforts to destroy the socialist movement, its popularity had trebled by 1890. Just as his interventions with the church had not gone as planned, Bismarck once again failed to achieve his objective; though, to his credit, he held on to power.

E

His domestic position was relatively secure after 1871, Bismarck devoted a lot of his time to foreign policy. Having used war to unite Germany and make her great, Bismarck now believed that his ambitions were best served by peace. His plan to isolate a hostile France would require all his considerable diplomatic skills. The Dreikaiserbund agreement of 1873 between Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia was a first step towards doing just that. The Balkan crisis, a conflict involving Russia and Austria-Hungary, severely tested his diplomatic credentials, but his answer was to offer himself as an 'honest broker' to help resolve the dispute. The subsequent Congress of Berlin which he hosted was an outstanding success and only served to reinforce Bismarck's reputation as a shrewd diplomat. Bismarck's foreign policy would continue in this vein throughout his reign as Chancellor. He built up strategic alliances with the big powers, Russia, Italy and Austria-Hungary, in the hope that he could keep his main threats, France and Britain, isolated.

F

In truth, Bismarck's reign as chancellor of the German empire does seem to confirm him as a shrewd and wily diplomat and politician, one whose objectives were broadly achieved. Does this mean his so-called juggling was a success? Perhaps, but Bismarck left a less than perfect legacy. He created a Germany in which the Kaiser had the ultimate say in domestic affairs and enjoyed far too much power should he choose to wield it. This meant that the future of the empire largely depended on the strength and character of just one man, the Kaiser. A weak Kaiser would be disastrous for the country's welfare, and so it would soon prove. In the final analysis, Bismarck put Germany back on the map again as a great power during his reign, but

we should not forget that he created the political situation that would be the downfall of his country in the end. His political and diplomatic juggling, therefore, simply cannot be considered a total success.

Questions 27-31

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

27 In little more than nine years as Prussian Chancellor Bismarck had

- A succeeded in reuniting Germany and defeating Austria and France.
- B divided his country and lost two wars.
- C succeeded in suppressing the Socialist party.
- D abolished the parliament.

28 What happened after Bismarck enacted laws to weaken the Catholic church?

- A He changed his policy and made the church an ally.
- B The church's influence weakened.
- C France declared war on Germany.
- D He didn't succeed and his influence was severely weakened.

29 What had happened to the Socialist party by 1890?

- A It had taken power from Bismarck.
- B It had lost its influence.
- C Its popularity had risen three-fold.
- D It became very powerful in the parliament.

30 After reuniting Germany what was Bismarck's belief on foreign policy?

- A He needed to wage war with all countries that posed a military threat.
- B Preserving the peace and isolating France would benefit him.
- C Germany needed to befriend France to form a powerful alliance.
- D He wanted to form an alliance with Britain and France.

31 The article concludes that Bismarck

- A made few mistakes and left a positive legacy.
- B was not at all successful.
- C was always tolerant of those who had different opinions.
- D was not actually a master of political juggling.

Questions 32-34

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

In spaces 32-34 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

- 32 The Congress of Berlin was a great personal success for Bismarck.
- 33 Bismarck refused to build alliances with Russia or Austria.
- 34 Bismarck considered his reign as German chancellor a failure.

Questions 35-40

Reading Passage 3 has six paragraphs, A - F.

Choose the correct heading, *i - ix*, from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number, *i - ix*, in spaces 35 - 40 below.

	List of heading
i	A critical analysis
ii	Early career and rise to power
iii	Foreign policy
iv	Powerful friends
v	Separating church and state
vi	Socialist threat
vii	Political decline
viii	Creating a virtual dictatorship
ix	A change of mind

35 Paragraph A

36 Paragraph B

37 Paragraph C

38 Paragraph D

39 Paragraph E

40 Paragraph F



Solution:

Part 1: Question 1 - 13

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| 1 vi | 2 ii |
| 3 vii | 4 v |
| 5 viii | 6 C |
| 7 D | 8 B |
| 9 E | 10 FALSE |
| 11 NOT GIVEN | 12 TRUE |
| 13 TRUE | |

Part 2: Question 14 - 26

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 14 A | 15 D |
| 16 A | 17 C |
| 18 C | 19 A |
| 20 B | 21 tolerance |
| 22 processes | 23 fur |

24 preserver

25 conductor

26 metabolic

Part 3: Question 27 - 40

27 A

28 A

29 C

30 B

31 D

32 TRUE

33 FALSE

34 NOT GIVEN

35 ii

36 viii

37 ix

38 vi

39 iii

40 i