Succeed in IELTS Volume 7

Reading Practice Test 2

HOW TO USE

You have 2 ways to access the test

1. Open this URL **https://link.intergreat.com/VMd85** 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.*

A Disaster of Titanic Proportions

At 11:39 p.m. on the evening of Sunday, 14 April 1912, lookouts Frederick Fleet and Reginald Lee on the forward mast of the Titanic sighted an eerie, black mass coming into view directly in front of the ship. Fleet picked up the phone to the helm, waited for Sixth Officer Moody to answer, and yelled "Iceberg, right ahead!" The greatest disaster in maritime history was about to be set in motion.

Thirty-seven seconds later, despite the efforts of officers in the bridge and engine room to steer around the iceberg, the Titanic struck a piece of submerged ice, bursting rivets in the ship's hull and flooding the first five watertight compartments. The ship's designer, Thomas Andrews carried out a visual inspection of the ship's damage and informed Captain Smith at midnight that the ship would sink in less than two hours. By 1 2:30 a.m., the lifeboats were being filled with women and children, after Smith had given the command for them to be uncovered and swung out 15 minutes earlier. The first lifeboat was successfully lowered 15 minutes later, with only 28 of its 65 seats occupied. By 1:15 a.m., the waterline was beginning to reach the Titanic's name on the ship's bow, and over the next hour, every lifeboat would be released as officers struggled to maintain order amongst the growing panic on board.

The dosing moments of the Titanic's sinking began shortly after 2 a.m., as the last lifeboat was lowered and the ship's propellers lifted out of the water, leaving the 1,500 passengers still on board to surge towards the stern. At 2:17 a.m., Harold Bride and Jack Philips tapped out their last wireless message after being relieved of duty as the ship's wireless operators, and the ship'sband stopped playing. Less than a minute later, occupants of the lifeboats witnessed

the ship'slights flash once, then go black, and a huge roar signalled the Titanic's contents plunging towards the bow, causing the front half of the ship to break off and go under. The Titanic's stem bobbed up momentarily, and at 2:20 a.m., the ship finally disappeared beneath the frigid waters.

What or who was responsible for the scale of this catastrophe? Explanations abound, some that focus on very small details. Due to a last-minute change in the ship's officer line-up, iceberg lookouts Frederick Fleet and Reginald Lee were making do without a pair of binoculars that an officer transferred off the ship in Southampton had left in a cupboard onboard, unbeknownst to any of the ship's crew. Fleet, who survived the sinking, insisted at a subsequent inquiry that he could have identified the iceberg in time to avert disaster if he had been in possession of the binoculars.

Less than an hour before the Titanic struck the iceberg, wireless operator Cyril Evans on the California, located just 20 miles to the north, tried to contact operator Jack Philips on the Titanicto warn him of pack ice in the area. "Shut up, shut up, you're jamming my signal," Philips replied. "I'm busy." The Titanic's wireless system had broken down for several hours earlier that day, and Philips was clearing a backlog of personal messages that passengers had requested to be sent to family and friends in the USA. Nevertheless, Captain Smith had maintained the ship'sspeed of 22 knots despite multiple earlier warnings of ice ahead. It has been suggested that Smith was under pressure to make headlines by arriving early in New York, but maritime historians such as Richard Howell have countered this perception, noting that Smith was simply following common procedure at the time, and not behaving recklessly.

One of the strongest explanations for the severe loss of life has been the fact that the Titanic did not carry enough lifeboats for everyone on board. Maritime regulations at the time tied lifeboat capacity to the ship size, not to the number of passengers on board. This meant that the Titanic,with room for 1,178 of its 2,222 passengers, actually surpassed the Board of Trade's requirement that it carry lifeboats for 1,060 of its passengers. Nevertheless, with lifeboats being lowered less than half full in many cases, and only 71 2 passengers surviving despite a two-and-a-half-hour window of opportunity, more lifeboats would not have guaranteed more survivors in the absence of better training and preparation. Many passengers were confused about where to go after the order to launch lifeboats was given; a lifeboat drill scheduled for earlier on the same day that the Titanic struck the iceberg was cancelled by Captain Smith in order to allow passengers to attend church.

Questions 1-6

*Complete the table below. Choose NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the text for each answer. Write your answers in boxes **1—6** on your answer sheet.*

Time	Person's	Position	Action
11:39 p.m	1 _____	2 _____	Reported sighting of iceberg

3 _____	Andrews	Ship's designer	Reported how long the Titanic could stay float
12:15 a.m	Smith	Captain	Ordered 4 _____ to be released
2:17 a.m	Bride & Philips	5 _____	Relayed final 6 _____

Questions 7-13

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

*In boxes **7—13** 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

7 [ ] The binoculars for the men on watch had been left in a crew locker in Southampton.

8 [ ] The missing binoculars were the major factor leading to the collision with the iceberg.

9 [ ] Philips missed notification about the ice from Evans because the Titanic's wireless system was not functioning at the time.

10 [ ] Captain Smith knew there was ice in the area.

11 [ ] Howell believed the captain's failure to reduce speed was an irresponsible action.

12 [ ] The Titanic was able to seat more passengers in lifeboats than the Board of Trade required.

13 [ ] A lifeboat drill would have saved more lives.

READING PASSAGE 2

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

Three – Dimensional Films

A. In the theatre of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, on the evening.of 27 September 1922, a new form of film-making made its commercial debut: 3-D[1]. The film. The Power of Love, was then shown in New York City to exhibitors and press, but was subsequently not picked up for distribution and is now believed to be lost. The following three decades were a period of quiet experimentation for 3-D pioneers, as they adapted to new technologies and steadily improved the viewing experience. In 1952, the "golden era" of 3-D is considered to have begun with the release of Bwana Devil, and over the next several years, audiences met with a string of films that used the technology. Over the following decades, it waxed and waned within film- making circles, peaking in the 1970s and again in the 1990s when IMAX gained traction, but it is only in the last few years that 3-D appears to have firmly entered mainstream production.

B. Released worldwide in December 2009, die fantasy film Avatar quickly became the highest-grossing film ever made, knocking Titanic from the top slot. Avatar, set in 2154 on a planet in a distant solar system, went on to become the only film to have earned US$2 billion worldwide, and is now approaching the $3 billion mark. The main reason for its runaway popularity appears to be its visual splendour; though most critics praised the film, it was mostly on account of its ground-breaking special effects. Kenneth Turan of the Los Angeles Times praised Avatar's"powerful" visual accomplishments, but suggested the dialogue was "flat" and the characterizations "obvious". A film analyst at Exhibitor Relations has agreed, noting that Avatarhas cemented die use of 3-D as a production and promotional tool for

blockbuster films, rather than as a mere niche or novelty experiment. “This is why all these 3-D venues were built,” he said. “This is the one. The behemoth… The holy grail of 3-D has finally arrived .”

C. Those who embrace 3-D. note that it spices up a trip to the cinema by adding a more active “embodied” layer of experience instead of the viewer passively receiving die film through eyes and cars only. A blogger on Animation Ideas writes, “…when 3~D is done well, like in the flying scenes in Up, How to Train Your Dragon, and Avatar, there is an added feeling of vertigo. If you have any fear of heights, the 3-D really adds to this element…” Kevin Carr argues that the backlash against 3-D is similar to that which occurred against CGI[2] several years ago, and points out that CGI is now widely regarded as part of the film-maker’s artistic toolkit. He also notes that new technology is frequently seen to be a “gimmick” in its early days, pointing out that many commentators slapped the first “talkie” films of the early 1920s with this same label.

D. But not everyone greets the rise of 3~D with open arms. Some ophthalmologists point out that 3-D can have unsettling physical effects for many viewers. Dr. Michael Rosenberg, a professor at Northwestern University, has pointed out that many people go through life with minor eye disturbances – a slight muscular imbalance, for example – that does not interrupt day-to-day activities. In the experience of a 3-D movie, however, this problem can be exacerbated through the viewer trying to concentrate on unusual visual phenomena. Dr. Deborah Friedman, from the University of Rochester Medical Center, notes that the perception of depth conjured through three dimensions docs not complement die angles from which we take in the world. Eyestrains, headaches and nausea are, therefore, a problem for around 15% of a 3-D film audience.

E. Film critic Roger Ebert warns that 3-D is detrimental to good film-making. Firstly, he argues, the technology is simply unnecessary; 2~D movies are “already” 3-D, as far as our minds are concerned. Adding die extra dimension with technology, instead of letting our minds do the work, can actually be counter- purposeful and make the overall effect seem clumsy and contrived. Ebert also points out dial the special glasses dim the effect by soaking up light from the screen, making 3-D films a slightly duller experience dian they might otherwise be. Finally, Ebeit suggests that 3-D encourages film-makers to undercut drama and narrative in favour of simply piling on more gimmicks and special effects. “ Hollywood is racing headlong toward the kiddie market,” he says, pointing to Disney’s announcement that it will no longer make traditional films in favour of animation, franchises, and superheroes.

F. Whether or not 3-D becomes a powerful force for the film-maker’s vision and the film-going experience, or goes down in history as an over-hyped, expensive novelty, the technology certainly shows no signs of fading in the popularity stakes at the moment. Clash of the Titans, Alice in Wonderland, and How to Train Your Dragon have all recently benefited at the box office due to the added sales that 3-D provides, and with Avatar’s record set to last some time as a totem of 3-D’s commercial possibilities, studios are not prepared to back down.

Questions 14-19

Reading Passage 2 has six sections, **A-F.**

Choose the correct headings for sections **A-F** *from the list of headings below.*

Write the correct number ***i-x*** *in boxes* ***14-19*** *on your answer sheet*

14 [ ] Section A

15 [ ] Section B

16 [ ] Section C

17 [ ] Section D

18 [ ] Section E

19 [ ] Section F

	List of Headings
i	Construction of special cinemas for 3-D
ii	Good returns forecast for immediate future
iii	The greatest 3-D film of all time
iv	End of traditional movies for children
v	Early developments
vi	New technology diminishes the art
vii	The golden age of movies
viii	In defence of 3-D
ix	3-D is here to stay
x	Undesirable visual effects

Questions 20-26

Look at the following statements (Questions **20—26***) and the list of people below.*

Match each statement with the correct person, **A-G.**

Write the correct letter, **A-G**, *in boxes* **20-26** *on your answer sheet.*

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

NB. *Some options may not be used.*

20 [ ] 3-D conflicts with our mental construct of our surroundings.

21 [ ] 3-D encourages an over-emphasis on quick visual thrills.

22 [ ] Effective use of 3-D technology may increase our sensation of elevation.

23 [ ] 3-D viewing can worsen an existing visual disorder.

24 [ ] Avatar is the most powerful example of 3-D yet to arrive in cinemas.

25 [ ] Avatar's strength is found in its visual splendour, not in aspects of story.

26 [ ] People already have the mental capacity to see ordinary movies in three dimensions.

	List of people
A	Kenneth Turan
B	Exhibition Relations' analyst
C	Animation Ideas' blogger
D	Kevin Carr
E	Dr. Michael Rosenberg
F	Dr. Deborah Friedman
G	Roger Elbert

READING PASSAGE 3

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

Does Water Have Memory?

The practice of homoeopathy was first developed by the German physician Samuel Hahnemann. During research in the 1790s, Hahnemann began experimenting with quinine, an alkaloid derived from cinchona bark that was well known at the time to have a positive effect on fever. Hahnemann started dosing himself with quinine while in a state of good health and reported in his journals that his extremities went cold, he experienced palpitations, an "infinite anxiety", a trembling and weakening of the limbs, reddening cheeks and thirst. "In short," he concluded, "all the symptoms of relapsing fever presented themselves successively…" Hahnemann's main observation was that things which create problems for healthy people cure those problems in sick people, and this became his first principle of homoeopathy: simila similibus (with help from the same). While diverging from the principle of apothecary practice at the time, which was contraria contrariis (with help from the opposite), the efficacy of simila similibus was reaffirmed by subsequent developments in the field of vaccinations.

Hahnemann's second principle was minimal dosing – treatments should be taken in the most diluted form at which they remain effective. 'I*his negated any possible toxic effects of simila similibus.

In 1988, the French immunologist Jacques Benveniste took minimal dosing to new extremes when he published a paper in the prestigious scientific journal Nature in which he suggested that very high dilutions of the anti-IgE antibody could affect human basophil granulocytes, the least common of the granulocytes that make up about 0.01% to 0.3% of white blood cells. The point of controversy, however, was that the water in Benveniste's test had been so diluted that

any molecular evidence of the antibodies no longer existed. Water molecules, the researcher concluded, had a biologically active component that a journalist later termed “water memory”. A number of efforts from scientists in Britain, France and the Netherlands to duplicate Benveniste’s research were unsuccessful, however, and to this day, no peer-reviewed study under broadly accepted conditions has been able to confirm the validity of “water memory”.

The third principle of homoeopathy is “the single remedy”. Exponents of this principle believe that it would be too difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain the potential effects of multiple homoeopathic remedies delivered simultaneously. If it did work, they suggest, one could not know quite why it worked, turning homoeopathy into an ambiguous guessing game. If it did not work, neither patient nor practitioner would know whether the ingredients were all ineffective, or whether they were only ineffective in combination with one another. Combination remedies are gaining in popularity, but classical homoeopaths who rely on the single remedy approach warn these are not more potent, nor do they provide more treatment options. The availability of combination remedies, these homoeopaths suggest, has been led by consumers wanting more options, not from homoeopathic research indicating their efficacy.

Homoeopathy is an extremely contentious form of medicine, with strong assertions coming from both critics and supporters of the practice. “Homoeopathy: There’s nothing in it”announces the tag line to 10:23, a major British anti-homoeopathy campaign. At 10:23 am on 30 January 2010, over 400 supporters of the 10:23 stood outside Boots pharmacies and swallowed an entire bottle of homoeopathic pills in an attempt to raise awareness about the fact that these remedies are made of sugar and water, with no active components. This, defenders of homoeopathy say, is entirely the point. Homoeopathic products do not rely on ingredients that become toxic at high doses, because the water retains the “memory” that allows the original treatment to function.

Critics also point out the fact that homoeopathic preparations have no systematic design to them, making it hard to monitor whether or not a particular treatment has been efficacious. Homoeopaths embrace this uncertainty. While results may be less certain, they argue, the non-toxic nature of homoeopathy means that practitioner and patient can experiment until they find something that works without concern for side effects. Traditional medicine, they argue, assaults the body with a cocktail of drugs that only tackles the symptoms of disease, while homoeopathy has its sights aimed on the causes. Homoeopaths suggest this approach leads to kinder, gentler, more effective treatment.

Finally, critics allege that when homoeopathy has produced good results, these are exceedingly dependent on the placebo effect, and cannot justify the resources, time and expense that the homoeopathic tradition absorbs. The placebo effect is a term that describes beneficial outcomes from a treatment that can be attributed to the patient’s expectations concerning the treatment rather than from the treatment itself. Basically, the patient “thinks” himself into feeling better. Defenders suggest that homoeopathy can go beyond this psychological level.

They point to the successful results of homoeopathy on patients who are unconscious at the time of treatment, as well as on animals.

Questions 27-32

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

Write the correct letter, A-K, in boxes 27-32 on your answer sheet.

27 [ ] In the late 18th century, Hahnemann discovered that quinine was able to

28 [ ] The effectiveness of vaccinations also helps to

29 [ ] Benveniste argued in the journal Nature that water molecules possess the ability to

30 [ ] Attempts to verify Benveniste's findings were unable to

31 [ ] The purpose of the single remedy is to

32 [ ] Classical homoeopaths suggest combination remedies have been created to

A	avoid the unpredictable outcome of combining many remedies at once
B	explain the success of 18th century apothecary, medicine.
C	produce fever-like symptoms in a healthy person.
D	keep antibody molecules active in parts as low as 0.01%.
E	support the notion of simila simibus.
F	ofter more remedial choice.
G	produce a less effective dose.
H	recreate the original results.
I	retain qualities of an antibody to which they were previously exposed.
J	satisfy the demand of hovers.
K	treat effectively someone with a fever.

Questions 33-40

Complete the table below.

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

Write your answers in boxes **33-40** *on your answer sheet.*

Arguments against homoeopathy	Arguments for homoeopathy
Has no 33 _____ ingredients	Does not become 34 _____ when taken in large quantities.
Lack of a 35 _____ makes success or	Remedies can be trialed with no risk of 37 _____ treatments
failure of treatments difficult to 36 _____	tackle causes and not just 38 _____
Too much reliance on the 39 _____	Proven to work on people who are 40 _____
Works psychologically but not physically	

Solution:

Part 1: Question 1 - 13

1. Fleet
2. lookout
3. Midnight /12:00 a.m.
4. lifeboats
5. wireless operators
6. (wireless) message
7. FALSE
8. NOT GIVEN
9. FALSE
10. TRUE
11. FALSE
12. TRUE
13. NOT GIVEN

Part 2: Question 14 - 26

14. v
15. iii
16. viii
17. x
18. vi
19. ii
20. F
21. G
22. C
23. E

24 B

25 A

26 G

Part 3: Question 27 - 40

27 C

28 E

29 I

30 H

31 A

32 J

33 active

34 toxic

35 systematic design

36 monitor

37 side effects

38 symptoms

39 placebo effect

40 unconscious