ENGLISH READING PASSAGES TESTS

# Reading Passages Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 2

24 questions · Choose the correct answer. Online test and answer key with explanations:
https://englishtestsonline.com/reading-passages-advanced-level-test-quiz-online-exercise-with-answers-2/

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 24

**(Please note: The following questions are related to a specific reading passage, which is available solely before the first question. Remember, it may be helpful to refer back to the reading text while answering the questions to ensure accuracy.)**

The technology of the North American Colonies did not differ strikingly from that of Europe, but in one respect, the colonists enjoyed a great advantage. Especially by comparison with Britain, Americans had a wonderfully plentiful supply of wood. The first colonists didn't, as many people imagine, find an entire continent covered by a climax forest. Even along the Atlantic seaboard, the forest was broken at many points. Nevertheless, all sorts of fine trees abounded, and through the early colonial period, those who pushed westward encountered new forests. By the end of the colonial era, the price of wood had risen slightly in eastern cities, but wood was still extremely abundant and it was a foundation of the economy. Houses and all manner of buildings were made of wood to a degree unknown in Britain. Secondly, wood was used as a fuel for heating and cooking. Thirdly, it was used as the source of important industrial compounds, such as potash, an industrial alkali; charcoal, a component of gunpowder; and tannic acid.

1. **The passage mainly discusses _____.**
   **A)** the negative effects of an abundance of wood on the colonies
   **B)** the roots of the Industrial Revolution
   **C)** the difference between charcoal and tannic acid
   **D)** why the wood had little or no economic value
   **E)** the advantages of using wood in the colonies

2. **According to the passage, by the end of the colonial era, the price of wood in eastern cities _____.**
   **A)** decreased rapidly owing to lower demand
   **B)** was slightly higher than in previous years
   **C)** was very much higher than it was in Britain
   **D)** rose quickly since wood was becoming scarce
   **E)** was protested by the public

3. **It's implied in the passage that houses in Britain during the period mentioned in the passage were _____.**
   **A)** usually built from materials other than wood
   **B)** typically smaller than homes in North America
   **C)** generally built with imported materials
   **D)** more expensive than American houses
   **E)** all made of wood

When they first appeared a few years ago, smartphones were marketed as the Swiss Army knife of personal communications, combining the versatility of a hand-held computer with the connectivity of a mobile phone. What set them apart from standard mobile phones was their ability to download and run a broad range of third-party software applications. In theory, this meant users did not have to settle for the software applications that came with the device. In practice, however, the novelty value of having a currency converter, weather services, various different city maps and pocket sudoku crammed onto your phone soon wore off. Similarly, the logistics of viewing Excel spreadsheets or editing Word documents on such devices were only for die-hard enthusiasts. In short, until now smartphones have amounted to not much more than executive toys, doing little to improve anyone’s productivity.

4. **It is stated in the passage that one of the features that made smartphones different from the standard mobile phones was that _____.**
   **A)** smartphones were being retailed as a typical and ordinary device for personal communications in a different way
   **B)** smartphones were capable of running a wider range of software applications than a standard mobile phone
   **C)** standard mobile phones lacked the ability of finding websites without having to download the necessary programmes via internet
   **D)** standard mobile phones brought together many applications of a hand-held computer with the connectivity of a mobile phone
   **E)** smartphones were produced as a sharp gun to be used in the Swiss Army

5. **One may infer from the passage that smartphones seemed to _____.**
   **A)** be an invention designed by a Swiss mechanician to make the Swiss public astonished
   **B)** greatly improve their users' productivity
   **C)** be produced for the people who like solving puzzles in the digital environment
   **D)** be a device in which nobody showed any interest because of its market price
   **E)** prove useless in practice contrary to expectations in theory

**6. It can be inferred from the passage that certain features of smartphones _____.**

**A)** allowed the users to exploit only a little of the hardware of a hand-held computer
**B)** were not explained theoretically enough to understand how to function
**C)** didn't appeal to everybody
**D)** helped the users enhance their productivity
**E)** were in no need of updating in a short time

Combine current ideas about childhood development and interactive learning with a dwindling number of safe street corners and what do you get? A global boom in children's museums. Museums designed to encourage parents to learn from each other, and children to teach themselves, are booming around the world. From Boston to Los Angeles and Shanghai to Dubai, museums for children are breaking ground, expanding, and hiring world-class architects to design eco-friendly landmarks. The kudos from professional educators promise welcome enrichment to cash-strapped public schools and to hopeful parents of Harvard-bound toddlers.

**7. The passage is mainly concerned with _____.**

**A)** the professional educators' thoughts and attitudes towards the children's museums
**B)** how the children's museums are being constructed by famous and proficient architects
**C)** where the children's museums are being built
**D)** the rapid increase in the number of the children's museums worldwide
**E)** how safe the museums in the world are for both children and their parents

**8. It is implied in the passage that the children's museums _____.**

**A)** are becoming old-fashioned despite the fact that their numbers are increasing throughout the world
**B)** don't help the children and their parents learn anything
**C)** didn't satisfy the demanding parents at all
**D)** are being designed by highly skilled architects so that they will not damage nature
**E)** have only been constructed in downtowns

**9. It may be inferred from the passage that the children's museums _____.**

**A)** are being planned on the basis of modern approaches to childhood development and interactive learning
**B)** were being built in the corners of insecure streets
**C)** limit the communication between the parents and their children
**D)** function as a place to have fun rather than learn for the children
**E)** are making great contributions to tourism in the cities where they are built

Australia, cut off long ago from other continents, is one of the last places on Earth where one would expect to catch rabies or a related disease transmitted by animals. Yet this prospect is not as far-fetched as it may sound. In the last four years, new diseases carried by animals but affecting human beings have appeared for the first time in Australia and in all these cases bats were involved. Fruit bats are the main cause of concern. They congregate together in large colonies and are found in some of the most heavily populated areas of the continent. Bats are capable of flying up to 200 kilometres in a single journey and often share a convivial roost with other species of bats on their way so it is only too easy for them to spread a disease. The danger is accentuated because people are convinced of their harmlessness and many find them cuddly and in need of protection.

**10. According to the passage, in Australia, _____.**

**A)** one can have the most secure and comfortable vacation
**B)** the most deadly virus has been identified in the last four years
**C)** there's the possibility of catching a disease transmitted by animals
**D)** bats are the only threat to human health
**E)** bats have been poisoned by human beings in order to wipe out a disease

**11. It may be inferred from the passage that _____.**

**A)** the possible danger coming from bats is always taken seriously by people
**B)** people are scared of bats since they regard them as evil animals
**C)** bats spread disease easily partly because they often share roosts with other species of bats on their journeys
**D)** fruit bats can only be a minor reason for spreading disease
**E)** Australia is too close to the other continents in terms of location and this leads to the rapid spread of a disease

**12. According to the passage, one of the reasons why the danger of bats spreading disease to human beings is even greater is that _____.**

**A)** bats cannot travel long distances
**B)** it's not really satisfying to get vaccinated against bat virus
**C)** bats aren't able to find areas to settle where many people live
**D)** human beings carry some hazardous disease as well
**E)** people are not afraid of them because they suppose that they're benign

Although the weathermen's forecasts for a month ahead are only a little better than guesswork, they are now making long-term forecasts into the next century with growing confidence. For the dominant trend in the world's climate in the coming decades will, scientists say, be a predictable result of man's activities. At the start of the industrial revolution nearly two centuries ago, man innocently set off a gigantic experiment in planetary engineering. Unaware of what he was doing, he spared no thought for the consequences. Today the possible outcome is alarmingly clear, but the experiment is unstoppable. Within the lifetimes of many of us, the Earth may become warmer than it has been for a thousand years. Superficially, a warmer climate may seem welcome. But it could bring many hazards – disruptions of crops in the world's main food-producing

regions, famine, economic instability, civil unrest and even war.

**13. We learn from the passage that long-term weather forecasts into the next century may seem strange because _____.**

**A)** it is a fact that changes in the climate throughout the world are unpredictable
**B)** none of us will be alive then
**C)** weathermen cannot even forecast next month's weather accurately
**D)** we cannot know what the consequences of our present activities will be in the future
**E)** it is difficult to foresee how much melting of the great ice-caps of Greenland and Antarctica will raise sea levels throughout the world

**14. As it is stated in the passage, scientists say that the dominant trend in the world's climate in the coming decades will be a predictable result of _____.**

**A)** natural changes in the Sun's activity
**B)** clever long-term forecasts
**C)** random changes in the weather
**D)** unconscious farming
**E)** man's activities

**15. One may infer from the passage that a warmer climate _____.**

**A)** is like a concept that most of us have no idea about
**B)** means that weathermen will be more confident in the coming decades than they are now
**C)** is the inevitable outcome of carbon dioxide emissions and greenhouse effect
**D)** may lead to an increase in food production worldwide
**E)** may even cause war in the long term

It is an interesting paradox that the most enduring of the legendary stars of Hollywood's golden era should be one who in many ways bucked the trend. To begin with, there is the simple matter of his name. While the image-makers at the big studios racked their brains to invent names that would reflect the screen personality of stars who had been cursed from birth with others that were dull, unpronounceable or simply not Anglo-Saxon enough for the American public, he kept his own, one that was unique for a film star of his day because of the combination of a Christian name with upper-class associations and a surname that sounded Dutch or German. A generation of boys in Britain and the United States were registered with the invented names assigned to the leading actors their star-struck mothers adored - Wayne or Gary or Kirk - without ever being aware of the stars' real names. Yet hardly any of the admirers of Humphrey Bogart saw fit to follow suit.

**16. We learn from the passage that Humphrey Bogart's screen name was unusual in the great days of Hollywood because _____.**

**A)** Humphrey is a lower-class name
**B)** it was his own name
**C)** Bogart sounds like a Spanish name
**D)** it didn't appeal to American public
**E)** he'd always played gangster roles in his movies

**17. We understand from the passage that considering his name, Humphrey Bogart _____.**

**A)** didn't go after the general tendency which most of the other stars followed
**B)** seemed to be too childish
**C)** wasn't able to reflect the power of his name
**D)** thought it was inappropriate to maintain his own name
**E)** could hardly continue his career

**18. It's understood from the passage that _____.**

**A)** stars in the USA except Humphrey Bogart were all born with names that didn't attract film fans
**B)** the name Bogart is so interesting that it can keep people's interest in every country
**C)** Christian names take off much better than the others in any foreign film industry
**D)** the image-makers of big studios were trying very hard to think of suitable names for stars
**E)** male stars are luckier than their female counterparts in the film industry

Most great singing stars have established themselves long before they get to 35, but that is how old Madge Sharp is now, and this is her first record; it will not be her last. "I've always wanted to be a blues singer," she says. "I used to listen to singers like Mahalia Jackson and Ella Fitzgerald and others on record, but my parents would never let me go to a concert. And they never allowed me to sing with a band. The only singing I did for years was in our church choir. Of course, I wish I had started in the profession earlier, but I've got something now that a lot of younger singers haven't got: experience and maturity." And it's this experience and maturity in her voice which adds a distinct originality to all the tracks on this collection. All the songs may be old, but her versions of classics like "Ife" and "Georgia" make them sound as if they were written yesterday.

**19. It is clearly stated in the passage that Madge Sharp _____.**

**A)** made her first record later in her life than most singers
**B)** wanted to wait till she was experienced before making a record
**C)** used to be the soloist of a small band years ago
**D)** was never allowed to listen to the other singers except Mahalia Jackson
**E)** will no longer make an album

**20. It is understood from the passage that Madge Sharp _____.**

**A)** was always supported by her family to become a blues singer
**B)** started her singing career by imitating the singers like Ella Fitzgerald
**C)** probably gained most of her experience by singing in a church choir for a long time
**D)** liked going to her favourite singers' concerts in her youth
**E)** cannot sing as originally as the younger singers can

**21. It can be concluded from the passage that ____.**

**A)** Madge Sharp never dreamed about being a singer when she was a child
**B)** most of the great singing stars appreciated her way of singing
**C)** the music market had been in need of such a record for ages
**D)** Madge Sharp's first record doesn't include even one new song
**E)** all the younger singers want to sing as Madge Sharp does

One afternoon last spring, eight women found themselves at a resort in Texas stretched out on the floor on mats, each with a series of acupuncture needles protruding from their bodies. The atmosphere was calming and happy as an acupuncturist quietly moved from woman to woman, twisting and turning the needles, recalls Heidi Schell, one of those women who were nearing the end of a week-long retreat, all working towards the same goal - to get pregnant. The journey that led Ms Schell to the group acupuncture session will sound familiar to many women: she was among the 36% of females in the United States who had been seeking medical assistance to have a baby. To do so, she was among the 1% of women trying high-tech treatments - in her case, in vitro fertilization (IVF). But, at 40 years of age, her chances of conceiving via IVF were a decidedly slim 10%.

**22. As is mentioned in the passage, acupuncture ____.**

**A)** is a treatment process of at least one week
**B)** has come out as a branch of medicine first in the United States
**C)** is a curative aid received by some of the women in the USA to have a baby
**D)** is regarded as an exhausting journey to cure most of the diseases by professional acupuncturists
**E)** is only performed in group sessions to diagnose the reason why the women cannot get pregnant

**23. We understand from the passage that ____.**

**A)** Heidi Schell managed to get pregnant by means of the group acupuncture sessions she participated in
**B)** acupuncture wasn't a popular method to have a baby among the women in the USA
**C)** medical assistance could only be given to the women trying to get pregnant
**D)** acupuncture treatment is merely utilized by the experts for the women in their forties
**E)** in the USA, about 64% of females had not been seeking medical assistance to have a baby

**24. It is implied in the passage that ____.**

**A)** most of the women who had been pursuing the ways to be able to get pregnant tried high-tech treatments
**B)** the chances of Heidi Schell's having a baby through IVF were very low
**C)** the possibility of Heidi Schell's becoming pregnant was obviously higher than 10%
**D)** the majority of the women living in the USA needed medical assistance to get pregnant
**E)** the atmosphere of all the acupuncture sessions in the USA is disturbing and raging

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