TIMESAVER FOR EXAMS

PHOTOCOPIABLE

STARTER

IELTS

READING

(4.0 – 5.5)

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NORMAN WITNEY

SCHOLASTIC

Contents

Cities of the future

1a **Look at the following possible places for future cities and number them according to how likely you think it is that humans will live there one day. (1= most likely).**

a) under the ground .....

b) in very tall skyscrapers (more than 100 floors high) .....

c) on the moon .....

d on other planets in our solar system .....

e) at the bottom of the sea .....

f) on the sea on artificial islands .....

1b **Work in pairs to compare your ideas. Can you think of any other possibilities?**

2a **Read the question above the text. Then scan the text and underline the names of the vegetables.**

What salt-tolerant vegetable* is currently being developed?

Rising sea levels may well be a problem for food production because if land becomes covered with sea water, the salt can make it unsuitable for growing crops. Research is therefore being carried out in the Netherlands to try to develop crops which can still grow well in salty soil. Experiments have previously been carried out with carrots and one variety of onion. However, the most exciting developments at the moment are the attempts to produce a potato like this, as they are the world's fourth most important crop.

Glossary

*A *salt-tolerant* vegetable is one that can grow in salty soil or water.

Exam tip

A passage may contain two or more items that could be the right answer to a question. You can check which is correct by noting key words or phrases in the question and then reading the passage again to see if they appear. This can help you to find the correct answer.

2b **Look back at the question and underline a key word which changes its whole meaning. Then look at the vegetables you underlined and choose the correct one.**

3 **Follow the procedure in exercise 2 and answer the questions.**

a) How many years will it take to build the Ocean Spiral?

The Ocean Spiral is a project proposed by the Japanese company Shimizu to provide homes for people on the ocean. Officials at the company say that it will take about five years to construct and that the technology needed to create living conditions below the surface of the ocean could be available in just 12 years' time.

b) What will be the main form of transport in CCCC's floating city?

The building company CCCC hopes to build a floating city off the coast of China. It will include a number of facilities for entertaining visitors, such as museums and a theme park. Residents and visitors will travel around the city principally by submarine, although there may also be roads for electric cars.

4 **Read the questions (1–9) and decide what type of word or information you need to look for in the passage.**

1 What institutions have often taken advantage of the absence of laws at sea? .....

2 What destroyed Werner Stiefel's last attempt at creating an offshore platform? .....

3 What shape will the area of the Ocean Spiral with the living spaces be? .....

4 What gas will be produced by the Ocean Spiral's 'earth factory'? .....

5 What material will be used to construct the Ocean Spiral? .....

6 What kind of floating construction has CCCC already developed? .....

7 What will be the main purpose of CCCC's floating city? .....

8 What will provide the main source of energy in the city? .....

9 What will be the source of drinking water? .....

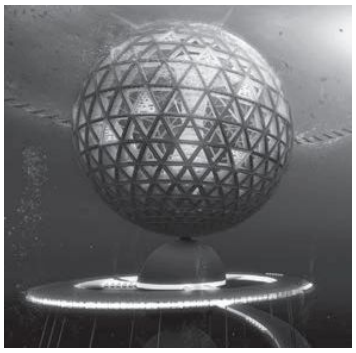
EXAM TASK: Reading (short answer questions)

5 **Scan the passage and answer the questions in exercise 4. Choose no more than TWO words or a word and a number from the passage for each answer.**

Exam tip

When answering short answer questions in the IELTS exam, make sure you do not write more words than the word limit given.

Floating cities



The oceans cover 71 per cent of the surface of our planet, while humans live on the remaining 29 per cent. But is this a real limit in the modern world or are we coming close to building new cities on the ocean, or even under it?

In the past, plans to establish human settlements on the ocean were often driven by dreams of creating a new society. This is because, beyond an area of 200 nautical miles surrounding any country, there are no laws at sea. In the past, several radio stations have placed themselves at sea to avoid a country's rules about broadcasting. But there have been more ambitious projects too. In the 1960s, the US businessman Werner Stiefel made several attempts to set up a new society called 'Operation Atlantis' in the sea around the Caribbean. None of his projects were successful, and he gave up the idea after a platform that he was building off Cuba broke up in a storm.

In the 21st century, developments in technology and the need to create space for a growing population have made projects for living on the ocean both more realistic and more necessary. One such project is the Ocean Spiral, proposed by the Japanese engineering firm Shimizu.

According to the design, part of this will be a large spherical structure about 500 metres across. This section will provide homes for about 3,000 people. Most of the time it will sit on the surface of the ocean like a floating ball, but it can be pulled down under the water in bad weather. Below this section, a spiral-shaped path will lead to the ocean floor. Here an 'earth factory' will use micro-organisms to turn carbon dioxide into methane. This can be used to generate electricity. The original plan was to use concrete as the main construction material, but Shimizu now plans to build all of the structure from resin*.

Japan is not the only country with plans like this. As China is faced with a need to provide housing for its increasing population, it may also start building cities out in the ocean. The Chinese company CCCC hopes to build a new floating city off the country's coast. The company has already created bridges which can float on water. According to the plan, this technology could form the basis for a complete new city. It will provide living space for some of the residents of China's crowded cities, but the designers see its primary purpose as a tourist attraction. The city is expected to be able to provide its own energy and food. Energy will be mostly provided by the movement of the waves, while the processing of rubbish will provide a secondary source of power. Farms located around the edge of the construction will supply food, and drinking water will be collected from rain and stored in a large freshwater lake.

Shimizu and CCCC's proposed floating cities may seem very ambitious, but both companies insist that they will go ahead.

Glossary

**resin* (noun) a solid synthetic material used as the basis of plastic

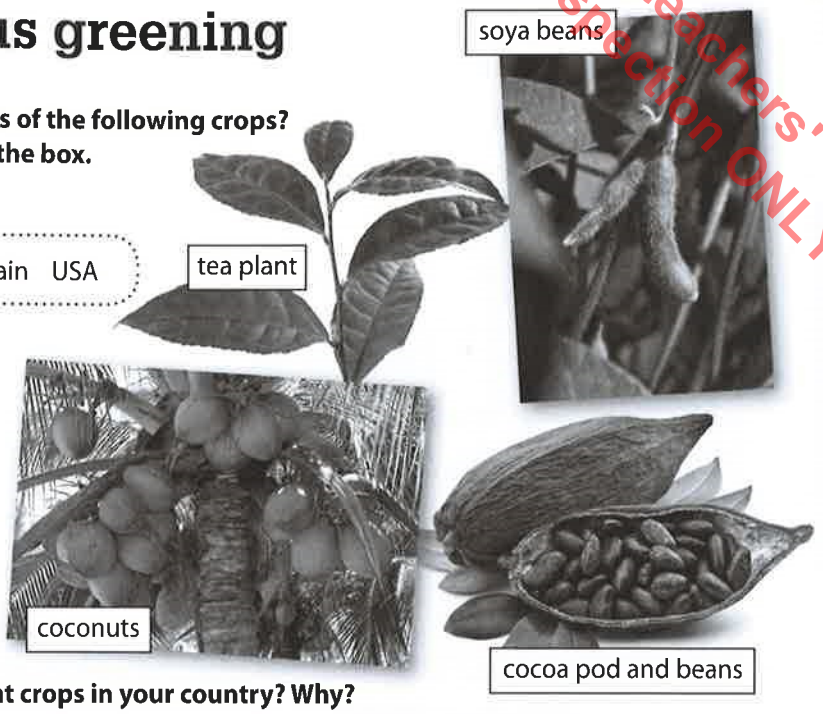
6 **Scan the passage to find a verb that commonly goes in front of the following nouns:**

a) *establish* a settlement
b) ..... the idea
c) ..... electricity
d) ..... housing
e) ..... the basis for something
f) ..... food

7 **Use the verb–noun collocations from exercise 6 to complete the following sentences. Change the tense of the verb if necessary.**

a) His ideas *formed the basis* for a new social movement and eventually a new political party.
b) If the desert continues to expand, then there will be less land to ..... for the hungry population.
c) The minister revealed a programme to ..... for the newly arrived refugees in the city.
d) The French successfully ....., which later became the city of Quebec.
e) It is important that humans do not ..... of creating a better society.
f) During certain hours, the water from the river flows to a power plant to .....

Citrus greening



1a **What countries are the world's top producers of the following crops? Complete the table with the countries from the box. Then work in pairs to compare your ideas.**

Brazil ~~China~~ Indonesia Ivory Coast Spain USA

Crop	Top producer
tea	*China*
olive oil	
cocoa	
soya beans	
coconuts	
oranges	

1b **Work in groups. What are the most important crops in your country? Why?**

2 **Read the sentences. Put a tick (✓) if the gapfill answer is possible, and a cross (✗) if it repeats information which is already in the sentence.**

a) When a plant has the disease, its leaves will start to *drop* and eventually they will fall. ✗

b) Sunlight can be used to kill the *bacteria* that may collect in rainwater. ……

c) A variety of crops are grown on the farm, but the most important is *sweetcorn*. ……

d) As the century continued, there was a decline in agriculture and a rise in the importance of *farming*. ……

e) The increase in the number of farm labourers without work was mainly caused by *unemployment*. ……

f) The plants form a cover over the lake which blocks sunlight and means that the water lacks *oxygen*. ……

Exam tip

When completing sentences, you must be sure that the word you write in the gap gives new information and does not repeat an idea which is already in the sentence. Re-read the sentence with your answer to check for this.

EXAM TASK: Reading (diagram label completion)

3 **Read the flow chart below which describes the progress of a disease. Underline a word or phrase in each stage that you can use to scan the text.**

1 The citrus tree is infected by an insect. ▶ 2 The disease lies inactive for a period in the tree's (a) …… . ▶ 3 The bacteria block the tree's food and water system and prevent the movement of (b) …… . ▶ 4 The veins in the tree's leaves turn (c) …… . ▶ 5 The tree produces (d) …… shaped fruit which has a (e) …… taste.

4 **The stages of a process are often connected with a time word or a result word. Read the words and phrase. Write (A) for a time change and (B) for a result.**

then *A* as a result …… in consequence …… after that …… eventually …… therefore ……

5 **Scan the main passage to find the paragraph which describes the progress of the disease. Then scan this paragraph and underline any time or result words. Then complete the gaps in exercise 3 (2–5). Write ONE word in each gap.**

6 **Choose one of the processes in the box. Make some notes on the process. Then work in pairs and describe your process to each other using the time and result words in exercise 4.**

How a disease or illness develops How a plant or insect grows Something from your area of work or study

7 **Complete the sentences. Use ONE word from the passage in each gap.**

1 Placing an infected tree in a heated *tent* may help to slow the progress of the disease.

2 Domestic growers of citrus trees are less likely to use _____ than commercial growers.

3 One way of controlling the disease may be to use a kind of _____ which preys on the citrus psyllid.

4 The citrus industry has reallocated some of its _____ budget to fund research into the disease.

5 Spinach genes have been introduced into orange trees as they contain _____ that attack the bacteria.

6 It is hoped that _____ will accept oranges that have been modified by spinach genes.

Citrus greening

A A patient is battling a deadly disease but experts have decided that heat treatment may help. The heat is designed to kill the bacteria that are attacking the victim. Experts hope that it will allow the patient to live a few more years, but there is no cure.

B The patient in question is not a person but a Florida orange tree, and the disease is known as citrus greening. It started in Asia but was accidentally introduced into Florida in 2005. Since then it has spread to most orange-growing regions in the USA and has become a threat to the whole citrus fruit industry.

C The disease is spread by an insect called the citrus psyllid. When the psyllid feeds on an infected tree, it picks up the bacteria and then transports it to another. The signs of the disease may take two to four years to appear. During this time, the disease stays in the roots of the tree. After this, however, it starts to move up the trunk and to multiply in the tree's food and water transport system. This stops the flow of sugars that the tree needs in order to thrive. In consequence, the leaves develop a spotted appearance and their veins start to become yellow. Eventually the leaves fall and whole branches start to die. The fruit on the tree do not become ripe but remain half green, and they are irregular in shape with a very bitter flavour.

D A number of measures have been tried to limit the effects of the disease. The bacteria are heat sensitive, and so moving an infected tree into a plastic tent where a high temperature is maintained can give it a longer life. Eventually, however, the disease takes hold again. Other measures involve targeting the citrus psyllid. Trees can be sprayed with pesticides but these will not stop it completely. This treatment is also expensive, and although the owners of large-scale commercial orchards may be able to afford it, many citrus trees are grown in domestic gardens. It is unlikely that the owners of these spaces will be able to pay for this kind of intensive chemical treatment. Another way of reducing the number of the citrus psyllid may be to use a natural predator. In California experts have tried releasing a species of wasp known to attack the psyllid, with some success. But there is still a need to find a complete solution to the problem. The citrus industry has taken some of the funds that were originally intended for advertising and instead used them for research, in the hope that a real cure can be found.

E Previous experience with similar diseases suggests that the battle against the disease may be won not by trying to cure it, but by developing trees which can resist it. This can be done by using genes from a related species which is not affected by it. In the case of citrus greening, there are no related species that the disease cannot attack, and so researchers have had to turn to unrelated plants. In particular, spinach contains a number of powerful proteins that can target the bacteria which are responsible for the disease. Experiments where these have been introduced into an orange tree appear to have met with success in creating a new, resistant type of tree.

F The biggest problem with this approach may be a commercial one. The spinach proteins have no effect on the taste of the fruit, but will consumers be happy to buy oranges which are grown in this way? Both scientists and growers are hopeful that they can be persuaded, especially if the alternative is the end of the whole citrus fruit industry.

Picture this

1 **Work in groups. Discuss which of these activities would be inappropriate when visiting an art museum. Explain your reasons.**

- taking photographs
- eating or drinking
- talking on your mobile phone
- chatting to your friends about the pictures
- touching the pictures

2 **Skim the passage below. What is being banned in some art museums and why?**

No Selfie Sticks

Many art museums are banning a popular device used to take self-portraits.

Picture this: you're admiring a painting at a museum, when suddenly a long, metal rod blocks your view. It's a selfie stick – a device that attaches to a smartphone so people can extend their reach to take more flattering pictures of themselves. A group is using the gadget to take a picture in front of the artwork. That's when a guard approaches and points to a sign which reads, 'No selfie sticks allowed.'

This scenario* is playing out in art museums around the world. The popularity of selfie sticks has led many museums – from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York to the National Gallery in London – to add selfie sticks to their lists of banned items. Museum officials worry that visitors wielding selfie sticks could accidentally damage priceless works of art. The sticks may even encourage bad manners, with many complaining that the devices are distracting to other museum goers. In addition, people too focused on using the sticks to achieve the best photos might miss out on the real purpose of visiting a museum – enjoying the artworks on display.

Not everyone, however, is happy with the museums' new anti-selfie-stick rules. Some say that selfie sticks are no different from outstretched arms taking regular selfies. And some museum officials agree that selfies can be a positive thing, as people often share their photos on social media sites, thereby generating free publicity for museums. It could also be argued that taking selfies helps people build lasting relationships with works of art, developing an appreciation of art that lasts beyond the initial visit and widening the appeal of art, especially for a younger generation.

Though no negative incidents linked to selfie sticks have yet been reported, many museums are taking preventative* measures just in case.

Glossary

**scenario* (noun) a particular situation or set of circumstances
**preventative* (adjective) designed to stop something bad before it can happen

3 **Read the words and phrases from the passage. Are they used to express a negative or positive opinion?**

agree bad manners complaining distracting free publicity helps miss out negative incidents positive worry

Exam tip

Look out for positive and negative words in a passage which tell you about different opinions: *worry*, *negative*, *agree*, *help*, etc.

4 **What do you think about using selfie sticks in museums? Explain your opinion. Use the language below and the words in exercise 3.**

I (don't) think … I (don't) believe … I worry … I agree / disagree …

5 **Read the passage below and answer the questions.**

a) What is Vantablack? **b)** Who invented it? **c)** Who has the legal right to use it in art?

Can You Own a Colour?

One artist has exclusive rights to the world's blackest substance.

What's the blackest black on the planet? It's not the colour of coal, the midnight sky or even a panther's fur. The blackest shade on Earth actually comes from a human-made substance called Vantablack. It is believed to be the darkest material ever created, but that's not what has generated attention. Recently, sculptor Anish Kapoor bought the exclusive rights to use Vantablack in art. Now many are asking whether an artist should have a monopoly* on a material or colour.

Vantablack was originally developed by a British company called Surrey NanoSystems as a coating for military and scientific instruments. Nearly all the light that hits its surface is absorbed, making objects coated in the substance almost impossible to see. Some people say it's like looking into a hole. When asked about the artistic applications of the material, Kapoor told the BBC, 'Imagine a space that is so dark that as you walk in you lose all sense of where you are, what you are, and especially all sense of time.'

Kapoor makes sculptures that explore form and space. Some people believe that he is the perfect person to experiment with Vantablack, but many in the art community object. They argue that, if Kapoor has sole access to Vantablack, he is preventing other artists from innovating with the new substance.

This isn't the first time an artist has claimed a colour for himself. In 1960, French conceptual artist Yves Klein created and patented his own vivid shade of blue. Kapoor didn't invent Vantablack, though, and it's not a paint colour but a unique substance. Representatives of Surrey NanoSystems say that as scientists, they're staying out of the discussion, stating, 'This debate is for the artistic community, we don't want to get involved.'

Glossary

**monopoly* (noun) a situation where only one person or company is able to use or to sell something*

6 **Find the words and phrases (1–6) in the passage. Do they describe …**

a) Arguments for Kapoor **b)** Arguments against Kapoor **c)** Neither side of the debate

1 asking whether … should *b*
2 the perfect person .....
3 object .....
4 they argue … preventing .....
5 staying out of the discussion .....
6 don't want to get involved .....

EXAM TASK: Reading (identifying writer's views)

7 **Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in the reading passage, *Can You Own a Colour*? Write:**

YES if the statement agrees with the information

NO if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information about this in the passage

1 Some people question whether giving one artist exclusive rights to use a colour is a good thing. .....
2 Kapoor suggests Vantablack could be used to create artworks that offer the viewer a unique experience. .....
3 Kapoor believes Vantablack is perfectly suited to his style of art. .....
4 Some other artists oppose the idea that only Kapoor should be able to use Vantablack. .....
5 The art community agreed that Yves Klein should have sole use of the colour he invented. .....
6 The company who developed Vantablack publicly support Kapoor's use of it in his art. .....

Exam tip

'Identifying writer's claims' questions focus on opinions expressed in a passage. If the opinion is not mentioned in the passage, then answer is *not given*.

Answers

Lighting the Olympic flame (pages 6–7)

1 Students' own answers.

2 **b)** Berlin, Beijing **c)** 1982, 1780 **d)** four years, 20 metres **e)** doctor, poet **f)** iron, gold **g)** dangerous, too expensive **h)** educational, tourist attraction

How long can have two different meanings; a measurement, or a length of time.

3a **1 Suggested underlining:** modern
2 Suggested underlining: first

3b Students' own answers.

4a **section A:** Athens, 20th century, Amsterdam, 1928
section B: 1936, Berlin

4b **1** Amsterdam **2** 1936

4c **5** worldwide **6** (by a) woman

5 **3** sunlight **4** (by) plane **5** 78 days **6** 1968 **7** prince **8** 204 **9** too heavy **10** magnesium

6 Students' own answers.

7 **a)** B **b)** A

Cities of the future (pages 8–9)

1a–b Students' own answers.

2a carrot, onion, potato

2b **Key word:** currently; **Correct answer:** potato

3 **a)** five years **b)** submarine

4 Students' own answers.

5 **1** Radio stations **2** storm **3** spherical **4** methane **5** resin **6** bridges **7** tourist attraction **8** waves **9** rain

6 **b)** give up **c)** generate **d)** provide **e)** form **f)** supply

7 **b)** supply food **c)** provide housing **d)** established a settlement **e)** give up the idea **f)** generate electricity

Diamonds are forever (pages 10–11)

1a **a)** False. Diamonds can be many colours including yellow, blue, green and pink. These are sometimes more valuable than clear diamonds. **b)** True **c)** False. It is possible to produce artificial diamonds by putting carbon under a high temperature and high pressure. It is also possible to grow them in the laboratory using a carbon gas mixture. **d)** True. They also referred to them as 'Tears of the gods'.

1b Students' own answers.

2a–b Students' own answers. The easiest words to see are probably *2014* because the numbers are easy to see against the rest of the passage, '*Mountain of Light*', because you can look for the quotation marks and *Queen Victoria* because you can look for the capital letters.

3 **b)** one of the rarest shades (different words)

c) the largest clear diamond in the world (change from comparative to superlative expression)

d) unaware of its value (different words)

e) diamonds were discovered in Brazil by prospectors (change from active to passive)

4 Students' own answers.

5a **2** A **3** D **4** F **5** B **6** C

5b **2** A **3** E **4** C **5** D **6** B

6 **b)** theft **c)** exotic **d)** unaware **e)** boom **f)** auction

Healthy choices (pages 12–13)

1a–b Students' own answers.

2 **b)** 4, 5 **c)** 3, 5

3 Students' own answers.

4a Brian Wansink, Jo Bartel, Dr Julianna Van der Pluym, Dr Craig Canapari, Dr Douglas Lazzaro

4b **b)** Jo Bartel **c)** Dr Julianna Van der Pluym **d)** Dr Craig Canapari **e)** Brian Wansink

5a **2** F **3** A **4** B **5** D **6** G **7** E

5b **2** found **3** explain **4** recommend **5** advise **6** According to **7** suggest

6 **2** F **3** E **4** B **5** D **6** A

Mapping the world (pages 14–15)

1 Students' own answers.

2 **Suggested answers:**
a) The Grand Canyon in Arizona, USA
b) To record photos of the canyon
c) Views around the canyon
d) A special camera that someone can wear on a backpack

3a **Suggested answer:**
Google recorded views of the Grand Canyon for Google Maps.

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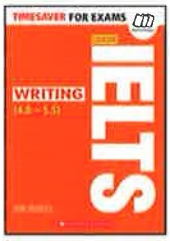

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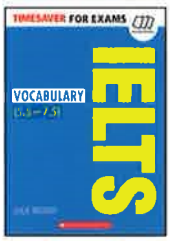

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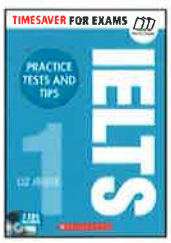

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