

# IELTS READING (ACADEMIC)

ACTUAL TESTS WITH ANSWERS

**JANUARY - APRIL 2021**



 IELTS Material

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# Preface

As far as you know, IELTS candidates will have only 60 minutes for this IELTS Reading part with a total of 40 questions. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that you invest time in practicing the real IELTS reading tests for this module.

Besides Cambridge IELTS Practice Tests series published by Oxford University Press, IELTS Reading Recent Actual Tests with Answers aims to develop both test-taking skills and language proficiency to help you achieve a high IELTS Reading score. It contains IELTS Reading Tests in the chronological order starting from the recent tests and an Answer Key. Each test contains three reading passages which cover a rich variety of topics and give a lot of practice for a wide range of question types used in the IELTS Exam such as multiple-choice questions, short- answer questions, sentence completion, summary completion, classification, matching lists / phrases, matching paragraph headings, identification of information – True/False/Not Given, etc. When studying IELTS with this e-book, you can evaluate at the nearest possibility how difficult the IELTS Reading Section is in the real exam, and what the top most common traps are. Moreover, these tests are extracted from authentic IELTS bank source; therefore, you are in all probability to take these tests in your real examinations.

The authors are convinced that you will find IELTS Reading Recent Actual Tests extremely helpful on your path to success with the International English Language Testing System.

Don't just trust luck in your IELTS exam – the key is practice!

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<https://ieltsmaterial.com> | [admin@ieltsmaterial.com](mailto:admin@ieltsmaterial.com)

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## IELTS Reading Test 01

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### Section 1

#### Questions 1 -13

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

#### History of Refrigeration

*(IELTS ACADEMIC Dec 2020)*

- A. Refrigeration is a process of removing heat, which means cooling an area or a substance below the environmental temperature. Mechanical refrigeration makes use of the evaporation of a liquid refrigerant, which goes through a cycle so that it can be reused. The main cycles include vapour-compression, absorption steam-jet or steam- ejector, and airing. The term ‘refrigerator’ was first introduced by a Maryland farmer Thomas Moore in 1803, but it is in the 20th century that the appliance we know today first appeared.
- B. People used to find various ways to preserve their food before the advent of mechanical refrigeration systems. Some preferred using cooling systems of ice or snow, which meant that diets would have consisted of very little fresh food or fruits and vegetables, but mostly of bread, cheese and salted meals. For milk and cheeses, it was very difficult to keep them fresh, so such foods were usually stored in a cellar or window box. In spite of those measures, they could not survive rapid spoilage. Later on, people discovered that adding such chemical as sodium nitrate or potassium nitrate to water could lead to a lower temperature. In 1550 when this technique was first recorded, people used it to cool wine, as was the term ‘to refrigerate’. Cooling drinks grew very popular in Europe by 1600, particularly in Spain, France, and Italy. Instead of cooling water at night, people used a new technique: rotating long-necked bottles of water which held dissolved saltpeter. The solution was intended to create very low temperatures and even to make ice. By the end of the 17th century, iced drink including frozen juices and liquors had become extremely fashionable in France.

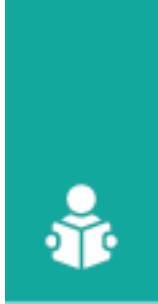


- C. People's demand for ice soon became strong. Consumers' soaring requirement for fresh food, especially for green vegetables, resulted in reform in people's dieting habits between 1830 and the American Civil War, accelerated by a drastic expansion of the urban areas and the rapid amelioration in an economy of the populace. With the growth of the cities and towns, the distance between the consumer and the source of food was enlarged. In the 1790s as a commercial product, ice was first transported out of Canal Street in New York City to Charleston, South Carolina. Unfortunately, this transportation was not successful because when the ship reached the destination, little ice left. Frederick Tudor and Nathaniel Wyeth, two New England' businessmen, grasped the great potential opportunities for ice business and managed to improve the storage method of ice in the process of shipment. The acknowledged 'Ice King' in that time, Tudor concentrated his efforts on bringing the ice to the tropical areas. In order to achieve his goal and guarantee the ice to arrive at the destination safely he tried many insulating materials in an experiment and successfully constructed the ice containers, which reduced the ice loss from 66 per cent to less than 8 per cent drastically. Wyeth invented an economical and speedy method to cut the ice into uniform blocks, which had a tremendous positive influence on the ice industry. Also, he improved the processing techniques for storing, transporting and distributing ice with less waste.
- D. When people realised that the ice transported from the distance was not as clean as previously thought and gradually caused many health problems, it was more demanding to seek the clean natural sources of ice. To make it worse, by the 1890s water pollution and sewage dumping made clean ice even more unavailable. The adverse effect first appeared in the blowing industry, and then seriously spread to such sectors as meat packing and dairy industries. As a result, the clean, mechanical refrigeration was considerably in need.
- E. Many inventors with creative ideas took part in the process of inventing refrigeration, and each version was built on the previous discoveries. Dr William Cullen initiated to study the evaporation of liquid under the vacuum conditions in 1720. He soon invented the first man-made refrigerator at the University of Glasgow in 1748 with the employment of ethyl ether boiling into a partial vacuum. American inventor Oliver Evans designed the refrigerator firstly using vapour rather than liquid in



1805. Although his conception was not put into practice in the end the mechanism was adopted by an American physician John Gorrie, who made one cooling machine similar to Evans' in 1842 with the purpose of reducing the temperature of the patient with yellow fever in a Florida hospital. Until 1851, Evans obtained the first patent for mechanical refrigeration in the USA. In 1820, Michael Faraday, a Londoner, first liquefied ammonia to cause cooling. In 1859, Ferdinand Carre from France invented the first version of the ammonia water cooling machine. In 1873, Carl von Linde designed the first practical and portable compressor refrigerator in Munich, and in 1876 he abandoned the methyl ether system and began using an ammonia cycle. Linde later created a new method ('Linde technique') for liquefying large amounts of air in 1894. Nearly a decade later, this mechanical refrigerating method was adopted subsequently by the meat packing industry in Chicago.

- F. Since 1840, cars with the refrigerating system had been utilised to deliver and distribute milk and butter. Until 1860, most seafood and dairy products were transported with cold-chain logistics. In 1867, refrigerated, railroad cars are patented to J.B. Sutherland from Detroit, Michigan, who invented insulated cars by installing the ice bunkers at the end of the cars: air came in from the top, passed through the bunkers, circulated through the cars by gravity and controlled by different quantities of hanging flaps which caused different air temperatures. Depending on the cargo (such as meat, fruits etc.) transported by the cars, different car designs came into existence. In 1867, the first refrigerated car to carry fresh fruit was manufactured by Parker Earle of Illinois, who shipped strawberries on the Illinois Central Railroad. Each chest was freighted with 100 pounds of ice and 200 quarts of strawberries. Until 1949, the trucking industry began to be equipped with the refrigeration system with a roof-mounted cooling device, invented by Fred Jones.
- G. From the late 1800s to 1929, the refrigerators employed toxic gases – methyl chloride, ammonia, and sulfur dioxide – as refrigerants. But in the 1920s, a great number of lethal accidents took place due to the leakage of methyl chloride out of refrigerators. Therefore, some American companies started to seek some secure methods of refrigeration. Frigidaire detected a new class of synthetic refrigerants called halocarbons or CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) in 1928. This research led to the discovery of chlorofluorocarbons (Freon), which quickly became the prevailing material in compressor refrigerators. Freon was safer for the people in the vicinity, but in 1973 it was



discovered to have detrimental effects on the ozone layer. After that, new improvements were made, and Hydrofluorocarbons, with no known harmful effects, was used in the cooling system. Simultaneously, nowadays, chlorofluorocarbons (CFS) are no longer used; they are announced illegal in several places, making the refrigeration far safer than before.

### Questions 1-5

#### Instructions to follow

- Look at the following events (Questions 1-5) and the list of dates below.
- Match each event with the correct date, A-F.
- Write the correct letter, A-F, in boxes 1-5 on your answer sheet.

#### List of Dates

A.1550	B.1779	C.1803	D.1840	E.1949	F.1973
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

1 Vehicles with refrigerators were used to transport on the road.

- A  B  C  D

2 Ice was sold around the United States for the first time.

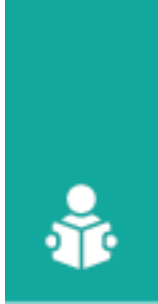
- A  B  C  D

3 Some kind of chemical refrigerant was found harmful to the atmosphere.

- A  B  C  D

4 The term 'refrigerator' was firstly introduced.

- A  B  C  D



5 Some chemicals were added to refrigerate wine.

- A  
  B  
  C  
  D

### Questions 6-10

#### Instructions to follow

- Look at the following opinions or deeds (Questions 6-10) and the list of people below.
- Match each opinion or deed with the correct person, A-D.
- Write the correct letter, A-D, in boxes 6-10 on your answer sheet.

#### List of People

- A. Thomas Moore
- B. Frederick Tudor
- C. Carl Von Linde
- D. Nathaniel Wyeth

6 Patented the idea that refrigerating system can be installed on tramcars

- A  
  B  
  C  
  D

7 Invented an ice-cutting technical method that could save money and time

- A  
  B  
  C  
  D

8 Enabled the cold storage technology to be applied in fruit

- A  
  B  
  C  
  D

9 Invented a cooling device applied into the trucking industry

- A  
  B  
  C  
  D



10 Created a new technique to liquefy the air

- A  B  C  D

### Questions 11-13

#### Instructions to follow

- Complete each sentence with the correct ending, A-E, below.
- Write the correct letter, A-E, in boxes 11-14 on your answer sheet.

11 A healthy dietary change between 1830 and the American Civil War was greatly associated with

\_\_\_\_\_

12 The development of urbanisation was likely to cause \_\_\_\_\_

13 Problems due to water treatment contributed to \_\_\_\_\_

- A. New developments, such as the application of Hydrofluorocarbons.
- B. Consumers' demand for fresh food, especially for vegetables.
- C. The discovery of chlorofluorocarbons (Freon).
- D. Regional transportation system for refrigeration for a long distance.
- E. Extensive spread of the refrigeration method.



## Section 2

### Smell and Memory

(IELTS ACADEMIC Jan 2021)

#### *Smells like yesterday*

Why does the scent of a fragrance or the mustiness of an old trunk trigger such powerful memories of childhood? New research has the answer, writes Alexandra Witze.

- A. You probably pay more attention to a newspaper with your eyes than with your nose. But lift the paper to your nostrils and inhale. The smell of newsprint might carry you back to your childhood, when your parents perused the paper on Sunday mornings. Or maybe some other smell takes you back -the scent of your mother's perfume, the pungency of a driftwood campfire. Specific odors can spark a flood of reminiscences. Psychologists call it the "Proustian phenomenon", after French novelist Marcel Proust. Near the beginning of the masterpiece *In Search of Lost Time*, Proust's narrator dunks a madeleine cookie into a cup of tea -and the scent and taste unleash a torrent of childhood memories for 3000 pages.
- B. Now, this phenomenon is getting the scientific treatment. Neuroscientists Rachel Herz, a cognitive neuroscientist at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, have discovered, for instance, how sensory memories are shared across the brain, with different brain regions remembering the sights, smells, tastes and sounds of a particular experience. Meanwhile, psychologists have demonstrated that memories triggered by smells can be more emotional, as well as more detailed, than memories not related to smells. When you inhale, odor molecules set brain cells dancing within a region known as the amygdala, a part of the brain that helps control emotion. In contrast, the other senses, such as taste or touch, get routed through other parts of the brain before reaching the amygdala. The direct link between odors and the amygdala may help explain the emotional potency of smells. "There is this unique connection between the sense of smell and the part of the brain that processes emotion," says Rachel Herz.
- C. But the links don't stop there. Like an octopus reaching its tentacles outward, the memory of smells affects other brain regions as well. In recent experiments, neuroscientists at University College



London (UCL) asked 15 volunteers to look at pictures while smelling unrelated odors. For instance, the subjects might see a photo of a duck paired with the scent of a rose, and then be asked to create a story linking the two. Brain scans taken at the time revealed that the volunteers' brains were particularly active in a region known as the olfactory cortex, which is known to be involved in processing smells. Five minutes later, the volunteers were shown the duck photo again, but without the rose smell. And in their brains, the olfactory cortex lit up again, the scientists reported recently. The fact that the olfactory cortex became active in the absence of the odor suggests that people's sensory memory of events is spread across different brain regions. Imagine going on a seaside holiday, says UCL team leader, Jay Gottfried. The sight of the waves becomes stored in one area, whereas the crash of the surf goes elsewhere, and the smell of seaweed in yet another place. There could be advantages to having memories spread around the brain. "You can reawaken that memory from any one of the sensory triggers," says Gottfried. "Maybe the smell of the sun lotion, or a particular sound from that day, or the sight of a rock formation." Or in the case of an early hunter and gatherer (out on a plain – the sight of a lion might be enough to trigger the urge to flee, rather than having to wait for the sound of its roar and the stench of its hide to kick in as well.

- D. Remembered smells may also carry extra emotional baggage, says Herz. Her research suggests that memories triggered by odors are more emotional than memories triggered by other cues. In one recent study, Herz recruited five volunteers who had vivid memories associated with a particular perfume, such as opium for Women and Juniper Breeze from Bath and Body Works. She took images of the volunteers' brains as they sniffed that perfume and an unrelated perfume without knowing which was which. (They were also shown photos of each perfume bottle.) Smelling the specified perfume activated the volunteers brains the most, particularly in the amygdala, and in a region called the hippocampus, which helps in memory formation. Herz published the work earlier this year in the journal *Neuropsychologia*.
- E. But she couldn't be sure that the other senses wouldn't also elicit a strong response. So, in another study Herz compared smells with sounds and pictures. She had 70 people describe an emotional memory involving three items-popcorn, fresh-cut grass and a campfire. Then they compared the items through sights, sounds and smells. For instance, the person might see a picture of a





lawnmower, then sniff the scent of grass and finally listen to the lawnmower's sound. Memories triggered by smell were more evocative than memories triggered by either sights or sounds.

- F. Odor-evoked memories may be not only more emotional, but more detailed as well. Working with colleague John Downes, psychologist Simon Chu of the University of Liverpool started researching odor and memory partly because of his grandmother's stories about Chinese culture. As generations gathered to share oral histories, they would pass a small pot of spice or incense around; later, when they wanted to remember the story in as much detail as possible, they would pass the same smell around again. "It's kind of fits with a lot of anecdotal evidence on how smells can be really good reminders of past experiences," Chu says. And scientific research seems to bear out the anecdotes. In one experiment, Chu and Downes asked 42 volunteers to tell a life story, then tested to see whether odors such as coffee and cinnamon could help them remember more detail in the story. They could.
- G. Despite such studies, not everyone is convinced that Proust can be scientifically analyzed. In the June issue of *Chemical Senses*, Chu and Downes exchanged critiques with renowned perfumer and chemist J. Stephan Jellinek. Jellinek chided the Liverpool researchers for, among other things, presenting the smells and asking the volunteers to think of memories, rather than seeing what memories were spontaneously evoked by the odors. But there's only so much science can do to test a phenomenon that's inherently different for each person, Chu says. Meanwhile, Jellinek has also been collecting anecdotal accounts of Proustian experiences, hoping to find some common links between the experiences. "I think there is a case to be made that surprise may be a major aspect of the Proust phenomenon," he says. "That's why people are so struck by these memories." No one knows whether Proust ever experienced such a transcendental moment. But his notions of memory, written as fiction nearly a century ago, continue to inspire scientists of today.



## Questions 14-18

### Instructions to follow

- Use the information in the passage to match the people (listed A-C) with opinions or deeds below.
- Write the appropriate letters A-C in boxes 14-18 on your answer sheet.
- **NB** you may use any letter more than once

A. Rachel Herz

B. Simon Chu

C. Jay Ottfried

14 Found pattern of different sensory memories stored in various zones of a brain.

A  B  C

15 Smell brings detailed event under a smell of certain substance.

A  B  C

16 Connection of smell and certain zones of brain is different with that of other senses.

A  B  C

17 Diverse locations of stored information help us keep away the hazard.

A  B  C

18 There is no necessary correlation between smell and processing zone of brain.

A  B  C



## Questions 19-22

### Instructions to follow

- Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.
- Write your answers in boxes 19-22 on your answer sheet.

- 19 What does the experiments conducted by Herz show?
- A  Women are more easily addicted to opium medicine
  - B  Smell is superior to other senses in connection to the brain
  - C  Smell is more important than other senses
  - D  certain part of the brain relates the emotion to the sense of smell
- 20 What does the second experiment conducted by Herz suggest?
- A  Result directly conflicts with the first one
  - B  Result of her first experiment is correct
  - C  Sights and sounds trigger memories at an equal level
  - D  Lawnmower is a perfect example in the experiment
- 21 What is the outcome of experiment conducted by Chu and Downes?
- A  smell is the only functional under Chinese tradition
  - B  half of volunteers told detailed stories
  - C  smells of certain odors assist story tellers
  - D  odors of cinnamon is stronger than that of coffee



22 What is the comment of Jellinek to Chu and Downers in the issue of Chemical Senses:

- A  Jellinek accused their experiment of being unscientific
- B  Jellinek thought Liverpool is not a suitable place for experiment
- C  Jellinek suggested that there was no further clue of what specific memories aroused
- D  Jellinek stated that experiment could be remedied

### Questions 23-26

#### Summary

##### Instructions to follow

- Complete the following summary of the paragraphs of Reading Passage, using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the Reading Passage for each answer.
- Write your answers in boxes 23-26 on your answer sheet.

In the experiments conducted by UCL, participants were asked to look at a picture with a scent of a flower, then in the next stage, everyone would have to **23** \_\_\_\_\_ for a connection. A method called **24** \_\_\_\_\_ suggested that specific areas of the brain named **25** \_\_\_\_\_ were quite active. Then in another paralleled experiment about Chinese elders, storytellers could recall detailed anecdotes when smelling a bowl of **26** \_\_\_\_\_ or incense around.



## Section 3

### Learning lessons from the past

*(IELTS ACADEMIC Nov 2020)*

- A. Many past societies collapsed or vanished, leaving behind monumental ruins such as those that the poet Shelley imagined in his sonnet, Ozymandias. By collapse, I mean a drastic decrease in human population size and/or political/economic/social complexity, over a considerable area, for an extended time. By those standards, most people would consider the following past societies to have been famous victims of full-fledged collapses rather than of just minor declines: the Anasazi and Cahokia within the boundaries of the modern US, the Maya cities in Central America, Moche and Tiwanaku societies in South America, Norse Greenland, Mycenaean Greece and Minoan Crete in Europe, Great Zimbabwe in Africa, Angkor Wat and the Harappan Indus Valley cities in Asia, and Easter Island in the Pacific Ocean.
- B. The monumental ruins left behind by those past societies hold a fascination for all of us. We marvel at them when as children we first learn of them through pictures. When we grow up, many of us plan vacations in order to experience them at first hand. We feel drawn to their often spectacular and haunting beauty, and also to the mysteries that they pose. The scales of the ruins testify to the former wealth and power of their builders. Yet these builders vanished, abandoning the great structures that they had created at such effort. How could a society that was once so mighty end up collapsing?
- C. It has long been suspected that many of those mysterious abandonments were at least partly triggered by ecological problems: people inadvertently destroying the environmental resources on which their societies depended. This suspicion of unintended ecological suicide (ecocide) has been confirmed by discoveries made in recent decades by archaeologists, climatologists, historians, paleontologists, and palynologists (pollen scientists). The processes through which past societies have undermined themselves by damaging their environments fall into eight categories, whose relative importance differs from case to case: deforestation and habitat destruction, soil problems, water management problems, overhunting, overfishing, effects of introduced species on native species, human population growth, and increased impact of people.



- D. Those past collapses tended to follow somewhat similar courses constituting variations on a theme. Writers find it tempting to draw analogies between the course of human societies and the course of individual human lives - to talk of a society's birth, growth, peak, old age and eventual death. But that metaphor proves erroneous for many past societies: they declined rapidly after reaching peak numbers and power, and those rapid declines must have come as a surprise and shock to their citizens. Obviously, too, this trajectory is not one that all past societies followed unvaryingly to completion: different societies collapsed to different degrees and in somewhat different ways, while many societies did not collapse at all.
- E. Today many people feel that environmental problems overshadow all the other threats to global civilisation. These environmental problems include the same eight that undermined past societies, plus four new ones: human-caused climate change, buildup of toxic chemicals in the environment, energy shortages, and full human utilisation of the Earth's photosynthetic capacity. But the seriousness of these current environmental problems is vigorously debated. Are the risks greatly exaggerated, or conversely are they underestimated? Will modern technology solve our problems, or is it creating new problems faster than it solves old ones? When we deplete one resource (e.g. wood, oil, or ocean fish), can we count on being able to substitute some new resource (e.g. plastics, wind and solar energy, or farmed fish)? Isn't the rate of human population growth declining, such that we're already on course for the world's population to level off at some manageable number of people?
- F. Questions like this illustrate why those famous collapses of past civilisations have taken on more meaning than just that of a romantic mystery. Perhaps there are some practical lessons that we could learn from all those past collapses. But there are also differences between the modern world and its problems, and those past societies and their problems. We shouldn't be so naive as to think that study of the past will yield simple solutions, directly transferable to our societies today. We differ from past societies in some respects that put us at lower risk than them; some of those respects often mentioned include our powerful technology (i.e. its beneficial effects), globalisation, modern medicine, and greater knowledge of past societies and of distant modern societies. We



also differ from past societies in some respects that put us at greater risk than them: again, our potent technology (i.e., its unintended destructive effects), globalisation (such that now a problem in one part of the world affects all the rest), the dependence of millions of us on modern medicine for our survival, and our much larger human population. Perhaps we can still learn from the past, but only if we think carefully about its lessons.

### Questions 27-29

#### Instructions to follow:

- Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.
- Write the correct answers in boxes 27-29 on your answer sheet.

27 When the writer describes the impact of monumental ruins today, he emphasizes

- A  The income they generate from tourism.
- B  The area of land they occupy.
- C  Their archaeological value.
- D  Their romantic appeal.

28 Recent findings concerning vanished civilisations has

- A  overturned long-held beliefs.
- B  caused controversy amongst scientists.
- C  come from a variety of disciplines.
- D  Identified one main cause of environmental damage.



- 29 What does the writer say about ways in which former societies collapsed?
- A  The pace of decline was usually similar.
  - B  The likelihood of collapse would have been foreseeable
  - C  Deterioration invariably led to total collapse.
  - D  Individual citizens could sometimes influence the course of events.

### Questions 30-34

#### Instructions to follow:

Do the following statements agree with the views of the writer in section 3?

In boxes 30-34 on your answer sheet, write

**YES** if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer

**NO** if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer

**NOT GIVEN** if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

- 30 It is widely believed that environmental problems represent the main danger faced by the modern world.
- 31 The accumulation of poisonous substances is a relatively modern problem.
- 32 There is general agreement that the threats posed by environmental problems are very serious.
- 33 Some past societies resembled present-day societies more closely than others.
- 34 We should be careful when drawing comparisons between past and present.





## Questions 35-39

## Instructions to follow

- Complete each sentence with the correct ending, A-D, below.
- Write the correct letter, A-D in boxes 35 -39 on your answer sheet.

35 Evidence of the greatness of some former civilizations

A  B  C  D

36 The parallel between an individual's life and the life of a society

A  B  C  D

37 The number of environmental problems that societies face

A  B  C  D

38 The power of technology

A  B  C  D

39 A consideration of historical events and trends

A  B  C  D

- A. is not necessarily valid.  
B. provides grounds for an optimistic outlook.  
C. exists in the form of physical structures.  
D. is potentially both positive and negative.



### Question 40

#### Instructions to follow

- Choose the correct letter A,B,C or D

40 What is the main argument of Reading Passage?

- A  There are differences as well as similarities between past and present societies.
- B  More should be done to preserve the physical remains of earlier civilisations.
- C  Some historical accounts of great civilisations are inaccurate.
- D  Modern societies are dependent on each other for their continuing survival.



## Answer Key

### Reading Test 1

Section 1		Section 2		Section 3	
Question	Answer	Question	Answer	Question	Answer
1	D	14	A	27	C
2	B	15	B	28	D
3	F	16	A	29	A
4	C	17	C	30	YES
5	A	18	C	31	YES
6	E	19	D	32	NO
7	D	20	B	33	NOT GIVEN
8	G	21	C	34	YES
9	F	22	C	35	C
10	C	23	Create a story	36	A
11	B	24	Brain scans	37	F
12	D	25	Olfactory cortex	38	D
13	E	26	Spice	39	E
				40	A