

# Understanding Reading

## Texts

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PREPARATION GUIDE

FOCUS ON READING

# Task types

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Matching paragraphs to headings

Multiple choice

Matching paragraphs to questions

Gap filling

# What skills are tested?

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Reading for gist

Understanding text structure

Reading for details

Reading for specific information

# Teaching for an exam includes:

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Language skills

Exam skills

Sub-skills

# Reading sub-skills

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**Skimming** (reading for gist)

**Scanning** (locating and understanding specific information / words/ phrases)

Reading for **detailed comprehension**

**Distinguishing** and **summarizing main points**

Distinguishing fact and opinion

**Deducing meaning** and understanding implication

Understanding logical cohesion

# Teaching reading for an exam effectively

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To have interesting, real, content-rich texts

To develop skills

Provide exam preparation support

Read the texts below. Match choices (A-H) to (1-5). There are three choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

## How to Get Motivated to Study

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This could be a library, a cafe, a room in your house, or anywhere else that is free from excess noise and interruptions. Avoid places where you're likely to run into your friends.

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- A Put your cell phone on silent
- B Make a study schedule
- C Find a quiet space with few distractions
- D Switch off the music
- E Dress comfortably
- F Think of rewarding yourself
- G Set yourself concrete aims
- H Stock up on study and food supplies

- C Find a quiet space with few distractions

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## How to Get Motivated to Study

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Make sure you have all the pens, pencils, paper, and highlighters you need. You don't want to interrupt your study time to get more. People are more productive when they're hydrated. Small snacks like peanuts or fruit will help keep you energized.

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Read the text below. For questions (6-10) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).  
Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

## Why I chose to Volunteer Abroad

*Andrew Marshall*

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Volunteering isn't so expensive that it's only an option for the well off. I spent 10 weeks volunteering in Arizona with America Conservation Experience, helping to preserve America's natural beauty.

The trip was arranged through Bunac, a work and volunteer organisation. Altogether, it cost me around £1,000 - a sum which I covered mostly by working in my student bar.

Despite the self-indulgent image associated with overseas volunteer projects, the work can be hard going. I spent my time abroad maintaining trails, building fences and implementing re-vegetation projects in some of the national parks and national monuments of America.

Summer temperatures in Arizona stay well above 35C, not ideal if you're carrying 50kg of concrete for 10 hours at a time. And then there's the wildlife to deal with. One afternoon nap took a less subdued turn when I realised that a rattlesnake was resting only 3 metres from me. The experience, needless to say, improved my strength of character - and reduced my fear of the English household spider.

Most people volunteer because they want to give something back to the world. But in reality, you benefit just as much as the local communities and ecosystems you're helping.

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**Where did the author get the money for his trip?**

- A** He got a grant from a volunteer organization.
- B** He managed to cover the expenses himself.
- C** He was supported by the local community.
- D** He was sponsored by his university.

Read the text below. Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each space (17-22). There are two choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

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### A Paradise of Wonderful Scenery

The Nahuel Huapi national park is the most important in Argentina. It is located in the southern part of the country near a city called Bariloche (17)\_\_\_\_\_, especially during June and July.

This park is a huge place with areas of luxuriant beauty. There are several mountains that are notable for their height, lots of peaks, incredible valleys, and many trees (18)\_\_\_\_\_.

Rivers and lakes cross the whole park. The largest lake is the Nahuel Huapi Lake, in which, (19)\_\_\_\_\_, there is a monster called Nahuelito. During the spring season, (20)\_\_\_\_\_, it is possible to see little waterfalls. This is because the snow defrosts and starts (21)\_\_\_\_\_, creating wonderful cascades and falls. What people like most about this place is (22)\_\_\_\_\_, so you can find rain forests, mountains, and valleys. The variety of flowers is incredible, and the colours they have take away anybody's breath. The wonderful scenery of this place definitely makes everybody feel like in paradise.

- A are covered by pure, white snow
- B expecting severe thunderstorms
- C where the weather is extremely cold
- D according to what people believe
- E that it is an area full of contrast
- F that it changes the snow into water
- G falling down the mountains at high speed
- H when the weather gets warmer

Read the text below. Match choices (A–H) to (11–16). There are two choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

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### College Directory

Wells College educates women to think critically, reason wisely, and act humanely as they cultivate meaningful lives. Through our academic program, residential atmosphere, and community activities, you'll learn and practice the ideals of the liberal arts.

Which university \_\_\_\_\_?

- A maintains a religious atmosphere
- B guarantees prestigious employment
- C is gender specific
- D offers studies overseas
- E provides online learning
- F focuses on ecological issues
- G trains for working at school
- H has a high official recognition

# Resources:

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