IELTS Prep

Reading Session 3

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Reading Session 3

Important Points:

1. Read the passage; if falling short of time, skim it as suggested
2. Solve factual questions first
3. Answers to MCQs and T/F/NG and Y/N/NG are usually in sequence.
4. No extra time for transferring answers in paper-based format
5. Do not spend more than 20 min on each passage
6. Double check for spelling and grammar
7. Write answers in capitals (permitted only in the Reading and Listening Section)
8. Use a pencil for Reading and Listening
9. Use a pencil for Writing also; however, a pen can also be used.
10. Don’t leave any answer blank as there is no negative marking.
11. If in confusion, don’t write two answers; none will be rated.

Reading Session 3

Activity 1: Yes, No, Not Given

1. Many lecturers find their jobs very rewarding

A. Many lecturers are well paid.

B. All lecturers get something positive from their work.

C. The majority of lecturers get satisfaction from their work.

Reading Session 3

Activity 1: Yes, No, Not Given Answer

1. Many lecturers find their jobs very rewarding

A. Many lecturers are well paid. - Not same as rewarding – vocab. trap - NG

B. All lecturers get something positive from their work. - Many not all - N

C. The majority of lecturers get satisfaction from their work. - No proportion in many - NG

Reading Session 3

2. As a result of increasing affluence, an even larger number of families now have two cars.

A. Most families nowadays have new cars.

B. People are getting richer.

C. Cars are becoming more expensive.

Reading Session 3

2. As a result of increasing affluence, an even larger number of families now have two cars.

A. Most families nowadays have new cars. (Most, Two cars) - NG

B. People are getting richer. (Becoming more affluent is richer) -Y

C. Cars are becoming more expensive. (No mention of cost of cars) - NG

Reading Session 3

3. Educational standards in schools have, in general, been gradually improving.

A. Schools have been getting better.

B. The education in schools has not been improving.

C. Educational standards are not as unsatisfactory as they used to be.

Reading Session 3

3. Educational standards in schools have, in general, been gradually improving.

A. Schools have been getting better. Improving - Y

B. The education in schools has not been improving. Contradicts the original -N

C. Educational standards are not as unsatisfactory as they used to be. No mention of standard being unsatisfactory before / plus this implies they are still unsatisfactory - NG

Reading Session 3

4. Most people would be amazed if they realized how many different types of insects exist in their very own garden.

A. The majority of gardeners are not surprised at the range of insect life in their garden.

B. It is impossible to count the different types of insect life in the garden.

C. There are more types of insect life in the average garden than most people think.

Reading Session 3

4. Most people would be amazed if they realized how many different types of insects exist in their very own garden.

A. The majority of gardeners are not surprised at the range of insect life in their garden. People are not amazed as they don't know plus no mention of gardeners are the only people - NG

B. It is impossible to count the different types of insect life in the garden. No idea. - NG

C. There are more types of insect life in the average garden than most people think. - Y

Reading Session 3

5. In the busy Modern world we live in, it is very easy to take for granted many of the things our forebears had to struggle to achieve; adequately heated housing and sufficient food on the table, to name but two.

A. In the past not all houses were heated.

B. Our lives are better than those of people in the past.

C. Two things today are better than they used to be.

Reading Session 3

5. In the busy Modern world we live in, it is very easy to take for granted many of the things our forebears had to struggle to achieve; adequately heated housing and sufficient food on the table, to name but two.

A. In the past not all houses were heated. Just imposed unspecified number in the original - NG

B. Our lives are better than those of people in the past. Lives not compared in the original -NG

C. Two things today are better than they used to be. To name but two - Yes

Reading Session 3

6. Computers are gaining in popularity despite their cost.

A. Computers are getting cheaper.

B. Computers are expensive.

C. Computers used to be more popular than now.

Reading Session 3

6. Computers are gaining in popularity despite their cost.

A. Computers are getting cheaper. Nothing about prices going down - NG

B. Computers are expensive. Despite their cost – Y

C. Computers used to be more popular than now. Must have been less if gaining now - N

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 1
The Discovery of Uranus

Someone once put forward an attractive though unlikely theory. Throughout the Earth's annual revolution around the sun, there is one point of space always hidden from our eyes. This point is the opposite part of the Earth's orbit, which is always hidden by the sun. Could there be another planet there, essentially similar to our own, but always invisible?

If a space probe today sent back evidence that such a world existed it would cause not much more sensation than Sir William Herschel's discovery of a new planet, Uranus, in 1781. Herschel was an extraordinary man — no other astronomer has ever covered so vast a field of work — and his career deserves study. He was born in Hanover in Germany in 1738, left the German army in 1757, and arrived in England the same year with no money but quite exceptional music ability. He played the violin and oboe and at one time was organist in the Octagon Chapel in the city of Bath. Herschel's was an active mind, and deep inside he was conscious that music was not his destiny; he, therefore, read widely in science and the arts, but not until 1772 did he come across a book on astronomy. He was then 34, middle-aged by the standards of the time, but without hesitation he embarked on his new career, financing it by his professional work as a musician. He spent years mastering the art of telescope construction, and even by present-day standards, his instruments are comparable with the best.

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 1

Serious observation began in 1774. He set himself the astonishing task of 'reviewing the heavens', in other words, pointing his telescope to every accessible part of the sky and recording what he saw. The first review was made in 1775; the second, and most momentous, in 1780-81. It was during the latter part of this that he discovered Uranus. Afterwards, supported by the royal grant in recognition of his work, he was able to devote himself entirely to astronomy. His final achievements spread from the sun and moon to remote galaxies (of which he discovered hundreds), and papers flooded from his pen until his death in 1822. Among these, there was one sent to the Royal Society in 1781, entitled An Account of a Comet. In his own words:

On Tuesday the 13th of March, between ten and eleven in the evening, while I was examining the small stars in the neighbourhood of H Geminorum, I perceived one that appeared visibly larger than the rest; being struck with its uncommon magnitude, I compared it to H Geminorum and the small star in the quartile between Auriga and Gemini, and finding it to be much larger than either of them, suspected it to be a comet.

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 1

Herschel's care was the hallmark of a great observer; he was not prepared to jump any conclusions. Also, to be fair, the discovery of a new planet was the last thought in anybody's mind. But further observation by other astronomers besides Herschel revealed two curious facts. For the comet, it showed a remarkably sharp disc; furthermore, it was moving so slowly that it was thought to be a great distance from the sun, and comets are only normally visible in the immediate vicinity of the sun. As its orbit came to be worked out the truth dawned that it was a new planet far beyond Saturn's realm, and that the 'reviewer of the heavens' had stumbled across an unprecedented prize. Herschel wanted to call it Georgium sidus (Star of George) in honour of his royal patron King George III of Great Britain. The planet was later for a time called Herschel in honour of its discoverer. The name Uranus, which was first proposed by the German astronomer Johann Elert Bode, was in use by the late 19th century.

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 1

Uranus is a giant in construction, but not so much in size; its diameter compares unfavourably with that of Jupiter and Saturn, though on the terrestrial scale it is still colossal. Uranus' atmosphere consists largely of hydrogen and helium, with a trace of methane. Through a telescope, the planet appears as a small bluish-green disc with a faint green periphery. In 1977, while recording the ***occultation** of a star behind the planet, the American astronomer James L. Elliot discovered the presence of five rings encircling the equator of Uranus. Four more rings were discovered in January 1986 during the exploratory flight of Voyager 2. In addition to its rings, Uranus has 15 satellites ('moons'), the last 10 discovered by Voyager 2 on the same flight; all revolve about its equator and move with the planet in an east-west direction. The two largest moons, Titania and Oberon, were discovered by Herschel in 1787. The next two, Umbriel and Ariel, were found in 1851 by the British astronomer William Lassell. Miranda, thought before 1986 to be the innermost moon, was discovered in 1948 by the American astronomer Gerard Peter Kuiper.

Glossary:

'***Occultation**': *in astronomy, when one object passes in front of another and hides the second from view, especially, for example, when the moon comes between an observer and a star or planet.* 'Voyager 2': *an unmanned spacecraft sent on a voyage past Saturn, Uranus and Jupiter in 1986; during which it sent back information about these planets to scientists on earth.*

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 1

Questions 1-5
Complete the table below. Write a date for each answer.
Write your answers in boxes **1-5** on your answer sheet.

Event	**Date**
Example William Herschel was born	***Answer*** 1738
Herschel began investigating astronomy	**(1)** _____
Discovery of the planet Uranus	**(2)** _____
Discovery of the moons Titania and Oberon	**(3)** _____
First discovery of Uranus' rings	**(4)** _____
Discovery of the last 10 moons of Uranus	**(5)** _____

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 1

Questions 6-10
Do the following statements reflect the claims of the writer of the Reading Passage?

In boxes **6-10** on your answer sheet write
YES if the statement reflects the claims of the writer
NO if the statement contradicts the writer
NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

6. It is improbable that there is a planet hidden behind the sun.

7. Herschel knew immediately that he had found a new planet.

8. Herschel collaborated with other astronomers of his time.

9. Herschel's newly-discovered object was considered to be too far from the sun to be a comet.

10. Herschel's discovery was the most important find of the last three hundred years.

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 1

Questions 11-14
Complete each of the following statements (Questions 11-14) with a name from the Reading Passage.

Write your answers in boxes **11-14** on your answer sheet.

The suggested names of the new planet started with **11**. _____, then **12.** _____, before finally settling on Uranus. The first five rings around Uranus were discovered by **13.** _____. From 1948 until 1986, the moon **14.** _____was believed to be the moon closest to the surface of Uranus.

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 2

Australian Aborigines Demand Return of Remains

As a former British colony, Australia has close cultural and historical links with the United Kingdom, due to the British and Irish settlers who arrived in droves in the 19th and 20th centuries. One aspect of this contact is the role of Britain, and British archaeologists and collectors, in taking Aboriginal bones, relics and artefacts from Australia to museums and collections in the UK. Now leaders of the indigenous people of Australia, the Aborigines, are demanding that any Aboriginal remains in the UK are returned to Australia.

In 19th century Britain, there was a mania for collecting all kinds of objects from other countries. These were sent home, where they were kept in museums such as the British Museum and the Natural History Museum. Museums in the UK have a huge number of such objects - objects which, say protesters, were basically stolen during Britain's long colonial history, with little or no regard for the feelings or rights of the people to whom the objects originally belonged.

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 2

Now the Australian Prime Minister is supporting Aboriginal calls for the objects and remains to be returned to their original home. A spokesman for the Aboriginal Council of New South Wales, Stevie McCoy, said: "The bones do not belong abroad. They belong here. This is about beliefs,and a traditional Aboriginal belief is that our ancestors can only find peace if their remains are buried in the homeland."

There are certainly lots of Aboriginal remains in the UK, although their exact locations are not entirely clear. What is known is that, between them, the British Museum and the Natural History Museum have some 2,000 - 2,500 artefacts composed of human remains, although the museums point out that only about 500 of these are of Aboriginal origin. Dr William Cowell Bell, for the London Museum Association, adds that "A lot of the objects are not human remains in their original form, but are made out of human remains. These include decorated skulls and bones from which charms and amulets have been created." A smaller number of similar artefacts are known to be held in collections in Oxford and Cambridge.

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 2

There is some sensitivity to Aboriginal demands in the archaeological world. Lady Amanda Spurway, life president of the Glover Museum in London, says that the museum has had its small collection of Aboriginal remains packed ready for return for a decade, and is only waiting for information about where they must go.

The National College of Surgeons says it will return the remains of any individual who can be named (although it is obviously difficult to put names to them after such a long time). This growing sensitivity to the hitherto ignored rights of indigenous peoples around the world has caused some relics to be restored to their original country, particularly in Scotland, where a group of Aboriginal remains has already been returned. Edinburgh University has returned skulls and bones to Tasmania and New Zealand.

One problem, according to legal expert Ewan Mather, is that the law allowing museums to decide what to do with these objects is more relaxed in Scotland. English museums, on the other hand, are not allowed (either by law or by the groups of trustees who run them) to just hand back remains of their own accord. However, British supporters of the Aborigines claim that such restrictive laws are inhumane in the modern world, and that it would be a simple enough matter to change them in order to allow the items to be returned.

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 2

A further objection to handing back relics is because of their scientific value, claim some museum directors. Dr Bell believes that the size of the collection in the Natural History Museum in Lincoln made it a very valuable resource in the analysis of the way of life of Aborigines, and could be used to study the origin and development of the people. Breaking up the collection might mean that such knowledge could be lost forever.

Aboriginal groups, however, respond by pointing out that the scientific importance of the remains has to be seen against a backdrop of human rights. "I doubt whether the British government would allow several thousand bones of British soldiers to be used for 'scientific purposes' in any other country," said Stevie McCoy, with a hint of irony. "Would the families allow it? I think there would be a public outcry, no matter how old the remains were. This practice of taking bones and human remains went on from the first moment the white man came to Australia right up to the early part of the 20th century. It is a scandal."

The British government, meanwhile, has announced that it will set up a working party to discuss the possibility of changes to the law. This might allow museums to negotiate on their own with Aboriginal and other groups around the world.

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 2

Questions 15-17

Choose the **TWO** best answers according to the text, and write the letters **A - E.**

15. The Aboriginal demand that bones be returned to Australia is based on which TWO ideas?

A. The rightful place for the remains is Australia.
B. Britain had no right to take the remains.
C. The remains have religious significance for Aborigines.
D. Some remains have already been returned.
E. Aboriginal ancestors cannot find peace unless their remains are laid to rest there

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 2

16. Which TWO factors might cause problems when it comes to returning the remains?

A. Scottish and English law does not allow museums to return objects.
B. It is not clear what will happen to the remains once they have been returned.
C. The remains are scientifically important and need to be studied.
D. Not all the Australian artifacts are human remains.
E. Some museums do not have the right to return objects to their countries of origin.

17. Which TWO points may help to speed up the process of returning the remains?

A. The British government is going to discuss the return of Aboriginal items.
B. Some items have already been returned to their countries of origin.
C. There is already some sympathy to the Aborigines' claims in the world of archaeology.
D. Not all the Australian artifacts are human remains.
E. The remains have religious significance for Aborigines.

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 2

Questions 18 - 23 *Classify the following opinions as referring to*

A. The National college of Surgeons
B. Stevie McCoy
C. Dr William Cowell Bell
D. Lady Amanda Spurway
E. Ewan Mather

*Write the correct letter **A, B, C, D** or **E:***

18. No country would allow the bones of its citizens to be used for scientific purposes in another country.
19. The Glover Museum is ready to return its Aboriginal bones.
20. Australian remains are a useful resource for scientific study.
21. It would be a problem to accurately identify the human remains.
22. Many Aboriginal remains in Britain have been made into artifacts.
23. Discrepancies in the laws of different countries can hinder the return of relics.

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 2

Questions 24 - 27
Complete the following paragraph based on information in Reading Passage using **ONE** or **TWO WORDS** from the Reading Passage for each answer.

Aborigines believe that the remains should be returned for a number of reasons. First is the fact that the relics were taken during the period when Australia was a **(24)**_____ Colony. The Aborigine belief that their ancestors can only **(25)**_____ if their bones are returned is a further factor. Thirdly, the restitution of the remains is an issue of human rights. However, objectors who oppose the return of the artifacts point out that not only is there a **(26)** _____ problem, but also that the remains constitute an important **(27)** _____ in studying the lifestyle of the Aborigines. However, the practice of taking bones and human remains, according to Australian aborigines, is a (**28)**_____**.**

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 3

Hard Disk Drive Technology

A few years ago, a query about the health of a person's hard disk drive would have been met with a blank stare. Nowadays, almost everyone is aware of this remarkable electronic storage medium that is part of every modern computer, even though most users remain ignorant of the complexity of hard drive technology.

In the early days of computing, an information record of a computer's memory content was kept on punched cards similar to the way in which an automated piano stores the keynote sequences on a piano roll. Later, magnetic tape was used to store electronic signals, and is still the favoured means of economically backing up the contents of hard drives. However, accessing information sequentially stored on tape is slow since the electronic data must be input through a fixed head in a single pass.

Hard disk drives solve this problem by incorporating a spinning platter on which magnetic data can be made accessible via a moving head that reads and writes information across the width of the disk. It is analogous to the way in which a person can choose to play a particular track on a CD player by causing the arm to move the head across the disk. The CD player is, in fact, necessarily similar in design to a hard drive, although there are significant differences in speed of data access.

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 3

Most modern hard drives incorporate several platters to further reduce the time spent seeking the required information. Also, some newer drives have two heads; one for reading, and a second head for writing data to disk. This separation of tasks enables much higher densities of magnetic information to be written on the platter, which increases the capacity of the hard drive.

There are three important ways in which the capacity of hard disks has been increased. First, the data code itself has been tightened with express coding techniques. Second, as previously noted, the head technology has been improved; and third, the distance between the heads and the platters has been greatly reduced. It is hard to believe, but the head can be made to pass over the magnetised platter at distances of less than 1 microinch (the width of a typical human hair is 5000 microinches). This is achieved by means of a special protective coating applied to the platter. Each of these three improvements enables speedier access to the data.

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 3

Hard drives are more commonplace than tape recorders these days, but it must be remembered that they are much more fragile. Treated with respect they may last a number of years, but they are quite easily damaged, often with disastrous consequences for the user, whose precious data can become lost forever. Dropping a drive is almost always fatal, as is passing an incorrect electrical current through one (by faulty connection). Dust and even extremes of temperature can cause failure. Yet, no physical damage can ever result from the input of data via the keyboard or mouse. Of course, over time the magnetised coating on the platters will erode, yet this is almost entirely independent of the amount of use.

There are serious questions being raised about the direction of the future of electronic storage media. Some researchers claim that it would be wiser to invest more time and money in setting up systems for streaming data across networks of computers from centralised banks of information storage. This would avoid the need for each personal computer user to have his or her own copy of a software program resident on a local hard drive. Personal data files could be kept at a central storage unit, and be suitably protected from disaster by a failsafe backup system.

As the Internet becomes ever more pervasive, and the speed of access to other machines increases across our telephone lines, it might be possible to do away with local storage systems altogether.

Reading Session 3

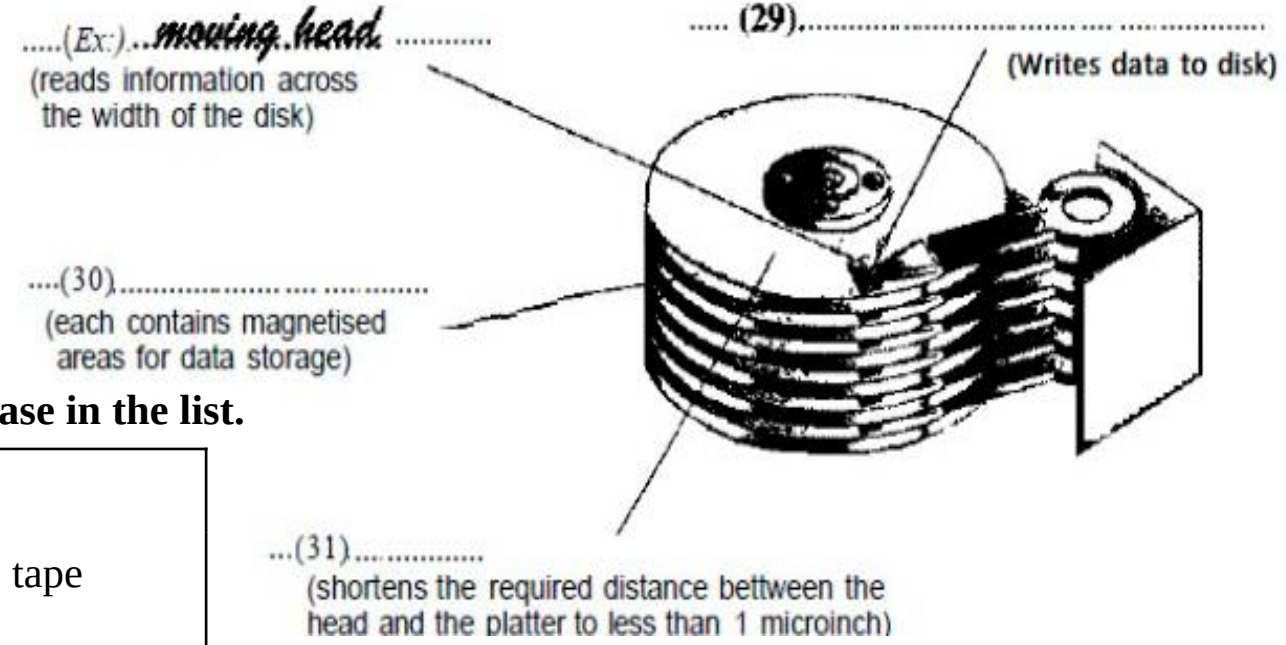
READING PASSAGE 3

Refer to Reading Passage 3 "Hard Disk Drive Technology" and the diagram below.
Choose from the words and phrases in the given list, and label the diagram with the correct name of each part of the hard drive.

Write your answers in boxes 29 - 31 on your Answer Sheet.
The first one has been done for you as an example.

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 3



Note that you will not need to use every word or phrase in the list.

List of Parts:		
CD Player	Second head	Magnetic tape
Moving head	Data code	Platter
Electric current	Special protective coating	

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 3

Refer to Reading Passage 3 "Hard Disk Drive Technology", and decide which of the answers best completes the following sentences. Write your answers in boxes 32 - 36 on your Answer Sheet.

32. Magnetically-coated disks are one of many types of:

A. sequential access information systems
B. information storage solutions
C. tape storage solutions
D. CD players

33. Connecting a hard drive incorrectly usually:

A. results in excess temperature
B. erodes the magnetised material on the platters
C. damages the keyboard or mouse
D. destroys the drive

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 3

34. Keyboard or mouse use can easily cause:

A. incorrect electrical currents
B. the magnetised coating on the platter to wear out
C. physical damage to the hard disk drive
D. none of the above

35. In the future, a computer user might be able to access personal data files from:

A. a central storage unit
B. a local hard drive
C. a software program
D. the local bank

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 3

36. Centralized banks of storage information could:

A. offer better protection of a user's data files
B. stream data across telephone lines
C. mean the end of local storage systems
D. all of the above

Reading Session 3

READING PASSAGE 3

Questions 37-40

You are advised to spend about 8 minutes on Questions 37 - 40.
The following text is a summary of part of Reading Passage 3.
Complete each gap in the text by choosing the best phrase from the box below the summary.
Write your answers in boxes **37 - 40** on your Answer Sheet.
Note that **there are more phrases to choose from than are required**. The first one has been done for you as an example.

Hard disk drives are exceedingly complex and fragile pieces of equipment, but ___**F**____**(Ex:)**The cheapest way to store computer information is **37.** _____However, it is slow to read back stored information in this way **38.** _____, on the other hand, consists of one or more spinning platters coated with magnetised material holding data made accessible by two moving heads. Modern advances in disk technology have increased the **39.** _____of hard disks. This has been accomplished **40.**_____

A. storage capacity
B. on magnetic tape
C. most computer users know that a hard disk drive is complex
D. a CD player is faster than a disk drive
E. A hard disk drive
J. size of the heads

F. few computer users are aware of
G. in three ways
H. cost
I. increasing the size of the platters used

Thank you