

General Training Reading Test A

SECTION 1 Questions 1–14

Read the text below and answer Questions 1–6.

| HOLIDAY PLUS | | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------|-------------------------|---|--|--|
| <i>Need a break? Choose from these three wonderful holidays!</i> | | | | | | |
| | Holiday location | Price* | Number of nights | Daily meals included in package | Comments | Transport to/ from airport |
| A | <p>Mountain Lodge</p> <p>a unique wilderness retreat on the edge of the World Heritage-listed National Park and only 5 km from the sea</p> | \$330 | 1 | <p>mountain buffet breakfast</p> <p><i>plus</i> free soft drinks always available</p> | <p>free canoeing</p> <p>free talks in the evening</p> <p>free open-air tennis courts</p> <p>horse-riding optional extra</p> | <p>self-drive auto 1 hour 15 minutes or bus three times/week approx. 2 hours</p> |
| B | <p>Pelican Resort</p> <p>a true coral island right on the Great Barrier Reef</p> <p>swim straight from the beach</p> | \$580 | 4 | <p>hot breakfast <i>plus</i> beach picnic lunch <i>plus</i> set 4-course dinner</p> | <p>refurbishment: resort will close for May</p> <p>free minibus trip around island</p> <p>plane flights to Wilson Island only \$50</p> | <p>½ hour by minibus</p> |
| C | <p>Cedar Lodge</p> <p>a blend of casual sophistication and rich rainforest ambience for those over 25</p> | \$740 | 4 | <p>tropical breakfast</p> <p>picnic lunch – optional extra</p> | <p>oldest living rainforest</p> <p>free bikes and tennis courts; horse-riding extra</p> | <p>10 mins by taxi</p> |

* Price: per person, per package, twin share

Questions 1–3

Look at the three holidays, A, B and C, on page 104.

For which holiday are the following statements true?

Write the correct letter, A, B or C, in boxes 1–3 on your answer sheet.

- 1** This holiday doesn't cater for young children.
- 2** This holiday provides a tour at no extra cost.
- 3** This holiday involves most travel time from the airport.

Questions 4–6

Answer the questions below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the text for each answer.*

Write your answers in boxes 4–6 on your answer sheet.

- 4** When will one of the holiday locations not be open?
- 5** Which two outdoor activities are provided at no extra cost at Mountain Lodge?
- 6** What is the fastest way to travel to Mountain Lodge?

Read the text below and answer Questions 7–14.

SYDNEY TRAVEL COLLEGE

At this College we recommend the Multiplan policy.

Travel insurance requirements

As this course includes a total of three months' travel outside Australia, travel insurance is compulsory. If you are sick or have an accident in Australia, your medical bills will be fully covered – however, you cannot assume that *everything* will be covered overseas, so please read the following requirements carefully.

1 Medical

Australia has reciprocal medical arrangements with the governments of the eight nations you will be visiting. This arrangement will cover all emergency hospital treatment. However, students will have to take out insurance such as Multiplan to cover the costs of all visits to doctors, and other non-emergency medical situations.

If you have a serious accident or illness, Multiplan insurance will cover the cost of your flight back to Australia, if required. Depending on the circumstances, this may also pay for either medical personnel or a family member to accompany you home. Multiplan insurance may not cover all pre-existing medical conditions – so before you leave be sure to check with them about any long-term illnesses or disabilities that you have.

If you do require medical treatment overseas, and you want to make a claim on your insurance, the claim will not be accepted unless you produce both your student card and your travel insurance card.

2 Belongings

The Multiplan policy covers most student requirements. In particular, it provides students with luggage insurance. This covers any loss or theft of your everyday belongings.

For example, this insurance covers:

- the present value of items that are stolen – provided that you have purchase receipts for every item; if no receipts, no payment can be made
- replacement value of your briefcase or backpack and study books
- portable computers and CD players, if you specifically list them as items in the policy

3 Cancellation

This insurance covers any non-refundable deposit and other costs you have paid if you have to cancel due to 'unforeseen or unforeseeable circumstances outside your control'. It does not provide cover if you change your study or travel plans for other reasons.

Questions 7–14

Classify the following events as being

- A** *covered by government arrangements*
- B** *covered by the Multiplan policy*
- C** *not covered by the Multiplan policy*
- D** *covered in some situations*

Write the correct letter, A, B, C or D, in boxes 7–14 on your answer sheet.

- 7** A student travelling overseas suddenly needs hospital treatment.
- 8** A student consults a doctor regarding a minor problem while abroad.
- 9** A parent goes overseas to bring an injured or sick student to Australia.
- 10** A student is treated overseas for an illness he/she had before leaving Australia.
- 11** A student who requires medical treatment has lost his/her travel insurance card.
- 12** A student's study books are lost.
- 13** A student's laptop is stolen.
- 14** A student changes his/her mind about plans to study and decides not to take the booked flight.

SECTION 2 *Questions 15–27*

Read the text below and answer Questions 15–20.

Kenichi Software: security guidelines for staff

General

It is in everyone's interest to maintain a high level of security in the workplace. You should immediately challenge any person who appears to be on the premises without proper authorisation, or inform a senior member of staff about any odd or unusual activity.

Company Property

You are advised that it is within the company's legal rights to detain any person on the grounds that they may be involved in the unauthorised removal of company property. The company reserves the right to search staff members leaving or entering the premises and to inspect any article or motor vehicle on company property. It is a condition of employment that you submit to such action if requested.

It is in your own interest to ensure that you have proper authority before removing any item of company property from a company building. Any member found removing company property from the building without proper authority will be subject to disciplinary action.

Identity Badges

You will be issued with an identity badge, which should be worn at all times when you are on company premises. The purpose of these badges is to safeguard our security. Badges are issued by Human Resources, and contractors and people visiting the company on a one-off basis are also obliged to wear them.

Confidential Matters

In the course of your work you may have access to information relating to the company's business, or that of a supplier or customer. Such material, even where it appears comparatively trivial, can have a serious effect on the company, supplier or customer if it falls into the wrong hands. It is, therefore, essential that you should at all times be aware of the serious view the company would take of disclosure of such material to outsiders.

You must treat as confidential all information, data, specifications, drawings and all documents relating to the company's business and/or its trading activities, and not divulge, use, or employ them except in the company's service. Before you leave the company, you must hand over to your manager all private notes relevant to the company's business, activities, prices, accounts, costs etc. Legal proceedings may be initiated for any misuse or unauthorised disclosure of such confidential information, whether during employment or afterwards.

Questions 15–20

Complete the sentences below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 15–20 on your answer sheet.

- 15 If you see anything suspicious, you should report it to a employee.
- 16 If the company wants to stop you and you, you have to agree to it.
- 17 If you take things belonging to the company without permission, you will face
.....
- 18 Staff, and visitors must all wear a badge on company premises.
- 19 You must not pass on confidential information to
- 20 If you leave the company, you have to hand in any you have made
on matters concerning the company.

Read the text below and answer Questions 21–27.

Is Everyone Entitled To Paid Holidays?

The Working Time Regulations (WTRs) introduced a new right to paid holidays for most workers. However, some workers were not covered when the WTRs came into force in October 1998. Since the regulations were amended, with effect from 1 August 2003, the majority of these workers have been entitled to paid holidays, and since 1 August 2004 the regulations have also applied to junior doctors.

Workers who qualify are entitled to no fewer than four weeks of paid holiday a year, and public holidays (normally eight days in England and Wales) count towards this. However, workers and employers can agree longer holidays.

For the first year of work, special accrual rules apply. For each month of employment, workers are entitled to one twelfth of the annual holiday. After the first year of employment, you can take your holiday entitlement at any time, with your employer's approval.

Before taking holidays, you must give your employer notice of at least twice the length of the holiday you want to take: for instance, to take a five-day holiday, you must give at least ten days' notice. If your employer does not want you to take that holiday, they can give you counter-notice equal to the holiday – for example, five days' notice not to take a five-day holiday.

If the employer wants you to take holiday at a given time, e.g. when there is a shutdown at the same time every year, they must give you notice of at least twice the length of the holiday. There is no right for the worker to take that holiday at a different time.

Holiday cannot be carried over to the next year, unless your contract of employment allows this to happen. Nor can you be paid in lieu of your holiday. However, when you leave the job, you are entitled to receive payment for any outstanding holiday, provided your contract specifically allows for this.

It may be that your contract gives you better rights, or your holiday rights might be specified in a collective agreement. Your union representative can advise you on this.

Questions 21–27

Answer the questions below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 21–27 on your answer sheet.

- 21 In what year were the regulations extended to cover most of the workers who were originally excluded?
- 22 What is the minimum annual paid holiday which workers are entitled to?
- 23 During a worker's first year of employment, what proportion of their annual holiday does a month's work give?
- 24 What can an employer give a worker to stop them taking holiday that they have requested?
- 25 What is given as a possible reason for an employee having to take a holiday at a certain time?
- 26 When an employee leaves their job, what should be given in place of any holiday they have not taken?
- 27 Apart from a contract, what type of document may set out an employee's holiday rights?

SECTION 3 Questions 28–40

Questions 28–33

The text on pages 113 and 114 has eight sections, **A–H**.

Choose the correct heading for sections **C–H** from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number, **i–xi**, in boxes 28–33 on your answer sheet.

- | List of Headings | |
|-------------------------|--|
| i | Where to buy the best Echinacea |
| ii | What 'snake oil' contained |
| iii | Growing Echinacea |
| iv | How to use the Echinacea plant |
| v | Earlier applications of Echinacea |
| vi | The origins of the term 'snake oil' |
| vii | Early research into the effectiveness of Echinacea |
| viii | How 'snake oil' was first invented |
| ix | The use of Echinacea in new locations |
| x | Modern evidence of the effectiveness of Echinacea |
| xi | Early kinds of 'snake oil' |

| <i>Examples</i> | <i>Answers</i> |
|------------------|----------------|
| Section A | vi |
| Section B | xi |

- 28** Section **C**
29 Section **D**
30 Section **E**
31 Section **F**
32 Section **G**
33 Section **H**

Snake Oil

- A** Back in the days of America's Wild West, when cowboys roamed the range and people were getting themselves caught up in gunfights, a new phrase – 'snake oil' – entered the language. It was a dismissive term for the patent medicines, often useless, sold by travelling traders who always claimed miraculous cures for everything from baldness to snakebite.

Selling 'snake oil' was almost as risky a business as cattle stealing; you might be run out of town if your particular medicine, as you realised it would, failed to live up to its claims. Consequently, the smarter 'snake oil' sellers left town before their customers had much chance to evaluate the 'cure' they had just bought.

- B** The remarkable thing about many of the medicines dismissed then as 'snake oil' is not so much that they failed to live up to the outrageous claims made for them – those that weren't harmless coloured water could be positively dangerous. What's remarkable is that so many of the claims made for some of these remedies, or at least their ingredients, most of them plant based, have since been found to have at least some basis in fact.

One, Echinacea, eventually turned out to be far more potent than even its original promoter claimed. Echinacea first appeared in 'Meyer's Blood Purifier', promoted as a cure-all by a Dr H.C.F. Meyer – a lay doctor with no medical qualifications. 'Meyer's Blood Purifier' claimed not only to cure snakebite, but also to eliminate a host of other ailments.

- C** Native to North America, the roots of Echinacea, or purple coneflower, had been used by the Plains Indians for all kinds of ailments long before Meyer came along. They applied poultices of it to wounds and stings, used it for teeth and gum disease and made a tea from it to treat everything from colds and measles to arthritis. They even used it for snakebite.
- D** Settlers quickly picked up on the plant's usefulness but until Meyer sent samples of his 'blood purifier' to John Lloyd, a pharmacist, it remained a folk remedy. Initially dismissing Meyer's claims as nonsense, Lloyd was eventually converted after a colleague, John King, tested the herb and successfully used it to treat bee stings and nasal congestion.

In fact, he went much further in his claims than Meyer ever did and by the 1890s a bottle of tincture¹ of Echinacea could be found in almost every American home, incidentally making a fortune for Lloyd's company, Lloyd Brothers Pharmacy.

- E** As modern antibiotics became available, the use of Echinacea products declined and from the 1940s to the 1970s it was pretty much forgotten in the USA. It was a different story in Europe, where both French and German herbalists and homeopaths continued to make extensive use of it.

¹ a liquid containing a special ingredient

It had been introduced there by Gerhard Madaus, who travelled from Germany to America in 1937, returning with seed to establish commercial plots of Echinacea. His firm conducted extensive research on echinacin, a concentrate they made from the juice of flowering tops of the plants he had brought back. It was put into ointments, liquids for internal and external use, and into products for injections.

- F** There is no evidence that Echinacea is effective against snakebite, but Dr Meyer – who genuinely believed in Echinacea – would probably be quite amused if he could come back and see the uses to which modern science has put 'his' herb. He might not be surprised that science has confirmed Echinacea's role as a treatment for wounds, or that it has been found to be helpful in relieving arthritis, both claims Meyer made for the herb.

He might though be surprised to learn how Echinacea is proving to be an effective weapon against all sorts of disease, particularly infections. German researchers had used it successfully to treat a range of infections and found it to be effective against bacteria and protozoa².

There are many other intriguing medical possibilities for extracts from the herb, but its apparent ability to help with our more common ailments has seen thousands of people become enthusiastic converts. Dozens of packaged products containing extracts of Echinacea can now be found amongst the many herbal remedies and supplements on the shelves of health stores and pharmacies. Many of those might be the modern equivalents of 'snake oil', but Echinacea at least does seem to have some practical value.

- G** Echinacea is a dry prairie plant, drought-resistant and pretty tolerant of most soils, although it does best in good soil with plenty of sun. Plants are usually grown from seed but they are sometimes available from nurseries. Echinacea is a distinctive perennial with erect, hairy, spotted stems up to a metre tall. Flower heads look like daisies, with purple rayed florets and a dark brown central cone. The leaves are hairy; the lower leaves are oval to lance-shaped and coarsely and irregularly toothed.

- H** There are nine species of Echinacea in all but only three are generally grown for medicinal use. All have similar medicinal properties. Most European studies have used liquid concentrates extracted from the tops of plants, whereas extraction in the USA has usually been from the roots. Today most manufacturers blend both, sometimes adding flowers and seeds to improve the quality.

For the home grower, the roots of all species seem equally effective. Dig them up in autumn after the tops have died back after the first frost. Wash and dry them carefully and store them in glass containers. You can harvest the tops throughout the summer and even eat small amounts of leaf straight from the plant.

Even if you don't make your fortune from this herb, there are few sights more attractive than a field of purple coneflowers in all their glory. And with a few Echinacea plants nearby, you'll never go short of a cure.

² a type of micro-organism

Questions 34–40

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text?

In boxes 34–40 on your answer sheet, write

| | |
|------------------|---|
| TRUE | <i>if the statement agrees with the information</i> |
| FALSE | <i>if the statement contradicts the information</i> |
| NOT GIVEN | <i>if there is no information on this</i> |

- 34 'Snake oil' sellers believed their product was effective.
- 35 Most people in the Wild West mistrusted 'snake oil'.
- 36 Some 'snake oils' were mostly water.
- 37 All 'snake oils' contained Echinacea.
- 38 Echinacea has been proven to kill microbes.
- 39 The highest quality Echinacea is grown in America.
- 40 More than one part of the Echinacea plant has a medicinal use.

ANSWER KEY: TEST A

GENERAL TRAINING TEST A

Section 1, Questions 1–14

- 1 C
- 2 B
- 3 A
- 4 (for/in) May
- 5 **IN EITHER ORDER; BOTH REQUIRED FOR ONE MARK**
canceing (and)
tennis
- 6 (by) (self-drive) auto(mobile)
- 7 A
- 8 B
- 9 D
- 10 D
- 11 C
- 12 B
- 13 D
- 14 C

Section 2, Questions 15–27

- 15 senior
- 16 (to) search
- 17 disciplinary action
- 18 contractors

- 19 outsiders
- 20 (private) notes
- 21 (in) 2003
- 22 4 weeks (a year)
- 23 one twelfth (of annual holiday(s))
- 24 (equal) counter-notice
- 25 (the) (annual) shutdown/(a) shutdown
- 26 (a) (holiday) payment/outstanding holiday payment
- 27 (a) collective agreement

Section 3, Questions 28–40

- 28 v
- 29 vii
- 30 ix
- 31 x
- 32 iii
- 33 iv
- 34 FALSE
- 35 NOT GIVEN
- 36 TRUE
- 37 FALSE
- 38 TRUE
- 39 NOT GIVEN
- 40 TRUE

If you score . . .

| 0–15 | 16–30 | 31–40 |
|--|---|--|
| you are unlikely to get an acceptable score under examination conditions and we recommend that you spend a lot of time improving your English before you take IELTS. | you may get an acceptable score under examination conditions but we recommend that you think about having more practice or lessons before you take IELTS. | you are likely to get an acceptable score under examination conditions but remember that different institutions will find different scores acceptable. |

General Training Reading Test B

SECTION 1 Questions 1–14

Read the text below and answer Questions 1–8.

Consumer advice on buying shoes

If you have a problem with shoes you've recently bought, follow this four-step plan.

Step 1

Go back to the shop with proof of purchase. If you return faulty shoes at once, you have a right to insist on a refund. It is also likely that you will get one if you change your mind about the shoes and take them back immediately. But, if you delay or you've had some use out of the shoes, the shop may not give you all your money back. It depends on the state of the shoes and how long you've had them.

If you are offered a credit note, you don't have to accept it. If you accept it, you will usually not be able to exchange it for cash later on. So, you may be left with an unwanted credit note, if you cannot find any other shoes you want from the shop.

The shop may want to send the shoes back to head office for inspection. This is fair and could help to sort things out. But don't be put off by the shop which claims that it's the manufacturer's responsibility. This isn't true. It's the shop's legal duty to put things right.

Step 2

If you don't seem to be getting anywhere, you can get help. Free advice is available from a Citizens Advice Bureau (get the address from your telephone book), or from a local Trading Standards Department. Again, consult the telephone directory under County, Regional or Borough Council. All these departments have people who can advise you about faulty goods and what to do with them.

Step 3

Most shops are covered by the Footwear Code of Practice. If the shop you are dealing with is covered, you can ask for the shoes to be sent to the Footwear Testing Centre for an independent opinion. The shop has to agree with whatever the resulting report says. There is a charge of £21. You pay £7 and the shop pays the rest (including postage).

Step 4

As a last resort, you can take your case to court. This is not as difficult as it sounds. The small claims procedure for amounts up to £1000 (£750 in Scotland) is a cheap, easy and informal way of taking legal action.

The relevant forms are available from your nearest County Court or, in Scotland, the Sheriff Court. You can get advice and leaflets from the Citizens Advice Bureau. Alternatively, some bookshops sell advice packs which contain the relevant forms.

Questions 1–8

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text

In boxes 1–8 on your answer sheet, write

| | |
|------------------|---|
| TRUE | <i>if the statement agrees with the information</i> |
| FALSE | <i>if the statement contradicts the information</i> |
| NOT GIVEN | <i>if there is no information on this</i> |

- 1 If you return unwanted shoes straightaway, with a receipt, the shop will probably give you a refund.
- 2 You are advised to accept a credit note if you are offered one.
- 3 The factory is responsible for replacing unwanted shoes.
- 4 You can ask any shoe shop to send shoes to the Footwear Testing Centre.
- 5 Shops prefer to give a credit note rather than change shoes.
- 6 The customer contributes to the cost of having faulty shoes tested.
- 7 The procedure for making a legal claim is easier in Scotland.
- 8 Legal advice and forms can be bought from certain shops.

Read the text below and answer Questions 9–14.

LOST CARDS

If you discover that your credit card, cheque book, debit card or cash card is missing, telephone the credit card company or bank as soon as possible. Follow this up with a letter. If you suspect theft, tell the police as well. In most circumstances, provided you act quickly, you will not have to pay any bills which a thief runs up on your account. Most home insurance policies will also cover you against even this limited risk.

Because plastic money is now so common, central registration schemes such as Credit Card Shield and Card Protection System exist to help customers whose cards are lost or stolen. Under the schemes you file details of all your cards – including cash cards and account cards issued by shops – with a central registry, for a small annual fee. Then, if any or all of your cards are stolen, you need to make only one phone call to the registry, which is open around the clock 365 days a year. As soon as you have called, your responsibility for any bills run up by the thief ends and the scheme's staff make sure that all the companies whose cards you had are notified.

What you stand to lose on a stolen card

CREDIT CARD You will not have to pay more than £50 of the bills a thief runs up with your card. If you report the loss before the card is used, you will not have to pay anything.

CHEQUES AND GUARANTEE CARD Unless you have been careless – by signing blank cheques, say – you will not have to pay for any forged cheques a thief uses. The bank or shop that accepts them will have to bear the loss.

DEBIT CARD (Switch or Visa Delta) The banks operate a system similar to that for credit cards, in that you are liable for bills up to £50.

If your cash card is stolen

Legally, you can be made to pay back any sums a thief withdraws using your card, but only up to the time you report the loss and up to £50, unless the bank can prove gross negligence, such as writing your personal identification number on your card.

- Never keep your card and a note of your personal number (which does not appear on the card) together.
- Memorise your personal number if possible. If you must make a note of it, disguise it as something else – a telephone number, say.
- The same rules and precautions apply to a credit card used as a cash card.

Questions 9–14

Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.

Write the correct letter in boxes 9–14 on your answer sheet.

- 9** What should you do first if you lose a credit card?
- A** contact your insurance company
 - B** write a letter
 - C** contact the police
 - D** make a phone call
- 10** Credit Card Shield is
- A** an insurance company which deals with card theft.
 - B** a system for registering people's card details.
 - C** an emergency telephone answering service.
 - D** an agency for finding lost or stolen cards.
- 11** When contacted, the Card Protection System company will
- A** inform the police about the loss of the card.
 - B** get in touch with the relevant credit card companies.
 - C** ensure that lost cards are replaced.
 - D** give details about the loss of the card to shops.
- 12** You are fully covered by both banks and shops if you lose
- A** a cheque that is signed but not otherwise completed.
 - B** a blank unsigned cheque.
 - C** a Switch card.
 - D** a credit card.
- 13** If you have written your personal number on a stolen card, you may have to
- A** join a different credit card protection scheme.
 - B** pay up to £50 for any loss incurred.
 - C** pay for anything the thief buys on it.
 - D** change your account to a different bank.
- 14** What happens if your cash card is stolen?
- A** You arrange for the card to be returned.
 - B** The bank stops you withdrawing money.
 - C** You may have to pay up to £50 of any stolen money.
 - D** You cannot use a cash card in future.

SECTION 2 *Questions 15–27*

Read the text on pages 121 and 122 and answer Questions 15–21.

Recycling at work – handy hints to employers

It is estimated that avoidable waste costs UK businesses up to 4.5% of their annual revenue. Reducing waste in the workplace is about being efficient. By becoming more efficient, businesses not only increase profits but they also save natural resources.



On the island of Jersey, for example, the amount of waste produced each year has doubled since 1980. In 2004 it topped 100,000 tonnes – and 60% is generated by local businesses. A lot of waste for a small island!

Setting up a company scheme

Waste audit

Before starting a recycling scheme, perform an audit. This will make you aware of how much waste you are producing in the company.

Company policy

Consider switching your office waste contractor to one that provides a recycling service.

Buy recycled paper. Although this is sometimes more expensive, costs can be reduced by lowering consumption and using duplex printers.

Get everyone involved

- Raise awareness internally within the company, perhaps by putting up educational posters.
- Allocate a person to be the point of contact for anyone with queries.

There are also a couple of ways to increase motivation:

- Hold internal competitions between different departments. For example, see which can reduce their waste the most within a specific time period.
- Send out regular newsletters reporting on all waste improvements. Staff will then see the impact their actions are having.

What to recycle and how

Paper

According to a recent survey, 65% of waste produced is paper waste. Waste paper will inevitably be produced in the workplace, but it is not necessary to discard it. It can serve a variety of purposes before it is recycled, such as writing notes. Envelopes too can be re-used for internal mail.

Plastic cups

Rather than supplying disposable plastic cups in your workplace, get ceramic mugs that can be re-used. Not only do they make your tea taste better, but they can reduce your office waste by up to 1%!

Electrical equipment

Rather than giving up on any old electrical equipment and just throwing it away, why not try upgrading it? This reduces waste, as well as avoiding the need to manufacture a new machine – a process which creates a large amount of waste. You could also consider donating your old computers to charities when it comes to replacing them.

Questions 15–21

Answer the questions below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 15–21 on your answer sheet.

- 15 What does the writer think should be carried out in a company before it starts recycling?
- 16 What machines can help to cut the stationery budget?
- 17 What can be displayed in the workplace to publicise the recycling scheme?
- 18 What can be distributed to motivate staff to recycle more?
- 19 What can unwanted paper be used for in the office?
- 20 What can be bought to cut down on the waste produced by staff refreshments?
- 21 Where can unwanted PCs be sent?

Read the text below and answer Questions 22–27.

How to answer any interview question



To start, take a tip from consultants who coach executives on how to handle media interviews. They say you can deliver the message you want to an employer, regardless of the question you're asked.

'Unlike some politicians, who take no notice of press questions and immediately introduce a different topic in response, job candidates must answer employers' queries,' says John Barford of the interview training firm Genesis. 'However, you can quickly make the transition from your answer to the important points you want to convey about your qualifications,' he says.

He advises candidates at job interviews to apply the formula $Q = A + 1$: Q is the question; A is the answer; + is the bridge to the message you want to deliver; and 1 is the point you want to make.

Diligent preparation is also necessary to effectively answer any interview question, say senior executives. They give a number of useful tips:

- Learn as much as you can beforehand. Ask company employees questions prior to job interviews to gain as much insight as you can. If the company is publicly owned, find out how viable it is by reading shareholder reports. You can then tailor what you say to the company's issues.
- Be prepared for questions that require you to show how you handled difficult challenges. These questions require stories in response, but as it's unlikely that you'll have one that fits every situation, try to recall some from your past experience that show how you coped with a range of issues.
- Count on being asked about a past mistake or blemish on your career record, and don't try to dodge the issue. Ms Murphy, president of the Murphy Group, a media interview training firm, says that it's important to steer clear of lies at all costs. Just answer the question and move on.
- When discussing a mistake, focus on the positive outcomes. 'You learn as much by dropping the ball as you do by catching it,' says senior executive Mr Friedmann. When he was being interviewed for his current job, he mentioned he had been involved in many successful turnarounds and one that failed. 'And I said how I'd benefited in many ways from going through that experience,' he says.

Questions 22–27

Complete the sentences below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 22–27 on your answer sheet.

- 22 The writer warns candidates not to imitate the way that ignore questions in interviews.
- 23 Interviewees are recommended to follow a certain to allow them to communicate their main points.
- 24 Senior executives advise candidates to request information from before an interview.
- 25 A candidate can also learn about a business by studying its
- 26 The head of an interview training firm advises people to avoid telling
- 27 In his job interview, one executive explained how he had considerably from a previous failure.

SECTION 3 *Questions 28–40*

Read the text on pages 125 and 126 and answer Questions 28–40.

TALKING POINT

Learning a second language fuels children's intelligence and makes their job prospects brighter. But the fact is, in New Zealand, as in many other English-speaking countries, speakers of two or more languages are in the minority. Eighty-four per cent of New Zealanders are monolingual (speakers of only one language). This leaves a small number who claim to speak two or more languages – a small percentage of whom were born in New Zealand.

No matter how proud people are of their cultural roots, to speak anything other than English is a marker of difference here. That's why eight-year-old Tiffany Dvorak no longer wishes to speak her mother-tongue, German, and eight-year-old Ani Powell is embarrassed when people comment on the fact that she is able to speak Maori*. As Joanne Powell, Ani's mother, points out: 'In Europe, it's not unusual for kids to be bilingual. But, if you speak another language to your children in New Zealand, there are some people who think that you are not helping them to become a member of society.'

But in fact, the general agreement among experts is that learning a second language is good for children. Experts believe that bilinguals – people who speak two languages – have a clear learning advantage over their monolingual schoolmates. This depends on how much of each language they can speak, not on which language is used, so it doesn't matter whether they are learning Maori or German or Chinese or any other language.

Cathie Elder, a professor of Language Teaching and Learning at Auckland University, says: 'A lot of studies have shown that children who speak more than one language sometimes learn one language more slowly, but in the end they do as well as their monolingual schoolmates, and often better, in other subjects. The view is that there is an improvement in general intelligence from the effort of learning another language.'

Dr Brigitte Halford, a professor of linguistics at Freiburg University in Germany, agrees. 'Bilinguals tend to use language better as a whole,' she says. 'They also display greater creativity and problem-solving ability, and they learn further languages more easily.'

So with all of the benefits, why do we not show more enthusiasm for learning other languages? Parents and teachers involved in bilingual education say pressure from friends at school, general attitudes to other languages in English-speaking countries, and problems in the school system are to blame.

In New Zealand, immigrants face the possibility of culture being lost along with the language their children no longer wish to speak. Tiffany's mother, Susanne Dvorak, has experienced this. When she and husband Dieter left Germany six years ago to start up a new life in New Zealand, they thought it would be the perfect opportunity to raise their two-year-old as a bilingual. After all, bilingual Turkish families in Germany were normal and Susanne had read all the books she could find on the subject.

* Maori: the language spoken by the Maori people, the first native people of New Zealand

The idea was to have home as a German language environment and for Tiffany to learn English at nursery school. But when Tiffany went to nursery school she stopped talking completely. She was quiet for about two or three months. Then, when she took up talking again, it was only in English. Concerned for her language development, Dieter started speaking English to his daughter while Susanne continued in German.

Today, when Susanne speaks to her daughter in German, she still answers in English. 'Or sometimes she speaks half and half. I checked with her teacher and she very seldom mixes up German and English at school. She speaks English like a New Zealander. It's her German that's behind,' says Susanne.

Professor Halford, also a mother of two bilingual children, says, 'It's normal for kids to refuse to speak their home language at the stage when they start to socialise with other kids in kindergarten or school'. But, she says, this depends a lot on the attitudes of the societies in question. In monolingual societies, like New Zealand, 'kids want to be like all the others and sometimes use bilingualism as one of the battlefields for finding their own identity in contrast to that of their parents.'

She supports Susanne's approach of not pressuring her daughter. 'Never force the child to use a specific language, just keep using it yourself. The child will accept that. There is often a time when children or teenagers will need to establish their own identity as different from their schoolmates and they may use their other language to do so.'

Cathie Elder thinks immigrant parents should only speak English to their children if they are able to use English well themselves. 'What parents should do is provide rich language experiences for their children in whatever language they speak well. They may feel like outsiders and want to speak the local language, but it is more important for the child's language development to provide a lot of language experience in any language.'

There can be differences between children in attitudes to learning languages. Susanne Dvorak's two-year-old son, Danyon, is already showing signs of speaking German and English equally well. While her 'ideal' scenario hasn't happened with Tiffany, she is aware that her daughter has a certain bilingual ability which, although mainly passive at this stage, may develop later on.

Joanne Powell feels the same way about her daughter, Ani. 'At the moment she may not want to speak Maori but that's okay because she'll pick it up again in her own time. It's more important that she has the ability to understand who she is. By learning another language she can open the door to another culture.'

Donna Chan, 25, a marketing specialist for IBM, arrived here with her parents from Hong Kong when she was four. She also remembers refusing to speak Chinese when she started primary school. But now she appreciates she had the chance to be bilingual. 'It's quite beneficial speaking another language in my job. Last year, my company sent me to a trade fair in Hong Kong because I could speak Chinese. Being bilingual definitely opens doors,' she says.

Questions 28–31

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text?

In boxes 28–31 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE *if the statement agrees with the information*
FALSE *if the statement contradicts the information*
NOT GIVEN *if there is no information on this*

- 28 Most people who speak a second language in New Zealand were born in another country.
- 29 Most New Zealanders believe it is good to teach children a second language.
- 30 Chinese is the most common foreign language in New Zealand.
- 31 Some languages develop your intelligence more than others.

Questions 32–38

Look at the following statements (Questions 32–38) and the list of people below.

Match each statement with the correct person, A–E.

Write the correct letter, A–E, in boxes 32–38 on your answer sheet.

NB *You may use any letter more than once.*

- 32 Children learning two languages may learn one language faster.
- 33 It has been unexpectedly difficult to raise a bilingual child in New Zealand.
- 34 Her daughter sometimes speaks a mixture of two languages.
- 35 Children's attitudes to language depend on general social attitudes.
- 36 It is not important which language parents speak with their children.
- 37 Learning a second language provides opportunities to learn another culture.
- 38 Speaking a second language provides work opportunities.

List of People

- A** Cathie Elder
- B** Brigitte Halford
- C** Susanne Dvorak
- D** Joanne Powell
- E** Donna Chan

Question 39

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–F**.

Write the correct letters in box 39 on your answer sheet.

39 Which **TWO** people stopped speaking one language as a child?

- A** Donna Chan
- B** Susanne Dvorak
- C** Tiffany Dvorak
- D** Cathie Elder
- E** Brigitte Halford
- F** Joanne Powell

Question 40

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–F**.

Write the correct letters in box 40 on your answer sheet.

40 Which **TWO** people think that their children's language may develop as they get older?

- A** Donna Chan
- B** Susanne Dvorak
- C** Tiffany Dvorak
- D** Cathie Elder
- E** Brigitte Halford
- F** Joanne Powell

ANSWER KEY: TEST B

GENERAL TRAINING TEST B

Section 1, Questions 1–14

- 1 TRUE
- 2 FALSE
- 3 FALSE
- 4 FALSE
- 5 NOT GIVEN
- 6 TRUE
- 7 NOT GIVEN
- 8 TRUE
- 9 D
- 10 B
- 11 B
- 12 B
- 13 C
- 14 C

Section 2, Questions 15–27

- 15 (an) audit/(waste) audit
- 16 (duplex) printers
- 17 (educational) posters
- 18 (regular) newsletters
- 19 (writing) notes
- 20 (ceramic) mugs
- 21 (to) charities
- 22 (some) politicians

- 23 formula
- 24 (company) employees
- 25 shareholder reports
- 26 lies
- 27 benefited/benefitted

Section 3, Questions 28–40

- 28 TRUE
- 29 NOT GIVEN
- 30 NOT GIVEN
- 31 FALSE
- 32 A
- 33 C
- 34 C
- 35 B
- 36 A
- 37 D
- 38 E
- 39 **IN EITHER ORDER; BOTH REQUIRED FOR ONE MARK**
A
C
- 40 **IN EITHER ORDER; BOTH REQUIRED FOR ONE MARK**
B
F

If you score ...

| 0–15 | 16–30 | 31–40 |
|--|---|--|
| you are unlikely to get an acceptable score under examination conditions and we recommend that you spend a lot of time improving your English before you take IELTS. | you may get an acceptable score under examination conditions but we recommend that you think about having more practice or lessons before you take IELTS. | you are likely to get an acceptable score under examination conditions but remember that different institutions will find different scores acceptable. |