

TOEFL Reading Practice Paper 20

SET 1

This page will help you practise for the TOEFL reading test. This section has a reading passage about perfume and 12 questions. Think carefully before you select an answer. Your answer is scored on the first click! .

Read the text and answer the questions.

1. The craft of perfumery has an ancient and global heritage. The art flourished in Ancient Rome, where the emperors were said to bathe in scent. After the fall of Rome, much of the knowledge was lost, but survived in Islamic civilizations in the Middle Ages. Arab and Persian pharmacists developed essential oils from the aromatic plants of the Indian peninsula. They developed the processes of distillation and suspension in alcohol, which allowed for smaller amounts of raw materials to be used than in the ancient process, by which flower petals were soaked in warm oil. This knowledge was carried back to European monasteries during the Crusades.
2. At first, the use of fragrances was primarily associated with healing. Aromatic alcoholic waters were ingested as well as used externally. Fragrances were used to purify the air, both for spiritual and health purposes. **During the Black Death, the bubonic plague was thought to have resulted from a bad odour which could be averted by inhaling pleasant fragrances such as cinnamon.** The Black Death led to an aversion to using water for washing, and so perfume was commonly used as a cleaning agent.
3. Later on, the craft of perfume re-entered Europe, and was centred in Venice, chiefly because it was an important trade route and a centre for glass-making. Having such materials at hand was essential for the distillation process. In the late seventeenth century, trade soared in France, when Louis XIV brought in policies of protectionism and patronage which stimulated the purchase of luxury goods. Here, perfumery was the preserve of glove-makers. The link arose since the tanning of leather required *putrid* substances. Consequently, the gloves were scented before they were sold and worn. A glove and perfume makers' guild had existed here since 1190. Entering it required 7 years of formal training under a master perfumer.
4. The trade in perfume flourished during the reign of Louis XV, as the master glove-and-perfume makers, particularly those trading in Paris, received patronage from the royal court, where it is said that a different perfume was used each week. The perfumers diversified into other cosmetics including soaps, powders, white face paints and hair dyes. They were not the sole sellers of beauty products. Mercers, spicers, vinegar-makers and wig-makers were all cashing in on the popularity of perfumed products. Even simple shopkeepers were coming up with their own concoctions to sell.
5. During the eighteenth century, more modern, capitalist perfume industry began to emerge, particularly in Britain where there was a flourishing consumer society. In France, the revolution initially disrupted the perfume trade due to its association with aristocracy, however, it regained momentum later as a wider range of markets were sought both in the domestic and overseas markets. The guild system was abolished in 1791, allowing new high-end perfumery shops to open in Paris.
6. Perfume became less associated with health in 1810 with a Napoleonic ordinance which required perfumers to declare the ingredients of all products for internal consumption. Unwilling to divulge their secrets, traders concentrated on products for external use. Napoleon affected the industry in other ways too. With French ports blockaded by the British during the Napoleonic wars, the London perfumers were able to dominate the markets for some time.
7. One of the significant changes in the nineteenth century was the idea of branding. Until then, trademarks had had little significance in the perfumery where goods were consumed locally, although they had a long history in other industries. One of the pioneers in this field was Rimmel who was nationalized as a British citizen in 1857. He took advantage of the spread of railroads to reach customers

in wider markets. To do this, he built a brand which conveyed prestige and quality, and were worth paying a premium for. He recognised the role of design in enhancing the value of his products, hiring a French lithographer to create the labels for his perfume bottles.

8. Luxury fragrances were strongly associated with the affluent and prestigious cities of London and Paris. Perfumers elsewhere tended to supply cheaper products and knock-offs of the London and Paris brands. The United States perfume industry, which developed around the docks in New York where French oils were being imported, began in this way. Many American firms were founded by immigrants, such as William Colgate, who arrived in 1806. At this time, Colgate was chiefly known as a perfumery. Its Cashmere Bouquet brand had 625 perfume varieties in the early 20th century.

The purpose of the text is to...

- compare the perfumes from different countries
- describe the history of perfume making
- describe the problems faced by perfumers
- explain the different uses of perfume over time

2 Which of the following is NOT true about perfume making in Islamic countries?

- They created perfume by soaking flower petals in oil.
- They dominated perfume making after the fall of the Roman Empire.
- They took raw materials for their perfumes from India.
- They created a technique which required fewer plant materials.

3 Why does the writer include this sentence in paragraph 2?

During the Black Death, the bubonic plague was thought to have resulted from a bad odour which could be averted by inhaling pleasant fragrances such as cinnamon.

- To explain why washing was not popular during the Black Death
- To show how improper use of perfume caused widespread disease
- To illustrate how perfumes used to be ingested to treat disease
- To give an example of how fragrances were used for health purposes

4 Why did the perfume industry develop in Paris?

- Because it was an important trade route
- Because of the rise in the glove-making industry
- Because of the introduction of new trade laws
- Because of a new fashion in scented gloves

5 What does putrid mean (paragraph 3)?

- Bad-smelling
- Rare
- Prestigious
- Numerous

6 Which of the following people most influenced the decline of perfumes as medicine?

- Louis XIV
- Louis XV
- Rimmel
- Napoleon

7 In paragraph 4, it is implied that...

Master glove and perfume makers created a new perfume each week.
Mercers, spicers and other traders began to call themselves masters.
The Royal Court only bought perfume from masters.
Cosmetics were still only popular within the Royal Courts.

8 How did the French Revolution affect the Parisian perfume industry?

The industry declined then rose again.
The industry collapsed and took a long time to recover.
The industry was greatly boosted.
The industry lost most of its overseas customers.

9 London came to lead the perfume industry because...

the French Revolution meant that there were fewer customers in France.
Napoleon's new laws affected the profitability of perfume-making.
the production of perfume ceased during the Napoleonic wars.
the French were unable to export perfumes for a period of time.

10 Which of the following is NOT true of Rimmel?

He was one of the first people to utilise trademarks.
He created attractive packaging for his products.
His products were more expensive than other brands.
He transported his goods to potential customers by train.

11 What is implied about the New York perfume industry?

It was the fastest-growing perfume industry in the world at that time.
It was primarily developed by immigrants arriving from France.
It copied luxury fragrances and sold them cheaply.
There was a wider range of fragrances available here than elsewhere.

12 Which city is being described in this sentence?

'The perfume industry developed here because the city produced materials and equipment necessary for perfume production'.

Paris
London
Venice
New York

SET 2

1) Science plays a crucial role in identifying problems related to how natural systems function and deteriorate, particularly when they are affected by an external factor. In turn, scientific findings shape the policies introduced to protect such systems where necessary. Experts are frequently called upon by politicians to provide evidence which can be used to make scientifically sound, or at least scientifically justifiable policy decisions.

2) Issues arise as there are frequent disagreements between experts over the way data is gathered and interpreted. An example of the former is the first scientific evidence of a hole in the ozone layer by the British Antarctic Survey. (1) The findings were at first greeted by the scientific community with scepticism, as the British Antarctic Survey was not yet an established scientific community. (2) Moreover, it was generally believed that satellites would have picked up such ozone losses if they were indeed occurring. (3) It was not until the methodology of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center was reviewed that it became apparent that data had been overlooked. (4)

3) With regards to the latter, controversy between scientists may arise where data analysis appears to support one policy over another. In 1991, the World Resource Institute (WRI) published estimates of net emissions and sinks of greenhouse gases for a number of countries, including India. The report provoked criticisms among Indian scientists who argued that the figures had failed to take some significant factors into account, leading to overestimated emission values. The WRI was accused of blaming less economically developed countries for global warming; a stance which, if accepted, could impede industrialisation and sustain, even widen, the wealth gap.

4) Problems regarding the scientific method are well documented and it is widely accepted by the scientific community that, however consistent scientists are in their procedures, the results born under different circumstances can vary markedly. A number of factors influence research, among them the organisation of a laboratory, the influence of prevailing theories, financial constraints and the peer review process. Consequently, scientists tend to believe they are not in a position to bear universal truths but to reveal tendencies.

5) However, **this** is countered by two factors. Firstly, certain scientific institutions wish to maintain a degree of status as 'bearers of truth'. Further, policy makers uphold this understanding by requesting scientific certainties in order to legitimise their policy decisions. According to a number of authors who have documented this process, decision makers do not necessarily try to obtain all the information which is or could be made available regarding an issue. Rather, they select that information which is necessary to fulfil their goals, information termed as 'half-knowledge'. Attempts to underplay transboundary issues such as water provision and pollution are cases in point. Politicians clearly cannot pretend that certain data do not exist if they are well-known in scientific communities or national borders, but some discretion is evident, especially where there is controversy and uncertainty.

6) It is important to note that policies regarding scientific issues are influenced in no small part by societal factors. These include the relative importance of certain environmental issues, the degree of trust in the institutions conducting the research, and not least the social standing of those affected by the issue. In other words, environmental problems are in many ways socially constructed according to the prevailing cultural, economic and political conditions within a society. It has been suggested, for example, that contemporary 'post-materialist' Western societies pay greater attention to 'quality' - including environmental quality - than 'quantity'. This theory does not necessarily assume that people of low-income countries have no interest in environmental protection, as the example of the Chipko movement in India clearly demonstrates, but demonstrates that the way a resource is valued varies widely among different communities.

7) Finally, it cannot be denied that the 'issue of the day' changes constantly. One issue becomes more or less urgent than another, based on current events. Concurrently, new issues enter the political agenda. It has been noted that it often takes a 'policy entrepreneur', someone who dedicates time, energy and financial resources to a certain issue, to raise its profile. Furthermore, whether an issue is taken up by political, environmental or media groups, depends very much on the degree to which it suits their particular agenda, not to mention budget.

With reference to paragraph 1, which of the following pieces of research would be NOT be relevant to this article?

- the effect of climate change on weather patterns in Africa
- whether or not low level radiation increases the risk of cancer
- how acid rain impacts species within a lake ecosystem
- a comparison of the species present in two areas of woodland

2 What is the purpose of the example of ozone data given in paragraph 2?

- to show that NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center used unreliable methods of gathering scientific data
- to show how data gathering methods and the status of scientists may affect the way data is regarded
- to prove that it is wrong to dismiss evidence which comes from a non-established source
- to show how NASA and the British Antarctic Survey disagreed over the correct way to gather ozone data.

3 Where in paragraph 2 does this sentence best fit?

This was because of the way their computers had been programmed to discard any readings which appeared anomalous.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

4 Paragraph 3 gives an example of a dispute over...

- which country was most responsible for producing greenhouse gases
- the pollution caused by multinational companies in India.
- how statistics were interpreted and presented.
- erroneous data which resulted from a poorly-funded experiment.

5 In paragraph 5, **'this'** refers to...

- the scientific method and its inherent problems.
- the belief that scientists cannot reveal universal truths.
- the variation in scientific results under different circumstances.
- the list of factors which influence scientific research.

6 What is meant by this sentence?

'Further, policy makers uphold this understanding by requesting scientific certainties in order to legitimise their policy decisions.'

Politicians when seeking evidence for policy-making, do not understand the fact that scientists are unable to act as 'bearers of truth'.

Politicians consider the scientific research that supports their policies as more legitimate than other research.

Scientific institutions encourage politicians to use them for policy-making in order to improve their status.

Politicians, when seeking evidence for policy-making, encourage the belief that scientists can produce incontestable facts.

7 Which sentence best sums up the ideas in paragraph 4?

Scientists are aware that their work cannot present incontrovertible facts.

If scientists were more consistent, they could create more reliable evidence.
Variations in how research is conducted often affect its validity.
Scientists spend more time documenting problems than conducting research.

8 Why are 'transboundary issues such as water provision and pollution' referred to in paragraph 5?
to illustrate situations in which politicians pretend that certain data does not exist
to illustrate situations in which incorrect information is given by scientific institutions keen to maintain their status.
to illustrate situations in which politicians are selective with regards to what data they gather
to illustrate situations in which policy makers request scientists to present them with scientific certainties, even though none exist.

9 What can be inferred about the Chipko movement?
It was an example of how people in low-income countries have little interest in environmental protection.
It was an example of how different people within a community valued a resource differently.
It was an example of how people in a low-income community showed interest in protecting the environment.
It was an example of how people in a low-income community valued quantity over quality.

10 Which of the following arguments is NOT presented in paragraph 7?
An issue only get political or media attention if someone with a high profile is supporting it.
Politicians are only interested in environmental issues if it benefits them.
Issues don't get public attention unless a particular person advocates it strongly.
Issues may be overlooked if there are other significant events happening at the time.

Read the 6 sentences below. Which 3 sentences best express the most important ideas in the passage? (Do not choose sentences which focus on minor or incorrect facts).

1. Politicians are irresponsible with regards to the type of scientific research they use to legitimise their policies.
2. It is difficult to establish the extent to which scientific data reveals the truth.
3. Experts tend to reject scientific research on the basis that it does not come from an established institute.
4. Policy-makers select scientific data to suit their own political agendas.
5. The scientific research which reaches the public domain depends on cultural, social and economic factors.
6. The level of scientific research in Western countries is a better standard than that in low-income countries.

11. Select first sentence

- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3
- Option 4

Option 5

12. Select second sentence

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3

Option 4

Option 5

13. Select final sentence

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3

Option 4

Option 5