

PTE Reading Practice Paper 20

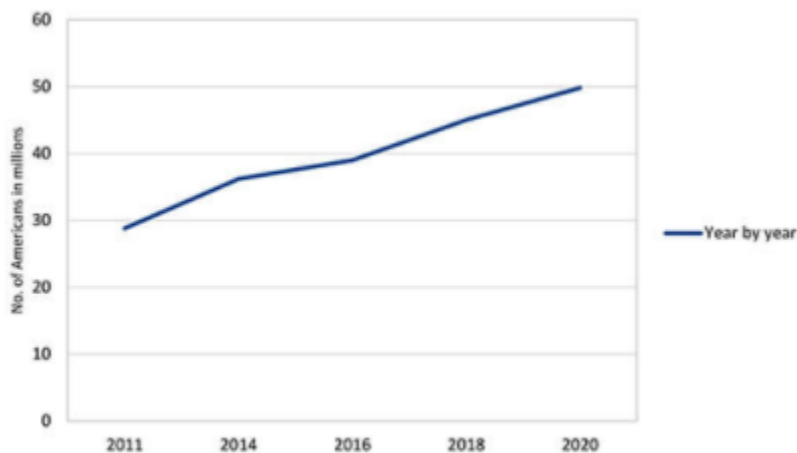
Question 1-5

Recent studies in brain slices showed that **(1)**_____ can generate spikes. But it was neither clear that this could happen during natural behaviour, nor how often. Measuring dendrites' electrical **(2)**_____ during natural behaviour has long been a challenge because they're so delicate: In studies with **(3)**_____ rats, scientists have found that **(4)**_____ electrodes in the dendrites themselves while the animals were moving actually killed those cells. But the UCLA team developed a new technique that **(5)**_____ placing the electrodes near, rather than in, the dendrites.

laboratory, placing, activity, dendrites, involves

Question 6

Majority of us are wary of the fact that Americans are for long fighting with obesity. We often happen to read articles and see video blogs on the internet highlighting the rising concern of obesity in the States. Obesity itself is not the only concern as there are plenty of other diseases associated with it including heart problems and diabetes. In 2011, about 29 million Americans had diabetes which is expected to 50 million by year 2020. Federal government is making efforts to promote education regarding obesity as by 2020, it will have to spend over \$3.4 trillion every year to fight diabetes.



Question: Which statement best describes the passage above?

- A. About 29 million American citizens were suffering from diabetes in 2011.
- B. The root cause of diabetes believed to be obesity.

C. Losing weight curbs the risk of diabetes and hence saves government's expense.

D. More than 50 million Americans will have diabetes by 2020.

Question 7

Re-order / Rearrange the sentence in such a way that makes sense

[A]. Its business decisions are made on the timely and accurate flow of information.

[B]. It has 1700 employees in 13 branches and representative offices across the Asia-Pacific region.

[C]. For employees to maintain a competitive edge in a fast-moving field, they must have quick access to JP Morgan's proprietary trade related data.

[D]. JP Morgan's is one of the largest banking institutions in the US and a premiere international trading firm.

Question 8

PTE Reading Multiple-Choice, Choose Single Answer

Read the text and answer the multiple-choice question by selecting the correct response. Only one response is correct

So far, we have been looking at the work of humanist historians in the Renaissance and the new way in which they approached their subject. Not only did they use close reading of ancient texts, as you would expect, but they also did a lot of research in the archives. That is, they didn't just read the historians that came before them, they looked for real documents. For example, they studied the records of cases that went to court, official letters that had survived, and so on to get a fuller picture of how people really lived and went about their business.

These same techniques of historical research were used in what we can call "legal humanism". The idea here was to get as accurate a picture as possible of the law and its practice in ancient, especially Roman, times. Legal historians did this with a view to refining the laws and applying them to the present historical situation. Legal scholarship's original desire to recover and purify the heritage of the ancient world later came to be distorted by political views, but even here, in the 16th century, such intense study could lead to unexpected conclusions. For example, in France, inquiries meant to uncover and apply the legal wisdom of

the Romans ended by uncovering a Roman law so pure that it was totally alien. This law, in fact, belonged to the past and to a different society and was therefore unusable.

What was the ultimate aim of legal scholarship?

- 1 To purify the ancient legal system.
- 2 To promote humanism in general.
- 3 To apply Roman law to their own society.
- 4 To perfect techniques of historical research.

Question 9

PTE Reading Multiple-Choice, Choose Single Answer

Read the text and answer the multiple-choice question by selecting the correct response. Only one response is correct.

When it comes to an organ of such complexity as the eye, it is not difficult to understand why some people cannot accept that such perfection was arrived at by the trial and error, or gradual development, of natural selection. Yet people thought the Earth stood still until Copernicus told them otherwise. In the same way, it shouldn't be hard to believe that a complex eye could be formed by natural selection if it can be shown that there were numerous stages from a simple and imperfect eye to a complex and perfect one, with each development being useful to its possessor and the variations being inherited.

However, the search for the stages through which an organ in any one species has come to perfection, which ideally would mean looking exclusively at its past generations, is rarely possible. Therefore, researchers are forced to examine species and genera of the same group to discover what stages or gradual developments are possible. Even the state of development of the same organ in a different class of creature may throw light on the steps taken towards perfection.

Some people object that in order for the eye to modify and still remain a useful instrument to its owner, many changes would have had to take place simultaneously. However, it is not necessary to suppose this if the modifications were extremely slight and gradual.

Why are researchers forced to look outside a specific species for clues to gradual development?

- 1 Because the eye is so complex and perfect already.
- 2 Because evidence of its ancestors is almost impossible to find.
- 3 Because the eye cannot change without losing its usefulness.
- 4 Because other species have more complex eyes.

Question 10

PTE Reading Multiple-Choice, Choose Single Answer

Read the text and answer the multiple-choice question by selecting the correct response. Only one response is correct.

On meeting a person for the first time, our first question is often "What do you do?" That is, we ask what they do for a living, what their job is, because we feel this will help us place them. It helps us to define their status. We can judge where they stand socially, we can make a guess at how much they earn, and through that what kind of a standard of living they can afford. In addition, it can give us a fairly good idea of their educational background.

The problem is that people often choose a career for the wrong reasons. For instance, some people follow in the footsteps of a parent, either entering the same trade or profession, or inheriting the family business. Others make exactly the opposite decision, either out of a fierce desire for independence, or to spite a parent, or simply to get away from family. They decide that whatever else they might do, they will certainly not do what their mother or father did. People may also persuade themselves to pursue a career for which they are unsuited out of hero-worship, or as a result of meeting people they admire. It is a pity that we have to make such an important decision about our future career at a stage in our lives when we are so easily influenced by factors which have little or nothing to do with the central issue, namely, that we should do those things for which we have a natural talent.

Which of the following is not given as an example of a wrong reason for choosing a career?

- 1 Doing the same job as one's parents.
- 2 Doing a job that suits your abilities.

- 3 Deliberately not joining the family business.
- 4 Following the career path of someone you admire.

Question 11

PTE Reading Multiple-Choice, Choose Single Answer

Read the text and answer the multiple-choice question by selecting the correct response. Only one response is correct.

Politically, the Roman Empire laid the foundations on which modern Europe was built. Culturally, partly through native genius and partly through absorbing the achievements of the older and richer culture of Greece, its literature became the basis of European values, in particular those values that arise out of the individual's relationship to their society. Rome began to produce literature between 300 and 100 BC at about the same time as it was conquering the rich Greek colonies in the south of Italy.

Roman writers and orators began to expand their imaginative and intellectual horizons and refine the Latin language through the study of Greek literature. Early Roman literature had been basically of two kinds: the recording and examination of public life and behavior through life stories of famous men, and the particularly Roman art of satirical comedy and drama.

There were those, however, who objected to the Greek influence, most notably Cato the Censor, who did his best to uphold the virtues of no-nonsense Latin prose against Greek luxury. More typical, and in the end more successful, was the poet Ennius, who managed to keep a balance between Greek and Latin values by writing a Homeric epic poem in Latin idiom, but using Greek poetic metre.

According to the text, which of the following statements is true of ancient Roman literature?

- 1 It was mainly the biographies of famous men.
- 2 It was deeply influenced by Greek writing.
- 3 It was mostly satirical.
- 4 It was subject to heavy censorship.

Question 12

PTE Reading Multiple-Choice, Choose Multiple Answer

A Read the text and answer the question by selecting all the correct responses. More than one response is correct.

A Xhosa bride in southern Africa, in contrast to her western counterpart, is expected to show both reluctance and sadness during her wedding – any signs of joy are considered inappropriate. She may even cry, and not without reason, because she is leaving her own family and relatives to live among a group of strangers where she will have to be careful of what she says and does.

For example, a new bride is not allowed to walk across the central meeting place in the middle of the kraal, or village, nor the cattle pen. And when she wishes to go from house to house, she must take the back way. To show respect for her husband's senior relatives, she has to avoid using the names of senior male relatives or even words similar to them, which can lead to some complex paraphrases. Furthermore, she is not allowed to use the personal names of her mother-in-law, nor those of her husband's aunts and elder sisters. Her first priority is the care of her husband, which means doing most of the heavy domestic work. Further constraints are having to wear a handkerchief low over her forehead, never showing her bare head to her husband's relatives, not being allowed to drink milk from the homestead herd, and not touching the drinking utensils.

However, these rules become less strict as time passes. The handkerchief is eventually removed, gifts are exchanged, and family relationships become a bit more relaxed. Finally, there is a ritual killing of a cow and the bride is allowed to drink the milk of the homestead. However, once she has done this, she can no longer drink the milk of her father's house, symbolizing her final separation from her family.

According to the text, which of the following behaviors are expected of a new Xhosa bride?

- 1 She is not allowed to drink milk from her father's cows.
- 2 She cannot use the name of any of her husband's male relatives.
- 3 At her wedding she is meant to appear unwilling.
- 4 She is not allowed to enter her new home by the front entrance.
- 5 She must wear a head scarf when meeting her husband's relatives.
- 6 She is not allowed to touch plates in the family home.

7 She must avoid using the names of some of her husband's female relatives.

Question 13

PTE Reading Multiple-Choice, Choose Multiple Answer

Multiple choice choose multiple answer PTE reading repeated test questions.

More than one response is correct.

There are perhaps three ways of looking at furniture: some people see it as purely functional and useful, and don't bother themselves with aesthetics; others see it as essential to civilized living and concern themselves with design and how the furniture will look in a room – in other words, function combined with aesthetics; and yet others see furniture as a form of art.

In the past, designers of furniture usually worked for royalty, the nobility, landowners and rich merchants and so were not constrained by the limits of space, economy, or even practicality that inhibit the contemporary designer. Indeed, function was not the first consideration and interiors did not always have to be practical. In the Renaissance, for example, fine furniture and interiors were designed to show off not only the riches of the owners, but their learning, wisdom and good taste as well. No doubt, this attitude still exists among a number of the wealthy.

Apart from a brief period in the 20th century when furniture designers mistook themselves for artists and sculptors, producing, say, chairs that were nice to look at, but impossible to sit on comfortably, modern designers have, for the most part, come to terms with the functional aspect of furniture. These days, a well-designed interior must be practical and exclude what is unnecessary. Limited space must be used imaginatively, and a sense of space and clarity is needed as a setting for efficient living. Therefore, in the modern home, furniture should fulfil a specific purpose, and need as little care and attention as possible. In addition to this, costs must be kept to a minimum because, these days, there are many luxuries competing for our attention. Function and economy, therefore, are of the utmost importance.

According to the text, how does modern furniture design differ from that of the past?

1 Practicality and economy are the most important considerations.

2 Designers are only employed by the wealthy.

3 Designers are primarily concerned with aesthetic appeal.

4 Modern furniture should need little looking after.

5 Making the best use of available space is important.

6 Furniture should be as decorative as possible.

Question 14

PTE Reading Multiple-Choice, Choose Multiple Answer

Read the text and answer the question by selecting all the correct responses. More than one response is correct.

Before Luke Howard invented his system for classifying clouds, they had simply been described by their shape and color as each person saw them: they were too changeable and moved too quickly for anyone to think they could be classified in any useful way. Howard had been interested in clouds – and meteorology in general – ever since he was a small boy, and for thirty years kept a record of his meteorological observations. In 1802-1803, he produced a paper in which he named the clouds, or, to be more precise, classified them, claiming that it was possible to identify several simple categories within the various and

ra practice for the classification of plant and animal species, they were given Latin names, which meant that the system could be understood throughout Europe.

Howard believed that all clouds belonged to three distinct groups: cumulus, stratus and cirrus. He added a fourth category, nimbus, to describe a cloud “in the act of condensation into rain, hail or snow”. It is by observing how clouds change color and shape that weather can be predicted, and as long as the first three types of cloud keep their normal shape there won’t be any rain.

This system came to be used across the European continent, and in the 20th century his cloud classification system was adopted, with some additions, as the international standard, but that was not his only contribution to meteorology. He wrote papers on barometers and theories of rain, and what is probably the first textbook on weather. He can also be considered to be the father of what is now called “urban climatology” Howard had realized that cities could significantly alter meteorological elements One of these he called “city fog”. Nowadays we call it “smog”, a combination of smoke and fog.

Which of the following achievements can be attributed to Luke Howard?

- 1 He wrote a book about barometers.
- 2 He was the first to notice the different shapes and colors of clouds.
- 3 He was the first to identify and classify different cloud forms.
- 4 His classification system became used all over the world.
- 5 He was the first to use the word "smog"
- 6 He realized that cities could have an effect on the weather.

Question 15

PTE Reading Multiple-Choice, Choose Multiple Answer

Read the text and answer the question by selecting all the correct responses. More than one response is correct.

When does a hobby or pastime, or whatever you want to call what you do in your leisure time for rest a pastime and become something a bit more serious, such as something you realize can be turned into financial gain, or an obsession that can mess up your life as much as any other addiction? The whole point of them, of course, is that they are done out of personal interest and for pleasure and enjoyment, not for financial gain.

Most people's hobbies turn out to be easy and stress-free pastimes such as collecting things, making things, sports, playing a musical instrument, reading, and so on. And – so it is claimed – they are good for you, too. Pursuing a hobby can have calming and helpful beneficial effects. For a start, it can take your mind off your problems, and the more interests you have, the more you enjoy life.

One way in which the subject becomes a little bit serious is when you are applying for a job and writing out your curriculum vitae, or résumé. There's invariably a section which asks what your outside interests are, and because getting a job is a serious business, and you want to impress your prospective employers, you might find yourself claiming that you like nothing better at weekends than being flown by helicopter to the top of the Alps and then making your way home by snowboard and hang-glider. Perhaps people find themselves doing this because they feel that applying for a job and coming across well at interview is a test of character and being an aficionado of extreme sports is a lot

cooler than stamp collecting. But why turn what is supposed to be calming and relaxing into a cause for anxiety?

Which of the following statements are true about hobbies and pastimes, according to the text?

- 1 They are often used as therapy.
- 2 They are not pursued for economic profit.
- 3 Your leisure time activities reveal your true character.
- 4 Many people do extreme sports because it's cool.
- 5 Most people's hobbies are simple and undemanding.