

IELTS GENERAL READING PRACTICE PAPER

Test 1: Section Three

Questions 29-35

The text below has eight paragraphs, A-H.

Which paragraph contains the information given below the text?

Write the correct letter, A–H, in boxes, 29–35

The Growth of Pilates

A. Pilates is a physical fitness system developed in the early 20th century by Joseph Pilates, after whom it was named. Pilates called his method "Contrology". It is practiced worldwide, especially in Western countries such as Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. As of 2005, there were 11 million people practicing the discipline regularly and 14,000 instructors in the United States. In his book *Return to Life through Contrology*, Joseph Pilates presents his method as the art of controlled movements, which should look and feel like a workout (not a therapy) when properly manifested. If practiced with consistency, Pilates improves flexibility, builds strength and develops control and endurance in the entire body. It puts emphasis on alignment, breathing, developing a strong core, and improving coordination and balance.

B. Precision is essential to correct Pilates. The focus is on doing one precise and perfect movement, rather than many halfhearted ones. Here Pilates reflects common physical culture wisdom, gaining more from a few energetic efforts than from many listless ones. The goal is for this precision to eventually become second nature and carry over into everyday life as grace and economy of movement.

C. Joseph Pilates accompanied his method with a variety of equipment, for which he used the term "apparatus". Each apparatus was designed to help accelerate the process of stretching, strengthening, body alignment and increased core strength started by the mat work. The best-known and most popular apparatus today, the Reformer, was originally called the Universal Reformer, aptly named for "universally reforming the body". Eventually Pilates designed other apparatus, including the Cadillac, Wunda Chair, High "Electric" Chair, Spine Corrector, Ladder Barrel and Pedi-Pole.

D. Pilates published two books related to his training method: *Your Health: A Corrective System of Exercising That Revolutionizes the Entire Field of Physical Education* in 1934, and *Return to Life Through Contrology* in 1945. A number of versions of Pilates are taught today and the majority are based on up to nine principles. Frank Philip Friedman and Gail Eisen, two students of Romana Kryzanowska, published the first modern book on Pilates,

The Pilates Method of Physical and Mental Conditioning, in 1980 and in it they outlined six "principles of Pilates". These have been widely adopted—and adapted—by the wider community. The original six principles were concentration, control, center, flow, precision, and breathing.

E. Breathing is important in the Pilates method. In *Return to Life*, Pilates devotes a section of his introduction specifically to breathing "bodily house-cleaning with blood circulation". He saw considerable value in increasing the intake of oxygen and the circulation of this oxygenated blood to every part of the body. This he saw as cleansing and invigorating. Proper full inhalation and complete exhalation were key to this. He advised people to squeeze out the lungs as they would wring a wet towel dry. In Pilates exercises, the practitioner breathes out with the effort and in on the return. In order to keep the lower abdominals close to the spine; the breathing needs to be directed laterally, into the lower rib cage. Pilates breathing is described as a posterior lateral breathing, meaning that the practitioner is instructed to breathe deep into the back and sides of his or her rib cage. When practitioners exhale, they are instructed to note the engagement of their deep abdominal and pelvic floor muscles and maintain this engagement as they inhale. Pilates attempts to properly coordinate this breathing practice with movement.

F. In 2015 the Australian Government's Department of Health published a meta study which reviewed the existing literature on 17 alternative therapies including Pilates, in order to determine if any were suitable for being covered by health insurance. The review found that due to the small number and methodologically limited nature of the existing studies, the effectiveness of Pilates is uncertain. Accordingly In 2017 the Australian government named Pilates as a practice that would not qualify for insurance subsidy, saying this step would "ensure taxpayer funds are expended appropriately and not directed to therapies lacking evidence".

G. For the treatment of lower back pain, low quality evidence suggests that while Pilates is better than doing nothing, it is no more effective than other forms of physical exercise. There is some evidence regular sessions can help with the conditioning of the abdominal muscles of healthy people, when compared to doing no exercise. There is no good evidence it helps improve balance in elderly people.

H. Pilates is not professionally regulated.[17]In October 2000 "Pilates" was ruled a generic term by a U.S. federal court, making it free for unrestricted use. As a result of the court ruling, the Pilates Method Alliance was formed as a professional association for the Pilates community. Its purpose was to provide an international organization to connect teachers, teacher trainers, studios, and facilities dedicated to preserving and enhancing the legacy of Joseph Pilates and his exercise method by establishing standards, encouraging unity, and promoting professionalism.

29.

The way in which other practioners built on and developed Pilates' methods

30. Reasons why people may not get compensation if they are injured doing Pilates

31. The quality of movement is more important than the quantity
32. Pilates benefits the whole body if practiced regularly
33. A legal ruling that led to Pilates establishing itself as a globally recognised organisation
34. The way that the learning of Pilates can be speeded up through incorporating other devices into a workout
35. Identifies the book that sets out the complex way in which Pilates is not just about movement

Questions 36-40

Complete the summary below.

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

Write your answers in boxes 36–40.

Summary Completion

Breathing is seen as central to the Pilates method as it ensures the (36) of blood to all parts of the body. In practicing pilates, one is advised to breath out during the strenuous part of the move, but then breath in once one returns to position. At the same time as inhaling it is also important to be aware of and to maintain the (37) of abdominal and pelvic floor muscles. It is the coordination of breathing practice with movement that Pilates aims to achieve.

However, a review of the literature on Pilates and a number of other (38) found that due to the small amount of research and the methodological limitations of the research the (39) of Pilates is questionable. This lack of evidence meant that Pilates would not receive (40) as it would not be an appropriate use of taxpayer funds.

QUESTION 2

Questions 1-5

Look at the information about Camberwell College's swimming pools. Then answer the questions below.

Camberwell College Swimming Pools

Camberwell College has one 50m (Olympic sized) pool with a constant depth of 2m throughout, and one 25m pool with a 1m shallow end and a 4m deep end. Both pools may be used by the general public at certain times.

50m Pool

The pool is often used for classes, but the general public may use two lanes for lane swimming at the following times.

Monday: 0630 -1130 and 1900 - 2100
Tuesday: 0630 -1130 and 1800 - 2100
Wednesday: 0630 -1330 and 1730 - 2130
Thursday: 0630 -1330
Friday: 0630 -1330
Weekends: 0900 - 1700

Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Please note that during College holidays, these times will vary. Contact the swimming pool on 04837 393560 for up-to-date information.

25m Pool

The 25 metre pool is available for recreational (non-lane) swimming from 0700-0900 and 1230-1330 on weekdays, and 1000 – 1600 on Saturdays.

Children aged 12 and under must be accompanied.

We regret that the 25m pool will be closed for refurbishment between 21st July and 18th August. The men's changing rooms will be closed for the week beginning 18th August, and the women's changing rooms will be closed the following week. Alternative changing facilities will be made available. We apologise for any disruption this may cause.

For questions 1-5 select:

True if the statement is true

False if the statement is false

Not Given if the information is not given in the passage

1. The general public can only use the 50m pool for lane swimming.
2. The general public cannot use the 50m pool on Sundays.
3. Men will be able to use the 25m pool on the 18th August.
4. The whole of the 25m pool is available to the public during recreational swimming hours.
5. The 50m pool is open during college holidays.

Questions 6-13

Look at the information about swimming classes. Then answer the questions below.

Camberwell College Swimming Classes

It's an essential life skill, it can make you fit and it provides fun for all the family. Camberwell College's offers swimming classes whatever for your needs, whether you want to swim competitively, you are trying to stay healthy or you want to learn.

We offer separate classes for adults and children, following the National Plan for Teaching Swimming (NPTS). We will guide you from your first splash and help you develop your confidence in the water.

Swim-A-Long

This class is suitable for parents with children aged up to the age of 1.5 years. This class allows very young children to gain confidence in the water, by way of songs and music.

Tadpole to Frog Classes

This series of classes is suitable for children aged 1.5 upwards. There are six levels in the series. The first level is

suitable for non-swimmers and teaches basic techniques and safety, using aids and floats. By the time students reach the sixth level, they will be able to swim independently and will be eligible to join the Swim Star classes.

Swim Star

An opportunity for able swimmers to earn the Bronze, Silver and Gold swimming awards. These classes teach children the ability to swim for prolonged periods of time, and teach skills such as diving, turning and different strokes. Children who successfully complete the Swim Star programme will be invited to join the Youth Squad and learn competitive swimming techniques.

Swim School

The swim school offers classes for adults. There are three levels, beginner, intermediate and advanced. The beginner's class is suitable for people who are new to swimming; the intermediate level is designed for swimmers who want to brush up on their swimming style, and the advanced level offers in-depth advice on stamina, breathing and technique.

Aqua Health

We offer a range of levels of fitness classes for able swimmers who wish to keep fit, socialise and have fun to music. Aqua-Light offers gentle exercise and is suitable for the elderly. Aqua-Pump is a high energy class which builds your strength and tones your body.

Questions 6-13

Select a suitable swimming class for the people below.

- 6. A 5 year-old who is unable to swim
- 7. A mother who wants to introduce her baby to the water
- 8. A middle-aged person who can swim quite well but wants to improve his techniques
- 9. A teenager who is interested in swimming in competitions
- 10. An old man who wants to keep fit and meet people
- 11. A child who wants to be able to swim longer distances
- 12. A strong adult swimmer who wishes to learn complex skills
- 13. A woman who wants to learn to swim by using music