

IELTS General Training Reading Practice Paper 12

IELTS General Reading, part 1

This page will help you practise for the IELTS General reading test. This is section 1 of the general reading test. This section has two reading passages about swimming pools and 13 questions. When you have finished you can do [part 2](#) and [part 3](#).

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.

IELTS General Reading, part 2

This page will help you practise for the IELTS General reading test. This test has two reading passages about courses at a college and 14 questions. This is the second section of a full reading test. You can also do [part 1](#) and [part 3](#).

Questions 14-21

Read the Information about Gateway Academy's Pre-Sessional Courses. Then complete the sentences below.

Gateway Academy Pre-Sessional Courses

Our pre-sessional courses are ideal for students who have a conditional place at a British university, but who need to achieve a certain level of English in order to be accepted. The course aims to provide students with the English language and study skills that they need in order to be successful at university or another academic establishment. It is important to note that completion of the course does not guarantee students entrance into a university. It is necessary for students to show during the course that they have understood the information and skills that they have been taught, and can incorporate it into their work.

Pre-sessional students at Gateway Academy will benefit from:

- Small class sizes (no more than 10 students per class)
- Twenty three hours of tuition per week
- Individual support and tutorials
- Regular guest lecturers
- The use of the Academy's study and recreational facilities, including the Language Library, the computer suite, and the academy's sports facilities.
- A varied social programme including evening entertainments and weekend excursions to popular tourist attractions and cities such as Stonehenge, Oxford and Stratford-on-Avon.

The course offers a holistic approach to learning, and covers reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. During the course, students will receive instruction on important techniques such as summary-writing, analysing essay titles, organising writing, note-taking in lectures, giving seminars and making presentations. Students will gain experience in working both individually and in groups. As part of the course, all students will work towards a 5000 word project in their own field of study. Students will receive guidance from their tutors on how best to conduct research and write it up effectively. Students will also work towards a presentation on the same subject.

There is no final examination. Students are assessed continuously, taking into account their attendance, successful completion of assignments and participation in class. Students will be given a full report on their progress at the end of the course. Students need to be aware that the course involves a great deal of coursework, which will require students to manage their time effectively.

Gateway Academy offers three pre-sessional courses. A five-week course beginning in August is available for advanced level students; a ten-week course beginning in July is

available for upper-intermediate students. Intermediate level students should take our twenty week course beginning in May. Intermediate level students get a two-week break in July.

For questions 14-21 Complete the sentences below.

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

14. The Pre-Sessional course is suitable for students whose place at British university is _____ .

15. During the course, students needs to show that they can understand and _____ new skills.

16. Students will be able to use many of the Academy's _____ while they are studying.

17. Students will have the opportunity to visit _____ on Saturdays and Sundays.

18. Students will work both alone and _____ .

19. Students will have to research and write up a _____ related to their subject area.

20. In order to successfully complete their assignments, students will have to _____ well.

21. students should start their course in July _____

IELTS General Reading, part 3

This page will help you practise for the IELTS General reading test. This is section 3 of the general reading test. This section has a reading passage about the earth and the universe and 13 questions. You can also do [part 1](#) and [part 2](#).

Questions 28-40

Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

The Shock of the Truth

A Throughout history, there have been instances in which people have been unwilling to accept new theories, despite startling evidence. This was certainly the case when Copernicus published his theory - that the earth was not the centre of the universe.

B Until the early 16th century, western thinkers believed the theory put forward by Ptolemy, an Egyptian living in Alexandria in about 150 A.D. His theory, which was formulated by gathering and organizing the thoughts of the earlier thinkers, proposed that the universe was a closed space bounded by a spherical envelope beyond which there was nothing. The earth, according to Ptolemy, was a fixed and immobile mass, located at the centre of the universe. The sun and the stars, revolved around it.

C The theory appealed to human nature. Someone making casual observations as they looked into the sky might come to a similar conclusion. It also fed the human ego. Humans could believe that they were at the centre of God's universe, and the sun and stars were created for their benefit.

D Ptolemy's theory, was of course, incorrect, but at the time nobody contested it. European astronomers were more inclined to save face. Instead of proposing new ideas, they attempted to patch up and refine Ptolemy's flawed model. Students were taught using a book called *The Sphere* which had been written two hundred years previously. In short, astronomy failed to advance.

E In 1530, however, Mikolaj Kopernik, more commonly known as Copernicus, made an assertion which shook the world. He proposed that the earth turned on its axis once per day, and travelled around the sun once per year. Even when he made his discovery, he was reluctant to make it public, knowing how much his shocking revelations would disturb the church. However, George Rheticus, a German mathematics professor who had become Copernicus's student, convinced Copernicus to publish his ideas, even though Copernicus, a perfectionist, was never satisfied that his observations were complete.

F Copernicus's ideas went against all the political and religious beliefs of the time. Humans, it was believed, were made in God's image, and were superior to all creatures. The natural world had been created for humans to exploit. Copernicus's theories contradicted the ideas of all the powerful churchmen of the time. Even the famous

playwright William Shakespeare feared the new theory, pronouncing that it would destroy social order and bring chaos to the world. However, Copernicus never had to suffer at the hands of those who disagreed with his theories. He died just after the work was published in 1543.

G However, the scientists who followed in Copernicus's footsteps bore the brunt of the church's anger. Two other Italian scientists of the time, Galileo and Bruno, agreed wholeheartedly with the Copernican theory. Bruno even dared to say that space was endless and contained many other suns, each with its own planets. For this, Bruno was sentenced to death by burning in 1600. Galileo, famous for his construction of the telescope, was forced to deny his belief in the Copernican theories. He escaped capital punishment, but was imprisoned for the rest of his life.

H In time however, Copernicus's work became more accepted. Subsequent scientists and mathematicians such as Brahe, Kepler and Newton took Copernicus's work as a starting point and used it to glean further truths about the laws of celestial mechanics.

I The most important aspect of Copernicus' work is that it forever changed the place of man in the cosmos. With Copernicus' work, man could no longer take that premier position which the theologians had immodestly assigned him. This was the first, but certainly not the last time in which man would have to accept his position as a mere part of the universe, not at the centre of it.

Questions 28 - 34

The text has nine paragraphs, A-I.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

28. the public's reaction to the new theory
29. an ancient belief about the position of the earth
30. Copernicus's legacy to the future of science
31. How academics built on Copernican ideas
32. An idea which is attractive to humans
33. Out-dated teaching and defective research
34. Scientists suffer for their beliefs