

Question Bank

Academic Reading Skills

Q1: Read the Passage and then answer the Questions by choosing (True, False, Not Given).

European Union

The European Union (EU) is a unique political and economic community with supranational and intergovernmental dimensions. It is composed of twenty-seven member states primarily located in Europe. In 1957, six European countries formed the European Economic Community (EEC) by the Treaty of Rome. Since then the EU has grown in size through the accession of new member states and has increased its powers by the addition of new policy areas to its remit. In 1993, the Maastricht Treaty established the base of the current legal framework. The EU created a single market which seeks to guarantee the freedom of movement of people, goods, services and capital between member states. It maintains a common trade policy, agricultural and fisheries policies, and a regional development policy. In 1999 the EU introduced a common currency, the euro, which has been adopted by thirteen member states. It has also developed a role in foreign policy, and in justice and home affairs. Passport control and customs checks between many member states were abolished under the Schengen Agreement. With over 492 million citizens the EU generates an estimated nominal GDP of €8.6 (\$10.7) trillion in 2007. It represents its members in the WTO and observes the G8 summits. Twenty EU countries are members of NATO. Important institutions of the EU include the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Council, the European Court of Justice and the European Central Bank. EU citizens elect the Parliament every five years.

- 1- The EU have 27 members?
- 2- The Euro is used in all the countries of the EU?
- 3- Passport control between many member states was abolished.
- 4- Only twenty countries are members of NATO.
- 5- The most important institution of the EU is European Parliament.

Q2: Before you actually read a text, you must first skim the article more than once

And pass your eyes over it very quickly? Write the purpose to do this.

Q3: one of most important reading strategies is which call it purposeful reading. Write about the purpose of this technique.

Q4: Read the Passage and then answer the Questions by choosing (True or False).

How Humans Evolved language

Thanks to the field of linguistics we know much about the development of the 5,000

plus languages in existence today. We can describe their grammar and pronunciation and see how their spoken and written forms have changed over time. For example, we understand the origins of the Indo-European group of languages, which includes Norwegian, Hindi and English, and can trace them back to tribes in eastern Europe in about 3000 BC.

So, we have mapped out a great deal of the history of language, but there are still areas we know little about. Experts are beginning to look to the field of evolutionary biology to find out how the human species developed to be able to use language. So far, there are far more questions and half-theories than answers.

We know that human language is far more complex than that of even our nearest and most intelligent relatives like chimpanzees. We can express complex thoughts, convey subtle emotions and communicate about abstract concepts such as past and future. And we do this following a set of structural rules, known as grammar. Do only humans use an innate

system of rules to govern the order of words? Perhaps not, as some research may suggest dolphins share this capability because they are able to recognise when these rules are broken.

If we want to know where our capability for complex language came from, we need to look at how our brains are different from other animals. This relates to more than just brain size; it is important what other things our brains can do and when and why they evolved that way. And for this there are very few physical clues; artefacts left by our ancestors don't tell us what speech they were capable of making. One thing we can see in the remains of early humans, however, is the development of the mouth, throat and tongue. By about 100,000 years ago, humans had evolved the ability to create complex sounds. Before that, evolutionary biologists can only guess whether or not early humans communicated using more basic sounds.

Another question is, what is it about human brains that allowed language to evolve in a way that it did not in other primates? At some point, our brains became able to make our mouths produce vowel and consonant sounds, and we developed the capacity to invent words to name things around us. These were the basic ingredients for complex language. The next change would have been to put those words into sentences, similar to the 'protolanguage' children use when they first learn to speak. No one knows if the next step – adding grammar to signal past, present and future, for example, or plurals and relative clauses – required a further development in the human brain or was simply a response to our increasingly civilised way of living together.

Between 100,000 and 50,000 years ago, though, we start to see the evidence of early human civilisation, through cave paintings for example; no one knows the connection between this and language. Brains didn't suddenly get bigger, yet humans did become more complex and more intelligent. Was it using language that caused their brains to develop? Or did their more complex brains start producing language?

More questions lie in looking at the influence of genetics on brain and language development. Are there genes that mutated and gave us language ability? Researchers have found a gene mutation that occurred between 200,000 and 100,000 years ago, which seems to have a connection with speaking and how our brains control our mouths and face. Monkeys have a similar gene, but it did not undergo this mutation. It's too early to say how much influence genes have on language, but one day the answers might be found in our DNA.

1. Experts fully understand how the Hindi language developed.
2. The grammar of dolphin language follows the same rules as human language.
3. Brain size is not the only factor in determining language capability.
4. The language of very young children has something in common with the way our prehistoric ancestors may have spoken.
5. When people started using complex language, their brains got bigger.

Q5: Read the Text and then answer the Questions.

GROWING UP EQUAL

When we treat a boy as if he is stronger, smarter, and more capable than a girl, both children may end up believing us. Most parents want their sons and daughters to have equal chances at success as they venture into the world. Today, equality of the sexes is largely mandated by public policy and law. However, outmoded ideas about gender are still deeply rooted in our culture. Biased attitudes about sex differences pose challenging questions for parents.

Gender stereotypes are rigid ideas about the capabilities, behavior, and inherent qualities that are considered normal for each sex. We all know what these stereotypes are: A "feminine" girl should be nonassertive,

accommodating, and somewhat illogical in her thinking. A "masculine" boy should be strong, unemotional, aggressive, and competitive. How are children exposed to these stereotypes? According to researchers David and Myra Sadker of The American University in Washington, D.C., boys and girls are often treated differently in the classroom. They found that when boys call out answers, teachers usually listen and offer constructive comments. When girls call out answers, teachers tend to focus on the behavior rather than the content of the response and are likely to say something like, "Please raise your hand to speak. "

Gender stereotypes inevitably get through to our children, no matter how we try to filter them out. Nevertheless, by becoming aware of the messages our children receive, we can help them develop beyond restrictive barriers. "I'm concerned about the way self-worth is tied to beauty for girls," says Brenda Schonhaut, a New York City mother. "When my eight-year-old daughter watches TV, she sees that the prettiest woman gets the most attention, and that's the one she wants to be. Stereotypes tell girls that how they look is very important," comments Nicholson. To counteract that idea, parents can look for ways to challenge and support their daughters, and to encourage confidence in ways that have nothing to do with physical appearance

1. What is the general attitude towards equal opportunity of the sexes?
2. What does the writer claim about our society's attitude to gender?
3. How does the writer define "gender stereotypes"?
4. What do the examples of "feminine" and "masculine" mean in the text?
5. Write the solution that the writer suggests for overcoming female stereotypes.

Q6: Read the Passage and then answer the Questions by choosing (True, False, Not Given).

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Q7: Answer the following Questions.

(15 Marks)

A/ Before you actually read a text, you must first skim the article more than once and pass your eyes over it very quickly? Write the purpose to do this.

B/ When you start taking notes, you always keeping in mind to record publication details write those details.

C/ Write about the General advice to get Effective Reading.

Q8: Read the Passage and then answer the Questions by choosing (Yes, No or Not Given).

(15 Marks)

Coral Triangle

The Philippines is part of the so-called "coral triangle," which spans eastern Indonesia, parts of Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and the Solomon Islands. It covers an area that is equivalent to half of the entire United States. Although there are 1,000 marine protected areas (MPAs) within the country, only 20 percent are functioning, the update said.

MPAs are carefully selected areas where human development and exploitation of natural resources are regulated to protect species and habitats. the Philippines, coral reefs are important economic assets, contributing more than US\$1 billion annually to the economy. "Many local, coastal communities do not understand or know what a coral reef actually is, how its ecosystem interacts with them, and why it is so important for their villages to preserve and conserve it," Southeast Asian Centre of Excellence said.

coral reefs – touted to be the tropical rainforest of the sea – attract a diverse array of organisms in the ocean. They provide a source of food and shelter for a large variety of species including fish, shellfish, fungi, sponges, sea anemones, sea urchins, turtles and snails. A single reef can support as many as 3,000 species of marine life. As fishing grounds, they are thought to be 10 to 100 times as productive per unit area as the open sea. In the Philippines, an estimated 10-15 per cent of the total fisheries come from coral reefs.

Not only coral reefs serve as home to marine fish species, they also supply compounds for medicines. The Aids drug AZT is based on chemicals extracted from a reef sponge while more than half of all new cancer drug research focuses on marine organisms. Unfortunately, these beautiful coral reefs are now at serious risk from degradation. According to scientists, 70 percent of the world's coral reefs may be lost by 2050. In the Philippines, coral reefs have been slowly dying over the past 30 years. The World Atlas of Coral Reefs, compiled by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), reported that 97 percent of reefs in the Philippines are under threat from destructive fishing techniques, including cyanide poisoning, over-fishing, or from deforestation and urbanization that result in harmful sediment spilling into the sea. Last year, Reef Check, an international organization assessing the health of reefs in 82 countries, stated that only five percent of the country's coral reefs are in "excellent condition." These are the Tubbataha Reef Marine Park in Palawan, Apo Island in Negros Oriental, Apo Reef in Puerto Galera, Mindoro, and Verde Island Passage off Batangas.

About 80-90 per cent of the incomes of small island communities come from fisheries. "Coral reef fish yields range from 20 to 25 metric tons per square kilometer per year for healthy reefs," said Angel C. Alcala, former environment secretary. Alcala is known for his work in Apo Island, one of the world-renowned community-run fish sanctuaries in the country. It even earned him the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award.

Rapid population growth and the increasing human pressure on coastal resources have also resulted in the massive degradation of the coral reefs. Robert Ginsburg, a specialist on coral reefs working with the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami, said human beings have a lot to do with the rapid destruction of reefs. "In areas where people are using the reefs or where there is a large population, there are significant declines in coral reefs," he pointed out. "Life in the Philippines is never far from the sea," wrote Joan Castro and Leona D'Agnes in a new report. "Every Filipino life within 45 miles of the coast, and every day, more than 4,500 new residents are born." Estimates show that if the present rapid population growth and declining trend in fish production continue, only 10 kilograms of fish will be available per Filipino per year by 2010, as opposed to 28.5 kilograms per year in 2003.

- 1 The natural resources in twenty percent of the marine protected areas are still exploited.
- 2 Coral reefs make better fishing areas than the open sea.
- 3 All of the coral reefs in the Philippines will be destroyed by 2050.
- 4 Humans are one reason why coral reefs are decreasing in size.
- 5 Available fish resources in the Philippines are expected to reduce by more than 50% over a period of seven years.

Q9: Read the Passage and then answer the Questions.

(15

Marks)

WHAT KIND OF MORNING PERSON ARE YOU?

What kind of morning person are you? What are you like in the morning? How do you behave? You probably belong to one of the following three types: those who hate mornings, those who sleep through them or those who like them. Those who hate mornings are often called "grumps". Grumps hate waking up in the morning and if you try to wake them up, they complain and make you suffer. It's a good idea to stay as far away from a morning grump as possible, unless you like punishment.

The second type of morning person is the kind who always says "give me just another minute" and then stretches "another minute" into 30 or 40 minutes with the help of a snooze alarm. She often sleeps right through the morning and is late for everything. The last kind of morning person is the most annoying, because he actually likes mornings. For him, there is no need for an alarm clock. He always gets up early, bright-eyed and happy to face a new day. In fact, he usually finishes his morning tasks long before anyone else is even awake. This is the kind of morning person who makes everyone else look lazy. So what kind of morning person are you? Are you a grump, a "just-another-minute" sleepyhead or a bright-eyed ball of energy?

- 1- List and briefly describe the 3 types of morning people.
- 2- What is the writer's definition of "grumps"?
- 3- What does the second type usually do when you wake her/his up?
- 4- Explain this sentence: "It's a good idea to stay as far away from a morning grump as possible, unless you like punishment."
- 5- Why does the writer call the last kind of morning person "the most annoying"?

Q10: Read the Passage and then answer the Questions by choosing (True or False)

(15 Marks)

Cultural behavior in business

Much of today's business is conducted across international borders, and while the majority of the global business community might share the use of English as a common language, the nuances and expectations of business communication might differ greatly from culture to culture. A lack of understanding of the cultural norms and practices of our business

acquaintances can result in unfair judgements, misunderstandings and breakdowns in communication. Here are three basic areas of differences in the business etiquette around the world that could help stand you in good stead when you next find yourself working with someone from a different culture.

When discussing this topic in a training course, a German trainee and a British trainee got into a hot debate about whether it was appropriate for someone with a doctorate to use the corresponding title on their business card. The British trainee maintained that anyone who wasn't a medical doctor expecting to be addressed as 'Dr' was disgustingly pompous and full of themselves. The German trainee, however, argued that the hard work and years of education put into earning that PhD should give them full rights to expect to be addressed as 'Dr'.

This stark difference in opinion over something that could be conceived as minor and thus easily overlooked goes to show that we often attach meaning to even the most mundane practices. When things that we are used to are done differently, it could spark the strongest reactions in us. While many Continental Europeans and Latin Americans prefer to be addressed with a title, for example Mr or Ms and their surname when meeting someone in a business context for the first time, Americans, and increasingly the British, now tend to prefer using their first names. The best thing to do is to listen and observe how your conversation partner addresses you and, if you are still unsure, do not be afraid to ask them how they would like to be addressed.

A famous Russian proverb states that 'a smile without reason is a sign of idiocy' and a so-called 'smile of respect' is seen as insincere and often regarded with suspicion in Russia. Yet in countries like the United States, Australia and Britain, smiling is often interpreted as a sign of openness, friendship and respect, and is frequently used to break the ice.

In a piece of research done on smiles across cultures, the researchers found that smiling individuals were considered more intelligent than non-

smiling people in countries such as Germany, Switzerland, China and Malaysia. However, in countries like Russia, Japan, South Korea and Iran, pictures of smiling faces were rated as less intelligent than the non-smiling ones. Meanwhile, in countries like India, Argentina and the Maldives, smiling was associated with dishonesty.

An American or British person might be looking their client in the eye to show that they are paying full attention to what is being said, but if that client is from Japan or Korea, they might find the direct eye contact awkward or even disrespectful. In parts of South America and Africa, prolonged eye contact could also be seen as challenging authority. In the Middle East, eye contact across genders is considered inappropriate, although eye contact within a gender could signify honesty and truthfulness.

Having an increased awareness of the possible differences in expectations and behaviour can help us avoid cases of miscommunication, but it is vital that we also remember that cultural stereotypes can be detrimental to building good business relationships. Although national cultures could play a part in shaping the way we behave and think, we are also largely influenced by the region we come from, the communities we associate with, our age and gender, our corporate culture and our individual experiences of the world. The knowledge of the potential differences should therefore be something we keep at the back of our minds, rather than something that we use to pigeonhole the individuals of an entire nation.

1. When doing business internationally, there is a possibility that we might misinterpret what each other is saying even though we are speaking the same language.
2. To the German trainee, having a PhD is equivalent to being a medical doctor.
3. Sometimes, the smallest things can trigger a huge emotional response in us, especially when they are things we are not used to.

4. In the research done to the perceptions of smiles, people from different countries were asked to rate photos of smiling faces and non- smiling faces.
5. Making eye contact can be interpreted in different ways in different cultures but is almost always a positive thing.

Q11: Answer the following Questions.

(15

Marks)

A/ one of most important reading strategies is which call it purposeful reading. Write about the purpose of this technique.

B/ If you have trouble understanding what a substitute word such as (it, this, that) refers to in a text what you must do to tackle this problem.

C/ As with skimming does not involve reading every word. Instead, you may skim by reading other issues write about those issues.