IELTS Reading Strategies

TO SOLVE TRUE/ FALSE / NOT GIVEN QUESTIONS:

Many IELTS students find it difficult to answer such questions because they fail to understand that they are being tested on their ability to understand the information that is given in the passage and not on how much they already know about the topic. Such Questions are always preferred to be solved at the end by most of the students. With our tips & practise papers we are sure you're going to enjoy solving such question and get correct answers

GUIDELINES TO SOLVE:

1. Skim read the entire passage to get the overall idea of the passage. (5 min)
2. Understand what kind of information is given in each paragraph. You can give headings to each paragraph for your self-understanding. This way it's easy for you to locate the paragraph which contains the information asked.
3. Read the first statement given for the True/ False/ Not given questions.
4. Underline the relevant part of the statement to help you locate your answer.
5. Look for the paragraph that has this text.
6. If the passage has the information given in the statement, then it's a true statement.
7. If the passage information contradicts or is incorrect to what's mentioned in the statement, it's a false statement.
8. If the statement information is not at all given in the passage, then it's a not given statement.
9. Repeat steps 4,5,6,7,8,9 for the remaining statements.
10. Spend less than 1 min to analyse each statement.

Let's look at the application of the above-mentioned guidelines for the following passage below.

Practise Reading 1.1

The Truth about the Environment

A

For many environmentalists, the world seems to be getting worse. They have developed a hit-list of our main fears: that natural resources are running out; that the population is ever growing, leaving less and less to eat; that species are becoming extinct in vast numbers, and that the planet's air and water are becoming ever more polluted.

B

But a quick look at the facts shows a different picture. First, energy and other natural resources have become more abundant, not less so, since the book 'The Limits to Growth' was published in 1972 by a group of scientists. Second, more food is now produced per head of the world's population than at any time in history. Fewer people are starving. Third, although species are indeed becoming extinct, only about 0.7% of them are expected to disappear in the next 50 years, not 25–50%, as has so often been predicted. And finally, most forms of environmental pollution either appear to have been exaggerated, or are transient – associated with the early phases of industrialisation and therefore best cured not by restricting economic growth, but by accelerating it. One form of pollution – the release of greenhouse gases that causes global warming – does appear to be a phenomenon that is going to extend well into our future, but its total impact is unlikely to pose a devastating problem. A bigger problem may well turn out to be an inappropriate response to it.

C

Yet opinion polls suggest that many people nurture the belief that environmental standards are declining and four factors seem to cause this disjunction between perception and reality.

D

One is the lopsidedness built into scientific research. Scientific funding goes mainly to areas with many problems. That may be wise policy, but it will also create an impression that many more potential problems exist than is the case.

E

Secondly, environmental groups need to be noticed by the mass media. They also need to keep the money rolling in. Understandably, perhaps, they sometimes overstate their arguments. In 1997, for example, the World Wide Fund for Nature issued a press release entitled: 'Two thirds of the world's forests lost forever'. The truth turns out to be nearer 20%.

F

Though these groups are run overwhelmingly by selfless folk, they nevertheless share many of the characteristics of other lobby groups. That would matter less if people applied the same degree of scepticism to environmental lobbying as they do to lobby groups in other fields. A trade organisation arguing for, say, weaker pollution controls is instantly seen as self-interested. Yet a green organisation opposing such a weakening is

seen as altruistic, even if an impartial view of the controls in question might suggest they are doing more harm than good.

A third source of confusion is the attitude of the media. People are clearly more curious about bad news than good. Newspapers and broadcasters are there to provide what the public wants. That, however, can lead to significant distortions of perception. An example was America's encounter with El Niño in 1997 and 1998. This climatic phenomenon was accused of wrecking tourism, causing allergies, melting the ski-slopes and causing 22 deaths. However, according to an article in the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, the damage it did was estimated at US$4 billion but the benefits amounted to some US$19 billion. These came from higher winter temperatures (which saved an estimated 850 lives, reduced heating costs and diminished spring floods caused by meltwaters).

G

The fourth factor is poor individual perception. People worry that the endless rise in the amount of stuff everyone throws away will cause the world to run out of places to dispose of waste. Yet, even if America's trash output continues to rise as it has done in the past, and even if the American population doubles by 2100, all the rubbish America produces through the entire 21st century will still take up only one-12,000th of the area of the entire United States.

H

So what of global warming? As we know, carbon dioxide emissions are causing the planet to warm. The best estimates are that the temperatures will rise by 2–3°C in this century, causing considerable problems, at a total cost of US$5,000 billion.

I

Despite the intuition that something drastic needs to be done about such a costly problem, economic analyses clearly show it will be far more expensive to cut carbon dioxide emissions radically than to pay the costs of adaptation to the increased temperatures. A model by one of the main authors of the United Nations Climate Change Panel shows how an expected temperature increase of 2.1 degrees in 2100 would only be diminished to an increase of 1.9 degrees. Or to put it another way, the temperature increase that the planet would have experienced in 2094 would be postponed to 2100.

J

So this does not prevent global warming, but merely buys the world six years. Yet the cost of reducing carbon dioxide emissions, for the United States alone, will be higher than the cost of solving the world's single, most pressing health problem: providing universal access to clean drinking water and sanitation. Such measures would avoid 2 million deaths every year, and prevent half a billion people from becoming seriously ill.

K

It is crucial that we look at the facts if we want to make the best possible decisions for the future. It may be costly to be overly optimistic – but more costly still to be too pessimistic.

L

Do the following statements 1& 2 agree with the claims of the writer in the above passage? **The TWO questions below are solved for you.**

Write whether the following statements are **True or False or Not Given:**

1. Some pollution problems have been correctly linked to industrialisation.

2. Data on the Earth's natural resources has only been collected since 1972.

Solved Examples

1. Some pollution problems have been correctly linked to industrialisation.

   This text belongs to the **paragraph B** which mentions the facts about the various factors affecting the environment given in paragraph 1

   "And finally, most forms of environmental pollution either appear to have .....- associated with the early phases of industrialisation."

   This indicates that the above statement is TRUE.

2. Data on the Earth's natural resources has only been collected since 1972.

   This text belongs to **paragraph B**.

   "First, energy and other natural resources..... since the book' The Limits to Growth' was published in 1972 by a group of scientist."

   The book was published in the year 1972 but no information is given about when that data was collected.

   This indicates that the above statement is NOT GIVEN.

Practise Exercise 1.1

Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in the above passage? Question 1 and 2 was already solved for your understanding.

Write whether the following statements are **True or False or Not Given:**

1. Some pollution problems have been correctly linked to industrialisation.
2. Data on the Earth's natural resources has only been collected since 1972.
3. Mass media works to provide facts which are in accordance with the public.
4. America will face severe waste problem in the year 2100.
5. Providing access to clean drinking water and sanitation is an urgent global issue.
6. The number of starving people in the world has increased in the recent years.
7. Extinct species are being replaced by new species.
8. Environmentalists take pessimistic view of the world for the number of reasons.
9. It would be the best to attempt to slow down economic growth.
10. The scientific funding goes to areas having urgent and potential problems.
11. Some lobby groups face criticism than others.

Practice Reading1.2: Solve the given passage questions in 20 minutes

Johnson's Dictionary



A

For the century before Johnson's *Dictionary* was published in 1775, there had been concern about the state of the English language. There was no standard way of speaking or writing and no agreement as to the best way of bringing some order to the chaos of English spelling. Dr Johnson provided the solution.

B

There had, of course, been dictionaries in the past, the first of these being a little book of some 120 pages, compiled by a certain Robert Cawdray, published in 1604 under the title *A Table Alphabeticall* 'of hard usuall English wordes'. Like the various dictionaries that came after it during the seventeenth century, Cawdray's tended to concentrate on 'scholarly' words; one function of the dictionary was to enable its student to convey an impression of fine learning.

C

Beyond the practical need to make order out of chaos, the rise of dictionaries is associated with the rise of the English middle class, who were anxious to define and circumscribe the various worlds to conquer – lexical as well as social and commercial. It is highly appropriate that Dr Samuel Johnson, the very model of an eighteenth-century literary man, as famous in his own time as in ours, should have published his *Dictionary* at the very beginning of the heyday of the middle class.

D

Johnson was a poet and critic who raised common sense to the heights of genius. His approach to the problems that had worried writers throughout the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries was intensely practical. Up until his time, the task of producing a dictionary on such a large scale had seemed impossible without the establishment of an academy to make decisions about right and wrong usage. Johnson decided he did not need an academy to settle arguments about language; he would write a dictionary himself; and he would do it single-handed. Johnson signed the contract for the *Dictionary* with the bookseller Robert Dosley at a breakfast held at the Golden Anchor Inn near Holborn Bar on 18 June 1764. He was to be paid £1,575 in instalments, and from this he took money to rent 17 Gough Square, in which he set up his 'dictionary workshop'.

James Boswell, his biographer, described the garret where Johnson worked as 'fitted up like a counting house' with a long desk running down the middle at which the copying clerks would work standing up.

E

Johnson himself was stationed on a rickety chair at an 'old crazy deal table' surrounded by a chaos of borrowed books. He was also helped by six assistants, two of whom died whilst the *Dictionary* was still in preparation.

F

The work was immense; filling about eighty large notebooks (and without a library to hand), Johnson wrote the definitions of over 40,000 words, and illustrated their many meanings with some 114,000 quotations drawn from English writing on every subject, from the Elizabethans to his own time. He did not expect to achieve complete originality. Working to a deadline, he had to draw on the best of all previous dictionaries, and to make his work one of heroic synthesis. In fact, it was very much more. Unlike his predecessors, Johnson treated English very practically, as a living language, with many different shades of meaning. He adopted his definitions on the principle of English common law – according to precedent. After its publication, his *Dictionary* was not seriously rivalled for over a century.

G

After many vicissitudes the *Dictionary* was finally published on 15 April 1775. It was instantly recognised as a landmark throughout Europe. 'This very noble work,' wrote the leading Italian lexicographer, 'will be a perpetual monument of Fame to the Author, an Honour to his own Country in particular, and a general Benefit to the republic of Letters throughout Europe.' The fact that Johnson had taken on the Academies of Europe and matched them (everyone knew that forty French academics had taken forty years to produce the first French national dictionary) was cause for much English celebration.

H

Johnson had worked for nine years, 'with little assistance of the learned, and without any patronage of the great; not in the soft obscurities of retirement, or under the shelter of academic bowers, but amidst inconvenience and distraction, in sickness and in sorrow'. For all its faults and eccentricities his two-volume work is a masterpiece and a landmark, in his own words, 'setting the orthography, displaying the analogy, regulating the structures, and ascertaining the significations of English words'. It is the cornerstone of Standard English, an achievement which, in James Boswell's words, 'conferred stability on the language of his country'.

I

The *Dictionary*, together with his other writing, made Johnson famous and so well esteemed that his friends were able to prevail upon King George III to offer him a pension. From then on, he was to become the Johnson of folklore.

Practise Exercise 1.2

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the Reading passage?
Write whether the following statements are **True or False or Not Given:**

1. The growing importance of the middle classes led to an increased demand for dictionaries.
2. Johnson ignored the work done by the previous dictionary writers.
3. The king granted pension to Johnson in the 16th century.
4. Johnson has become more well known since his death.
5. Johnson had been planning to write a dictionary for several years.
6. It was the only dictionary in general use for 100 years.
7. Johnson wanted to write an authentic dictionary.
8. Johnson took one year to publish his dictionary.
9. Johnson only received payment for his dictionary on its completion.

10. Not all the assistants survived to see the publication of the dictionary.

ANSWER KEY

EXERCISE 1.1

1. TRUE
2. NOT GIVEN
3. TRUE
4. FALSE
5. TRUE
6. FALSE
7. NOT GIVEN
8. TRUE
9. FALSE
10. FALSE
11. TRUE

EXERCISE 1.2

1. TRUE
2. FALSE
3. NOT GIVEN
4. FALSE
5. NOT GIVEN
6. TRUE
7. FALSE
8. TRUE
9. NOT GIVEN
10. TRUE

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