

IELTSFever General Reading Practice

Test 28

SECTION 1 Questions 1 - 14

Read the text below and answer Questions 1 - 7

<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>Sunny 1 bedroom, central location, washer/dryer in building. Storage space, parking included in rent. One year lease required. Call 837-9986 before 6 P.M.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>Cozy one bedroom with study available in elevator building. Near City Park. Amenities include exercise room, pool, and party room. Other apartments are also available. One- and two-year leases. Call 592-8261.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>Small one-bedroom, reasonable rent, near shopping, bus routes, university. References required. No pets. Call Mr. Watkins 876-9852.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p>Don't miss this unique opportunity. Large two-bedroom plus study, which could be third bedroom. Quiet neighborhood. Walk to elementary and high school, park, shops. Small pets allowed.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>Furnished flats, convenient to the central business district. Studios, one-, and two-bedrooms. Weekly and monthly rentals available. Call our office 376-0923 9-5 M-F.</p>	

Look at the five apartment advertisements, A-E.

Write the letters of the appropriate advertisements in boxes 1-7 on your Answer Sheet. You may use any letter more than once. Which apartment is appropriate for a person who

- (1) owns a car?
- (2) is a university student?
- (3) has children?
- (4) likes to swim?
- (5) usually uses public transportation?
- (6) wants to rent for two months only?
- (7) often entertains large groups of people?

Read the text below and answer questions 8 - 14.

Napkin Etiquette

Napkin Etiquette is essential in practicing proper table etiquette and having good manners.

An elegantly set table will display table linens and fine china. Delicate details such as the choice of napkins never go unnoticed. Guests love the feel and look of a beautifully set table. A formal dinner is not only a feast for the palate but a feast for the eye.

We should make an effort to use cloth napkins with most of our meals. Paper napkins should not be used for home dinners, except for very casual meals or outdoors BBQ, picnic or fast food restaurants.

Napkins vary in colors, patterns, fabrics and sizes. The formal dinner napkin will always match the table cloth color and fabric and is bigger in size than her lunch and breakfast counterparts. White and cream are the colors you will find for very formal functions. Colors and patterns are to be expected in theme or less formal events.

In a formal setting you should find your napkin to the left of the fork. In a less formal setting you can find the napkin in a water or wine glass, under the fork, or on the table near the plate. Within a few minutes of sitting you can unfold your napkin gently and place it on your lap. A dinner napkin does not need to be opened completely you can place it on your lap folded in half. For lunch, brunch, breakfast or tea party, the napkin is usually smaller in size and can be placed on your lap completely open. Your napkin should not leave your lap throughout dinner, if you really must get up place napkin left of your plate or fork gently unfolded.

Do not use your napkin to clean utensils, or to dip in water to clean a stain, or to blow you nose, to wash your face.

Never tuck your napkin in your shirt collar, like a bib.

Never spit food into your napkin.

When dinner is over you place your used napkin unfolded on the left of you plate, never on your plate.

Questions 8-14 Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text? In boxes on your answer sheet, write

TRUE	if the statement is True
FALSE	if the statement is false
NOT GIVEN	If the information is not given in the passage

- (8). Whenever we are having a meal, we must use cloth napkins.
- (9). Napkins should not be tucked into your trousers.
- (10). Paper napkins can be used for informal meals.
- (11). You should have your napkin as long as you are sitting on the dining table.
- (12). The color of the tablecloth and the napkin should be the same.
- (13). The size of the dinner napkin is larger than the napkins used for other meals.
- (14). Fold your napkin neatly once dinner is over.

SECTION 1 Questions 1 - 14

Read the text below and answer Questions 15 - 20

The Mayberry Company

Employee Manual

{A} Department heads distribute checks on the first and fifteenth of every month. Each check is accompanied by a statement which shows wages earned and the number of vacation and sick days taken so far for the year. Overtime hours are also indicated. Checks are issued by the accounting department. Please contact them if you have any questions about your check or to report errors.

{B} All new employees are entitled to two weeks of annual leave. The number of annual leave days increases with each year of employment at the company. The dates when this leave may be taken are left to the decision of the employee in consultation with his or her supervisor. In

addition, employees are entitled to take five days of paid leave per year for illness or other unexpected emergencies.

{C} Our normal hours of operation are 8:30 to 5:30 Monday-Friday. Any employee wishing to modify his or her hours of work must have prior approval from his or her supervisor. All employees are entitled to a daily one hour lunch break to be taken between 11 :00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.

{D} Rooms 101 and 102 may be reserved if extra space is needed for meetings or presentations. Please see the office manager to schedule this. The company cafeteria can provide snacks or lunches for your event with one week's notice.

{E} Paper, envelopes, pens and pencils, ink cartridges, and other similar items are stored in the closet in the coffee break room. This closet is kept unlocked, and any employee may enter it at any time to take what is needed. If you cannot find what you need there, let your supervisor know. Department heads have a budget for ordering any extra materials you may need.

{F} Company employees are entitled to purchase lunch at a reduced rate in the company cafeteria. The local health club has special reduced-rate memberships available for interested employees.

Questions 15-20

Look at the information from a company's employee manual.

There are six paragraphs, A-F.

Choose the most suitable heading for each paragraph from the list below.

Write the appropriate numbers (i-viii) in boxes 15-20 on your Answer Sheet. There are more headings than paragraphs, so you won't need to use them all.

List of Headings

- (i)** Vacation and Sick Day Policy
- (ii)** Cafeteria Schedule
- (iii)** Getting Paid
- (iv)** Employee Discounts
- (v)** Use of Conference Rooms
- (vi)** Work Schedule
- (vii)** Office Supplies

(viii) Budgets and Accounting

(15) Paragraph A

(16) Paragraph B

(17) Paragraph C

(18) Paragraph D

(19) Paragraph E

(20) Paragraph F

Read the text below and answer Questions 21 - 27

Seven Tips For The Perfect Runway Walk

Whether you are in a haute couture assembly or vogue-ing in a living room, here are a few tips to get you on the road to your inner diva. Physical balance, inner confidence and a sparkling personality are all necessary to make a charming performance. The catwalk is easy to learn, but can take a lifetime to master. However, what makes runway technique so interesting is how it requires both outward and internal calibration. Physical balance, inner confidence and a sparkling personality are all necessary to make a charming performance.

1. Posture: Think tall. While walking, stand up straight leaning slightly back so your legs can go first. Keep your toes pointed forward, so they aren't turned out. Then walk with one foot in front of the other as if walking on a tightrope.

2. Hips: Most people think you need to do a lot of hip swaying. Your hips will move naturally so exaggeration isn't necessary.

3. Arms: Let your arms swing naturally. However, take care they are not too stiff or have big movements. The clothing you have on will help you decide what to do with your hands, you may need to hold something or stick one in a pocket.

4. Attitude: Be commanding and flirty. This will make you fun for the audience.

5. Rhythm: Get into a rhythm and let the loud music be your uplifting motivation. When a natural bounce to the beat happens add to it by thinking about holding your head high and keeping your shoulders back.

6. Eyes: You should never look down. Always look straight ahead at the cameras or pick a spot on the wall ahead of you so you won't get distracted by anything else distracting around you.

7. Posing: When you reach the end of the runway pause then lean on one hip with lots of attitude.

By following these simple tips you'll be on your way to a natural, confident and fun runway presence to make the entire designer's clothes look amazing or your living room look like a major fashion event.

Questions 21-27

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text? In boxes on your answer sheet, write

TRUE	if the statement is True
FALSE	if the statement is false
NOT GIVEN	If the information is not given in the passage

- (21). Always keep one hand in your pocket while walking.
- (22). It is not difficult to learn how to walk on the ramp.
- (23). Practice walking on a tight-rope to improve your walking style.
- (24). Stop for a while at the end of the walk-way.
- (25). Sway your hips from side to side for maximum effect.
- (26). You should carefully listen to the loud music to motivate you.
- (27). Look down once in a while to ensure you don't trip over and fall.

SECTION 3 Questions 28 - 40

BAKELITE

In 1907, Leo Hendrick Baekeland, a Belgian scientist working in New York, discovered and patented a revolutionary new synthetic material. His invention, which he named 'Bakelite', was of enormous technological importance, and effectively launched the modern plastics industry.

The term 'plastic' comes from the Greek *plassein*, meaning 'to mould'. Some plastics are derived from natural sources, some are semi-synthetic (the result of chemical action on a natural substance), and some are entirely synthetic, that is, chemically engineered from the constituents of coal or oil. Some are 'thermoplastic', which means that, like candle wax, they melt when heated and can then be reshaped. Others are 'thermosetting': like eggs, they cannot revert to their original viscous state, and their shape is thus fixed forever. Bakelite had the distinction of being the first totally synthetic thermosetting plastic.

The history of today's plastics begins with the discovery of a series of semi-synthetic thermoplastic materials in the mid-nineteenth century. The impetus behind the development of these early plastics was generated by a number of factors – immense technological progress in the domain of chemistry, coupled with wider cultural changes, and the pragmatic need to find acceptable substitutes for dwindling supplies of 'luxury' materials such as tortoiseshell and ivory.

Baekeland's interest in plastics began in 1885 when, as a young chemistry student in Belgium, he embarked on research into phenolic resins, the group of sticky substances produced when phenol (carbolic acid) combines with an aldehyde (a volatile fluid similar to alcohol). He soon abandoned the subject, however, only returning to it some years later. By 1905 he was a wealthy New Yorker, having recently made his fortune with the invention of a new photographic paper. While Baekeland had been busily amassing dollars, some advances had been made in the development of plastics. The years 1899 and 1900 had seen the patenting of the first semi-synthetic thermosetting material that could be manufactured on an industrial scale. In purely scientific terms, Baekeland's major contribution to the field is not so much the actual discovery of the material to which he gave his name, but rather the method by which a reaction between phenol and formaldehyde could be controlled, thus making its preparation possible on a commercial basis. On 13 July 1907, Baekeland took out his famous patent describing this preparation, the essential features of which are still in use today.

The original patent outlined a three-stage process, in which phenol and formaldehyde (from wood or coal) were initially combined under vacuum inside a large egg-shaped kettle. The result was a resin known as Novalak, which became soluble and malleable when heated. The resin was allowed to cool in shallow trays until it hardened, and then broken up and ground into powder. Other substances were then introduced: including fillers, such as woodflour, asbestos or cotton, which increase strength and moisture resistance, catalysts (substances to speed up the reaction between two chemicals without joining to either) and hexa, a compound of ammonia and formaldehyde which supplied the additional formaldehyde necessary to form a thermosetting resin. This resin was then left to cool and harden, and ground up a second time. The resulting granular powder was raw Bakelite, ready to be made into a vast range of manufactured objects. In the last stage, the heated Bakelite was poured into a hollow mould of the required shape and subjected to extreme heat and pressure; thereby 'setting' its form for life.

The design of Bakelite objects, everything from earrings to television sets, was governed to a large extent by the technical requirements of the moulding process. The object could not be

designed so that it was locked into the mould and therefore difficult to extract. A common general rule was that objects should taper towards the deepest part of the mould, and if necessary the product was moulded in separate pieces. Moulds had to be carefully designed so that the molten Bakelite would flow evenly and completely into the mould. Sharp corners proved impractical and were thus avoided, giving rise to the smooth, 'streamlined' style popular in the 1930s. The thickness of the walls of the mould was also crucial: thick walls took longer to cool and harden, a factor which had to be considered by the designer in order to make the most efficient use of machines.

Baekeland's invention, although treated with disdain in its early years, went on to enjoy an unparalleled popularity which lasted throughout the first half of the twentieth century. It became the wonder product of the new world of industrial expansion 'the material of a thousand uses'. Being both non-porous and heat-resistant, Bakelite kitchen goods were promoted as being germ-free and sterilisable. Electrical manufacturers seized on its insulating properties, and consumers everywhere relished its dazzling array of shades, delighted that they were now, at last, no longer restricted to the wood tones and drab browns of the pre-plastic era. It then fell from favour again during the 1950s, and was despised and destroyed in vast quantities. Recently, however, it has been experiencing something of a renaissance, with renewed demand for original Bakelite objects in the collectors' marketplace, and museums, societies and dedicated individuals once again appreciating the style and originality of this innovative material.

Questions 28-30

Complete the summary.

*Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer.*

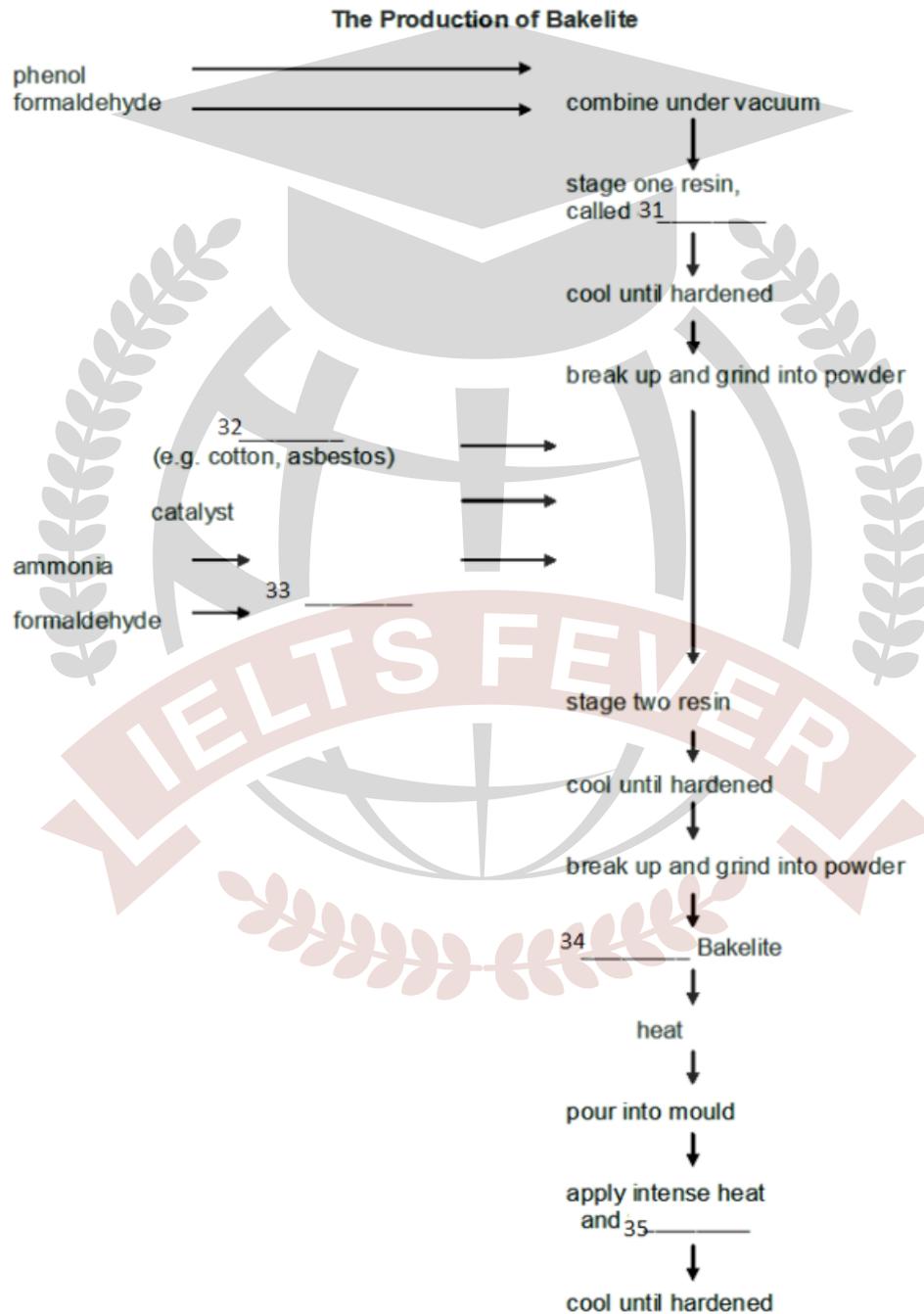
Write your answers in boxes 28-30 on your answer sheet.

Some plastics behave in a similar way to **28** in that they melt under heat and can be moulded into new forms. Bakelite was unique because it was the first material to be both entirely **29** in origin and thermosetting. There were several reasons for the research into plastics in the nineteenth century, among them the great advances that had been made in the field of **30** and the search for alternatives to natural resources like ivory.

Questions 31-35

Complete the flow-chart

Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer. Write your answers in boxes 31-35 on your answer sheet.



Questions 36-37

Write your answers in boxes 9 and 10 on your answer sheet.

Your answers may be given in either order.

Which TWO of the following factors influencing the design of Bakelite objects are mentioned in the text?

- (A) the function which the object would serve
- (B) the ease with which the resin could fill the mould
- (C) the facility with which the object could be removed from the mould
- (D) the limitations of the materials used to manufacture the mould
- (E) the fashionable styles of the period

Questions 38-40

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

In for questions 38-40, write

TRUE	if the statement is True
FALSE	if the statement is false
NOT GIVEN	If the information is not given in the passage

(38) Modern-day plastic preparation is based on the same principles as that patented in 1907.

(39) Bakelite was immediately welcomed as a practical and versatile material.

(40) Bakelite was only available in a limited range of colours.