

From: Behnam
To: IELTS Prep Group
Subj: IELTS **Reading** lesson 7-13-2016

Section One

Consider these collocations:

begin a career - combine family life with a career - choose a career - pursue a career - further your career - wreck your career - a brilliant career - climb the career ladder - a promising career - as a career - a worthwhile career - a change of career - a turning point in your career - your choice of career - the height/pinnacle of your career - the greatest performance of your career

- Now complete the sentences with the correct form of the above expressions.
 1. This sandal has his career as a politician. It's now in ruins.
 2. He's the owner of a chain of hotels, but he his career as a porter.
 3. Getting more qualifications is probably the best way to your career.
 4. I think money is a big factor for most people when it comes to a career.
 5. I graduate from university soon and I'm hoping to career in business.
 6. She considers teaching a career. It is very satisfying to feel that you are helping people to develop.
 7. He had a career in politics, becoming Prime Minister at the young age of 46.
 8. He had a career ahead of him in football until a knee injury put him out of the game at the age of 21.
 9. She is now the managing director of the organization. At the age of only thirty, she has reached
 10. At 50 he felt like So he gave up his job as a lawyer and went into teaching.
 11. Parents should advise and support their children in However, it's important that they don't try to influence their choice.
 12. At a concert in front of 40,000 people, she gave so far.
 13. Moving to a new company marked I'm much happier in my new job.
 14. Most working women manage to successfully
 15. She wants to get ahead in her career. She's eager to
 16. Have you ever thought of teaching

Section Two

Reading Comprehension and Pronunciation skills.

Evaluation Criteria

- Ability to effectively read English passages and answer to the questions. The passages are extracted from some TOEFL sample tests.

Passage 1

Steamships were first introduced into the United States in 1807, and John Molson built the first steamship in Canada (then called British North America) in 1809. By the 1830's dozens of steam vessels were in use in Canada. They offered the traveler **reliable** transportation in comfortable facilities—a welcome alternative to stagecoach travel, which at the best of times could only be described as wretched. This commitment to dependable river transport became entrenched with the investment of millions of dollars for the improvement of waterways, which included the construction of canals and lock systems. The Lachine and Welland canals, two of the most important systems, were opened in 1825 and 1829, respectively. By the time that Upper and Lower Canada were united into the Province of Canada in 1841, the public debt for canals was more than one hundred dollars per capita, an enormous **sum** for the time. But it may not seem such a great amount if we consider that improvements allowed steamboats to remain practical for most commercial transport in Canada until the mid-nineteenth century.

Questions:

1. What is the main purpose of the passage?
 - (A) To contrast travel by steamship and stagecoach
 - (B) To criticize the level of public debt in nineteenth century in Canada
 - (C) To describe the introduction of steamships in Canada
 - (D) To show how Canada surpassed the United States in transportation improvements
2. The word "reliable" in line 4 is closest in meaning to which of the following
 - (A) Quick
 - (B) Safe
 - (C) Dependable
 - (D) Luxurious



3. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about stagecoach travel in Canada in the 1831's?
 - (A) It was reasonably comfortable.
 - (B) It was extremely efficient.
 - (C) It was not popular.
 - (D) It was very practical.

4. According to the passage, when was the Welland Canal opened?
 - (A) 1807
 - (B) 1809
 - (C) 1825
 - (D) 1829

5. The word "sum" in line 12 is closest in meaning to which of the following?
 - (A) Size
 - (B) Cost
 - (C) Payment
 - (D) Amount

6. According to the passage, steamships became practical means of transportation in Canada because of
 - (A) improvements in the waterways
 - (B) large subsidies from John Molson
 - (C) a relatively small population
 - (D) the lack of alternate means

Passage 2

Archaeology is a source of history, not just a humble auxiliary discipline. Archaeological data are historical documents in their own right, not mere illustrations to written texts. Just as much as any other historian, an archaeologist studies and tries to reconstitute the process that has created the human world in which we live-and us ourselves in so far as we are each creatures of our age and social environment. Archaeological data are all changes in the material world resulting from human action or, more succinctly, the fossilized results of human behavior. The sum total of these constitutes what may be called the archaeological record. This record exhibits certain peculiarities and deficiencies the consequences of which produce a rather superficial contrast between archaeological history and the more familiar kind based upon written records.

Not all human behavior fossilizes. The words I utter and you hear as vibrations in the air are certainly human changes in the material world and may be of great historical significance. Yet **they** leave no sort of trace in the archaeological records unless they are captured by a dictaphone or written down by a clerk. The movement of troops on the battlefield may "change the course of history", but this is equally ephemeral from the archaeologist's standpoint. What is perhaps worse is that most organic materials are perishable. Everything made of wood, hide wool, linen, grass hair, and similar materials will decay and vanish in dust in a few years or centuries, save under very exceptional conditions. In a relatively brief period the archaeological record is reduced to mere scraps of stone, bone, glass, metal, and earthenware. Still modern archaeology, by applying appropriate techniques and comparative methods, aided by a few lucky finds from peat bogs, deserts, and frozen soils, is able to fill up a good deal of the gap.

Questions:

1. What is the author's main purpose in the passage?
 - (A) To point out the importance of recent advances in archaeology
 - (B) To describe an archaeologist's education
 - (C) To explain how archaeology is a source of history
 - (D) To encourage more people to become archaeologists

2. According to the passage, the archaeological record consists of
 - (A) spoken words of great historical significance
 - (B) the fossilize results of human activity
 - (C) organic materials
 - (D) ephemeral ideas

3. The word "they" in line 14 refers to
 - (A) scraps
 - (B) words
 - (C) troops
 - (D) humans

4. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an example of an organic material?
- (A) Stone
 - (B) Wool
 - (C) Grass
 - (D) Hair
5. The author mentions all of the following archaeological discovery sites EXCEPT
- (A) urban areas
 - (B) peat bogs
 - (C) very hot and dry lands
 - (D) earth that has been frozen
6. The paragraph following the passage most probably discusses
- (A) techniques for recording oral histories
 - (B) certain battlefield excavation methods
 - (C) some specific archaeological discoveries
 - (D) building materials of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries

Passage 3

Many artists late in the last century were in search of a means to express their individuality. Modern dance was one of the ways some of these people sought to free their creative spirit. At the beginning there was no exacting technique, no foundation from which to build. In later years, trial, error, and genius founded the techniques and the principles of the movement. Eventually, innovators even drew from what they considered the dread ballet, but first they had to discard all that was academic so that the new could be discovered. The beginnings of modern dance were happening before Isadora Duncan, but she was the first person to bring the new dance to general audiences and see it accepted and acclaimed.

Her search for a natural movement form sent her to nature. She believed movement should be as natural as the swaying of the trees and the rolling waves of the sea, and should be in harmony with the movements of the Earth. Her great contributions are in three areas.

First, she began the expansion of the kinds of movements that could be used in dance. Before Duncan danced, ballet was the only type of dance performed in concert. In the ballet the feet and legs were emphasized, with virtuosity shown by complicated, codified positions and movements. Duncan performed dance by using all her body in the freest possible way. Her dance stemmed from her soul and spirit. She was one of the pioneers who broke tradition so others might be able to develop the art.

Her second contribution lies in dance costume. She discarded corset, ballet shoes, and stiff costumes. These were replaced with flowing Grecian tunics, bare feet, and unbound hair. She believed in the natural body being allowed to move freely, and her dress displayed this ideal.

Her third contribution was in the use of music. In her performances she used the symphonies of great masters, including Beethoven and Wagner, which was not the usual custom. She was as exciting and eccentric in her personal life as in her dance.

Questions:

1. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?
- (A) The Evolution of Dance in the Twentieth Century
 - (B) Artists of the Last Century
 - (C) Natural Movement in Dance
 - (D) A Pioneer in Modern Dance
2. According to the passage, what did nature represent to Isadora Duncan?
- (A) Something to conquer
 - (B) A model for movement
 - (C) A place to find peace
 - (D) A symbol of disorder
3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage as an area of dance that Isadora Duncan worked to change?
- (A) The music
 - (B) The stage sets
 - (C) Costumes
 - (D) Movements
4. Compared to those of the ballet, Isadora Duncan's costumes were less
- (A) costly
 - (B) colorful
 - (C) graceful
 - (D) restrictive



5. What does the paragraph following the passage most probably discuss?

- (A) Isadora Duncan's further contribution to modern dance
- (B) The music customarily used in ballet
- (C) Other aspects of Isadora Duncan's life
- (D) Audience acceptance of the new form of dance

Passage 4

The theory of plate tectonics describes the motions of the lithosphere, the comparatively rigid outer layer of the Earth that includes all the crust and part of the underlying mantle. The lithosphere is divided into a few dozen plates of various sizes and shapes, in general the plates are in motion with respect to one another. A mid - ocean ridge is a boundary between plates where new lithospheric material is injected from below. As the plates diverge from a mid - ocean ridge they slide on a more yielding layer at the base of the lithosphere.

Since the size of the Earth is essentially constant, new lithosphere can be created at the mid - ocean ridges only if an equal amount of lithospheric material is consumed elsewhere. The site of this destruction is another kind of plate boundary: a subduction zone. There one plate dives under the edge of another and is reincorporated into the mantle. Both kinds of plate boundary are associated with fault systems, earthquakes and volcanism, but the kinds of geologic activity observed at the two boundaries are quite different.

The idea of sea-floor spreading actually preceded the theory of plate tectonics. In its original version, in the early 1960s, it described the creation and destruction of the ocean floor, but it did not specify rigid lithospheric plates. The hypothesis was substantiated soon afterward by the discovery that periodic reversals of the Earth's magnetic field are recorded in the oceanic crust. As magma rises under the mid - ocean ridge, ferromagnetic minerals in the magma become magnetized in the direction of the geomagnetic field. When the magma cools and solidifies, the direction and the polarity of the field are preserved in the magnetized volcanic rock. Reversals of the field give rise to a series of magnetic stripes running parallel to the axis of the rift. The oceanic crust thus serves as a magnetic tape recording of the history of the geomagnetic field that can be dated independently the width of the stripes indicates the rate of the sea - floor spreading.

Questions:

1. What is the main topic of the passage?

- (A) Magnetic field reversal
- (B) The formation of magma
- (C) The location of mid - ocean ridges
- (D) Plate tectonic theory

2. According to the passage, there are approximately how many lithospheric plates?

- (A) Six
- (B) Twelve
- (C) Twenty - four or more
- (D) One thousand nine hundred

3. Which of the following is true about tectonic plates?

- (A) They are moving in relationship to one other
- (B) They have unchanging borders
- (C) They are located far beneath the lithosphere
- (D) They have the same shape

4. According to the passage, which of the following statements about the lithosphere is LEAST likely to be true?

- (A) It is a relatively inflexible layer of the Earth
- (B) It is made up entirely of volcanic ash
- (C) It includes the crust and some of the mantle of the Earth
- (D) It is divided into plates of various shapes and sizes

5. What does the author imply about the periodic reversal of the Earth's magnetic field?

- (A) It is inexplicable
- (B) It supports the hypothesis of sea-floor spreading
- (C) It was discovered before the 1960's
- (D) It indicates the amount of magma present

6. The author states that the width of the stripes preserved in magnetized volcanic rock give information about the

- (A) date of a volcanic eruption
- (B) speed of sea - floor spreading
- (C) width of oceanic crust
- (D) future behavior of the geomagnetic field

Passage 5

The first jazz musicians played in New Orleans during the early 1900's. After 1917, many of the New Orleans musicians moved to the south side of Chicago, where they continued to play their style of jazz. Soon Chicago was the new-center for jazz.

Several outstanding musicians emerged as leading jazz artists in Chicago. Daniel Lotus "Satchmo" Armstrong, born in New Orleans in 1900, was one. Another leading musician was Joseph King Oliver, who is also credited with having discovered Armstrong, when they were both in New Orleans. While in Chicago, Oliver asked Armstrong, who was in New Orleans, to join his band. In 1923 King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band made the first important set of recordings by a Hot Five and Hot Seven bands under Louis Armstrong also made recordings of special note.

Although Chicago's South Side was the main jazz center, some musicians in New York were also demanding attention in jazz circles. In 1923 Fletcher Henderson already had a ten - piece band that played jazz. During the early 1930's, the number of players grew to sixteen. Henderson's band was considered a leader in what some people have called the Big Band Era. By the 1930's, big dance bands were the rage. Large numbers of people went to ballrooms to dance to jazz music played by big bands.

One of the most popular and also a very famous jazz band was the Duke Ellington band. Edward "Duke" Ellington was born in Washington, D.C., in 1899 and died in New York City in 1974. He studied the piano as a young boy and later began writing original musical compositions. The first of Ellington's European tours came in 1933. He soon received international fame for his talent as a band leader, composer, and arranger. Ten years later, Ellington began giving annual concerts at Carnegie Hall in New York City. People began to listen to jazz in the same way that they had always listened to classical music.

Questions:

1. It can be inferred from the passage that Louis Armstrong went to Chicago for which of the following reasons?
(A) To form his own band
(B) To learn to play Chicago - style jazz
(C) To play in Joseph Oliver's band
(D) To make recordings with the Hot Five
2. According to the passage, which of the following Black bands was the first to make a significant set of jazz recordings?
(A) The Hot Seven band
(B) Fletcher Henderson's band
(C) The Red Hot Peppers band
(D) King Oliver's Creole jazz Band
3. As used in line 12, the word "note" could best be replaced by which of the following?
(A) distinction
(B) memorandum
(C) mood
(D) song
4. The nickname "Duke" belonged to which of the following bandleaders?
(A) Louis Armstrong
(B) Joseph Oliver
(C) Edward Ellington
(D) Fletcher Henderson
5. The passage supports which of the following conclusions?
(A) By the 1930's jazz was appreciated by a wide audience
(B) Classical music had a great impact on jazz
(C) jazz originated in New Orleans in the early nineteenth century
(D) jazz band were better known in, Europe than in the United States
6. Which of the following cities is NOT mentioned in the passage as a center of jazz?
(A) New York
(B) Washington, D.C.
(C) Chicago
(D) New Orleans



Passage 6

The modern age is an age of electricity. People are so used to electric lights, radio, televisions, and telephones that it is hard to imagine what life would be like without them. When there is a power failure, people grope about in flickering candlelight. Cars hesitate in the streets because there are no traffic lights to guide them, and food spoils in silent refrigerators.

Yet, people began to understand how electricity works only a little more than two centuries ago. Nature has apparently been experimenting in this field for millions of years. Scientists are discovering more and more that the living world may hold many interesting secrets of electricity that could benefit humanity.

All living cells send out tiny pulses of electricity. As the heart beats, it sends out pulses of recorded electricity; they form an electrocardiogram, which a doctor can study to determine how well the heart is working. The brain, too, sends out brain waves of electricity, which can be recorded in an electroencephalogram. The electric currents generated by most living cells are extremely small—of-ten so small that sensitive instruments are needed to record them. But in some animals, certain muscle cells have become so specialized as electrical generators that they do not work as muscle cells at all. When large numbers of these cells are linked together, the effects can be astonishing.

The electric eel is an amazing storage battery. It can send a jolt of as much as eight hundred volts of electricity through the water in which it lives. (An electric house current is only one hundred twenty volts.) As many as four fifths of all the cells in the electric eel's body are specialized for generating electricity, and the strength of the shock it can deliver corresponds roughly to the length of its body.

Questions:

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
(A) Electric eels are potentially dangerous
(B) Biology and electricity appear to be closely related
(C) People would be at a loss without electricity
(D) Scientists still have much to discover about electricity
2. The author mentions all of the following as results of a blackout EXCEPT
(A) refrigerated food items may go bad
(B) traffic lights do not work
(C) people must rely on candlelight
(D) elevators and escalators do not function
3. Why does the author mention electric eels?
(A) To warn the reader to stay away from them
(B) To compare their voltage to that used in houses
(C) To give an example of a living electrical generator
(D) To describe a new source of electrical power
4. How many volts of electricity can an electric eel emit?
(A) 1,000
(B) 800
(C) 200
(D) 120
5. It can be inferred from the passage that the longer an eel is the
(A) more beneficial it will be to science
(B) more powerful will be its electrical charge
(C) easier it will be to find
(D) tougher it will be to eat.