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To: IELTS Prep Group
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Lesson Objective

The student shall be able to use “power words” as part of their oral vocabulary, read and comprehend both social and business language and demonstrate effective oral communication skills.

Section One

Vocabulary

Evaluation Criteria

- Ability to understand definitions of English vocabulary

MATCH THE WORD WITH THE CORRECT DEFINITION

VOCABULARY	DEFINITIONS
1. STARDOM (Noun)	A. An attempt to do something, especially something new or original.
2. FORTUITOUS (Adjective)	B. A measurement or value which gives you an idea of what something is like.
3. HUMDRUM (Noun)	C. Stardom is the state of being very famous, usually as an actor, musician, or sports player.
4. FLARE (Verb)	D. Someone or something that are described as being ordinary, dull, or boring.
5. DRIVE (Noun)	E. Any means of defense or attack, as in an argument. An information that you can use against someone in an argument or discussion.
6. ENDEAVORS (Noun)	F. Happening by chance, esp. by a lucky chance; unplanned; accidental
7. AMMUNITION (Noun)	G. If something such as trouble, violence, or conflict flares, it starts or becomes more violent.
8. INDICATOR (Noun)	H. A united effort, esp. directed towards a common goal

Section Two

Reading Comprehension and Pronunciation skills.

Evaluation Criteria

- Ability to effectively read and comprehend written English in a social or business environment.

A. When It Comes to Success, Age Really Is Just a Number

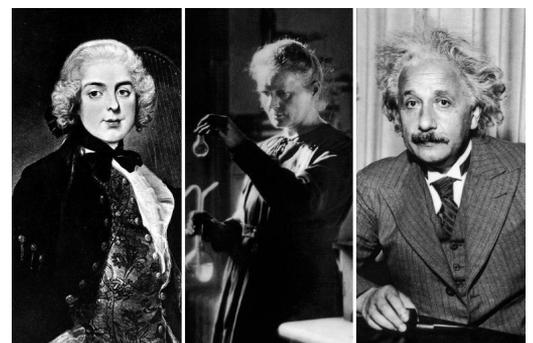
Passage 1:

The question hangs over the career of every ambitious soul:
Is there still time to make a mark?

Charles Darwin was 29 when he came up with his theory of natural selection. Einstein had his annus mirabilis at age 26; Marie Curie made big discoveries about radiation in her late 20s. Mozart's Symphony No. 1 in E flat: 8 years old.

For years, scientists who study achievement have noted that in many fields the most electrifying work comes earlier in life rather than later. After all, younger people can devote their life to a project in a way that more senior people cannot, and young stars attract support, mentors and prestigious appointments.

Now, a big-data analysis of scientific careers appearing in the journal Science finds a host of factors that have nothing to do with age or early stardom. It is, they suggest, a combination of personality, persistence and pure luck, as well as intelligence that leads to high-impact success— at any age.



“The bottom line is: Brother, never give up. When you give up, that’s when your creativity ends,” said Albert-Laszlo Barabasi, who with Roberta Sinatra led a team of researchers who conducted the analysis. Both were physicists at Northeastern University in Boston. Dr. Sinatra has since moved to Central European University in Budapest.

Questions:

According to the article what did scientists who study achievement note?

- a) Young people attract mentors
- b) Most innovating work comes earlier in life
- c) Great achievement comes later in life
- d) Senior people are less likely to succeed

In paragraph three of the article which of the following factors combined lead to high-impact-success?

- a) Persistence
- b) money
- c) Luck
- d) Organization
- e) Intelligence
- f) Personality
- g) Motivation

According to the passage, is age an important factor in determining success?

- a) Yes
- b) No

Passage 2:

Previous work had found that a similar combination of elements lay behind the success of very top performers in a variety of fields. The new study illustrates that the same forces are at play at all levels of a discipline: the student, the young professional, the midcareer striver and beyond, to those old enough to wonder if their hand is played out.

“It’s very impressive, what they’ve done, the size of the sample,” said Dean Simonton, a distinguished professor emeritus at the University of California, Davis, who did not contribute to the study. “I have looked at the upper end of achievement; they have gone bottom-up, and found similar results” applying to an entire profession, he said. The same **relationships**, Dr. Simonton said, emerge in a broad variety of work, including music composition, film, psychology and technical invention.

The research team began by focusing on career physicists. It ransacked the literature going back to 1893, identifying 2,856 physicists with careers of 20 years or more who published at least one paper every five years — widely cited findings rated as “impact” papers — and the team analyzed when in a career those emerged.

Sure enough, the physicists were more likely to produce hits earlier rather than later. But this had nothing to do with their age, the analysis found.

It was entirely because of productivity: Young scientists tried more experiments, increasingly the likelihood they would stumble on something good. “It’s not the age or order of the papers that matters,” said Dr. Barabasi, who wrote the study with Dashun Wang, Pierre Deville and Chaoming Song, as well as Dr. Sinatra. All have appointments at Northeastern.

That is to say: keeping productivity equal, the scientists were as likely to score a hit at age 50 as at age 25. The distribution was random; choosing the right project to pursue at the right time was a matter of luck.

Questions :

According to the passage, at what levels the combination of elements leading to success are at play ?

- a) At a professional level only
- b) The midcareer striver and beyond
- c) At all levels of a discipline
- d) For students only

In paragraph two of the passage, what does the word « relationships » refer to ?

- a) The Relationship between age and achievement
- b) The relationship between music composition, film, psychology
- c) The relationship between personality, persistence, pure luck and intelligence and success
- d) The relationship between success and the profession

According to a research, for which reason the physicists were more likely to produce hits earlier rather than later ?

- a) Age
- b) Order of the papers
- c) Productivity
- d) Choosing the right project

Passage 3 :

Yet turning that fortuitous choice into an influential, widely recognized contribution depended on another element, one the researchers called Q.

Q could be translated loosely as “skill,” and most likely includes a broad variety of factors, such as I.Q., drive, motivation, openness to new ideas and an ability to work well with others. Or, simply, an ability to make the most of the work at hand: to find some relevance in a humdrum experiment, and to make an elegant idea glow.

“This Q factor is so interesting because it potentially includes abilities people have but may not recognize as central,” said Zach Hambrick, a professor of psychology at Michigan State University. “Clear writing, for instance. Take the field of mathematical psychology. You may publish an interesting finding, but if the paper is unreadable, as so many are, you can’t have wide impact because no one understands what you’re talking about.”

The startling thing about this Q property, the researchers said, is that it remains constant over time. Contrary to common assumption, experience does not significantly raise a person’s ability to make the most out of a given project. “It’s shocking to think about,” Dr. Barabasi said. “We found that these three factors — Q, productivity and luck — are independent of each other.”

The researchers gathered career data from other scientific fields and found that the same relationships held up. Pulling these results together, the study concluded that hit papers were a product of Q, the person’s particular strengths, and luck: that is, finding an important project that flares to life in the furnace of precisely those abilities. A match of scientist to experiment or, more broadly, of writer to subject, musician to composition, of the dancer to the dance.

So it is that highly productive people may never hit the charts, and high Qs may spend a career feeling thwarted. “The composition of this Q quality, whatever you call it, is likely to vary in different fields,” Dr. Simonton said. “That’s why you can see people who are highly successful in one field switch careers and not do so well.”

One important factor often does increase with age, in many endeavors: status, and with it the freedom to take risks, said Frank Sulloway, a psychologist at the University of California, Berkeley.

“Jean-Baptiste Lamarck was 57 when he first published on the subject of evolution in 1801, and he was 66 when he finally published his Great book ‘Philosophie Zoologique’ in support of the *théorie* of evolution,” Dr. Sulloway said in an email. “This example seems to fit with my argument that one needs to take into account the social context of a given *théorie* as well, as controversial *théories* tend to be published when scientists are older and have more intellectual ammunition and reputation status to back the up.”

Questions

According to the passage, which two factors (among others) are included in Q ?

- a) Principales
- b) Ability to work with others
- c) Motivation
- d) Sélective ideas

According to the passage, what is the Q factor so interesting ?

- a) It speeds up success
- b) it potentially includes abilities people have but tend to select
- c) It help to select the right project
- d) It is Constant over time

According to the passage what factor increases with age?

- a) Freedom
- b) Flexibility
- c) Wealth
- d) Status

B. YOUR BRAIN GETS USED TO LYING AS YOU DO IT MORE

Source

1. If you lie once, you're probably more likely to lie again. New research shows that the part of the brain that is activated during dishonesty responds less and less as we "get used" to cheating — and that could make us lie even more.

There are anecdotes about people cheating more over time. (People like Bernie Madoff didn't exactly begin with huge Ponzi schemes.) But there hasn't been research confirming this biologically until now, says study author Neil Garret, a psychologist at University College London. For a study published today in Nature, Garret's team had participants play a game where they would sometimes get more money for lying to their partner.

Brain scans of the participants confirmed that lying can be a slippery slope: people did lie more over time. Their brains got desensitized to it, and *how much* it was desensitized could predict how much more someone would lie the next time.

When we deceive someone, the part of the brain that regulates emotion — called the amygdala — is activated, and we often feel shame or guilt. The amygdala also reacts when we see cute pictures of puppies or very sad photos. We already knew that when our brains see these cute or sad photos again and again, the amygdala reacts less and less every time. Garret and his team wanted to know if this was true for lying, too.



Questions:

Garret's team rewarded liars through:

- a) Time off work
- b) Free pizza
- c) More money
- d) Special vacation

The amygdala regulates what?

- a) Hair growth
- b) Size of feet
- c) Size of hands
- d) Emotions

2. The team recruited adults to work with another person that they didn't know. The participants had to look at a picture of a glass jar and then tell their partner — who was helping the researchers — how many pennies were in it. At the end, both would get paid, but sometimes the participants would get more money if they lied. (They could lie to help themselves, help their partners, help both, and so on.) As the participants played the game, the researchers did brain scans of some of them. These scans, called fMRIs, show which regions of the brain used more oxygen; this is an indicator of brain activity. The researchers saw that as the participants continued to lie, the amygdala reacted less.

Participants in the game also became more dishonest more quickly when it would benefit just them and not their partner. And the amygdala really did activate less as people lied to help themselves. The participants kept lying to help themselves even if lying didn't lead to more money every single time. This means it's likely that people keep lying not because of rational calculation, but because they become desensitized.

Questions:

What is an indicator of brain activity?

- a) Oxygen use in the brain
- b) Heavy breathing
- c) Blood flow
- d) Nervous activity

It's likely that people keep lying because:

- a) They like it
- b) They get paid to lie
- c) They think lying is more important than the truth
- d) They become desensitized

3. “The reduction in activity in the amygdala can predict how much people increase dishonesty subsequently,” adds Garret. Predicting future behavior didn't work accurately for everyone, but the overall trend was there. (The researchers didn't track demographic trends of what kind of person became more used to lying.)

There are some limitations. This study tested a specific game, so we don't know exactly what would happen in other types of situations when dishonesty is involved. And while the fact that this was done in a lab meant that the researchers could control things like who the participants were working with and how the game worked, the downside is always that it's less clear how much this will apply in the real world. Brain scans also have to be taken with a grain of salt, as sometimes they can be misleading. (One fMRI test showed that a dead fish had brain activity.) In the study, just because a part of the brain was less active doesn't necessarily mean that people didn't feel as bad (and the researchers couldn't ask because then that would give away the experiment).

But Garret says it's pretty likely that there really is a slippery slope situation happening. We feel guilty the first time we cheat on a test, but by the third time we're used to it. Now we know how the mechanism works — not just for people like Madoff or serial plagiarists that become more and more bold with their dishonesty, but for all of us.

Questions:

The reduction of activity in the amygdala is a prediction of dishonesty

- Yes
- No

The conclusion of the passage is that lying becomes easier over time

- Yes
- No

General Discussion with Group about lying

C. SCIENTISTS DETECT EVIDENCE OF EXTINCT HUMAN COUSIN IN MODERN DNA

Source

1. The genetic codes of people living in a region of the Pacific called Melanesia have given researchers a clue: their DNA suggests the presence of an extinct hominid ancestor.

On Oct. 20, Ryan Blender, a statistical geneticist at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, presented findings at the annual meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics that took a deep dive into the genes of the people of Melanesia, according to Science News.



Members of the population, which hails from the South Pacific, and encompasses Papua New Guinea and its surrounding islands, carry genetic evidence that does not come from “typical” Neanderthal or Denisovan ancestry. Instead, it comes from an unknown third party.

Questions:

What countries are considered part of Melanesia?

- a) New Zealand
- b) Thailand
- c) Peru
- d) Papua New Guinea

Ryan Blender has a career in:

- a) Biologist
- b) Politician
- c) Author
- d) Statistical Geneticist

2. Blender said that while the new ancestor hails from the same hominid family tree as Neanderthal and Denisovan ancestors, it is currently considered an “extinct third cousin,” according to Science News.

Although many Neanderthal fossils have surfaced throughout Asia and Europe over time, the only evidence of the Denisov and species to date comes from DNA that was identified through a finger bone and stray teeth found in a cave in Siberia. Blender is not alone. On Oct. 13, Esker Willerslev, an evolutionary geneticist at the Natural History Museum of Denmark in Copenhagen, and his team, published results in Nature from a DNA study of 83 aboriginal Australians and 25 people from native populations in Papua New Guinea’s highlands.

Questions:

Many Neanderthal fossils have been found in:

- a) Mexico
- b) Paris
- c) Las Vegas
- d) Asia

The Natural History Museum of Denmark is located in what city?

- a) Copenhagen
- b) Stockholm
- c) Berlin
- d) Cairo

3. The team found that its subjects carried “Denisovan-like” DNA. However, the DNA is genetically distinct from Denisovans, and where it exactly comes from remains a mystery.

“They could be Homo erectus or the extinct hominids found in Indonesia known as Hobbits,” he told Science News.

The discovery that humans mixed with Neanderthals is not yet a decade old, and Europeans and Chinese people, for example, are estimated to carry around 2.8 percent of Neanderthal ancestry.

Mattias Jakobsson, an evolutionary geneticist from Sweden’s Uppsala University, told Science News that he “wouldn’t be surprised” if other groups of extinct hominids mingled with humans. “Modern humans and archaic humans have met many times and had many children together,” he said.

Questions:

General discussion about our human past