

Academic Reading Practice Test 2

SECTION 1

BOOBIES

A Boobies are a small group of seabirds native to tropical and subtropical oceans throughout the world. Their diet consists mainly of fish. They are specialised fish eaters feeding on small school fish like sardines, anchovies, mackerel, and flying fish. When their prey is in sight, they fold their long wings back around their streamlined bodies and plunge into the water from as high as 80 feet, so streamlined they barely make a splash. They travel in parties of about 12 to areas of water with large schools of small fish. When the lead bird sees a fish shoal in the water, it will signal the rest of the group and they will all dive together. Surprisingly, individuals do not eat with the hunting group, preferring to eat on their own, usually in the early morning or late afternoon.



B There are three varieties on the Galapagos: the blue-footed, red-footed, and masked boobies. They are all members of the same family, and are not only different in appearance but also in behaviours. The blue-footed and red-footed boobies mate throughout the year, while the masked boobies have an annual mating cycle that differs from island to island. All catch fish in a similar manner, but in different areas: the blue-footed booby does its fishing close to shore, while the masked booby goes slightly farther out, and the red-footed booby fishes at the farthest distances from shore.



C Although it is unknown where the name “Booby” emanates from), some conjecture)it may come from the Spanish word for clown, “bobo”, meaning 'stupid'. Its name was probably inspired by the bird's clumsiness on land and apparently unwarranted bravery. The blue footed booby is extremely vulnerable to human visitors because it does not appear to fear them. Therefore these birds received such name for their clumsiness on land in which they were easily, captured, killed, and eaten by humans.

D The blue-footed booby's characteristic feet play a significant part in their famous courtship ceremony, the 'booby dance'. The male walks



around the female, raising his bright blue feet straight up in the air, while bringing his 'shoulders' towards the ground and crossing the bottom tips of his wings high above the ground. Plus he'll raise his bill up towards the sky ('skypointing') to try to win his mate over. The female may also partake in these activities - lifting her feet, skypointing, and of course squawking at her mate. After mating, another ritual occurs - the nest-building which

ironically is never used because they nest on the bare ground. When the female is ready to lay her eggs, they scrape the existing nest away so she can nest on exposed ground. Sun-baked islands form the booby's breeding grounds. When ready the female Blue Footed Booby lays one to three eggs.

E After mating, two or three eggs are laid in a shallow depression on flat or gently sloping ground. Both male and female take turns incubating

the eggs. Unlike most birds, booby doesn't develop brood patches (areas of bare skin on the breast) to warm the eggs during incubation. Instead, it uses the its broad webbed feet, which have large numbers of prominent blood vessels), to transmit heat essential for incubation. The eggs are thick-shelled so they can withstand the full weight of an incubating bird.



F After hatching, the male plays a major role in bringing fish home. He can bring back a constant supply of small fish for the chicks, which must be fed continuously. The reason is that the male has a longer tail than the female in relation to his body size, which makes him able to execute shallower dives and to feed closer to shore. Then the female takes a greater part as time proceeds. Sooner or later, the need to feed the young becomes greater than the need to protect them and both adults must fish to provide enough.

G When times are good, the parents may successfully fledge all three chicks, but, in harder times, they may still lay as many eggs yet only obtain enough food to raise one. The problem is usually solved by the somewhat callous-sounding system of 'opportunistic sibling murder.' The first-born chick is larger and stronger than its nest mate(s) as a result of

hatching a few days earlier and also because the parents feed the larger chick first. If food is scarce, the first born will get more food than its nest mate(s) and will outcompete them, causing them to starve. The above system optimizes the reproductive capacity of the blue-foot in an unpredictable environment. The system ensures that, if possible, at least one chick will survive a period of shortage rather than all three dying of starvation under a more 'humane' system.

You should spend about 20 minutes on question 1-13, which are based on reading passage 1 on the following pages.

Questions 1-6

The reading passage has seven paragraphs, A-G

Choose the correct heading for paragraphs A-G from the list below.

Write the correct number, i-ix, in boxes 1-6 on your answer sheet.

List of Headings

- i** Unusual way of hatching the chicks
- ii** Feeding habit of the red-footed booby
- iii** Folding wings for purpose
- iv** Rearing the young
- v** Classification of boobies
- vi** Diving for seafood
- vii** Surviving mechanism during the food shortage period
- viii** Mating and breeding
- ix** Origin of the booby's name

1 Paragraph A

2 Paragraph B

<i>Example</i>	<i>Answer</i>
Paragraph C	ix

3 Paragraph D

4 Paragraph E

5 Paragraph F

6 Paragraph G

Questions 7-9

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?
In boxes 7-9 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE	<i>if the statement is true</i>
FALSE	<i>if the statement is false</i>
NOT GIVEN	<i>if the information is not given in the passage</i>

- 7 Boobies are afraid of human approaching.
- 8 Female boobies eat more than the male ones.
- 9 When there is not sufficient food, the larger chicks will be fed at the expense of the survival of its smaller mates.

Questions 10-13

Complete the summary below, using NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the Reading Passage for each answer.
Write your answers in boxes 10-13 on your answer sheet.

The courtship of the Blue-footed Booby consists of the male flaunting his blue feet and dancing to impress the female. During the dance, the male will spread his wings and stamp his feet on the ground with his bills
10.....After mating, the booby's unusual demeanor continues with ritual
11.....that really serves no purpose. When the female Booby lays eggs, the parental boobies incubate the eggs beneath their 12.....which contain 13.....to transmit the heat, because of the lack of brood patches.

SECTION 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 14-28 which are based on reading passage 1 below.

Reed Bed

- A Nowadays subsurface flow wetlands are a common alternative in Europe for the treatment of wastewater in rural areas. Mainly in the last 10 to 12 years there has been a significant growth in the number and size of the systems in use. Compared to common treatment facilities, wetlands are lower in cost investment, lesser to maintain, and are ideal for densely populated rural or suburban areas rather than urban areas.



- B The Common Reed has the ability to transfer oxygen from its leaves, down through its stem and rhizomes, and out via its root system. As a result of this action, a very high population of micro-organisms occurs in the root system, with zones of aerobic, anoxic, and anaerobic conditions. Therefore with the waste water moving very slowly and carefully through the mass of Reed roots, this liquid can be successfully treated.



- C A straightforward definition of a reed bed is if you have dirty water in your pool or water, which is heavily polluted, Reed Beds will be planted to make the water clean again. This is good for ecology and living organisms and fish in the water. Reed Beds have a wide range of qualities and are acceptable for cleaning everything from secondary to tertiary treatment of mild domestic effluent, to rural waste and even heavy industrial contaminants. The reason why they're so effective is often because within the bed's root sector, natural biological, physical and chemical processes interact with one another to degrade or remove a good range of pollutants. Reed beds can be built in a number of variants, but mainly they are of the horizontal flow or vertical (down) flow configuration where water flows through the beds horizontally or vertically.

HORIZONTAL FLOW REED BED SYSTEMS

- D** Horizontal-flow wetlands may be of two types: free-water surface-flow (FWF) or sub-surface water-flow (SSF). In the former the effluent flows freely above the sand/gravel bed in which the reeds etc. are planted; in the latter effluent passes through the sand/gravel bed. In FWF-type wetlands, effluent is treated by plant stems, leaves and rhizomes. Such FWF wetlands are densely planted and typically have water-depths of less than 0.4m. However, dense planting can limit oxygen diffusion into the water. These systems work particularly well for low strength effluents or effluents that have undergone some form of pretreatment and play an invaluable role in tertiary treatment and the polishing of effluents. The horizontal reed flow system uses a long reed bed, where the liquid slowly flows horizontally through. The length of the reed bed is about 100 meters. The downside of the horizontal reed beds is that they use up lots of land space and they do take quite a long time to produce clean water.

VERTICAL FLOW REED BED SYSTEMS

- E** A vertical flow reed bed is a sealed, gravel filled trench with reeds growing in it (see the picture below). The common reed oxygenates the water, which helps to create the right environment for colonies of bacteria to break down unwanted organic matter and pollutants. The reeds also make the bed attractive to wildlife.

How a vertical flow reed bed works?

- F** In vertical flow (downflow) reed beds, the wastewater is applied on top of the reed bed, flows down through a rhizome zone with sludge as substrate, then the root zone with sand as substrate and followed by a layer of gravel for drainage, and is collected in an under drainage system of large stones. The effluent flows onto the surface of the bed and percolates slowly through the different layers into an outlet pipe, which leads to a horizontal flow bed and is cleaned by millions of bacteria, algae, fungi, and microorganisms that digest the waste, including sewage. There is no standing water so there should be no unpleasant smells.
- G** Vertical flow reed bed systems are much more effective than horizontal flow reed-beds not only in reducing biochemical oxygen demanded (BOD) and suspended solids (SS) levels but also in reducing ammonia levels and eliminating smells. Usually considerably smaller than horizontal flow beds, but they are capable of handling much stronger effluents which contain heavily polluted matters and have a longer lifetime value. A vertical Reed bed system works more efficiently than a horizontal reed bed system, but it requires more management, and its reed beds are often operated for a few days then rested, so several beds and a distribution system are needed.



- H** There are several advantages of Reed Bed Systems over traditional forms of water treatment: first, they have low construction and running costs; second, they are easy management; third, they have an excellent reduction of biochemical oxygen demand and suspended solids; last, they have a potential for efficient removal of a wide range of pollutants.
- I** Reed beds are natural habitats found in floodplains, waterlogged depressions and estuaries. The natural bed systems are a biologically proved, an environmentally friendly and visually unobtrusive way of treating wastewater, and have the extra virtue of frequently been better than mechanical wastewater treatment systems. In the medium to long term reed bed systems are, in most cases, more cost effective in installment than any other wastewater treatment. They are robust and require little maintenance. They are naturally environmentally sound protecting groundwater, dams, creeks, rivers and estuaries.



Questions 14-16

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 2?

In boxes 14-16 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE	<i>if the statement is true</i>
FALSE	<i>if the statement is false</i>
NOT GIVEN	<i>if the information is not given in the passage</i>

14 The Reed bed system is a conventional method for water treatment in urban area.

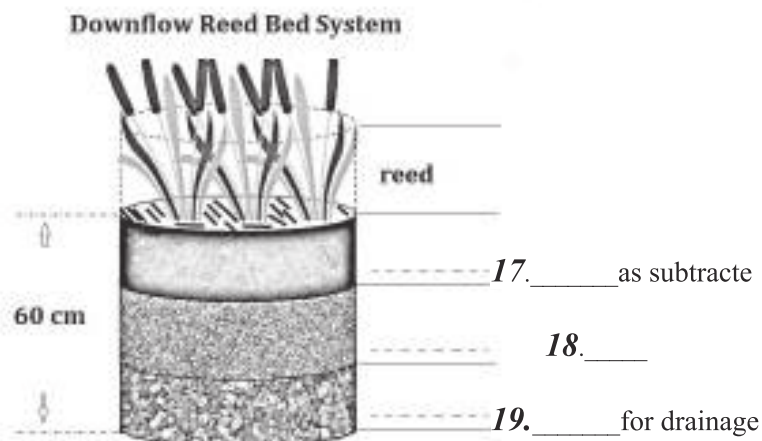
15 In the reed roots, there's a series of process that help breakdown the pollutants.

16 Escherichia coli is the most difficult bacteria to be dismissed.

Questions 17-19

Complete the diagram below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.



Questions 20-24

Use the information in the passage to match the advantages and disadvantages of the two systems: horizontal flow system and down-flow system (listed A-H) below. Write the appropriate letters A-H in boxes 20-24 on your answer sheet.

20 _____, which is the advantage of the down-flow system.

However, 21 _____ and 22 _____ are the disadvantages of the down-flow system

23 _____ and 24 _____ are the two benefits of the horizontal flow system. However it's less effective and efficient.

- A It can deal with a more seriously polluted effluent.
- B It requires more beds than one compared to the other.
- C It needs less control and doesn't need to be taken care of all the time.
- D It requires a lot of guidance.
- E It can't work all the time because the pool needs time to rest and recover after a certain period.
- F It's a lot more complicated to build the system.
- G The system is easy to be built which does not need auxiliary system
- H It consumes less water.

Questions 25-26

Choose two correct letters, from the following **A, B, C, D or E**.
Write your answers in boxes 25-26 on your answer sheet.

What are the **two** benefits of natural bed systems when compared to the conventional systems?

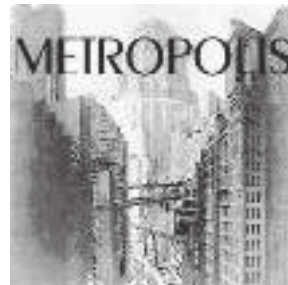
- A** Operation does not require electricity or fuel supply.
- B** They're visually good and environmental friendly.
- C** No mechanical systems are involved.
- D** They're to be set up and used in less cost.
- E** They do not break down.

SECTION 3

Metropolis movies

...being the science-fiction film that is steadily becoming fact

- A When German director Fritz Lang visited the United States in 1924, his first glimpse of the country was a night-time view of the New York skyline from the deck of an ocean liner. This, he later recalled, was the direct inspiration for what is still probably the most innovative and influential science-fiction film ever made –



- B *Metropolis* is a bleak vision of the early twenty-first century that is at once both chilling and exhilarating. This spectacular city of the future is a technological marvel of high-rise buildings connected by elevated railways and airships. It's also a world of extreme inequality and social division. The workers live below ground and exist as machines working in an endless routine of mind-numbing 10-hour shifts while the city's elite lead lives of luxury high above. Presiding over them all is the Master of Metropolis, John Fredersen, whose sole satisfaction seems to lie in the exercise of power.



- C Lang's graphic depiction of the future is conceived in almost totally abstract terms. The function of the individual machines is never defined. Instead this mass of dials, levers and gauges symbolically stands for all machines and all industry, with the workers as slave-like extensions of the equipment they have to operate. Lang emphasizes this idea in the famous shift-change sequence at the start of the movie when the workers walk in zombie-like geometric ranks, all dressed in the same dark overalls and all exhibiting the



same bowed head and dead-eyed stare. An extraordinary fantasy sequence sees one machine transformed into a huge open-jawed statue which then literally swallows them up.

D On one level the machines and the exploited workers simply provide the wealth and services which allow the elite to live their lives of leisure, but on a more profound level the purpose of all this demented industry is to serve itself. Power, control and the continuance of the system from one 10-hour shift to the next is all that counts. The city consumes people and their labour and in the process becomes a perverse parody of a living being.

E It is enlightening, I think, to relate the film to the modern global economy in which multinational corporations now routinely close their factories in one continent so that they can take advantage of cheap labour in another. Like the industry in Metropolis, these corporations' goals of increased efficiency and profits have little to do with the welfare of the majority of their employees or that of the population at large. Instead their aims are to sustain the momentum of their own growth and to increase the monetary rewards to a tiny elite – their executives and shareholders. Fredersen himself is the essence of the big company boss: Rupert Murdoch would probably feel perfectly at home in his huge skyscraper office with its panoramic view of the city below. And it is important that there is never any mention of government in Metropolis – the whole concept is by implication obsolete. The only people who have power are the supreme industrialist, Fredersen, and his magician/scientist cohort Rotwang.



E So far so good: when the images are allowed to speak for themselves the film is impeccable both in its symbolism and in its cynicism. The problem with Metropolis is its sentimental story-line, which sees Freder, Fredersen's son, instantly falling in love with the visionary Maria. Maria leads an underground pseudo-religious movement and preaches that the workers should not rebel but should await the arrival of a 'Mediator' between the 'Head' (capital) and the 'Hands' (labour). That mediator is the 'Heart' - love, as embodied, finally, by Freder's love of Maria and his father's love of him.

- F Lang wrote the screenplay in collaboration with his then wife Thea von Harbou. In 1933 he fled from the Nazis (and continued a very successful career in Hollywood). She stayed in Germany and continued to make films under the Hitler regime. There is a constant tension within the film between the too-tidy platitudes) of von Harbou's script and the uncompromisingly caustic vigour of Lang's imagery
- G To my mind, both in *Metropolis* and in the real world, it's not so much that the 'Head' and 'Hands' require a 'Heart' to mediate between them but that the 'Hands' need to develop their own 'Head', their own political consciousness, and act accordingly – through the ballot box, through buying power and through a sceptical resistance to the materialistic fantasies of the Fredersens.
- H All the same, *Metropolis* is probably more accurate now as a representation of industrial and social relations than it has been at any time since its original release. And Fredersen is certainly still the most potent movie symbol of the handful of elusive corporate figureheads who increasingly treat the world as a Metropolis-like global village.



Questions 27-30

Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading Passage?

In boxes 27-30 on your answer sheet, write

YES	<i>if the statement is true</i>
NO	<i>if the statement is false</i>
NOT GIVEN	<i>if the information is not given in the passage</i>

- 27 The inspiration of the movie-*Metropolis*-comes from the director's visit in the USA. in 1924. *(IELTS test papers offered by ks.ipredicting.com, copyright)*
- 28 The Master of *Metropolis*, John Fredersen, is portrayed from an industrialist that the director met in the US.
- 29 The start of the movie exhibits the workers working in full energy.
- 30 The director and his wife got divorced because his wife decided to stay in Germany.

Questions 31-36

Complete the summary below, using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the Reading Passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes **31-36** on your answer sheet.

The director depicts a world of inequality and
31..... In the future, the mindless masses of
workers living underground are treated as 32..... And the master of
them is 33....., who is in charge of the whole city. The writer claims
that the director, Fritz Lang, presents the movie in an 34.....term, where
the 35..... of the individual machines is not defined. Besides the writer
compares the film to the modern global economy in which multinational
corporations concern more about the growing 36..... and money.



Questions 37-40

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

Write the correct letter in boxes 37-40 on your answer sheet.

37 The first sentence in *paragraph B* indicates

- A the author's fear about technology
- B the inspiration of the director
- C the contradictory feelings towards future
- D the city elite's well management of the workers

38 Why the function of the individual machines is not defined?

- A Because Lang sticks to theme in a symbolic way.
- B Because workers are more important to exploit.
- C Because the fantasy sequence is difficult to take.
- D Because the focus of the movie is not about machines.

39 The writer's purpose in *paragraph five* is to

- A emphasize the multinational corporations' profit-oriented goal.
- B compare the movie with the reality in modern global economy
- C exploit the difference between fantasy and reality
- D enlighten the undeveloped industry

40 What is the writer's opinion about the movie?

- A The movie's story-line is excellent.
- B The movie has a poor implication in symbolism.
- C The movie is perfect in all aspects.
- D The movie is good but could be better.