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IELTS Reading - note completion

note completion Practice Exercise 1

Answer Questions 1-7 which are based on the reading passage below.

Economic Apartheid Reading Passage

A new report from the World Institute for Development Economics Research of the United Nations University shows that wealth creation is remarkable, one might say, criminally, unequal. Follow this hierarchy at the top of the wealth pyramid: the richest 1 percent of adults alone owned 40 percent of global assets in the year 2000; the richest 2 percent owned more than half of global household wealth, and the richest 10 percent of adults accounted for 85% of the world total. That leaves very little for the remaining 90 percent of the global population. Could it be any worse? Yes, the rich are still getting richer, more millionaires are becoming billionaires.

As to the world's lower class: the bottom half of the world's adult population owned barely 1 percent of global wealth, defined as net worth: the value of physical and financial assets fewer debts. Over a billion poor people subsist on less than one dollar a day. Every day, according to UNICEF, 30,000 children die due to poverty - that's over 10 million children killed by poverty every year! Global economic apartheid is killing people.

Here are data showing some of the variations among nations. Average wealth amounted to $144,000 per person in the U.S. in 2000, not as good as the $181,000 in Japan, but better than most others: $127,000 for the U.K., $70,000 for Denmark, $37,000 for New Zealand, $1,400 in Indonesia and $1,100 in India. Averages, of course, are very deceiving.

The statistical measure of inequality is the Gini value, which measures inequality on a scale from zero (total equality) to one (complete inequality). For income, it ranges from .35 to .45 in most countries. Wealth inequality is usually much higher, typically between .65 and .75. This reflects the greater difficulty in accumulating wealth (capital) than increasing income. Two high wealth economies, Japan and the United States show very different patterns of wealth inequality, with Japan having a low wealth Gini of .55 and the U.S. having around .80.

The incomes of the top fifth of the Japanese population are only three times that of the bottom fifth, compared to nine times in the U.S. Japan has little economic apartheid compared to the U.S., yet both countries have a huge number of wealthy people. Of the wealthiest 10 percent in the world, 25 percent are American, and 20 percent are Japanese. These two countries are even stronger among the richest 1 percent of individuals in the world, with 37 percent residing in the U.S. and 27 percent in Japan. The point is that despite high numbers of very wealthy people, economic apartheid is absent in Japan and abysmal in the U.S.

We can explain the difference between Japan and the U.S. People can save and accumulate wealth for future economic security or can borrow and spend like mad to accumulate possessions. According to a 2006 report, only 41 percent of American families save regularly, making wealth creation difficult. America's national savings rate - which includes corporate savings and government budget deficits - is only about 13.6% of gross domestic product, compared to 25 percent in Japan.

U.S. economic apartheid shows that a self-proclaimed great democracy with considerable personal freedom can risk deep social instability from class warfare as it approaches a two-class system. We need to see economic apartheid as lethal and repulsive as racial apartheid.

Questions 1- 7

Complete the notes below.
Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/ OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer.

Global Wealth Distribution

- According to a UN report, the world's wealth distribution is drastically **1** _____
- In 2000, the wealthiest 1% had 40% of global wealth, while 10% owned **2** _____
- In contrast, just 1% of riches was shared by the **3** _____.
- More than a billion people survive on less than a dollar daily.
- Poverty causes the death of more than **4** _____ children annually.

Wealth imbalance among nations:

- In 2000, per capita wealth in Japan and America were $181,000 and $ 144,000 respectively, but a mere $1100 in India.
- Inequality is measured in terms of **5** _____, which ranges from 0 to 1.
- Japan has less **6** _____ than the U.S. though both have a large number of very rich people.
- Americans tend to save less, leading to less wealth accumulation.
- The U.S. example indicates that more **7** _____ can result in serious social imbalance.

Economic Apartheid Reading Answers

(Note: The text in italics is from the reading passage and shows the location from where the answer is taken or inferred. The text in the regular font explains the answer in detail.)

1. Unequal
Explanation: Paragraph 1 - A new report from the World Institute for Development Economics Research of the United Nations University shows that wealth creation is remarkable, one might say, criminally, **unequal.**

2. 85%
Explanation: Paragraph 1 - ... and the richest 10 percent of adults accounted for **85%** of the world total ...

3. bottom half
Explanation: Paragraph 2 - As to the world's lower class: the **bottom half** of the world adult population owned barely 1 percent of global wealth, ...

4. 10 million
Explanation: Paragraph 2 - ... that's over **10 million** children killed by poverty every year!

5. Gini value
Explanation: Paragraph 4 - The statistical measure of inequality is the **Gini value**, which measures inequality on a scale from zero (total equality) to one (complete inequality).

6. economic apartheid/ wealth inequality
Explanation: Paragraph 4 - Two high wealth economies, Japan and the United States, show very different patterns of **wealth inequality**,...
Japan has little **economic apartheid** compared to the U.S., yet both countries have a huge number of wealthy people.

7. personal freedom
Explanation: Paragraph 6 -U.S. economic apartheid shows that a self-proclaimed great democracy with considerable **personal freedom** can risk deep social instability ...

note completion Practice Exercise 2

Answer questions 1-7 which are based on the reading passage below.

Weather Predictions Reading Passage

Predicting the weather is a complex process. Forecasts can lack accuracy due to the chaotic character of the atmosphere and our inability to comprehend the processes. However, over the years, weather forecasts have become more detailed with improved accuracy. A technological advantage is the development of apps that offer information regarding the weather immediately, thus giving opportune warnings in times of a crisis.

Before the forecast with icons of the sun or the rain is posted on a website or texted via the mobile phone, a rather complicated procedure takes place. In order to understand the weather patterns and present an accurate forecast, massive data is collected and processed. There are several variations to be considered, and it is also important to correctly measure them.
Data from observations of atmospheric pressure, temperature, wind speed, wind direction, humidity, and precipitation are collected regularly through trained observers, automatic weather stations, or anchored floats or buoys.

With the advancement in technology, radars and weather satellites are also now widely used. Before making a forecast, meteorologists must 'get in touch with the weather.' This means that at the start of the shift, forecasters glance at the weather patterns of the previous day. Then the current weather is given a closer look. Says Bernie Rayno, AccuWeather meteorologist, 'If you don't know what happened yesterday, and why, then the chances of you being able to forecast the future are less.'

Just like removing layers from the outside towards the core, the weather forecasters begin with the larger movements in the atmosphere and then gradually move inwards to the smaller details. A surface map is frequently used by meteorologists as it gives them an idea as to why a particular weather phenomenon is happening. They can see the location of the key factors in the phenomenon such as cloud cover, precipitation, low pressure, and high pressure as they study the map. A storm system and its movement can be tracked by identifying the low-pressure areas, while high-pressure areas show good weather.

In the next step of weather investigation, observations gathered from surveillance are recorded into the computer models. These models imitate the atmosphere using various weather parameters such as temperature, humidity, and pressure. Supercomputers are needed to solve complex equations which decide how the condition of fluid changes with time. The input is processed by the models using data assimilation, and the generated output is then used to give the basis of a weather forecast.

While it's true that more often than we would like, we are caught in a downpour without an umbrella because the forecast predicted a sunny day; when it comes to tornadoes , the predictions are eerily exact, saving thousands of lives and property.

Questions 1-7

Complete the notes below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Steps of Daily Weather Forecast

- Data collection by:
- trained observers
- 1 _____
- radars
- weather stations and satellites
- Next, weather conditions of the 2 _____ day are referred
- To make a forecast, current weather parameters are observed
- first, bigger atmospheric 3 _____ are identified, then small details are noted
- a 4 _____ is often used to:

- understand the cause of a weather phenomenon and get the 5_____ of the responsible parameters such as cloud cover, precipitation
- track the progression of a 6 _____ by identifying low-pressure areas

- the collected information is fed into the 7 _____ which simulate the atmosphere
- the data is processed and the output forms the weather forecast

Weather Predictions Reading Answers

(Note: The text in italics is from the reading passage and shows the location from where the answer is taken or inferred. The text in the regular font explains the answer in detail.)

1. anchored floats/ buoys
Explanation: Paragraph 3 - Data from observations of atmospheric pressure, temperature, wind speed, wind direction, humidity, and precipitation are collected regularly through trained observers, automatic weather stations, or **anchored floats** or **buoys.**

2. Previous
Explanation: Paragraph 3 - Before making a forecast, meteorologists ... This means that at the start of the shift, forecasters glance at the weather patterns of the **previous** day.

3. movements
Explanation: Paragraph 4 - ... the weather forecasters begin with the larger **movements** in the atmosphere and then gradually move inwards to the smaller details.

4. space map
Explanation: Paragraph 4 - A **surface map** is a tool frequently used by meteorologists as it gives them an idea as to why a particular weather phenomenon is happening.

5. location
Explanation: Paragraph 4 - They can see the **location** of the key factors in the phenomenon such as cloud cover, precipitation, low pressure and high pressure as they study the map.

6. storm (system)
Explanation: Paragraph 4 - A **storm system** and its movement can be tracked by identifying the low-pressure areas, ...

7. computer models
Explanation: Paragraph 5 - In the next step of weather investigation, observations gathered from surveillance are recorded into the **computer models.**

note completion Practice Exercise 4

Answer questions 1-7 which are based on the reading passage below.

A brief history of chocolate Reading Passage

Different chocolate manufacturing processes were also invented along the way. One of the three biggest processes to change the way in which chocolate was made and consumed was the addition of milk, instead of water, to chocolate. This idea, credited to Sir Hans Sloane, further reduced cacao bitterness and improved taste. Sir Sloane kept his discovery a trade secret for some time before selling the recipe to a London apothecary (which later on became the property of the Cadbury brothers). Condensed and powdered milk eventually replaced whole milk, allowing for a smoother and far sweeter product than before; milk chocolate is by far the most popular chocolate item in America today.

Another improvement in manufacturing came with the making of liquid chocolate into semisolid edible bars, allowing the item to become much more portable and not as perishable (solid chocolate has a shelf-life of about a year). The secret to bar-making comes from cacao butter, the fatty part of the cacao bean. When the bean is ground up, about 55% of the resulting paste is cacao butter. This fat percentage, though seemingly high, is still too low to make soft (and edible) bar chocolate, yet way too high for powdered chocolate (such 15 is used to make hot chocolate). Heavy-duty presses are used to remove about half of the cacao butter from the paste, after which the purified butter is added into "untouched" raw paste, making bar chocolate that is about 75% cacao butter, and semi-solid at room temperature. The stripped paste, devoid of about half of its fat content, solidifies into a hard cake that is pulverised into cacao powder.

The third, and major, improvement in chocolate manufacturing came with the discovery of the conching method - the mixing of chocolate over a period of several days in order to allow volatiles and moisture to evaporate, resulting in a more pleasing, smoother taste to the final product. Conching is credited to Rudolph Lindt (of Lindt & Sprungli fame), who found out that a batch of chocolate left mixing for several days became much smoother in texture and taste than one allowed to solidify immediately.

Despite modern improvements to the processing of chocolate, the actual harvesting of the cacao bean has remained virtually unchanged since the days of the Mayans and Aztecs and are still cultivated in tropical climates, within 10 to 20 degrees of the Equator.

Questions 1-7

Complete the notes below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Developments in the Chocolate Manufacturing Methods

Three major changes took place in the manufacturing process of chocolate:

First:- water replaced by 1 _____

- tasted better with 2 _____diluted
- texture and taste further improved by adding condensed and powdered milk instead of 3 _____

Second:- producing 4 _____ pieces of chocolate that can be eaten instead of the drinking chocolate

- increased 5 _____ and convenient to carry

Third:- introduction of 6

- extended 7 _____ leading to evaporation of volatiles and water
- more satisfying taste and mellowed texture

A brief history of chocolate Reading Answers

1. milk

Explanation: Paragraph 1 - One of the three biggest processes to change the way in which chocolate was made and consumed was the addition of milk, instead of water, to chocolate.

2. bitterness

Explanation: Paragraph 1 - This idea, credited to Sir Hans Sloane, further reduced cacao bitterness and improved taste.

3. whole milk

Explanation: Paragraph 1 - Condensed and powdered milk eventually replaced whole milk, allowing for a smoother and far sweeter product than before;...

4. semi-solid

Explanation: Paragraph 2 - Another improvement in manufacturing came with the making of liquid chocolate into semi-solid edible bars,...

5. shelf-life

Explanation: Paragraph 2 - Another improvement in manufacturing came with the of liquid chocolate into semi-solid edible bars, allowing the item to become much more portable and not as perishable (solid chocolate has a shelf-life of about a year).

6. conching (method)

Explanation: Paragraph 3 - A third, and major, improvement in chocolate manufacturing of the conching method...

7. mixing (period)

Explanation: Paragraph 3 - A third, and major, improvement in chocolate manufacturing came with the discovery of the conching method - the mixing of chocolate over a period of several days ...who found out that a batch of chocolate left mixing for several days became smoother in texture and taste than one allowed to solidify immediately.

note completion Practice Exercise 4

Answer Questions 1-2 which are based on the reading passage below.

Pterosaurs Reading Answers
Remains of the pterosaur, a cousin of the dinosaur, are found on every continent.
Richard Monastersky reports.

A. Pterosaurs stand out as one of nature's great success stories. They first appeared during the Triassic period, 215 million years ago, and thrived for 150 million years before becoming extinct at the end of the Cretaceous period. Uncontested in the air, pterosaurs colonized all continents and evolved into a vast array of shapes and sizes.

B. Until recently, most scientists would not have put pterosaurs in the same class as birds in terms of flying ability. Because pterosaurs were reptiles, generations of researchers imagined that these creatures must have been cold-blooded, like modern snakes and lizards. This would have made flying awkward, as they would have lacked the endurance to power their muscles for long periods of time.

C. In the past three decades, however, a number of fossil* discoveries have prompted researchers to re-examine their views. The new picture of pterosaurs reveals that they were unlike any modern reptile. From a fossil discovered in Kazakhstan, scientists suspect that pterosaurs had a covering resembling fur. If so, this detail provides evidence of a warm-blooded body that could maintain the kind of effort needed to stay in the air. Indeed, scientists now believe that many pterosaurs were gifted airborne predators, built to feed while in flight. And, in fact, such controversy has surrounded pterosaurs since the first discovery of one in the early 1700s.

D. Cosimo Alessandro Collini, the first natural historian to study the fossil and describe it, was unable to classify it. It was not until 1791 that the great French anatomist Georges Cuvier deduced that the animal was, in fact, a flying reptile, whose fourth finger supported a wing. He named the fossil Pterodactylus, combining the Greek words for wing and finger. A few decades later, the name pterosaur, or winged reptile, was adopted to describe the growing list of similar fossils.

E. In 1873, a remarkable pterosaur specimen came to light that confirmed Cuvier's deduction. Unlike earlier fossils, this new find near the Bavarian town of Solnhofen contained delicate wing impressions, establishing definitely that the extinct reptile was capable of flight. Even though over a thousand pterosaur specimens are known today, such wing impressions remain rare. Normally only bones survive the fossilization process.

F. But how pterosaurs learnt to fly remains a matter for disagreement. Most researchers conclude that pterosaurs are descended from a small tree-dwelling reptile that spent its life jumping between branches. This creature would have spread its limbs, and used flaps of skin attached to its limbs and body to help it to land gently on the ground. Over many generations the fourth finger on each of its front 'arms' would have grown longer, making the skin surface larger and enabling the animal to glide farther. Meanwhile, the competing argument holds that pterosaurs developed from two-legged reptiles that ran along the ground, perhaps spreading their arms for balance. Through gradual growth, the front arms would then have evolved into wings. This difficult issue will only be resolved with the discovery of earlier forms of pterosaurs.

G. 'It's very difficult to say how pterosaurs changed over time because the earliest fossils we have are of pterosaurs whose fourth finger has already transformed into a wing,' says Fabio Dalla Vecchia, an Italian researcher. In fact, the earliest known pterosaurs came from the mountains of northern Italy, where he has spent years searching for flying reptiles. These species have shorter wings than later forms, but there is evidence that they were skilful fliers, capable of catching fish over open water. Proof of this has been found in the fossil of a Eudimorphodon, a 215-million-year-old pterosaur found near Bergamo, Italy. Under a microscope, several fish scales can be seen in the abdomen of the specimen -the remains of the pterosaur's last meal.

H. A different but equally impressive sight is the life-size model of Quetzalcoatlus northropi, which stares down at visitors in the Museum of Flying in Santa Monica, California. It has a beak the size of a man and wings wider than those of many of the planes exhibited nearby. This pterosaur had wings over 11 meters wide, making it the largest flying animal ever known.

I. Quetzalcoatlus represents the height of pterosaur evolution. 'Unlike smaller pterosaurs, it could use natural currents to stay in the air without having to move its wings continuously,' said Paul MacCready, an aeronautical engineer. 'As pterosaurs got larger, they discovered the benefits of gliding on air currents, making use of a free energy source. With their hollow bones, these pterosaurs had a very light construction, ideal for such activity.'

J. As we walked beneath the Quetzalcoatlus model in Santa Monica, MacCready pointed out its similarity to sailplanes, the most efficient kind of aeroplanes. Both have long slender wings designed to fly with minimum power. During the flight, sailplane pilots routinely search for places where heat rises from the sun-baked earth, creating hot air currents called thermals. Undoubtedly, Quetzalcoatlus would have used thermals as well, lazily circling over the river deltas that once covered parts of Texas.

K. The triumphant reign of pterosaurs ended with this giant flyer. At the end of the Cretaceous period 65 million years ago, a meteorite or comet slammed into the Earth. That calamity - and other events-wiped out roughly three-quarters of all species, including all pterosaurs and dinosaurs. But before their disappearance, pterosaurs enjoyed unequalled success. They flew into sunny skies before any other vertebrate. For 150 million years they sailed the winds on the strength of a fragile finger. What a glorious ride they had.

Questions 1-2

Answer the questions below.

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

Write your answers in boxes 1 and 2 on your answer sheet.

1. So far, evidence of a total of ..... pterosaurs has been discovered.
2. The wings of Quetzalcoatlus measured more than ..... across.

Pterosaurs Reading Answers

1. Answer: (over) a thousand

Explanation: Even though over a thousand pterosaur specimens are known today, such wing impressions remain rare. The given answer is located in the last 2 lines of paragraph E.

2. Answer: 11 meters/ meters/ eleven meters/ meters

Explanation: This pterosaur had wings over 11 meters wide, making it the largest flying animal ever known. The given answer is located in the last 2 lines of paragraph H.

3.Answer: mixed (or) mixed economy (or) a mixed economy
Explanation: There were times in the U.S. when the country was closer to a true free-market economy, today it's a mixed economy. The greater rate of economic growth in a free market is mentioned in paragraph C. There have been periods when the United States has been closer to a real free-market economy. In contrast, the economy today is mixed.