

Academic Reading Practice Test 40

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Instructions for Taking the Test

Read the rules and regulations carefully before the test:

1. Switch off your mobile phone and electronic devices.
2. Manage your time strictly to **20 minutes** per passage, reading questions first to guide your skimming and scanning for answers, always paying close attention to word limits and matching synonyms.
3. Read the instructions thoroughly before answering the questions.
4. Read the questions carefully to avoid silly mistakes.

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Bioluminescence

A. In the pitch-black waters of the ocean's aphotic zone – depths from 1,000m to the seafloor – good eyesight does not count for very much on its own. Caves, in addition, frequently present a similar problem: the complete absence of natural light at any time of the day. This has not stopped some organisms from turning these inhospitable environments into their homes, and in the process, many have created their own forms of light by developing one of the stunning visual marvels of the biological universe – bioluminescence.

B. Many people will encounter bioluminescence at some point in their life, typically in some form of glowworm, which is found on most continents. North and South America are home to the "firefly", a glowing beetle which is known as a glow-worm during its larvae stage. Flightless glowing beetles and worms are also found in Europe, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. Less common flies, centipedes, molluscs, and snails have bioluminescent qualities as well, as do some mushrooms. The most dramatic examples of bioluminescence, however, are found deep below the ocean's surface, where no sunlight can penetrate at all. Here, anglerfish, cookie-cutter sharks, flashlight fish, lantern fish, gulper eels, viperfish, and many other species have developed bioluminescence in unique and creative ways to facilitate their lives.

C. The natural uses of bioluminescence vary widely, and organisms have learnt to be very creative with its use. Fireflies employ bioluminescence primarily for reproductive means – their flashing patterns advertise a firefly's readiness to breed. Some fish use it as a handy spotlight to help them locate prey. Others use it as a lure; the anglerfish, for example, dangles a luminescent flare that draws in gullible, smaller fishes which get snapped up by the anglerfish in an automated reflex. Sometimes, bioluminescence is used to resist predators. Vampire squids eject a thick cloud of glowing liquid from the tip of its arms when threatened, which can be disorientating. Other species use a single, bright flash to temporarily blind their attacker, with an effect similar to that of an oncoming car which has not dipped its headlights.



D. Humans have captured and utilized bioluminescence by developing, over the last decade, a technology known as Bioluminescence Imaging (BLI). BLI involves the extraction of a DNA protein from a bioluminescent organism, and then the integration of this protein into a laboratory animal through trans-geneticism. Researchers have been able to use luminized pathogens and cancer cell lines to track the respective spread of infections and cancers. Through BLI, cancers and infections can be observed without intervening in a way that affects their independent development. In other words, while an ultra-sensitive camera and bioluminescent proteins add a visual element, they do not disrupt or mutate the natural processes. As a result, when testing drugs and treatments, researchers are permitted a single perspective of a therapy's progression.

E. Once scientists learn how to engineer bioluminescence and keep it stable in large quantities, a number of other human uses for it will become available. Glowing trees have been proposed as replacements for electric lighting along busy roads, for example, which would reduce our dependence on non-renewable energy sources. The same technology used in Christmas trees for the family home would also eliminate the fire danger from electrical fairy lights. It may also be possible for crops and plants to luminesce when they require watering, and for meat and dairy products to "tell us" when they have become contaminated by bacteria. In a similar way, Forensic investigators could detect bacterial species on corpses through bioluminescence. Finally, there is the element of pure novelty. Children's toys and stickers are often made with glow-in-the-dark qualities, and a biological form would allow rabbits, mice, fish, and other pets to glow as well.

Bioluminescence IELTS Reading Questions

Question 1–4

Matching headings

Reading Passage 1 has five sections, A–E.

Choose the correct heading for Sections A–E from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number i–ix, 1–5 on your answer sheet.

List of Headings

- i. Mushrooms that glow in the dark
- ii. Bright creatures on land and in the sea
- iii. Evolution's solution
- iv. Cave-dwelling organisms



- v. Future opportunities in biological engineering
- vi. Nature's gift to medicine
- vii. Bioluminescence in humans
- viii. Purposes of bioluminescence in the wild
- ix. Luminescent pets

- 1. Section A
- 2. Section B
- 3. Section C
- 4. Section D
- 5. Section E

Question 5-9

Locating Information

Choose **FOUR** letters A–G

Write the correct letters **6–9** on your answer sheet.

Which FOUR uses are listed for bioluminescence in nature?

- A. ways of attracting food
- B. tracing the spread of diseases
- C. mating signals
- D. growing trees for street lighting
- E. drug trials
- F. defensive tactics
- G. a torch to identify food

Question 10-13

Sentence Completion

Complete the sentences below.

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

Write your answers **10–13** on your answer sheet.

10. The luminescent fluid that a vampire squid emits has a effect on its predator.

11. In order to use bioluminescence in a trans-genetic environment, must first be removed from a bioluminescent creature.

12. One advantage of BLI is that it could allow researchers to see how a treatment is working without altering or disturbing

13. In the future, may be able to use bioluminescence to identify evidence on dead bodies.



[Click Here to Check Answers](#)



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Answers for IELTS Academic Reading Practice Test 40

1. i	2. ii	3. viii	4. vi
5. v	6. A	7. C	8. F
9. G	10. Disorientating	11. DNA protein	12. Natural processes
13. Forensic investigators			

How many questions did you get right?

Correct Answers (Out of 13)	Your Next Step
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