

Academic Reading

Reading Passage 1, Questions 1–13

- 1 **FALSE:** The idea of a national park 'originated in America' and was then copied by other countries.
- 2 **NOT GIVEN:** The text says that four million people visit Yosemite every year but does not compare this figure with that for any other park.
- 3 **TRUE:** The NPS administers 'deserts, lakes, rivers and coastlines' but is also responsible for buildings and monuments, including the 'Gettysburg Museum and Ford's Theatre'.
- 4 **NOT GIVEN:** Catlin 'failed to see' a nation's park established in his lifetime but the text gives no information regarding whether he was 'criticised' for his wishes.
- 5 **FALSE:** Emerson did not want natural landscapes to be 'exploited for agriculture and commerce'; instead, he wanted these landscapes to be protected.
- 6 **TRUE:** Yosemite 'was directly the result of his work'.
- 7 **hunting:** 'prohibited' = 'a ban'; 'every type' = 'in all its forms'; 'shoot' and 'trap' are distracting, but do not fit the grammar.
- 8 **military:** 'administered' = 'management'; 'government' is distracting here but is factually wrong – the text says 'rather than the federal or state government'.
- 9 **tourism:** 'new kinds of' = 'for the very first time'; 'areas' and 'locations' are distracting, but the point is that the parks themselves were not a new idea by this time – it was 'tourism' within these remote areas that was a new type of activity.
- 10 **education:** 'public' = 'ordinary citizens'. The idea of the 'conservation' of public land is distracting, but the text says that 'the education of ordinary citizens ... was his number one priority'.
- 11 **finances:** 'improved' = 'transformation'. To find the answer, it is necessary to read beyond the fact that he set up several new parks and to look for what he improved.
- 12 **dams:** 'built' = 'construction'. Farming and forestry are distracting, but they were *not* allowed and do not fit the grammar.
- 13 **automobiles:** 'number of visitors expanded' = 'the popularity of the parks increased'. To find the answer, it is necessary to make the connection between the idea of 'availability' and 'automobiles became affordable'.

Reading Passage 2, Questions 14–26

- 14 **C:** 'one workplace initiative' = 'such a four-day week'; 'may not be suitable' = 'will not be appropriate'; 'for all businesses' = 'in every instance ... it depends very much on the company concerned'.
- 15 **A:** 'an estimate' = 'calculate'; 'ancient humans' = 'Stone Age'; 'spent working' = 'hunting and gathering food'.
- 16 **F:** 'a politician' = 'workplace relations minister'; 'changing the way' = 'experiment'; 'working lives are organised' = 'new and improved work models'.
- 17 **B:** 'people are working harder' = 'productivity ... has increased significantly'; 'lives have not improved' = 'standards of living have not kept pace'.

- 18 **D:** 'In reality, life is an intricate mix of work and leisure and the relationship between the two has so many strands that they cannot be neatly divided. The idea of work–life balance as it is often understood has limited value.'
- 19 **F:** 'The chief executive of Certified Life, Tane Robinson, says that the four-day week boosted the firm's reputation and made it easier to retain staff who might otherwise have moved on.'
- 20 **B:** 'Says Deng, 'Our research found that when employees have greater individual choice and responsibility for their work time, they still devote some of those 'free' hours to fulfilling their normal working roles. And they also feel a lot happier.''
- 21 **A:** 'However, psychologist Dr Gina McDowell argues that the problem of stress caused by working too many hours still doesn't receive sufficient recognition and ought to be addressed with greater commitment by executives, employees and academics.'
- 22 **E:** 'Lead researcher Dr Hannah Graham says that the experiment produced such positive results partly because employees were given a role in decision-making throughout it.'
- 23 **insurance:** 'The experiment was conducted at Certified Life, a firm which has sold insurance for more than six decades.'
- 24 **surveys:** 'The 240 employees at Certified Life completed surveys at the beginning and end of the experiment to provide information for the study.'
- 25 **supervisors:** 'Furthermore, cooperation between employees was seen to improve significantly when working shorter hours and team cohesion was significantly enhanced, according to the supervisors.'
- 26 **congestion:** 'Quite apart from the benefits at Certified Life, Dr Graham also suggests that such schemes might also address the issue of congestion in major cities by restricting the numbers going to work each day.'

Reading Passage 3, Questions 27–40

- 27 **YES:** 'we should welcome enquiries about our first memories – it is a compliment if others are interested in our lives and experiences.'
- 28 **NO:** The writer outlines a range of common first memories including holidays, injuries, walking in the park and having a family meal. Far from being 'surprisingly similar', he describes these findings as 'predictably diverse'.
- 29 **NOT GIVEN:** The writer gives some information about negative and positive first memories, but makes no comment regarding which might be 'more interesting'.
- 30 **NO:** Academics in the past showed interest in the topic of 'memory in general' but 'our *earliest* memories were largely overlooked by researchers ... an important omission'.
- 31 **YES:** The writer says that these experiments have 'shown conclusively that recollections of what happened can vary dramatically between individuals' and therefore the results are 'reliable'.
- 32 **B:** 'cultural values' = 'social priorities'. The cultural values that are reflected are that American children seem to have more individualistic memories, while

Asian children's earliest memories tend to be of group events.

Distraction:

A: This is wrong because the Asian subjects 'might have played no central role' in the event they remember.

C: This is wrong because no information is given about the methodology used in the research.

D: This is wrong because this idea is linked to 'childhood amnesia' in the same paragraph, but not to the Asian/American research.

- 33** **A:** 'sense of identity' = 'strong feeling of who they are'. 'Thus, who we are *now* appears to have some bearing on what we choose to recall from long ago.'

Distraction:

B: This is wrong because it is the other way round – our later character influences our first memories.

C: This is wrong because although careers are mentioned, it is because our first memories might be influenced by later jobs or interests.

D: This is wrong because the writer is suggesting that in fact we make 'decisions' about what our earliest memories will be.

- 34** **D:** 'constructed from a variety of sources' = 'pieced together from different elements'. The different sources mentioned by the writer include 'an item that we do remember from our childhood, such as a pram or toy, but embellished in some way to include a larger event'. Or the memories 'may feature information that actually comes from a photograph, a family story, a memory that we've heard from somebody else, or some combination of all of these.'

Distraction:

A: This is wrong because the writer is arguing that almost all types of memory may be invented.

B: This is wrong because although families are mentioned, there is no reference to similar memories running in families.

C: This is wrong because the implication is that many or most people have unreliable memories.

- 35** **C:** 'value' = 'still much-loved memories'. The 'value' that they have might be that 'we can learn about ourselves from them', and sharing first memories is a 'fosters connection and intimacy', which are 'important elements of our humanity'.

Distraction:

A: This is wrong because the writer has done this in previous paragraphs but does not in this one.

B: This is wrong because the implication of the whole text is that much research has now been conducted into false memories.

D: This is wrong because the writer makes no comparison between true 'flashbulb memories' and others.

- 36** **F:** 'semantic memory', which is the ability to recall what might loosely be called data, such as dates, times or places in which a particular incident occurred'.

- 37** **C:** 'This is the finding that babies and toddlers do not form lasting memories. For the majority of adults, their earliest memories begin once the period of childhood amnesia has come to an end, at about three and a half years of age. These are the memories that will endure for the rest of their lives.'

- 38** **G:** 'This is the concept that many people construct a narrative of their lives and select memories that contribute most forcefully to that narrative.'

- 39** **D:** 'Research shows that some memories stand out from the rest as much clearer and more colourful. These are usually formed during what's known as the 'reminiscence bump', which occurs between the ages of 16 and 25.'

- 40** **A:** 'These are memories that derive from events about which we have particularly strong feelings, perhaps of intense sadness or happiness.'