

# General IELTS Reading Practice Test

## Section 1 Questions 1 – 13

Read the text below and answer questions 1 -

### Life in Australia

Source: Licensed from the Commonwealth of Australia under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia Licence. The Commonwealth of Australia does not necessarily endorse the content of this publication.

#### Australian society today

One of the defining features of Australian society today is the cultural diversity of its people and the extent to which they are united by an overriding and unifying commitment to Australia. Another defining feature is the egalitarian nature of Australian society. This does not mean that everyone is the same or that everybody has equal wealth or property. It does mean that with hard work and commitment, people without high-level connections or influential patrons can succeed.

Within the framework of Australia's laws, all Australians are able to express their culture and beliefs and to participate freely in Australia's national life. Australia holds firmly to the belief that no-one should be disadvantaged on the basis of their country of birth, cultural heritage, language, gender or religious belief.

In order to maintain a stable, peaceful and prosperous community, Australians of all backgrounds are expected to uphold the shared principles and values that underpin Australian society.

#### Questions 1 - 4

For questions 1 – 4, circle the correct letter, **A, B, C or D**.

1. One aspect of Australian people is
  - A. Culture
  - B. the variety of cultures
  - C. their society
  - D. their country of origin
2. In this passage egalitarianism means
  - A. You need connections to succeed
  - B. everyone has equal wealth and property
  - C. hard work can lead to success
  - D. everyone is equal
3. Discrimination in Australia
  - A. is not allowed
  - B. is only allowed based on language
  - C. is practiced
  - D. is rare
4. To maintain prosperity and peace, everyone living in Australia
  - A. should be committed
  - B. should work hard
  - C. should uphold the nation's ethos
  - D. should believe in Australia



Laws and social customs

Community behaviour in Australia is governed by a combination of formal laws and informal social customs.

All people in Australia must obey the nation’s laws or face the possibility of criminal and civil prosecution. People are also expected to generally observe Australian social customs, habits and practices even though they are not normally legally binding.

Australian laws are made by the Australian Commonwealth, state and territory parliaments. The police have the job of keeping peace and order in the community and to bring people they believe have broken the law before courts of law. People in their local communities and neighbourhoods also help each other in the event of trouble and report anything unusual or suspicious to the local police station.

Australia has a national police force called the Australian Federal Police, which investigates crimes against federal laws including drug trafficking, illegal immigration, crimes against national security and crimes against the environment. All states of Australia and the Northern Territory have their own police forces, which deal with crimes under state or territory laws. Policing in the Australian Capital Territory is undertaken by the Australian Federal Police.

Although police officers may arrest people and give evidence in court, they do not make the final decision on whether or not people are guilty of crimes. This is decided by the courts. Police and the community have good relations in Australia. You can report crimes and seek assistance from the police. If you are questioned by police, remain calm, be polite and cooperative.

Questions 5 - 13

Questions 5 – 10

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

- TRUE If the statement agrees with the information
FALSE If the statement contradicts the information
NOT GIVEN If there is no information on the statement

- 5. The way communities in Australia behave is only covered by official regulations.
6. Everyone in Australia obeys the law.
7. Laws are enacted by the commonwealth, states and territories.
8. People in the community have a role to play in keeping the peace.
9. The Federal Police outrank the state police.
10. All territories have their own police force.

Questions 11 – 13.

Complete the summary below. Use NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer

Arrests and 11. \_\_\_\_\_ appearances are part of the police officers’ role, but guilt is determined by the courts. The relationship between the community and the police cordial and you should not be afraid to 12. \_\_\_\_\_ from the police. If you need to give a statement or interact with the police just 13. \_\_\_\_\_ and co-operate calmly with them.



## Section Two Questions 14 - 27

### Working in Australia

(adapted from <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/settlement-services/working-in-australia>)

Everyone in Australia has the right to work and earn wealth. That wealth helps you to enjoy the benefits of a free and equal society. Australia has a wide range of successful industries that operate across all states and territories. There is a wide range of professional and industry qualifications that can help you find and keep a job. We all expect each other to contribute to and share in Australia's wealth.

#### Finding a job

The Australian labour market can be very competitive. How quickly you can find a job in Australia depends on economic factors, qualifications and skills, the type of work you are seeking, and particular circumstances which may affect the availability of certain types of work in different parts of the country. Australian work experience is invaluable and should be a priority if you are struggling to find work in your desired field.

If you do not already have a source of income or a job available, and provided your visa allows it, you will need to look for work. Approval to migrate, permanent residency and/or citizenship does not guarantee you a job.

#### Applying for a job

Your success in gaining employment depends on a number of factors. The factors include: where you plan to work, economic conditions, your skills, your qualifications and the demand for employees.

Employers advertise for employees in many places. If you are new to Australia, your best option for finding employment is to respond to job vacancy advertisements. The advertisement will inform you of the type of work required, location and other important information. When you find a job vacancy that is suitable, the advertisement will tell you how to apply for the position and the name of a person to contact for more details. Your application will usually require:

- a cover letter stating the position you wish to apply for and why you should be considered for the position based on your skills, experience and qualifications
- a resume showing your personal details (name, address, phone numbers, email address etc), skills, previous jobs and experience, education and qualifications
- copies of references from previous employers, or their contact details
- copies of educational and trade certificates relevant to the job

Once you are successful at obtaining a job, you will need to supply your new employer with your bank account details and your tax file number. If you do not already have a tax file number you should contact the Tax office to obtain one. This enables your employer to pay you promptly and for the appropriate amount of tax to be deducted from your salary.



### Questions 14 – 20

Complete the summary below with words from the text. Use **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each gap.

It is expected that all people who are able to will find a job of which there are many, in a variety of professions and **14.** \_\_\_\_\_.

The job market is very **15.** \_\_\_\_\_ and it can take some time to find suitable employment. When looking for a job, you must take into account your skills, **16.** \_\_\_\_\_ and the industry you wish to enter. Gaining **17.** \_\_\_\_\_ in your field can be helpful.

Advertisements are the best way to find employment. When submitting your **18.** \_\_\_\_\_, you should supply a cover letter, your resume, references **19.** \_\_\_\_\_ from and copies of all relevant qualifications and certificates.

Once you have a job you will need to give your employer your **20.** \_\_\_\_\_ and your tax file number so that they can pay you and you can pay taxes.

### Questions 21 – 27 are based on reading passage on the next page

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text? Write

- Y** if the statement agrees with the information
- N** if the statement contradicts the information
- NG** if there is no information on this

- 21.** Human resources will punish you if you report stress related problems to them.
- 22.** Overwork differs from stress because it is transitory.
- 23.** Excessive work-loads or unrealistic deadlines always cause stress.
- 24.** An uncommon problem is not managing your work life and home life well.
- 25.** If reported, Human Resources will investigate harassment and bullying.
- 26.** Personal issues often impact upon an employee's productivity at work.
- 27.** Company counsellors have to keep your sessions confidential.



## Work and Stress

(adapted from [http://www.who.int/occupational\\_health/topics/stressatwp/en/](http://www.who.int/occupational_health/topics/stressatwp/en/))

### Stress in the Work Place

We understand that there will be times when you will feel stressed, either because of work or personal issues. We would like to reassure you that the company takes this seriously and has programmes in place to help you to deal with stress and an anonymous email system where you can report any problems that you are having to Human Resources without risk of reprisal.

### Stress or normal work pressures?

It is often difficult however to differentiate between pressures and challenges and genuine stress. Pressure at work is unavoidable, there will always be times when you are put under pressure but these are usually temporary situations. Stress occurs mostly when people are presented with demands from their employers that they are not able to cope with because it is outside their expertise or knowledge base and is more of a long-term issue where the employee can see no obvious resolution.

### *Common triggers for work-related stress.*

Our company has identified the following as being the most common causes of stress in our workplace but this is not a comprehensive list.

- excessive work-loads or unrealistic deadlines being given by managers. If this is an ongoing issue you will become very stressed and may develop health issues over time. If you feel that your department is being run in this way you can take advantage of the anonymous email system to report the situation to Human Resources for investigation.
- poor work-life balance can also lead to stress as you may feel that you are not able to meet both family and employer expectations and needs. This is a common problem and one the company takes very seriously. We have a programme in place, with qualified counsellors, to help you to achieve a satisfactory work-life balance. Participation in the programme will not negatively impact your chances of promotion and does in fact earn you points in your annual employee evaluation.
- bullying or harassment in the work-place. The company has a zero-tolerance policy towards bullying or harassment and you should feel able to report any such treatment to Human Resources for investigation. Your identity will not be revealed unless the investigation concludes that the person under suspicion has a case to answer for. If this happens you will be required to testify at a hearing.
- Personal issues are impacting the employees' performance at work. Often employees feel that they should not bring their personal lives to work, this is unrealistic. These situations are usually temporary and the company would prefer to work with you to come to a mutually beneficial solution than have you stressed and performing poorly in your role. So inform your manager immediately and arrange for counselling through Human Resources.

### What to do

If you feel that you are suffering from work-related stress you should call the human resources department and arrange to have a session with one of the company's counsellors who will liaise with your superiors in order to devise a program to help alleviate the cause of the stress.

## Section 3                      Questions 28 – 40

### *The Solar Eclipse*

(adapted from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar\\_eclipse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_eclipse))

A solar eclipse (as seen from the planet Earth) is a type of eclipse that occurs when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, and when the Moon fully or partially blocks ("occults") the Sun. This can happen only at new moon when the Sun and the Moon are in conjunction as seen from Earth in an alignment referred to as syzygy. In a total eclipse, the disk of the Sun is fully obscured by the Moon. In partial and annular eclipses, only part of the Sun is obscured.

If the Moon were in a perfectly circular orbit, a little closer to the Earth, and in the same orbital plane, there would be total solar eclipses every month. However, since the Moon's orbit is tilted at more than 5 degrees to the Earth's orbit around the Sun, its shadow usually misses Earth. The Moon's orbit must cross Earth's ecliptic plane in order for an eclipse (both solar as well as lunar) to occur. In addition, the Moon's actual orbit is elliptical, often taking it far enough away from Earth that its apparent size is not large enough to block the Sun entirely. The orbital planes cross each other at a line of nodes resulting in at least two, and up to five, solar eclipses occurring each year; no more than two of which can be total eclipses. However, total solar eclipses are rare at any particular location because totality exists only along a narrow path on the Earth's surface traced by the Moon's shadow or umbra.

An eclipse is a natural phenomenon. However, in some ancient and modern cultures, solar eclipses were attributed to supernatural causes or regarded as bad omens. A total solar eclipse can be frightening to people who are unaware of its astronomical explanation, as the Sun seems to disappear during the day and the sky darkens in a matter of minutes.

Historical eclipses are a very valuable resource for historians, in that they allow a few historical events to be dated precisely, from which other dates and ancient calendars may be deduced. A solar eclipse of June 15, 763 BC mentioned in an Assyrian text is important for the Chronology of the Ancient Orient. There have been other claims to date earlier eclipses. The King Zhong Kang supposedly beheaded two astronomers, Hsi and Ho, who failed to predict an eclipse 4,000 years ago. Perhaps the earliest still-unproven claim is that of archaeologist Bruce Masse, who putatively links an eclipse that occurred on May 10, 2807 BC with a possible meteor impact in the Indian Ocean on the basis of several ancient flood myths that mention a total solar eclipse.

Eclipses have been interpreted as omens, or portents. The ancient Greek historian Herodotus wrote that Thales of Miletus predicted an eclipse that occurred during a battle between the Medes and the Lydians. Both sides put down their weapons and declared peace as a result of the eclipse. The exact eclipse involved remains uncertain, although the issue has been studied by hundreds of ancient and modern authorities. One likely candidate took place on May 28, 585 BC, probably near the Halys river in Asia Minor. An eclipse recorded by Herodotus before Xerxes departed for his expedition against Greece, which is traditionally dated to 480 BC, was matched by John Russell Hind to an annular eclipse of the Sun at Sardis on February 17, 478 BC. Alternatively, a partial eclipse was visible from Persia on October 2, 480 BC. Herodotus also reports a solar eclipse at Sparta during the Second Persian invasion of Greece. The date of the eclipse (August 1, 477 BC) does not match exactly the conventional dates for the invasion accepted by historians.

Chinese records of eclipses begin at around 720 BC. The 4th century BC astronomer Shi Shen described the prediction of eclipses by using the relative positions of the Moon and Sun. The "radiating influence" theory (i.e., the Moon's light was reflection from the Sun) was existent in Chinese thought from about the sixth century BC (in the Zhi Ran of Zhi Ni Zi), though it was opposed by the 1st century AD philosopher Wang Chong, who made clear in his writing that this theory was nothing new. Ancient Greeks, such as Parmenides and Aristotle, also supported the theory of the Moon shining because of reflected light.

A total solar eclipse plays an important role in Mark Twain's novel, "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court".



Attempts have been made to establish the exact date of Good Friday by assuming that the darkness described at Jesus's crucifixion was a solar eclipse. This research has not yielded conclusive results, and Good Friday is recorded as being at Passover, which is held at the time of a full moon. Further, the darkness lasted from the sixth hour to the ninth, or three hours, which is much, much longer than the eight-minute upper limit for any solar eclipse's totality. In the Western hemisphere, there are few reliable records of eclipses before 800 AD, until the advent of Arab and monastic observations in the early medieval period. The first recorded observation of the corona was made in Constantinople in 968 AD.

The first known telescopic observation of a total solar eclipse was made in France in 1706. Nine years later, English astronomer Edmund Halley accurately predicted and observed the solar eclipse of May 3, 1715. By the mid-19th century, scientific understanding of the Sun was improving through observations of the Sun's corona during solar eclipses. The corona was identified as part of the Sun's atmosphere in 1842, and the first photograph (or daguerreotype) of a total eclipse was taken of the solar eclipse of July 28, 1851. Spectroscope observations were made of the solar eclipse of August 18, 1868, which helped to determine the chemical composition of the Sun.

### Questions 28 - 40

#### Questions 28 - 30

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

**28.** When the moon completely obscures the sun is called

- A. a total lunar eclipse
- B. a total solar eclipse
- C. an annular eclipse
- D. a partial solar eclipse

**29.** There are not eclipses more often because

- A. the moon's orbit is not circular
- B. the moon is not in the correct orbital plane
- C. the perceived size of the moon changes due to its orbit
- D. all of the above

**30.** Eclipses were often interpreted

- A. differently by different races
- B. as harbingers of doom
- C. as religious events
- D. by superstitious people



**Questions 31 – 36**

Who is associated with the following? Write the correct letter next to each question.

- A. John Russell Hind
- B. Chinese Astronomers
- C. Bruce Masse
- D. Herodotus

**31.** The earliest hypothesized eclipse

**32.** Wrote about the author who predicted an eclipse that occurred whilst the Medes and the Lydians were at war

**33.** Were predicting eclipses from the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC

**34.** Reported an eclipse at Sparta during the Second Persian invasion of Greece

**35.** Found an eclipse in Sardis that corresponded with the departure of Xerxes recorded by Herodotus

**36.** Were beheaded for failing to predict an eclipse

**Questions 37 – 40**

Match the occurrence to the date. Write the correct letter next to each question.

- A. 1715 AD
- B. 720 BC
- C. 1842 AD
- D. 480 BC
- E. 1851 AD

**37.** Chinese began recording eclipses around this date.

**38.** The first picture of an eclipse was taken with a camera.

**39.** A partial eclipse visible in Persia related to Xerxes' invasion of Greece.

**40.** An Englishman accurately predicted and observed the solar eclipse