

**gets** **HIGHER**  
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*Prepare for Global Success*

# Reading Test

## Familiarisation for test-takers

# Things you must know

- Test duration is 60 mins
- There are a total of 40 questions in 5 parts
- Each part has 8 questions
- Total reading is approximately 1,800-2,000 words
- Approximate text length is:
  - Part 1: 250-300 words
  - Part 2: 200-250 words
  - Part 3: 400-450 words
  - Part 4: 500-550 words
  - Part 5: 400-450 words

# Difficulty level and Marking

- Difficulty level increases as the test progresses
- One mark is awarded to each correct answer
- There is no negative marking. This means you do not lose marks for wrong answers

## Tip:

- Answer all questions. In case you answer incorrectly you do not lose marks. Therefore it is better to make a guess than not respond at all.

# Question type

The question paper has following types of tasks:

- Gapped text
- Multiple matching
- Multiple choice
- True/False/Not given

# Source of questions

The question paper is designed using authentic or adapted real-world materials such as:

- Advertisements
- Articles / texts from:
  - Newspaper | Brochures | Messages | Manuals
  - Magazines | Notices | Reports
  - Websites | Encyclopaedia entries
  - Data information sheets | Personal correspondence

# What skills are tested?

- Reading for gist and global meaning
- Reading for specific information and details
- Reading to understand the main ideas
- Reading for detailed comprehension
- Reading to interpret information
- Understanding attitudes & opinions and writer's purpose
- Following text organisation features
- Understanding text structure
- Understanding meaning from context

# Tips for the Reading Test

# Useful Tips

- Stay calm
- Read the instructions for each task carefully, and make sure you follow them
- Follow instructions regarding the maximum number of words
- Make sure you give the text a quick read through so that you are familiar with the topic and how it is developed in the text, but don't worry if you don't understand every word
- Predict what the passage may be about



# Useful Tips

- Skimming for general information
- Scanning for specific details
- Guessing meaning of words from the text
- Give one answer, if that is all that is needed
- Leave a question and proceed if you cannot answer.  
Come back later and guess at that stage
- Type the answer correctly from the passage. Especially the spellings
- Do lots of practice by reading articles and texts
- Practice with the same sample test, more than once.  
Suggested up to 3 times

# Tips for Multiple Choice

- Use the key words in the question to help you find the right part of the text.
- Read the whole of that part, and consider all the options.
- Pay attention to phrases like ‘in the writer’s opinion’ in the questions as the text may include several different points of view.
- Read to the end of the relevant part of the text, because the options are not in the same order as they are in the text.

# Read Efficiently

- Look quickly at the text, its title, sub headings, tables, diagrams and check what it is about
- Look quickly at the first few questions. How many are they and what types
- Don't memorise the questions. Read the text and go back quickly to the question
- Be careful of the tricky synonyms. E.g.:
  - *'on Saturday and Sunday' = at the weekend*
  - *'it was a cold, wet and windy day' = the weather was pretty miserable*

# Build your Vocabulary

- Keep a note book for new words and phrases when preparing and doing reading practice
- Check the meaning of words from a dictionary
- Check the differences in meaning when the same word is used in different contexts
- Write a few examples using the word
- Learn synonyms and use them when speaking or writing in English

# Practice Reading

- Be sure to get all the easier questions or the ones you know attempted first
- Don't spend too long on a question. Mark it for review and come back later and guess your answer
- Practice to get to know the question and the answer type
- Practice to spot synonyms
- Practice to pace your reading and increase your reading speed. Time yourself during self-practice
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- Look for keywords.
- Keep some time to revise your answers.

# Practice Skimming & Scanning

- If a question asks for name or Place, City, Country, Street, Person or Organisation, they are easy to find out as they will always start with a 'CAPITAL' letter
- Remember the different ways to write numbers. E.g. 6=vi *or* VI. 2,500=two thousand five hundred *or* twenty five hundred

# Analysing your problems

Try analysing your potential problem areas such as:

- Your reading speed is slow
- You do not focus on reading for main ideas
- You do not focus on reading for the writer's opinion and confuse it with your own opinion
- You misunderstand the question
- You make careless mistakes
- You begin responding too quickly without fully understanding the question and reading for complete meaning

# Test Booking & Administration



- Book your test through an 'Authorised Centre'.
- Vantage Siam is the 'Authorised Centre' for Thailand
- Test is administered through an 'Authorised Centre'
- Test administration details are confirmed by the 'Authorised Centre'
- For general enquiry email to: [info@vantage-siam.com](mailto:info@vantage-siam.com)  
Website: [www.englishatvantage.com](http://www.englishatvantage.com)