

Reading

Exam Strategy

In a four-option multiple-choice task, the questions always follow the order of the text. Read the whole text once, then go through the questions and eliminate any obviously incorrect options. Finally, go back and check the part of the text which relates to each question, and make your final choices.

- 1 Read the strategy above. Then quickly read the text. Now look at the questions and try to eliminate any obviously incorrect options.

- 2 Read the article about a 17th-century travel writer. Choose the best answer (A–D).

Thomas Coryat was not one of those famous explorers who found new trade routes or mapped unexplored territory. But in his time, he was an extremely well-known traveller and writer. In fact, his writings about his extensive tours of Europe and parts of Asia opened the eyes of many readers to the geography and customs of other countries.

Born in England in 1577, Coryat was educated at Winchester College and Oxford. Not long after he finished his education, he was employed by Prince Henry, the eldest son of King James I, as a royal entertainer. This is evidence of his intelligence and sense of humour, which later became more widely known through his travel writing.

In 1608, Coryat began a long tour of Europe, partly on foot. The book that he published about the tour in 1611 gives a lively picture of European life at the time. His book was extremely popular, partly because people were very curious about life in other countries. They also preferred reading about someone else's adventures to travelling, since travel was difficult and dangerous at the time. Later the same year, Coryat published a second book giving more details about his journey.

Unable to settle down for long, in 1612 Coryat started on another tour. This time he decided to go beyond Europe, and eventually travelled to the eastern Mediterranean, Persia and India. He sent home detailed letters describing his experiences and observations. These were published while he was still abroad. If he had lived longer, he would certainly have published a book about this trip, but his life was cut short by illness in 1617.

Not only were Coryat's writings entertaining and very popular, but they also influenced society in unexpected ways. People say that he brought the table fork to the attention of English society, and that he introduced the word 'umbrella' into the English language. His work is also important to music historians – a lot of their knowledge of Venetian musicians and composers of the time depends on his accounts. At about this time, rich people began to send their sons to Europe to see great monuments and works of art. Today, historians call this journey 'the Grand Tour', and they think that the tradition partly began because of Coryat's books.

- The writer says that Coryat
 - was like some of the great explorers.
 - taught people a lot with his writing.
 - discovered new places.
 - started out making maps.
- The fact that Prince Henry hired Coryat shows us that
 - Coryat was a well-known writer.
 - the prince was very clever.
 - Coryat was amusing.
 - Coryat was a talented actor.
- What is true about Coryat's first book?
 - It described places that many people were interested in.
 - It encouraged people to travel.
 - It convinced readers that travel was safe.
 - It made walking tours popular.
- Why did Coryat not publish a book about his 1612–1617 trip?
 - He decided to only write letters.
 - Nobody was interested in publishing his writing.
 - There wasn't very much to write about the trip.
 - He died before he could write it.
- Which is the best title for the article?
 - A discoverer of new worlds
 - A travelling entertainer
 - A writer who changed our ideas about travel
 - The first man to write about travel

Listening

Exam Strategy

When completing a summary of a listening, first read through the summary to get an idea of what the listening text will be about. Think of possible answers to fill the gaps.

- 3 Read the strategy above. Then read the summary in exercise 4 and try to think of possible answers.

- 4  3.29 You will hear a dialogue between two friends about teenagers and mobile phones. Complete the information in the summary. Use no more than three words in each gap.

Erin was reading a magazine article about *mobile phones*. The article reported that some ¹ _____ had to sign a contract with their parents about how much they could use their mobiles. Erin agreed that the contract was ² _____. However, Carl said that he ³ _____ if he was asked to sign a document. He insisted that his parents ⁴ _____ him to keep his promises. He also said that he wasn't ⁵ _____ phones and he complained that it was ⁶ _____ that Erin spent so much time on her phone.

Use of English

Exam Strategy

In a word formation gapfill you need to change the words in the brackets so that they fit the text grammatically. Think carefully about which type of word is needed to fill the gap, for example a noun, verb, or an adverb.

5 Read the strategy above. Complete the text with words formed from the words in brackets.

A hovercraft is a unique kind of vehicle which has the ¹_____ (able) to travel over any kind of terrain: land, water, mud, or ice. It has special engines that blow air below the vehicle. The pressure of this air is ²_____ (high) than the pressure in the atmosphere and the ³_____ (different) in the pressure lifts the hovercraft above the surface so that it can travel over small obstacles quite ⁴_____ (easy), making it one of the most ⁵_____ (environment) friendly vehicles in the world.

The hovercraft was first designed in Britain in the 1950s. Today, these vehicles are used all over the world. They are particularly ⁶_____ (use) during disasters, because they can get to places that a boat or a helicopter can't reach. The ⁷_____ (manufacture) have created hovercraft in various sizes. The smaller models are easy to drive and their designers always have ⁸_____ (safe) in mind.

Speaking

Exam Strategy

When you compare and contrast photos, you will often be asked follow-up questions which ask you to relate the photos to a past experience of your own. When you relate a past experience, remember to say when it happened, who was involved, what they did and how everyone felt. It is up to you whether you describe a true or made-up event.

6 Read the strategy above. Then read the situation below. Write notes for each question.

Describe a situation when you used a mobile phone to solve a problem.

- When and where did it happen?
- Who used the phone?
- What problem did you solve?
- How did you feel?

7 These photos (A and B) show people using their mobile phones to solve a problem. Compare and contrast the photos. Include the following points:

- Where are the people and what are they doing?
- What problems can they solve using a mobile phone?
- What other means of communication could they use?



8 In pairs, discuss questions 1 and 2 below. Use evidence from the photos in your discussion, if possible.

- 1 Is it important to carry a mobile phone with you at all times?
- 2 What dangers may be connected to using a mobile phone in certain situations?

Writing

Exam Strategy

When you have finished any writing task, always read through your answer to check what you have written and correct any grammar, spelling, or vocabulary mistakes.

9 Read the strategy above. Then read the student's letter. Find eight grammar, vocabulary and spelling mistakes and correct them.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I'm writing complain about a bus journey that I made on one of your coaches on 28th January. I took the 14.20 coach from Ostrava to Prague.

First of all, the coach delayed for over two hours, but the passengers were not told when it would be leaving and they were left waiting on the bus stop in freezing weather. Secondly, I had bought my ticket online, but when I'm showing it to the driver, I was told that I could not use it for that particular travel and I had to buy another one. When we finally set off, the heating on the coach was not working and it was really cold!

I believe that you should improve your service. If a coach is late, you should make sure that the passengers inform about this and that they are told what time the coach will leave. I would also suggest that you explain the conditions clearly on your website. Lastly, there should be heating on your coaches in January.

I hope my sugestions are useful and I look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,

Alex

10 Read the task below and write a letter of complaint to the airline operator.

You recently travelled by plane and you were very dissatisfied with the airline's service. Write a letter of complaint in which you describe what went wrong and suggest how the airline company could improve their service.