

IELTS PRACTICE TASK

Car for Sale

Nissan Pulsar, 2002, 150,000 km. Black with tinted windows, mag wheels, bucket seats, air con. New tyres and radio. Tidy condition, regularly serviced, \$5,500 ono. Phone 026 776 1894

Items for Sale

1 x single bed. Slumberhead Kids Superior. As new. \$450

1 x double bed, 'RestBeta Superpedic', inner sprung mattress, pink hard-wearing fabric, very comfortable, one broken leg, \$75

1 x washing machine, Kitchenmaid 750 Ecocycle 2010; lightly used, very economical, 9 wash cycles, stainless steel drum, quiet, \$250

1 x cooker. Electromate 3ST, electric hob + oven, good condition and reliable, clock needs repair, \$300

Questions 1–6

Look at the two advertisements.

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the reading texts?

You should write

TRUE	<i>if the statement agrees with the information</i>
FALSE	<i>if the statement contradicts the information</i>
NOT GIVEN	<i>if there is no information on this</i>

- 1 The car is made by Nissan.
- 2 The car has had three owners.
- 3 The car needs new tyres.
- 4 The double bed is in perfect condition.
- 5 The washing machine costs two hundred and seventy-five dollars.
- 6 The cooker is three years old.

IELTS PRACTICE TASK**Changes to Rubbish Collection Services in Summertown**

As part of the council's on-going work to improve efficiency and make all services environmentally friendly, please be advised that the following changes to the rubbish collection system will be effective immediately.

General household waste will continue to be collected from the roadside outside your house. The old 10kg rubbish bags are being discontinued and from now on you must use the new smaller bags. Any bag weighing over 7 kg will not be removed so please check before placing your rubbish outside for collection. The procedure for the collection of glass has also been completely reviewed. We no longer require you to sort your glass by colour as this was too time-consuming. However, glass can no longer be placed in bags at the roadside as this poses a danger to other road users. Instead, each household will be issued with a special recycling bucket and you should place all your glass inside this for collection in the usual way.

The procedure for collecting plastics will remain basically the same. The one minor change is that the black bags will no longer be used as they were difficult to see in the dark, and it is hoped that the new red ones will be more visible. Finally, council has decided that paper will no longer be collected from the roadside. Paper was becoming a hazard, especially in the rain, and was blowing down streets and even inside houses. From now on you should take your paper for recycling to the supermarket, and in the parking area there you will find a place to deposit it.

Questions 1–4

Complete the notes below.

*Choose **ONE WORD OR A NUMBER ONLY** from the text for each answer.*

Summertown Rubbish Collection

General Household Rubbish: no more than **1** kilograms

Glass: put it in the **2** provided

Plastics: use the **3** bags

Paper: leave it outside the **4**

Notice

Important Roadworks in the Area

This is an important notice for all residents of Summertown. Please be advised that the local council will be completing roadworks in your area between August 17 and October 22 and that major delays and inconvenience are expected.

Devon Street will be closed to all traffic during this period. The old cobblestones will be removed and a new all-weather surface laid. After consultation with the community it has been decided to leave the public gardens in place and a new crossing will be constructed to improve access.

New drains are being installed beneath Baldwin Avenue which is going to mean major disruption.

The road will remain open to traffic throughout the period although long delays are likely and you are advised to avoid the area if at all possible. Parking will be impossible at all times and residents are advised to seek alternatives in neighbouring streets. All unauthorised vehicles will be towed away. During this work the street lighting will be upgraded and one of the trees will be removed as it has become dangerous, but all of the others will remain.

Bellevue Terrace will be widened to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion in the area around the primary school. This will mean major disruption while the work is being completed. The road will remain open, but it will be reclassified as one-way at all times, and through traffic should follow the diversion through Ostend Street and Duncan Avenue.

Questions 5–8

Complete the notes below.

*Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the text for each answer.*

Summertown Roadworks

Start Date: **5**

Devon Street will be resurfaced and a **6** built.

No **7** in Baldwin Avenue.

Traffic in Bellevue Terrace will be **8** during the roadworks.

IELTS PRACTICE TASK

Standforth Industries – Monthly Safety Schedule

Directions for Safety Officer

As the safety officer for your division of Standforth Industries, it is your responsibility to complete the Monthly Safety Schedule (MSS). Please read the following information carefully and follow this procedure for each MSS.

The first step of the MSS concerns the safety manual – the document that outlines all of the processes relating to safety for each section of the company. You must ensure that a copy has been given to all new employees who may have taken up positions with the company since the last MSS. This should have been done by the human resources officer on their first day, but it is essential that you check. If necessary, you can get additional copies of the safety manual from human resources. After doing this, your next responsibility concerns the fire equipment. All of the company's extinguishers, alarms and other fire equipment are provided and serviced by HazardSafe Ltd. Your role is to ensure that all of the equipment has a current operational certificate. To do this you should coordinate with the departmental wardens, who will visually inspect all of the equipment in their sector. They should then contact the supplier if anything is found to be in need of attention.

Only when this has been completed to your satisfaction should you organise an emergency evacuation drill. Because of the nature of our manufacturing processes, we are required by the government to conduct monthly drills and it is essential this is done in a timely manner. You must work closely with the branch manager to establish a suitable time for this to take place and ensure that a proper record is subsequently kept on file. The next stage of the MSS is to investigate any workplace health and safety incidents that have occurred over the last month. Your point of contact here is the medical officer, who will provide you with copies of every incident report over the relevant period. Remember, every incident must be recorded, whether it concerns a worker on the factory floor or a member of the administration team.

A common mistake in the past has been to send copies of the incident reports to head office. In fact, these should go directly to the district council (see Appendix A for contact details). This must be done no later than 14 days after completing the MSS in order for it to be valid. Then the last stage of the schedule is to forward copies of all of the paperwork you have collected, together with your own final assessment to the company secretary, who will then make a record in the national database. Should you have any further questions about the MSS please contact your supervisor.

TASK TYPE 3 Flow-chart Completion

Questions 1–6

Complete the flow chart below.

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

Procedure for Monthly Safety Schedule

Check that the **1** have a copy of the safety manual.

Work with the **2** to make sure all fire equipment is up to date.

Coordinate an emergency evacuation drill with the **3**

Ask the **4** for reports of all health and safety incidents.

Send copies to the **5** within 14 days.

The **6** will ensure the final documents are properly recorded.

IELTS PRACTICE TASK

Secrets of the tomb

Archaeologists have recently discovered a new tomb and the artefacts that were buried there.

A successful archaeologist must carry out painstaking research, needs the stamina and patience for slow excavation work, and has to be skilled at using the technology required to detect what has long been concealed below ground. He or she also needs luck. It was pure serendipity that led Professor Nick Manolas to his remarkable discovery. Manolas and his team were trekking across country to a known site where they intended to see what restoration work could be achieved for an ancient temple. On the way, they happened to rest on a slope below a line of overhanging trees. It was at this point that Manolas dropped his digital camera and saw it disappear through the space between two rocks. Shining his torch into the dark gap, Manolas realised there was in fact a cavernous space below them. That's when the shovels came out.

It took many months before the excavation was complete, but for Manolas it was all worth the effort. Underneath the layers of soil and rock was a remarkably preserved tomb. Manolas believes it was never intended to be sealed off, but that it became inaccessible after a landslide. Just through the entrance, at the top of the stairs descending to the lower level, the archaeologists uncovered a small group of wooden figures. Although the detail has been lost over time, they believe that they were placed there to guard the dead and their possessions. Further discoveries were to be made in the other subterranean chambers. In the narrowest room, which was also the most deteriorated, and buried in the dust, lay several gold coins. Perhaps these had once been contained within a leather purse, but this would have rotted over the centuries. One room was more spacious than the others, and it was here that the archaeologists came across what they initially believed to be the remains of clothing made from native plants, but have since realised were woven baskets. Manolas speculates that these once held food. There was also a small room at the end of a narrow passage half way down the descending slope. Although there were signs of animal disturbance here, painted beads, possibly from a necklace, could be found along the floor.

The last room to be fully excavated also held its secrets. It was the deepest below ground. Manolas had nearly called it a day when the edge of a young archaeologist's trowel scraped against something hard. It turned out to be a comb, and once cleaned, was found to be unexpectedly ornate. As is usual in the field of archaeology, funding is always an issue, and Manolas must wait until he is awarded a further grant before he can explore the surrounding area.

TASK TYPE 4 Diagram Labelling

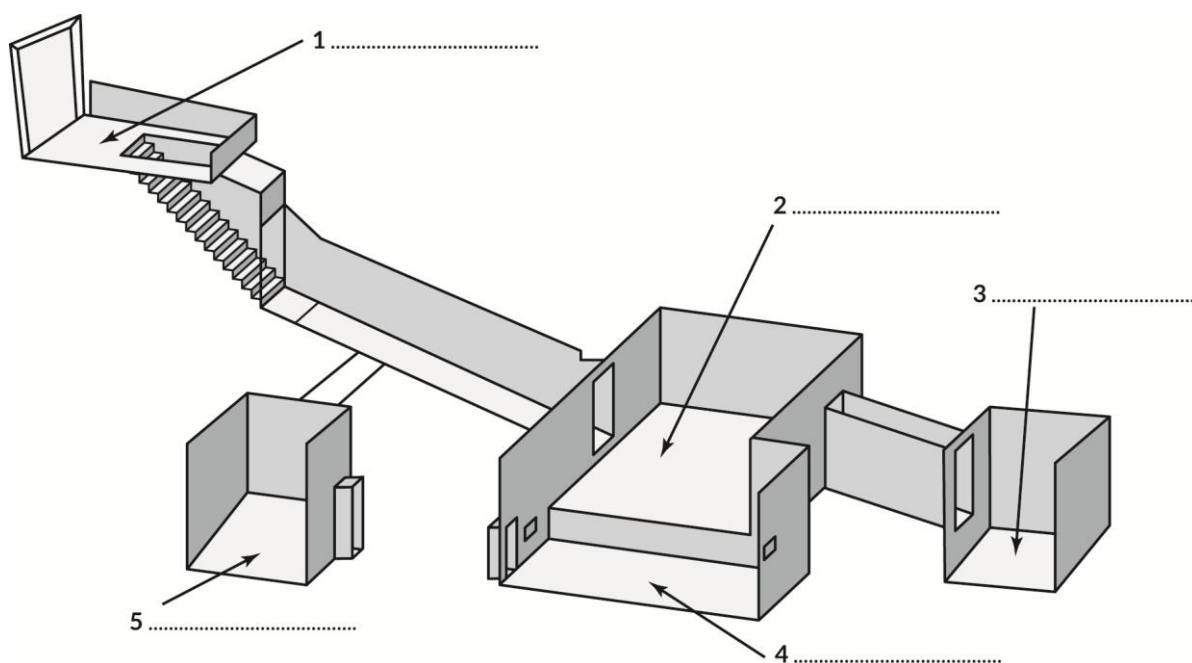
Questions 1–5

Label the diagram below.

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

Write your answers, 1–5, below.

Objects found in tomb



IELTS PRACTICE TASK

Consumer medicine information

Please read this information before you start using this medicine.

This leaflet answers some common questions about this medicine. It does not contain all the information available and it does not take the place of talking to your pharmacist or doctor. Consult a health professional if you have any worries or concerns.

How much to take

Adults and children 12 years and over: Take 2 tablets. Do not take more than 8 tablets in 24 hours. Do not take more than the recommended dose.

How to take it

Take 2 tablets by mouth with water.

When to take it

Every 6 hours

Do not take this medicine after the expiry date which is printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn in any way.

Pregnant women are strongly advised not to take this medicine as it may have harmful effects. See your doctor to discuss the potential benefits and risks of taking this medicine.

Things to be careful about

Avoid excess exercise while taking this medicine and operating machinery until you know how it affects you.

Side effects

This medicine helps most people with cold and flu relief but there may be unwanted side effects in a few people. Feeling dizzy is one of the less serious ones. If this occurs, see your doctor or pharmacist for advice about dosage or to talk about the effect of other medicines you may be taking on this medicine. However, you must stop using the product, tell your pharmacist or doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital if a severe headache comes on.

Storage

Keep your medicine in the original pack until it is time to take it. Keep your medicine in a cool dry place below 30°C. Do not leave it on a window sill or in the car as heat can destroy some medicines. All medicines should be kept away from the reach of young children.

TASK TYPE 5 Short Answer Questions

Questions 1–6

Look at the text which is part of a leaflet for a medicine.

Answer the questions below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the text for each answer.*

- 1** How long should adults wait before taking a second dose of tablets?
- 2** Who is this medicine not suitable for?
- 3** What should people avoid using if they take this medicine?
- 4** What could be a minor side effect of taking this medicine?
- 5** What symptom would show that someone must stop taking this medicine?
- 6** What can prevent this medicine from working properly?

IELTS PRACTICE TASK

Questions 1–5

The 'Guide to Successful Management' text has five sections, **A–E**.

Choose the correct heading for each section, **A–E**, from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number **i–viii** below.

List of Headings

- i** Communication in the workplace should not be an underrated tool
- ii** Employees do better when they are given clear goals
- iii** More can be accomplished when the workload is sensibly divided
- iv** Customer-relations training should not be overlooked
- v** Start off by taking a tough approach towards poor performance
- vi** Conflict must be recognised and actively dealt with
- vii** Avoid assigning projects that you could easily do yourself
- viii** Giving your undivided attention will gain respect

1 Section **A**

2 Section **B**

3 Section **C**

4 Section **D**

5 Section **E**

Guide to Successful Management

Our experts tell you how to run your department effectively

A

Many managers, especially those recently promoted to the position, believe that they need to control everything that the employees in their department do. If you do this, you're surely heading for disaster. However, if you assign tasks to employees, you will be maximising the amount of work that can be achieved whilst at the same time developing employee confidence and initiative. Effective managers know that the path to management success is to delegate the responsibility for completing tasks and to maintain the authority required to get things done.

B

Lack of direction is a common complaint amongst dissatisfied employees. Even though they may be carrying out tasks perfectly well on a daily basis, if there is no perception of 'the big picture', employees will often lose their motivation. Therefore, managers must ensure that they set concrete and measurable objectives with their staff, provide guidelines as to how to achieve them, and then regularly monitor their progress. Constructive feedback must then be given if these are not met. By ensuring that employees have something to strive for, managers can provide them with a personal sense of purpose, while simultaneously ensuring they are working towards the overall objectives of the company.

C

Some typical ineffective behaviours that irritate staff include the manager's forgetting to pass on the latest company news, or relying on the slow trickle-down of information by word of mouth regarding changes in policy. All staff need to be kept up-to-date so they can maintain a level of professionalism with the customers and clients they deal with. It is wrong to take the attitude that they will hear 'sooner or later'. Managers must ensure employees receive the information they need to do their jobs swiftly and efficiently, and must have clear strategies for achieving this.

D

When an employee needs to talk to you about something, make sure that you set aside the time to do so. If the knock comes at an inconvenient moment, then tell the employee exactly when you can see them. This will reassure them that you consider their comments and contributions to be of value. Even if the conversation takes place in an informal setting, make sure there is nothing to distract you. This means turning off your cell phone, facing away from your computer, and closing the door to other employees. Focus on the person standing in front of you, and in return, they will hold you in high regard.

E

At some point in time, in any workplace environment, there are bound to be staff members who do not see eye-to-eye, or worse, bear some kind of grudge towards another employee. Ignoring this and hoping the situation will resolve itself is a recipe for disaster. An effective manager will be methodical in the way he or she breaks down the cause of a dispute or ongoing tension into manageable pieces. They will encourage the people involved to make suggestions that will improve working relationships immediately. Tackling this kind of situation head on can empower both the employer and the employees in question.

IELTS PRACTICE TASK

Job Description

Restaurant Manager

A

The restaurant manager will meet all of the company's human resources objectives. This involves recruiting suitable kitchen, waiting and administration staff and providing relevant coaching and training where appropriate. You will get the best performance out of the staff by providing a supportive and positive working environment. However, it may also be necessary to provide staff with constructive criticism and enforce disciplinary measures where appropriate. Staff must feel assured at all times that their workplace is safe and healthy and the manager will actively work to promote this.

B

The manager's role includes working with the chefs to plan the menus and adjust them where necessary to reflect seasonal availability of produce and other variations on the supply side. You must also form a strategic overview of the market and identify coming trends in the hospitality and restaurant industry so that the business can position itself to best advantage going forward. Development of the skills necessary to maintain the ambiance of the premises is paramount, for example by regulating the lighting, background music, linen service, dinnerware and utensil quality and placement.

C

It is the responsibility of the manager to provide an environment for both guests and employees that meets all statutory requirements. These include following and enforcing sanitation standards, complying with workplace local authority regulations, developing and implementing disaster plans in accordance with government guidelines and maintaining the parking area and walkways. Furthermore you must satisfy the company's financial objectives by drawing up in advance the forecast of annual expenditure, monitoring all incomings and outgoings and keeping proper records so that the business meets all of its liabilities.

D

All measures should be taken to publicise the restaurant by designing and placing effective advertisements in appropriate media. Related initiatives may include inviting food editors to review the restaurant, contacting local, regional and national magazines with feature ideas and encouraging local businesses to hold social events at the restaurant. In addition, the manager's knowledge of the

TASK TYPE 7 Matching Information

hospitality sector and their own role within it will be updated by regular participation in educational opportunities, maintaining personal networks and membership of industry organisations. In these ways the restaurant manager will best meet the needs of all stakeholders.

Questions 1–6

The text has four sections, A–D.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

NB *You may use any letter more than once.*

- 1 the need to predict future changes in dining fashions
- 2 the requirement to keep all accounts and budgets up to date
- 3 a contrast between two different aspects of the job
- 4 the obligation to complete ongoing professional development
- 5 the importance of ensuring the restaurant complies with legislation
- 6 the ability to coordinate the atmosphere and physical environment of the restaurant

IELTS PRACTICE TASK**Company policy regarding work leave**

During the first 90 days of employment full and part-time employees will not earn vacation benefits. During the remaining nine months of the first year of employment, a full-time employee will earn two weeks (10 days) of paid vacation. Full-time employees will continue to earn two weeks (10 days) of vacation during the second year of employment. In their third year of employment, full-time employees will earn three weeks (15 days) of vacation, and in the fourth year, four weeks (20 days) of vacation per year. Part-time employees receive vacation benefits in proportion to the hours they work. Use of vacation leave must be requested using the official leave request form.

Sick leave benefits are earned on a pro-rata basis of one day (7 hours) per month for full-time employees beginning at first day of employment. Part-time employees receive pro-rata sick leave benefits (i.e. 3.5 hours per month if the employee works 17.5 hours per week). Temporary employees are ineligible for these kinds of benefits. Unused sick leave can accumulate from year to year up to a maximum of 30 days (210 hours) for full-time employees. No sick leave benefits are paid upon separation of employment from the company.

The company provides three (3) days of personal leave per calendar year to all employees who have completed six months of employment. Note that personal leave cannot be carried into the next year.

Employees are entitled to certain unpaid parental leave. A parent is entitled to a total of 24 hours of unpaid leave during any 12-month period to attend or participate in school-related events for his or her child. While parental leave is unpaid, employees may decide to use vacation or personal leave. If the need for parental leave is foreseeable, the employee must write and request parental leave at least 10 days prior to the event. If the employee's need for parental leave is not foreseeable 10 days prior to the event, the employee must provide a written request as soon as he or she learns of the need for such leave.

Employees who have been employed by the company for at least one year may apply for extended and unpaid leaves of absence for up to eight weeks. When considering when to grant or refuse a request for extended leave, the employee's managers will take into account the employee's position, their length of service, their performance record, the purpose of the leave and the needs of the department in which the company works. The company cannot guarantee reinstatement upon return from extended leave. The company will, however, make a reasonable effort to place the employee in an available position for which he or she is qualified. If such a position is not available, then the employee's employment will terminate. Even in that event, the employee may later apply for re-employment.

TASK TYPE 8 Matching Features

Look at the following statements (Questions 1–7) and the list of different types of work leave.

Match each statement with the type of work leave, **A–E**.

Write the correct letter, **A–E**.

NB You may use any letter more than once.

- 1 If this leave remains unused in one year, employees are not allowed to transfer it to the following year.
- 2 If necessary, there can be some flexibility in when this leave can be applied for.
- 3 Part-time employees have to apply for this leave by using an appropriate document.
- 4 The company will consider a variety of factors before agreeing to this leave.
- 5 If this leave is not taken in one year, it can be transferred and used in the following year.
- 6 There is a possibility that employees may no longer have a job after taking this kind of leave.
- 7 Employees who do not have a permanent contract are not entitled to this kind of leave.

List of different types of work leave

- A** Vacation
- B** Sick leave
- C** Personal leave
- D** Parental leave
- E** Extended leave

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

IELTS PRACTICE TASK

Events in city libraries

Storytime

When: Various times – check with individual libraries

Where: Multiple locations – check with individual libraries

The highly popular storytimes are sessions of stories read aloud by librarians and sometimes by the authors themselves. These sessions are ideal for kids aged 3–5 years. Some libraries offer regular storytimes in languages other than English, such as Mandarin, Maori and even Swedish. We also often design our sessions to include major celebrations such as Christmas, New Year as it is celebrated by different cultures, or Eid, the feast at the end of Ramadan. While there is no need to book, most libraries can accommodate up to 25 children per session, so do come early to guarantee a seat.

After-school centres

When: During term time

Where: Multiple locations – check with individual libraries

Many libraries in the city and suburbs offer this free service after school has finished for the day. Children and teens can get assistance and guidance with the particular projects that their teacher has set for the term. Libraries are happy to deal with relevant questions and activities, including ways to conduct research, and ways to use technologically effectively. Your librarian can:

- demonstrate how to search the internet safely and easily.
- provide help with printing.
- give pointers on accessing the libraries eResources like PlanetPlus or Knowledge for Schools online.
- explain how to use Microsoft Office programmes like Word and Publisher to enhance the presentation of work submitted, which is often a key aspect of assessment in the school curriculum.

TASK TYPE 9 Sentence Completion

Adults' book group

When: First Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m.–11.30 a.m.

Where: Southbank Library

Do you enjoy talking about the books you've read? Would you like to hear about books others have enjoyed? Come along and join our book club, where you can share your favourite reads, make friends with other enthusiastic readers and discover new titles and the background of the people who wrote them. Our regular group has already looked at historical fiction, the classics and horror, and crime is next on the list for November/December. You are welcome to suggest other genres of fiction. Tea and biscuits provided. Please note: This group does not meet in the month of January. There is no charge for this session.

Questions 1–6

Look at the text about the events taking place in a city's libraries.

Complete the sentences below.

*Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the text for each answer.*

Write your answers below.

- 1 Children are told stories by as well as by librarians.
- 2 Storytime sessions might be heard in a variety of in different libraries.
- 3 Librarians can assist children with researching their school
- 4 Librarians can help children with the of their work because this is something that will be graded.
- 5 Book club members are planning to read books on the subject of at their next meeting.
- 6 No meetings in have been scheduled for the book club.

IELTS PRACTICE TASK**Nightly Live!**

The 7 o'clock television show that has become a national institution.

In the more than twenty years since it first aired, the current affairs television show *Nightly Live* has become part of the broadcasting landscape. The show can be relied on to provide in-depth coverage of the day's leading news stories backed up by interviews with news-makers and analysis from leading commentators. Indeed, *Nightly Live* has been so successful it's easy to forget that when it started in 1994, the producers weren't certain the show would last more than six months. The main reason for this was the crowded 7 p.m. marketplace: *Nightly Live* went up against two high-rating rival programmes with a similar current affairs format. Several prominent media analysts doubted there was room for a third player and predicted that *Nightly Live* would fail to find an audience.

The show's point of difference has always been its preparedness to ask the difficult questions. While other current affairs programmes stuck with a tried and tested formula, *Nightly Live* raised awkward topics and was prepared to act as the nation's conscience. This approach was not without its critics and there were some notable mistakes by the programme's makers in the early years, but it also won the respect of a significant cross-section of society. At this point its rivals lost their nerve and started experimenting with different formats, looking for a more light-hearted or entertainment-oriented style that might recapture their market share, which by 2003 was in serious decline. *Nightly Live*, however, stuck with its winning formula and for this reason, two years later, became the highest rating television programme in its class.

Bryce Williams has been the show's presenter from the beginning and today there are few figures in broadcast journalism with a higher profile. However, when asked for his views on what has made *Nightly Live* just so successful, Williams is modest, praising the work of editors, technicians and reporters and stressing that he is just one among a group of dedicated professionals who make the programme possible. Without them, he insists, there would be no *Nightly Live*. Williams started his career in radio and went on to a reporter's role on the evening television news, before becoming a presenter. In person, he's a shy, almost awkward man, whose trademark is the beautifully made business suits he wears on every occasion, most famously even to a rock concert, though he did remove his tie! One gets the feeling that he never entirely relaxes: Bryce Williams is always to some extent at work; always looking for the next story. It's remarkable that perhaps the only real development that it's possible to see in his programme's format has come in the sports' section, where over the years an element of satire and parody has come into the normally dry coverage, the host being very happy to mock what he sees as the excessive salaries that are becoming increasingly commonplace.

TASK TYPE 10 Summary Completion

Questions 1–6

Complete the summary using the list of words, **A–H**, below.

Nightly Live!

In 1994, the **1** meant that setting up a show of this sort at 7 p.m. was a risk. The show initially succeeded because of its **2**, which made it popular with a wide range of people. The show's **3** resulted in it becoming the number one current affairs show in 2005. Bryce Williams says that it's the **4** that should get most credit for *Nightly Live's* success. He is a shy man who is distinguished by his **5** The main change to the show over the years has been the **6**, especially in the sports' section.

- A** consistent approach
- B** limited funding
- C** popular alternatives
- D** smart clothing
- E** teamwork
- F** sense of humour
- G** changing fashions
- H** controversial content

IELTS PRACTICE TASK

The Twins experiments

How scientists have used twins to compare the role of genetics versus the role of upbringing in shaping a person's behaviour

The idea of using twins to measure the influence of heredity dates back to 1875, when the English scientist Francis Galton first suggested the approach (and coined the phrase 'nature and nurture'). But twin studies took a surprising twist in the 1980s, following the discovery of numerous identical twins who had been separated at birth.

The story began with the much publicized case of two brothers, both named Jim. Born in Piqua, Ohio, in 1939, Jim Springer and Jim Lewis were put up for adoption as babies and raised by different couples, who happened to give them the same first name. When Jim Springer reconnected with his brother at age 39 in 1979, they uncovered a string of incredible similarities and coincidences. Both men were six feet tall and weighed 180 pounds. Growing up, they'd both had dogs named Toy and taken family vacations in St. Pete Beach in Florida. They named their sons James Alan and James Allan. They both had served as part-time sheriffs, enjoyed home carpentry projects, and suffered severe headaches. Their voices were indistinguishable, and they both admitted to leaving love notes around the house for their wives.

As soon as he heard about the two Jims, Thomas Bouchard, Jr., a psychologist at the University of Minnesota, invited them to his lab in Minneapolis. There he and his team gave the brothers a series of tests that confirmed their similarities. Although each had charted his own course in life, the Jim twins, as they came to be known, seemed to have followed the same paths.

'I remember sitting at a table with them when they first arrived,' Bouchard says. 'They both had fingernails that were nibbled down to the end. And I thought, No psychologist asks about that, but here it is, staring you in the face.'

Over the next two decades, 137 sets of twins visited Bouchard's lab in what became known as the Minnesota Study of Twins Reared Apart. The twins were tested for mental skills, such as vocabulary, visual memory, arithmetic, and spatial rotation. They were given lung-function tests and heart exams and had their brain waves measured. They took personality tests and IQ tests. Altogether, each twin was bombarded with more than 15,000 questions.

TASK TYPE 11 Matching Sentence Endings

Armed with this mountain of data, Bouchard and his colleagues set out to unravel some of the knottiest mysteries of human nature: Why are some people happy and others sad? Why are some outgoing and others shy? Where does general intelligence come from? When they looked at the data on twins' intelligence, Bouchard's team reached a controversial conclusion: For people raised in the same culture with the same opportunities, differences in IQ reflected largely differences in genetic inheritance rather than in training or education. This ran counter to the prevailing belief of 'behaviourist-theory' scientists that our brains were blank slates waiting to be inscribed by experience.

The researchers also questioned how much parenting affects intelligence levels. When they compared identical twins raised in different families, like the Jim twins, with those raised in the same family, they found each pair's IQ scores to be similar. It was as if it didn't matter in which family the twins had been raised. That didn't imply, Bouchard and his colleagues were quick to point out, that parents have no impact at all on their children. Without a loving and supportive environment, no child can reach his or her full potential, they said. But when it came to explaining why a particular group of children ended up with different IQ scores, 75 percent of the variation was due to genetics, not parenting.

Besides the Minnesota project, which ended in 2000, other studies have used twins research to examine all kinds of behaviors and attitudes. One investigation, for example, found that an identical twin with a criminal co-twin was more than 1.5 times as likely to break the law as a fraternal twin in the same situation, suggesting that genetic factors somehow set the stage for criminal behavior. Another study found that the depth or intensity of an individual's religious commitment was significantly shaped by heredity, though one's choice of affiliation—whether to become, say, a Methodist or a Roman Catholic within the Christian church, for example—was not.

Wherever scientists looked, it seemed, they found the invisible hand of genetic influence helping to shape our lives.

TASK TYPE 11 Matching Sentence Endings

Questions 1–5

Complete each sentence with the correct ending, **A–H**, below.

Write the correct letter, **A–H**.

- 1 The levels of intelligence that people possess
- 2 It is wrong to assume that the brains we are born with
- 3 Bouchard found that identical twins were equally intelligent even when they
- 4 Research has shown that the chances of criminal activity occurring
- 5 One study has suggested that genetic factors

- A** were brought up separately from one another.
- B** are influenced by the type of education they receive.
- C** are stronger in identical twins than fraternal ones.
- D** are influenced mainly by genetic inheritance.
- E** were dependent on a variety of socio-economic backgrounds.
- F** have the same potential for intellectual development.
- G** are not as significant as parental guidance.
- H** can be linked to the strength of a person's spiritual beliefs.

IELTS PRACTICE TASK**The Severn Valley Railway**

A steam-powered railway that still operates today.

Construction of the Severn Valley Railway in the west of England began in 1858 and continued over the following decades. The original line, which operated using borrowed engines and carriages, ran roughly along the course of the River Severn, requiring numerous bridges to be built across the water, and effectively forming a link between largely rural communities close to the Welsh border, and the heavy industrial and manufacturing urban centre around Birmingham. The railway played an important role in the economic development of the area in the early part of the twentieth century, when four passenger trains operated daily, as well as freight services carrying mostly agricultural produce or coal. However, the railway's swift decline from the 1930s onwards is mostly attributable to the rise of motorised trucks, which carried an increasing volume of the region's freight. By the time cars became commonly available in the 1960s, the railway was already fighting for survival, although there was still some demand for passenger services as buses were infrequent in this relatively isolated part of the country.

The line was closed to all passenger and freight services in 1963 and part of the track was actually dismantled. This may well have spelt the end for the Severn Valley Railway, but for a small group of people who were determined to preserve it. The preservation team included local rail enthusiasts and also engineers, drivers and other former employees of the railway, all of whom were determined to keep it going as a tourism venture. Their expertise meant that the work maintaining the track and trains was relatively straightforward, though obtaining the legal authority to keep the system open, known as a Light Railway Order, from the Department of Environment, posed considerable difficulties and was only accomplished after many years' work. Fortunately, the preservation team proved themselves to be extremely competent fund-raisers, accumulating more than £150,000 for the project by 1974, when the line first reopened.

Throughout the 1970s and 80s, visitor numbers grew and the revenue from ticket sales, together with continued fundraising, meant that by the mid-1990s, it was possible to start work on a further round of improvements. Unfortunately, the former railway land north of the town of Bridgenorth had been sold into private ownership and it proved impossible to buy it back and continue the line in that direction, as had once been hoped. However, the much anticipated construction of the Kidderminster Town Station was finally completed with its glazed concourse canopy and purpose-built refreshment room which was a significant milestone. The celebrations were only slightly overshadowed by the very severe storms in June and July of that year which damaged the track in more than 40 places, requiring a considerable amount of work before the service could reopen.

One very successful feature of the railway today are the special events held regularly throughout the year. These originally started on a very informal basis when a few volunteers would dress up in old-fashioned clothes to recreate the way of life during one era of the railway's operation – for a few hours anyway. However, these events proved so popular that they have now become regular fixtures that involve not only clothing but food, music, entertainment – whatever the participants can think of – in order to remember and celebrate each decade since the railway was built. Most of these events are absolutely free of charge; in fact they rely on the energy and resourcefulness of our supporters and regular visitors. However, a number of special events are private functions for birthdays or other celebrations when groups can book a carriage for their party or perhaps a meal in our refurbished dining car.

The most recent addition to the railway has been the engine house. As the name suggests, this is the old workshop where in the past the locomotives and carriages were maintained and repaired. However, after falling into disuse for many years, it has now been fully restored as an exhibition and function centre. One of the highlights is the magnificent royal carriage used by the late King George VI, which has now been returned to near perfect condition. You will also find displays showing exactly how the whole railway operates today from a practical point of view, including the signals, coaling and engine maintenance. All in all it's the ideal way to end a trip on the Severn Valley Railway.

Questions 1–6

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

The Severn Valley Railway

- 1** The original railway connected
 - A** the coast and the city.
 - B** two different industrial cities.
 - C** the countryside and the city.
 - D** two areas of countryside.

- 2** What was the most important reason for the railway's decline?
 - A** the use of trucks to carry goods
 - B** regular bus services for passengers
 - C** more people owning private cars
 - D** the construction of another railway

TASK TYPE 12 Multiple Choice

- 3** The biggest problem facing the preservation team after 1963 was
- A** repairing the engines and carriages.
 - B** gaining permission from the government.
 - C** finding people to manage the railway.
 - D** raising money to run the railway as a tourism venture.
- 4** What improvement was made in the mid-1990s?
- A** A new station was built.
 - B** More land was bought.
 - C** The track was upgraded.
 - D** An engine was restored.
- 5** What point is made about special events?
- A** All special events are open to the public to attend.
 - B** The first event was very carefully planned.
 - C** The purpose of the events is to raise money.
 - D** Each event celebrates a particular historical period.
- 6** What can visitors see in the Engine House?
- A** An explanation of how a steam engine works
 - B** A real workshop where old engines are repaired.
 - C** An example of one unusually luxurious carriage.
 - D** A full account of the railway's historical development.

TASK TYPE 13 Identifying the Writer's Views and Claims (Yes/No/Not Given)

IELTS PRACTICE TASK

Keeping the wild in captivity

What can explain the trend for keeping wild animals as pets?

Think of a lion, and you think of Africa. Visualize a kangaroo, and you're viewing the Australian outback. With a lemur, it's probably the island of Madagascar. It's possible, depending on your proximity to the local zoo, that you've also seen these creatures in captivity. What you probably don't imagine is such animals living in the backyards and basements of America. In some US states, however, while you need a licence for a dog, there is no such requirement for tigers, snakes, chimpanzees and so on.

In some states, law makers have taken a harder line and wild animal ownership is banned. This does not mean, however, that the owning and selling of exotic pets does not persist. Very little money goes towards implementing the laws that do exist, and smuggling animals across state lines is relatively easy: at the state-line checkpoints, there are no toll-booth operators actively looking for wild animals hidden in vehicles. Even when illegal traders are caught, in most cases, the US Fish and Wildlife Service will only issue a fine for a few hundred dollars – not much of a disincentive considering how lucrative this trade can be.

Some of the worst offenders are the so-called 'petting zoos' that breed an average of 200 tiger cubs a year just so that people can have a photo taken with them. Many of these cubs are then sold at auction, along with baby chimpanzees dressed in human baby clothes. People make a decision to buy these animals as pets based on how adorable the animal looks at this early stage of life. What they fail to realise is that once the animal matures it will no longer be so manageable. Many captive infant animals are naturally submissive, as they would be in their natural circumstances, but submissive is not the same as domesticated. No matter how long an exotic animal spends in human company, and despite the training it might receive, as an adult it will still retain its wild nature. Whatever its natural instincts are, there will come a time when they are acted upon.

Organisations such as Born Free USA keep databases of deaths and injuries directly linked to exotic-pet ownership but the statistics do not seem to be putting people off. But if you keep venomous snakes in your home, interact with a full-grown chimp, or enter your mountain lion's enclosure, then common sense should dictate what will inevitably follow. Rather than acting surprised and claiming that the animal acted out of character, owners should recognise that the animal is, in fact, acting exactly as evolution intended.

TASK TYPE 13 Identifying the Writer's Views and Claims (Yes/No/Not Given)

Having spent the last five years interviewing a diverse range of exotic pet owners, I would divide them into overlapping categories when it comes to their reasons for buying them. There are the owners who use pets to fulfil emotional needs – often treating them as surrogate children. Some people will buy large carnivores such as tigers and wolves as symbols of status and power, much as they would an expensive car. Then there are the people who buy on impulse. Lastly, there are those who truly believe they are rescuing a wild animal by bringing it into their home.

Eventually, many of these pets end up in an animal sanctuary after the owners become overwhelmed by the cost and commitment required for their animal's care. Certainly most sanctuaries can at least provide a larger space for the animal or ensure it is given the correct diet, but many have also been set up purely to make a profit. They do this by commercially breeding the animals or charging the public to interact with them. It is only a minority of sanctuaries that are run solely for the well-being of the animals, and these have become crowded. Now they will take in only what they can afford to care for, so many unwanted pets must be turned away.

Can there be any good reason for keeping exotic pets? Some owners and breeders insist that the desire to preserve and protect threatened species is what motivates them, referring to the consequences of climate change, poaching and habitat loss. They claim that by maintaining numbers in captivity, extinction can be avoided. I would dispute this; whatever the reason for breeding may be, it serves only to keep alive the demand for exotic animals. It is this demand that then encourages the illegal taking of animals from the wild, dramatically reducing the chances of a species' survival. Surely this is the final say in the argument?

Questions 1–6

Do the following statements agree with the views of the writer of the text?

In boxes 1–6 on your answer sheet write

YES	<i>if the statement agrees with the views of the writer</i>
NO	<i>if the statement contradicts the views of the writer</i>
NOT GIVEN	<i>if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this</i>

- 1 It is very difficult to enforce the laws regarding exotic pets.
- 2 It is possible to domesticate exotic animals over a very long period of time.
- 3 People should expect to receive injuries from the exotic pets they keep.
- 4 Some people have better reasons for keeping exotic pets than others.
- 5 Good sanctuaries may refuse to accept some animals they are offered.
- 6 The breeding of exotic pets may be an approach that helps prevent extinction.

ANSWER KEY

TASK TYPE 1 Identifying Information (True/False/Not Given)

- 1 TRUE 2 NOT GIVEN 3 FALSE
4 FALSE 5 FALSE 6 NOT GIVEN

TASK TYPE 2 Note Completion

- 1 7/seven 2 bucket 3 red 4 supermarket
5 17/17th August 6 new crossing 7 parking
8 diverted

TASK TYPE 3 Flow-chart Completion

- 1 new employees You must ensure that a copy has been given to all **new employees** who may have taken up positions with the company since the last MSS.
- 2 departmental wardens To do this you should coordinate with the **departmental wardens**, who will visually inspect all of the equipment in their sector.
- 3 branch manager You must work closely with the **branch manager** to establish a suitable time for this to take place
- 4 medical officer Your point of contact here is the **medical officer**, who will provide ...
- 5 district council In fact, these should go directly to the **district council** (see Appendix A for contact details). This must be done no later than 14 days after completing the MSS in order for it to be valid.
- 6 company secretary Then the last stage of the schedule is to forward copies of all of the paperwork you have collected, together with your own final assessment to the

company secretary, who will then make a record in the national database.

TASK TYPE 4 Diagram Labelling

- 1 wooden figures 2 woven baskets
3 a comb 4 gold coins 5 painted beads

TASK TYPE 5 Short Answer Questions

- 1 six/6 hours 2 pregnant women
3 machinery 4 feeling dizzy
5 (a) (severe) headache 6 heat

TASK TYPE 6 Matching Headings

- 1 iii 2 ii 3 i 4 viii 5 vi

TASK TYPE 7 Matching Information

- 1 B You must also form a strategic overview of the market and identify coming trends in the hospitality and restaurant industry
- 2 C ... satisfy the company's financial objectives by drawing up in advance the forecast of annual expenditure, monitoring all incomings and outgoings and keeping proper records ...
- 3 A ... providing a supportive and positive working environment. However, it may also be necessary to provide staff with constructive criticism and enforce disciplinary measures where appropriate.

ANSWER KEY

4 D ... updated by regular participation in educational opportunities, maintaining personal networks and membership of industry organisations.

5 C ... meets all statutory requirements. These include following and enforcing sanitation standards, complying with workplace local authority regulations, developing and implementing disaster plans in accordance with government guidelines ...

6 B Development of the skills necessary to maintain the ambiance of the premises is paramount, for example by regulating the lighting, background music, linen service, dinnerware ...

TASK TYPE 8 Matching Features

1 C 2 D 3 A 4 E 5 B 6 E 7 B

TASK TYPE 9 Sentence Completion

1 authors 2 languages 3 projects
4 presentation 5 crime 6 January

TASK TYPE 10 Summary Completion

1 C ... the crowded 7 p.m. marketplace ... two high-rating rival programmes ... media analysts doubted there was room for a third player ...

2 H ... raised awkward topics ... not without its critics ... a significant cross-section of society.

3 A ... its rivals lost their nerve and started experimenting ... *Nightly Live*, however, stuck with its winning formula ...

4 E the work of editors, technicians and reporters ... he is just one among a group ...

5 D beautifully made business suits ...

6 F in the sports' section, where over the years an element of satire and parody has come into the normally dry coverage

TASK TYPE 11 Matching Sentence Endings

1 D 2 F 3 A 4 C 5 H

TASK TYPE 12 Multiple Choice

1 C ... effectively forming a link between largely rural communities close to the Welsh border, and the heavy industrial and manufacturing urban centre around Birmingham.

2 A ... is mostly attributable to the rise of motorised trucks, which carried an increasing volume of the region's freight.

3 B ... though obtaining the legal authority to keep the system open, known as a Light Railway Order, from the Department of Environment, posed considerable difficulties ...

4 A ... the much anticipated construction of the Kidderminster Town Station was finally completed ...

ANSWER KEY

5 D ... dress up in old-fashioned clothes to recreate the way of life during one era of the railway's operation ...

6 C One of the highlights is the magnificent royal carriage used by the late King George VI which VI, which has now been returned to near perfect condition.

TASK TYPE 13 Identifying the Writer's Views and Claims (Yes/No/Not Given)

1 YES **2** NO **3** NOT GIVEN

4 NOT GIVEN **5** YES **6** NO