

# HIPPO S15 Sample

## Preliminary Round

### Reading

Time allowed: 45 minutes



### Reading Task 1

Read the article and circle the best option to complete the text – a, b, c, or d. An example has been done for you.

#### Bringing nature into cities

A report recently **0)**\_\_\_\_\_ online by the British Ecological Society shows that by doing things **1)**\_\_\_\_\_ planting more trees and increasing the **2)**\_\_\_\_\_ of green spaces in cities can improve the health of people living there. It also provides habitat - the natural environment for plants and animals - for local wildlife, and creates more green jobs.

"Britain's cities, being so densely populated, are often the only places where people get to **3)**\_\_\_\_\_ with nature. That's why improving this environment with nature-based solutions makes a lot of **4)**\_\_\_\_\_ ", said Professor Mark Smith, who was the lead author of the study. "Any outdoor space, no **5)**\_\_\_\_\_ how small, has value and can significantly improve our well-being."

The study focussed on towns and cities, and **6)**\_\_\_\_\_ that trees have a big role to play in tackling environmental problems. This is because they trap and store carbon, **7)**\_\_\_\_\_ can help to cool cities down during a heatwave. They also capture pollution and improve air quality.

One example of this is the city of Leicester. It **8)**\_\_\_\_\_ just 0.03% of Britain's land area but provides around 0.2% of its above-ground carbon storage, with 97% of that down to its trees! As well as trees, urban soil areas can also help by providing a **9)**\_\_\_\_\_ of calcium, a chemical element that absorbs carbon from the air.

Another **10)**\_\_\_\_\_ of cities the study looked at was green roofs - roof spaces with plants growing on top of them. The researchers found that this solution helped to tackle overheating and provided **11)**\_\_\_\_\_ spaces for wildlife.

The study is part of a bigger report which will be published later in the year. The report aims to share how nature-based solutions can **12)**\_\_\_\_\_ the problem of climate change and help biodiversity in the UK.

Example:  a) published      b) printed      c) given      d) made

## Reading Task 2

Read the text and answer the questions below. Circle the correct option, a, b, c, or d. An example has been done for you.

### The History and Science of Snowmen

Para. 1

As soon as the first snowflakes fall each winter, our thoughts turn to snowy games. Snowball fights and sledging are regular winter pastimes if the weather is right, as well as, of course, building snowmen. But what conditions do we need to maximise our chances of building the perfect winter friend? In this article, we will explore the science behind building snowmen, and why we make them in the first place.

#### A snowy selfie

It's difficult to say for certain when the first ever snowman was built, but snowman expert and illustrator Bob Eckstein believes snowmen are possibly as old as humans. Bob, who is also the author of *The History of the Snowman* and *The Illustrated History of the Snowman*, says it's possible we first built them in prehistoric times, as humans have always created images of themselves. But with snowmen, of course, none of their work would have survived.

Para. 3

While the creations themselves no longer GAP) \_\_\_\_\_, Bob says there is proof that people first built snowmen around 650 years ago. The earliest evidence is a snowman drawing in the margins of a *Book of Hours* (a handwritten prayer book) from 1380.

Bob thinks snowmen should actually be considered a form of art. "Centuries ago, building snowmen was a chance for people to express themselves when they were not occupied with daily responsibilities, with free art supplies dropping from the sky and onto their doorstep."

#### Cold as ice?

Para. 5

So, we know the why, but what about the how? How do we make not just a snowman, but the perfect snowman? First – and this may sound a little GAP 1) \_\_\_\_\_ – you need snow. But it may surprise you to learn that it doesn't need to be freezing for snow to fall. If rain falls continuously through air with a temperature even as high as 6°C, it may cause the air temperature to fall low enough to form snow. This can only happen with continuous rainfall as this can cool the air that surrounds it. GAP 2) \_\_\_\_\_, the warmer it is, the higher the chance the snow could melt before it reaches the ground. This is what leads to a mixture of raindrops and snow, otherwise known as sleet.

While sleet is not particularly helpful for building snowmen, very dry snow isn't ideal either. You need weather with some moisture (water content) so the snow sticks and you can form a snowball. If the air is too dry, snowman making will be difficult. The ideal air temperature for snowmen is just above 0°C. In these conditions, any snowflakes falling through the slightly moist air will start to melt and stick together to produce bigger flakes.

Para. 7

To test the conditions, try to form a snowball. But GAP) \_\_\_\_\_ the temptation to immediately throw it at somebody and wait to see how it holds together. If the snow sticks together, both as you compress it and once you've shaped it, the snow is perfect for building a snowman.

#### Section 4 title

A 3:2:1 ratio for a three-tiered (consisting of three separately formed snowballs) snowman has been the traditional shape of our creations, although the low levels of snowfall in the UK mean that we're more likely to create a two-tiered snowy friend, though structures consisting of just one tall snow shape can also be occasionally seen.

Para. 9

In 2017, Dr James Hind, senior lecturer in statistics at Nottingham Trent University, came up with a mathematical method for what he called the perfect snowman. It was designed to increase the length of time a snowman would last by slowing down the melting process. Dr Hind's research found that a snowman should be exactly 1.62 tall and made up of three large snowballs of three very specific sizes.

But Bob Eckstein thinks strict rules might actually take away a lot of the fun. "There is no perfect recipe for a snowman. That's the whole point. You can't make a wrong snowman! There's no judgment and everyone can see your creation in your garden". But appearances aren't everything when it comes to snowmen, according to Bob. Whether you're using sticks for arms or a matching green hat and scarf, the important thing is to enjoy it. So, next time it snows and you bring your magical snowy creations to life, remember you're playing your part in the history of art.

**Example: This article is about**

- a) building snowmen.
- b) winter months.
- c) snow pollution.
- d) weather patterns.

## Reading Task 3

A) Read the three texts and answer the questions below by indicating which text each question relates to: A, B, or C.

An example has been done for you.

### Text A

#### International Tea Day

Every year on May 21st, International Tea Day promotes ways to support the production and consumption of tea in ways which are not harmful to the environment. It's important to note that tea production is highly sensitive to changes in growing conditions. Tea can only be produced in very specific conditions and, therefore, in a very limited number of countries, and climate change might make it even more challenging to grow soon.

You might be surprised to know that it's tea and not coffee that is the preferred drink for millions of people in the world. Every second, people consume 25,000 cups of tea, which adds up to 2.16 billion cups of tea per day!

As the world population increases, so will the number of tea drinkers. Tea is especially popular in India and China. These two countries are home to 37% of the world's total population. According to legend, Chinese Emperor Shen Hung GAP 1) \_\_\_\_\_ tea when leaves from a tree blew into his pot of boiling water, nearly 5,000 years ago. People in China and around the world have been drinking tea ever since.

GAP 2) \_\_\_\_\_ drinking it for taste, many tea drinkers enjoy the positive impact tea has on the body. For example, it reduces the risk of heart attacks and strokes, protects the bones and prevents tooth loss.

Tea producers hold events on this day to educate the public on the importance of this drink. Tea-houses host tea-tasting events and people throughout the world gather together for tea parties. The best way to participate is to drink a cup of tea - be sure to try a flavour of tea you've never had before.

### Text B

#### World Baking Day

Every third Sunday in May, World Baking Day inspires people to bake for their loved ones, friends, and neighbours, as a way of showing that you appreciate their presence in your life.

People have been baking for thousands of years. The earliest bread was made in or around 8000 BC in the Middle East, specifically in Egypt. The Egyptians were also the first to use yeast, the natural ingredient that makes the bread raise. Besides bread, cakes were also a popular food to bake. The earliest cakes were more bread-like than they are nowadays.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, baking became a little more adventurous as people travelled more and brought various ingredients back with them from faraway places. There was an abundance of syrups, spices, and dried fruit, which made baked goods taste even

more delicious. By the late 17th century, sugar was less expensive. GAP) \_\_\_\_\_, people began making small pies with sugar and spices. Eventually, other ingredients like eggs, flour, and baking powder were used more and more.

The best way to observe this day is to bake something delicious for a special person in your life. This day is also a great day to teach your kids to bake. Go ahead and try to bake something you've never made before, or host a cake decorating contest.

## Text C

### World Laughter Day

Every year on the first Sunday in May, World Laughter Day raises awareness of laughter and the many benefits it provides. Another goal of the day is to promote global happiness and connect people through laughter.

You have probably heard the saying "laughter is the best medicine." Even psychologists and medical doctors say there is some truth to this statement. That's because there is some evidence that laughter can do many wonderful things. Laughter can help our bodies fight off viruses and diseases, and it activates the release of chemicals that give people an overall sense of well-being. Some research suggests that laughter helps us burn calories, GAP 1) \_\_\_\_\_ approximately 40 calories per 10 minutes of laughter. I have attempted to lose some weight by watching comedy films, but without much success so far!

Dr. Madan Kataria, a family doctor from India, established World Laughter Day on May 10, 1998. Dr. Kataria also started the Laughter Yoga movement, which is based on the idea that facial expressions, for example a smile, can have an effect on the emotions we experience. So if you make yourself smile, you will GAP 2) \_\_\_\_\_ feel happier and more relaxed.

Which text...

Text

Example: describes an event which takes place on 21<sup>st</sup> May?

A

# HIPPO S15 Sample

Preliminary Round

Use of English Test

Time allowed: 30 minutes



**Choose a, b or c to complete the sentences.**

Emma's eyes rested on \_\_\_\_\_ letter. Here was \_\_\_\_\_ opportunity she had been waiting for.

- a) the / the                      b) a / the                      c) the / -

Nobody expected they would \_\_\_\_\_ with FC Barcelona.

- a) win                              b) draw                              c) lose

'I'm so in love with him. I'm in a \_\_\_\_\_ most of the time!'

- a) maze                              b) craze                              c) daze

My bank manager wants to speak to me urgently because my account is \_\_\_\_\_ .

- a) bankrupt                      b) red                              c) overdrawn

'Connecting people' has been a very successful international \_\_\_\_\_ for Nokia.

- a) moto                              b) advertisement                      c) slogan