

## Reading practice test 1 - IELTS General Training

*Please note that this is not an official IELTS past paper*

Time yourself to allow a **maximum twenty minutes** to complete this section.

---

This is based on the third section of the IELTS General Training Reading test. It contains two pieces of writing. Read each piece and answer the questions.

Questions 23-29 Read the text below and answer the questions.

- a. The grammar and key vocabulary of English comes from Anglo Saxon making English essentially a Germanic language. Around 30% of the words we use in English are Anglo Saxon in origin and they tend to be the most commonly used – over 70% according to most estimates. The top ten most commonly used verbs, for example, are all survivors from old English.
- b. What makes the English language unusual is that its lexicon (vocabulary) borrows heavily from other languages. These loanwords typically come from Latin, Greek and French Latin, though there are many more recent examples from other languages. *Robot*, for example, has a Czech origin.
- c) Perhaps surprisingly, the Roman occupation of Britain had little initial impact on the evolution of the English language. Only place names like *London*, *Bath* & *Chester* originate from the official language of the occupiers.
- d) It was with the arrival of Christian missionaries in the 6th and 7th centuries that significant numbers of Latin words began entering the lexicon. Latin was the *lingua franca* or common language of the Christian world, with the mass or service being conducted in Latin. Other religious words like *abbot*, *altar*, *apostle* and *candle* gradually came into common use.
- e) The invasion of the Normans in 1066 greatly increased the number of ‘foreign’ words in common use. The Normans introduced a legal system with its own vocabulary: words like *jury* and *verdict*. In a sense this was a further expansion of the influence of Latin, as what became known as Anglo-Norman had Latin roots. Sometimes the new anglo-norman words existed alongside existing anglo-saxon ones: beef and cow for example.
- f) Though the Norman dialect declined, French remained the language of court and learning. It had a prestige which is still present today. The lexicon associated with

diplomacy, for example, draws heavily on French words: *coup*, *envoy*, *embassy*, *detente* etc

g) The frequency of Greek terms in English can again be traced back to the importance of Latin. Mediaeval scholars learned Greek vocabulary by studying Latin texts. Words with a Greek origin are particularly common in medicine, science and education.

h) Words with a *-phy* or *-gy* suffix typically have Greek roots: *geography*, *demography* and *etymology*, for example. About 5% of commonly English words have a direct Greek origin but around 25% come via Latin.

---

### Questions 23-30

The text has eight paragraphs, A-H. Which paragraph contains the following information? Choose the correct letter for questions 23-30.3.

- 23. The introduction of new laws.
  - 24. Why French retained its influence.
  - 25. The structure of English.
  - 26. How to identify Greek words
  - 27. Religious words
  - 28. Naming of places
  - 29. How Greek words entered English
  - 30. Loanwords in English
- 

### Questions 36-40

Complete the summary below. Choose no more than two words from the text for each answer

The structure of the English is essentially (30) .... This means that while (31) .... have been added from many different languages, the (33) .... remains largely unaffected. Around a third of English words are Anglo-Saxon but these tend to be the most (34) ..... The English vocabulary or (35) .... draws heavily on Latin, Greek and French but the majority of imported words via Latin.

The Romans brought Latin to England but it was (36) **Christian missionaries** who introduced religious words like *mass* and *altar*. And was Norman (37) .... which put words with a Latin (38) .... at the centre of the legal and administrative systems.

(39) .... also entered English via Latin. These (40) .... have a 'a - phy or -gy suffix.