



# Reading 1

## General State

### Exam

## the English-speaking World

London

Scotland

Ireland

New Zealand

South Africa

India

holidays

## other geographical regions

Iceland

Antarctica

Falkland Islands

the Isle of Wight

Singapore

Valentine's Day

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas

New Year

## global culture

LEGO

ravens

the Beatles

Irish traditions

coffee

Olympic Games

Shrek

street art

tourism

the Channel Tunnel

mobile phones



1. What should the main New Year tree of the country look like?
2. What is one of the legends of the Christmas tree?
3. What are the advantages of artificial Christmas trees?
4. What rules did people follow in the past when decorating the Christmas tree?
5. Who changed the date of New Year's Day in his country?
6. How did the technological progress change Christmas decorations?
7. How did the tradition of decorating the tree with coloured glass balls start?

Why do people decorate Christmas trees at home? There are

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. Why is the musical about Shrek successful?
2. What makes Shrek different from traditional fairytale characters?
3. The voices of which celebrities can we hear in the cartoons about Shrek?
4. What famous films do the cartoons about Shrek remind us of?
5. Why do children like the cartoons about Shrek?
6. Why can Shrek's story be interesting to computer gamers?
7. What person does Shrek look like?

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. How many of the native people of New Zealand still live there?
2. What meteorological information can you get looking at the flag?
3. What traditions have the Maoris kept to the present day?
4. Which tourist destination in New Zealand can become extremely dangerous?
5. Where can you see the landscapes of New Zealand without going there?
6. How did people damage the ecosystem of New Zealand?
7. After which European place was New Zealand named?

Ever since the first 'Lord of the Rings' film was released in

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. Why did a prehistoric reptile get a girl's name?
2. Where is the Isle of Wight?
3. What is the origin of the island's name?
4. What animal is prohibited on the Isle of Wight?
5. What is the emblem of the Isle of Wight?
6. What do tourists take from the Isle of Wight as a memory?
7. What is special about the language spoken on the island?

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. What people live on the continent?
2. What is done to protect Antarctica's environment?
3. How was Antarctica discovered?
4. What would happen if Antarctica's temperature rose?
5. How has the continent changed over the years?
6. What are the colours of Antarctica's flag?
7. Why is Antarctica often called a dry land?

Antarctica has no government and no country owns this

Antarctica contains about 90 percent of the world's ice. It

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. Why were ravens considered to be scary and dangerous birds?
2. Why is keeping a raven as a pet really difficult?
3. How do ravens entertain themselves?
4. What is a raven's essential diet?
5. How can you distinguish a raven from a crow?
6. Why are ravens important for Great Britain?
7. What tricks do ravens play to get and save their food?

A

D

B

E

C

F





1. What goods were made from the plant, the symbol of Scotland?
2. What is the national sporting event of the country?
3. What endangered plants grow in the Scottish Highlands?
4. What plant brings luck and success?
5. What is the stereotype of Scotland like?
6. Why is Scotland an attractive place for those who love sports?
7. What is the modern profile of Scotland like?

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. Which object made the company famous?
2. Why are some sets of LEGO twice as big?
3. Where does the name LEGO come from?
4. Why is LEGO considered to be an educational toy?
5. Who are the owners of LEGO?
6. Why do adults enjoy LEGO toys?
7. What can make some LEGO-toy customers unhappy?

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. How did the band get their first manager?
2. How many songs did *The Beatles* record?
3. What does the band's name mean?
4. What music of the band was lost forever?
5. How did *The Beatles* start?
6. What sort of music did *The Beatles* play?
7. How did *The Beatles* conquer America?

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. What is the capital of the Falkland Islands?
2. Where can you learn about the islands' history?
3. What is the emblem of the Falkland Islands?
4. What do the local people do for a living?
5. What energy resources are used on the islands?
6. What is the educational policy of the Falkland Islands?
7. What was the result of the conflict between Argentina and the UK?

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. Why do a lot of letters come to the Italian city on Valentine's Day?
2. Why is it important to see the right bird on Valentine's Day?
3. What message can be sent with the flowers?
4. Why do some people give St Valentine's presents to their pets?
5. What is a different way to celebrate February 14?
6. How did the holiday get its name?
7. Why did a traditional St Valentine's box of sweets have the form of a heart?

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. What is the most unusual way to get to church on Christmas night?
2. Who can bring Christmas presents instead of Santa?
3. Why is the first guest on Christmas Day so important?
4. What creature helped to decorate a Christmas tree?
5. What transport does Santa use in warm countries?
6. How do people celebrate Christmas in hot climate?
7. Why is Christmas celebrated on another date in this country?

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. What is the favourite sports entertainment on Thanksgiving Day in the USA?
2. What happens to the turkeys which are chosen by the President?
3. Why was it decided to celebrate Thanksgiving at the end of November?
4. How can people make the house ready for the autumn holiday?
5. Why did the turkey become the main dish for the Thanksgiving dinner?
6. What is the day after Thanksgiving known for?
7. Why is Thanksgiving celebrated on different dates in different countries?

The people of Canada celebrate Thanksgiving Day on the

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. Which place in London keeps a message for future generations?
2. Which place in London is good to watch sports and buy related goods?
3. How long does it take to raise the famous bridge for a ship?
4. How does a fairytale character help real people of London?
5. Which London bridge got a nickname after its reconstruction?
6. What is the most visited tourist attraction in London?
7. What were the false buildings in London made for?

A

D

B

E

C

F





1. What should you take out of your luggage when you travel to Singapore?
2. Which city has much in common with Singapore?
3. What is the coldest month on the island?
4. How do the people of the island feel about their weather?
5. What animal gave its name to the city?
6. How many official languages has the country got?
7. How does the government limit the number of car owners?

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. How did the valuable present from South Africa get to England?
2. What animal is the symbol of South Africa?
3. How many years can the African giant plant live?
4. Why is the flag of South Africa so colourful?
5. What measures do the authorities take to save endangered animals?
6. How many names has the country got?
7. Why was state power divided between three places?

~~The Republic of South Africa is a country located at the southern tip of the African continent. Today South Africa maintains its proximity to the world.~~

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. How many official languages are there in the Republic of Ireland?
2. Which colour dominates on the island?
3. What do the colours of the Irish flag mean?
4. What Irish name is now used as a noun in several European languages?
5. After what Irish person did a geographical place get its name?
6. What are the two things associated with the country?
7. Why is the name of an Irishman well-known in the United States?

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. What other necessary things had to be done to start operating the Channel Tunnel?
2. Why didn't the British support the first project of the Channel Tunnel?
3. How many tunnels does the project actually contain?
4. What are the safety tips while travelling through the Channel Tunnel?
5. What are the possible ways for a passenger to travel through the Channel Tunnel?
6. Why is the Channel Tunnel considered to be a great engineering achievement?
7. What was the most difficult task in constructing the Channel Tunnel?

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. Young people of which country are the fastest at texting?
2. Who made the first mobile call and why?
3. Are the rules of using phones in school always followed by students?
4. Which mobile phone has no other advantages but glamour?
5. Why can a mobile phone be dangerous for children?
6. What are the safety tips of using mobile phones?
7. How can a mobile phone message save your life?

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. Where is the history of the Olympic Games presented to the visitors?
2. What were the reasons to stop the Olympic Games twice in the 20th century?
3. How many Olympic Games were held in Greece?
4. What are the official languages of the modern Olympics?
5. What were the life-long benefits for the first Olympic Games winners?
6. What does the Olympic symbol mean?
7. Why was that place chosen for the Olympic Games?

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. What old Irish traditions are still followed?
2. What vegetables are exported from Ireland to other countries?
3. What vegetable is very popular in Irish cuisine?
4. Why were Irish people afraid of wearing green in old times?
5. What made the Irish town popular?
6. What is wrong with the stereotype of an Irish person?
7. How can you keep the talisman effective?

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. What was coffee's long way to Europe like?
2. How did drinking coffee become a social life activity?
3. How was coffee discovered?
4. Why was coffee prohibited in some countries?
5. What ingredients are used in coffee recipes?
6. Why do some people refuse to drink coffee?
7. What helped coffee to conquer the USA?

A

D

B

E

C

F





1. What can the Indian ancient drawings tell us about?
2. Why do people come to the holy waters?
3. Where are Indian movies made?
4. Why is India getting more and more popular with tourists?
5. How can travellers escape the heat?
6. Which ancient language influenced modern languages a lot?
7. Why is the Indian capital called a city of contrasts?

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. What natural resource do Icelanders use as an alternative to central heating?
2. What should you take with you when going to Iceland?
3. What are the national characteristics of the local people?
4. In what seasons can you see snow in Iceland?
5. What extreme excursions can the country offer?
6. What does a traditional Icelandic house look like?
7. Why are these animals widely used in tourist business?

In spite of its hard northern climate Iceland is very green. Till nowadays Icelanders cannot do without horses. And

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. Why do street artists create their works?
2. Why are serious companies getting interested in street art?
3. Where are the international street art exhibitions held?
4. What does the term *street art* include?
5. Which of the famous street artists managed to keep his/her real name a secret?
6. What is the most innovative technique in street art?
7. Why don't street artists sign their works with their real names?

A

D

B

E

C

F



1. What nature-friendly ideas started a new branch in the tourism business?
2. What means of transport is the most popular with tourists?
3. Why can tourism be dangerous to nature?
4. What are the reasons that make people go on a trip?
5. What kind of tourism is getting popular with elderly people?
6. Why does travelling make people smarter?
7. What are the ways to save money while travelling?

Tourism has become a popular activity. Indeed, nowadays

A

D

B

E

C

F