

# ACADEMIC READING PRACTICE TEST 9 Part 3

## READING PASSAGE 3

## Questions 28 - 40

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions **28 – 40** which are based on Reading Passage 3 below.

### The History of Paper

#### A

When we think of the origins of paper, our minds might wander back over 5000 years ago to the Nile river valley in Egypt. It was there that a marsh grass called *Cyperous Papyrus* flourished. The Egyptians cut thin strips from the plant's stem and softened them in the muddy waters of the Nile. These strips were then layered in right angles to form a kind of mat. The mat was then pounded into a thin sheet and left in the sun to dry. The resulting sheets were ideal for writing on. Since they were also lightweight and portable they became the writing medium of choice of the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans for record keeping, spiritual texts and works of art.

#### B

Paper as we know it today comes from another source, China. It wasn't until the 3rd century that the secret art of papermaking began to creep out of China, first to Vietnam and later to India. It made its true push westward in 751AD when the Tang Dynasty was at war with the Islamic world. During a battle on the banks of the Tarus River, Islamic warriors captured a Chinese caravan which happened to include several papermakers. They spirited them away to Samarkand, which soon became a great centre for paper production. Finally, when the Moors from North Africa invaded Spain and Portugal they brought the technology with them and so it was that papermaking entered Europe in the 12th century.

#### C

In Europe, the use of papyrus had dropped out in the 9th century. The preferred medium for the artists and literati of the time was the smooth and lustrous parchment. However, parchment - made from animal skin - was extremely expensive. The notion of paper being used as a practical everyday item did not occur until the 15th Century when Johann Gutenberg perfected movable type and sparked off a revolution in mass communication. The birth of the modern paper and printing industry is commonly marked from this time.

#### D

Printing technology rapidly developed and created an ever increasing demand for paper. Early European paper was made from recycled cotton and linen - and a huge trade quickly developed around the trading of old rags. It is said that the black plague entered England from Europe on these old rags. Others experimented with fibres such as straw, cabbage, wasp nests and finally wood. This resulted in inexpensive - and replaceable - materials for paper making. Today, the long soft fibres of softwoods such as spruce have become the most suitable source of pulp for mass production.

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## E

The demand for paper also created the need for greater efficiency in production. In the late 18th century the labours of Nicholas Luis Robert resulted in the creation of a machine that could produce a seamless length of paper on an endless wire mesh with squeeze rollers at one end. Perfected and marketed by the Fourdrinier brothers, the new machine made papers that soon replaced traditional single sheets made by hand. In Europe and America, the mass-production of paper became a thriving industry supplying huge volumes of paper for a huge variety of purposes.

## F

Papermaking in essence is a simple process. Whether using recycled materials or fresh organic matter, the process starts as the material is shredded into small strips and soaked overnight to loosen the fibres. Next, the fibres are boiled for 2 to 6 hours, being turned every so often. When finished, the fibres are washed with fresh water to remove impurities and then small particles or specks are removed by hand. The fibres are beaten in a blender creating a creamy pulp. At this stage, dyes can be added to create coloured papers. The pulp is then poured into a large tub and the fibres are suspended in the water. Framed screens are lowered into the water and then lifted to the surface catching the fibres onto the screen. The screens are then dried, pressed and smoothed.

## G

In the west, as industrial paper production boomed, the art of hand paper-making has been driven nearly to extinction - being practiced only by a few fine artists and crafts people. However, in small areas throughout Asia, the tradition has lived on through regular and rice paper made by hand. Incidentally, the traditional Asian paper which is often referred to as "rice paper" is not made from rice fibres at all. More commonly it is made from the versatile mulberry tree - varieties of which are also used for feeding silkworms and in medicine. In contrast to the cold precision and standardisation which industrial production demands, the soft, subtle textures and natural feeling of handmade paper is said to echo the warm heart of the papermaker who makes each sheet with devotion.

## H

The new Millennium will be dominated by the tremendous progress that has been made in computer science, thus triggering a complete change in our commercial and private communication and information behaviour. Does this mean that the paper era will come to an end? The answer is most definitely "No". Clearly there will be a huge amount of data being generated electronically, but the issue is how to preserve it. The difficulties of data storage over a long period of time are well known (for example, the durability of disks; frequent changes of hardware and software, electronic breakdowns etc.). Once again, paper offers the most convenient and durable storage option.

## Questions 28 - 34

The reading passage on *The History of Paper* has 8 paragraphs **A – H**.

From the list of headings below choose the most suitable headings for paragraphs **B – H**.

Write the appropriate number (**i – xi**) in boxes **28 – 34** on your answer sheet.

NB There are more headings than paragraphs, so you will not use them all.

<i>Example</i>	<i>Answer</i>
Paragraph A	iv

- i Arabian Expertise
- ii Traditional Paper Producers
- iii Superstition
- iv The Origins of Paper
- v The Development of Mass Production
- vi The Journey to the West
- vii The Prospects for Paper
- viii The Age of Experimentation
- ix The Father of Modern Paper
- x The Modern Process
- xi A Change of Material

28 Paragraph B

29 Paragraph C

30 Paragraph D

31 Paragraph E

32 Paragraph F

33 Paragraph G

34 Paragraph H

### Questions 35 - 38

Look at the following 8 statements **A - H**. According to Reading Passage 3, which **FOUR** statements are **TRUE**? The other four statements are either false or the information is not given in the passage. Choose from the appropriate letters, **A - H**, and write them on your answer sheet for questions **35 - 38**. The answers may be written in any order.

- A** Today's style of paper originated in Egypt.
- B** Papyrus style paper was employed up to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- C** There is a story that disease was spread due to the great demand for paper.
- D** The author cites reasons why computer technology is not dependable.
- E** Rice Paper has been used in medicine.
- F** Paper was not used extensively until movable type was commonly used.
- G** Robert's invention led to the redundancy of the hand made paper industry.
- H** Today paper is no longer hand made.

## Questions 39 and 40

Using the information in the passage, complete the flow chart below.

Write your answers in boxes **39** and **40** on your answer sheet.

Use **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

### The Paper Production Process

