IELTS Academic Reading Sample 141 - Tourism

READING PASSAGE: 141

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 28-41 which are based on Reading Passage 141 below.

TOURISM

A Tourism, holidaymaking and travel are these days more significant social phenomena than most commentators have considered. On the face of it there could not be a more trivial subject for a book. And indeed since social scientists have had considerable difficulty explaining weightier topics, such as work or politics, it might be thought that they would have great difficulties in accounting for more trivial phenomena such as holidaymaking. However, there are interesting parallels with the study of deviance. This involves the investigation of bizarre and idiosyncratic social practices which happen to be defined as deviant in some societies but not necessarily in others. The assumption is that the investigation of deviance can reveal interesting and significant aspects of normal societies. It could be said that a similar analysis can be applied to tourism.

B Tourism is a leisure activity which presupposes its opposite, namely regulated and organised work. It is one manifestation of how work and leisure are organised as separate and regulated spheres of social practice in modern societies. Indeed acting as a tourist is one of the defining characteristics of being 'modern' and the popular concept of tourism is that it is organised within particular places and occurs for regularised periods of time. Tourist relationships arise from a movement of people to, and their stay in, various destinations. This necessarily involves some movement, that is the journey, and a period of stay in a new place or places. 'The journey and the stay' are by definition outside the normal places of residence and work and are of a short term and temporary nature and there is a clear intention to return 'home' within a relatively short period of time.

C A substantial proportion of the population of modern societies engages in such tourist practices new socialised forms of provision have developed in order to cope with the mass character of the gazes of tourists as opposed to the individual character of travel. Places are chosen to be visited and be gazed upon because there is an anticipation especially through daydreaming and fantasy of intense pleasures, either on a different scale or involving different senses from those customarily encountered. Such anticipation is constructed and sustained through a variety of non-tourist practices such as films, TV literature, magazines records and videos which construct and reinforce this daydreaming.

D Tourists tend to visit features of landscape and townscape which separate them off from everyday experience. Such aspects are viewed because they are taken to be in some sense out of the ordinary. The viewing of these tourist sights often involves different forms of social patterning with a much greater sensitivity to visual elements of landscape or townscape than is normally found in everyday life. People linger over these sights in a way that they would not normally do in their home environment and the vision is objectified or

captured through photographs postcards films and so on which enable the memory to be endlessly reproduced and recaptured.

E One of the earliest dissertations on the subject of tourism is Boorstins analysis of the pseudo event (1964) where he argues that contemporary. Americans cannot experience reality directly but thrive on pseudo events. Isolated from the host environment and the local people the mass tourist travels in guided groups and finds pleasure in inauthentic contrived attractions gullibly enjoying the pseudo events and disregarding the real world outside. Over time the images generated of different tourist sights come to constitute a closed self-perpetuating system of illusions which provide the tourist with the basis for selecting and evaluating potential places to visit. Such visits are made says Boorstin, within the environmental bubble of the familiar American style hotel which insulates the tourist from the strangeness of the host environment.

F To service the burgeoning tourist industry, an array of professionals has developed who attempt to reproduce ever-new objects for the tourist to look at. These objects or places are located in a complex and changing hierarchy. This depends upon the interplay between, on the one hand, competition between interests involved in the provision of such objects and, on the other hand changing class, gender, and generational distinctions of taste within the potential population of visitors. It has been said that to be a tourist is one of the characteristics of the modern experience. Not to go away is like not possessing a car or a nice house. Travel is a marker of status in modern societies and is also thought to be necessary for good health. The role of the professional, therefore, is to cater for the needs and tastes of the tourists in accordance with their class and overall expectations.

Questions 28-32

Raiding Passage 3 has 6 paragraphs (**A-F**).

Choose the most suitable heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below Write the appropriate numbers (**i-ix**) in boxes 28-32 on your answer sheet.

Paragraph **D** has been done for you as an example.

NB. There are more headings than paragraphs so you will not use all of them You may use any heading more than once.

List of Headings

i The politics of tourism
ii The cost of tourism
iii Justifying the study of tourism
iv Tourism contrasted with travel
v The essence of modern tourism
vi Tourism versus leisure
vii The artificiality of modern tourism
viii The role of modern tour guides
ix Creating an alternative to the everyday experience

28 Paragraph **A**

29 Paragraph **B**

30 Paragraph **C**

Example	Answer
Paragraph **D**	**ix**

31 Paragraph **E**

32 Paragraph **F**

Questions 33-37

Do the following statements agree with the views of the writer in Reading Passage 35? In boxes 33-37 write :

YES if the statement agrees with the writer

NO if the statement contradicts the writer

NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

33 Tourism is a trivial subject.

34 An analysis of deviance can act as a model for the analysis of tourism.

35 Tourists usually choose to travel overseas.

36 Tourists focus more on places they visit than those at home.

37 Tour operators try to cheat tourists.

Questions 38-41

Chose one phrase (**A-H**) from the list of phrases to complete each key point below. Write the appropriate letters (**A-H**) in boxes **38-41** on your answer sheet.

The information in the completed sentences should be an accurate summary of points made by the writer.

NB There are more phrases **A-H** than sentences so you will not use them all. You may use any phrase more than once.

38 Our concept of tourism arises from .....

39 The media can be used to enhance .....

40 People view tourist landscapes in a different way from .....

41 Group tours encourage participants to look at .....

List of Phrases

A local people and their environment.
B the expectations of tourists.
C the phenomena of holidaymaking.
D the distinction we make between holidays. work and leisure.
E the individual character of travel.

F places seen in everyday life.
G photographs which recapture our
H sights designed specially for tourists.

\

Answer:

28 iii

29 v

30 iv

31 vii

32 viii

33 NO

34 YES

35 NOT GIVEN

36 YES

37 NOT GIVEN

38 D

39 B

40 F

41 H

IELTS Academic Reading Sample 142 - Right and left handedness in humans

READING PASSAGE 142

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1-12 which are based on Reading Passage 142 below.

Right and left-handedness in humans

Why do humans, virtually alone among all animal species, display a distinct left or right-handedness? Not even our closest relatives among the apes possess such decided lateral asymmetry, as psychologists call it. Yet about 90 per cent of every human population that has ever lived appears to have been right-handed. Professor Bryan Turner at Deakin University has studied the research literature on left-handedness and found that handedness goes with sidedness. So nine out of ten people are right-handed and eight are right-footed. He noted that this distinctive asymmetry in the human population is itself systematic. “Humans think in categories: black and white, up and down, left and right. It”s a system of signs that enables us to categorise phenomena that are essentially ambiguous.’

Research has shown that there is a genetic or inherited element to handedness. But while left-handedness tends to run in families, neither left nor right handers will automatically produce off-spring with the same handedness; in fact about 6 per cent of children with two right-handed parents will be left-handed. However, among two left-handed parents, perhaps 40 per cent of the children will also be left-handed. With one right and one left-handed parent, 15 to 20 per cent of the offspring will be left handed. Even among identical twins who have exactly the same genes, one in six pairs will differ in their handedness.

What then makes people left-handed if it is not simply genetic? Other factors must be at work and researchers have turned to the brain for clues. In the 1860s the French surgeon and anthropologist, Dr Paul Broca, made the remarkable finding that patients who had lost their powers of speech as a result of a stroke (a blood clot in the brain) had paralysis of the right half of their body. He noted that since the left hemisphere of the brain controls the right half of the body, and vice versa, the brain damage must have been in the brain’s left hemisphere. Psychologists now believe that among right-handed people, probably 95 per cent have their language centre in the left hemisphere, while 5 per cent have rightsided language. Left-handers, however, do not show the reverse pattern but instead a majority also have their language in the left hemisphere. Some 30 per cent have right hemisphere language.

Dr Brinkman, a brain researcher at the Australian National University in Canberra, has suggested that evolution of speech went with right-handed preference. According to Brinkman, as the brain evolved, one side became

specialised for fine control of movement (necessary for producing speech) and along with this evolution came righthand preference. According to Brinkman, most left-handers have left hemisphere dominance but also some capacity in the right hemisphere. She has observed that if a left-handed person is brain-damaged in the left hemisphere, the recovery of speech is quite often better and this is explained by the fact that left-handers have a more bilateral speech function.

In her studies of macaque monkeys, Brinkman has noticed that primates (monkeys) seem to learn a hand preference from their mother in the first year of life but this could be one hand or the other. In humans, however, the specialisation in (unction of the two hemispheres results in anatomical differences: areas that are involved with the production of speech are usually larger on the left side than on the right. Since monkeys have not acquired the art of speech, one would not expect to see such a variation but Brinkman claims to have discovered a trend in monkeys towards the asymmetry that is evident in the human brain.

Two American researchers, Geschwind and Galaburda, studied the brains of human embryos and discovered that the left-right asymmetry exists before birth. But as the brain develops, a number of things can affect it. Every brain is initially female in its organisation and it only becomes a male brain when the male foetus begins to secrete hormones. Geschwind and Galaburda knew that different parts of the brain mature at different rates; the right hemisphere develops first, then the left. Moreover, a girl's brain develops somewhat faster than that of a boy. So, if something happens to the brain's development during pregnancy, it is more likely to be affected in a male and the hemisphere more likely to be involved is the left. The brain may become less lateralised and this in turn could result in left-handedness and the development of certain superior skills that have their origins in the left hemisphere such as logic, rationality and abstraction. It should be no surprise then that among mathematicians and architects, left-handers tend to be more common and there are more left-handed males than females.

The results of this research may be some consolation to left-handers who have for centuries lived in a world designed to suit right-handed people. However, what is alarming, according to Mr. Charles Moore, a writer and journalist, is the way the word "right" reinforces its own virtue. Subliminally he says, language tells people to think that anything on the right can be trusted while anything on the left is dangerous or even sinister. We speak of lefthanded compliments and according to Moore, "it is no coincidence that lefthanded children, forced to use their right hand, often develop a stammer as they are robbed of their freedom of speech". However, as more research is undertaken on the causes of left-handedness, attitudes towards left-handed people are gradually changing for the better. Indeed when the champion tennis player Ivan Lendl was asked what the single thing was that he would choose in order to improve his game, he said he would like to become a lefthander. **[Geoff Maslen]**

Questions 1-7

Use the information in the text to match the people (listed A-E) with the opinions (listed 1-7) below. Write the appropriate letter (A-E) in boxes 1-7 on your answer sheet. Some people match more than one opinion.

A Dr Broca

B Dr Brinkman

C Geschwind and Galaburda

D Charles Moore

E Professor Turner

Example	***Answer***
Monkeys do not show a species specific preference for left or right-handedness.	B

1. Human beings started to show a preference for right-handedness whenthey first developed language.
2. Society is prejudiced against left-handed people.
3. Boys are more likely to be left-handed.
4. After a stroke, left-handed people recover their speech more quickly than righthanded people.
5. People who suffer strokes on the left side of the brain usually lose their power of speech.
6. The two sides of the brain develop different functions before birth.
7. Asymmetry is a common feature of the human body.

Questions 8-10

Using the information in the passage, complete the table below. Write your answers in boxes 8 10 on your answer sheet.

	Percentage of children left-handed
One parent left-handed	
One parent right-handed	**……..(8)……..**
Both parents left-handed	**……..(9)……..**
Both parents right-handed	**…….(10)…….**

Questions 11-12

Choose the appropriate letters A-D and write them in boxes 11 and 12 on your answer sheet.

11 A study of monkeys has shown that

A monkeys are not usually right-handed.

B monkeys display a capacity for speech.

C monkey brains are smaller than human brains.

D monkey brains are asymmetric.

12 According to the writer, left-handed people

A will often develop a stammer.

B have undergone hardship for years.

C are untrustworthy.

D are good tennis players.

Answer:

1 B

2 D

3 C

4 B

5 A

6 C

7 E

8 15-20%

9 40%

10 6%

11 D

12 B

IELTS Academic Reading Sample 143 - Architecture - Reaching For The Sky

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 29-40 which are based on Reading Passage 143 below.

ARCHITECTURE - Reaching for the Sky

Architecture is the art and science of designing buildings and structures. A building reflects the scientific and technological achievements of the age as well as the ideas and aspirations of the designer and client. The appearance of individual buildings, however, is often controversial.

The use of an architectural style cannot be said to start or finish on a specific date. Neither is it possible to say exactly what characterises a particular movement. But the origins of what is now generally known as modern architecture can be traced back to the social and technological changes of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Instead of using timber, stone and traditional building techniques, architects began to explore ways of creating buildings by using the latest technology and materials such as steel, glass and concrete strengthened steel bars, known as reinforced concrete. Technological advances also helped bring about the decline of rural industries and an increase in urban populations as people moved to the towns to work in the new factories. Such rapid and uncontrolled growth helped to turn parts of cities into slums.

By the 1920s architects throughout Europe were reacting against the conditions created by industrialisation. A new style of architecture emerged to reflect more idealistic notions for the future. It was made possible by new materials and construction techniques and was known as Modernism.

By the 1930s many buildings emerging from this movement were designed in the International Style. This was largely characterised by the bold use of new materials and simple, geometric forms, often with white walls supported by stiltlike pillars. These were stripped of unnecessary decoration that would detract from their primary purpose to be used or lived in.

Walter Gropius, Charles Jeanneret (better known as Le Corbusier) and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe were among the most influential of the many architects who contributed to the development of Modernism in the first half of the century. But the economic depression of the 1930s and the second world war (1939-45) prevented their ideas from being widely realised until the economic conditions improved and war-torn cities had to be rebuilt. By the 1950s, the International Style had developed into a universal approach to building, which standardised the appearance of new buildings in cities across the world.

Unfortunately, this Modernist interest in geometric simplicity and function became exploited for profit. The rediscovery of quick-and-easy-to-handle reinforced concrete and an improved ability to prefabricate building sections meant that builders could meet the budgets of commissioning authorities and handle a renewed demand for development quickly and cheaply. But this led to many badly designed buildings, which discredited the original aims of Modernism.

Influenced by Le Corbusier's ideas on town planning, every large British city built multi-storey housing estates in the 1960s. Massproduced, low-cost high-rises seemed to offer a solution to the problem of housing a growing inner-city population. But far from meeting human needs, the new estates often proved to be windswept deserts lacking essential social facilities and services. Many of these buildings were poorly designed and constructed and have since been demolished.

By the 1970s, a new respect for the place of buildings within the existing townscape arose. Preserving historic buildings or keeping only their facades (or fronts) grew common. Architects also began to make more use of building styles and materials that were traditional to the area. The architectural style usually referred to as High Tech was also emerging. It celebrated scientific and engineering achievements by openly parading the sophisticated techniques used in construction. Such buildings are commonly made of metal and glass; examples are Stansted airport and the Lloyd's building in London.

Disillusionment at the failure of many of the poor imitations of Modernist architecture led to interest in various styles and ideas from the past and present. By the 1980s the coexistence of different styles of architecture in the same building became known as Post Modern. Other architects looked back to the classical tradition. The trend in architecture now favours smaller scale building design that reflects a growing public awareness of environmental issues such as energy efficiency. Like the Modernists, people today recognise that a well designed environment improves the quality of life but is not necessarily achieved by adopting one well defined style of architecture.

Twentieth century architecture will mainly be remembered for its tall buildings. They have been made possible by the development of light steel frames and safe passenger lifts. They originated in the US over a century ago to help meet the demand for more economical use of land. As construction techniques improved, the skyscraper became a reality.

[Ruth Coleman]

Questions 29-35

Complete the table below using information from Reading Passage 3. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer. Write your answers in boxes 29-35 on your answer sheet.

PERIOD	STYLE OF PERIOD	BUILDING MATERIALS	CHARACTERISTICS
Before 18th century	*Example* traditional	**... (29) ...**	
1920s	introduction of **…... (30) .....**	steel, glass and concrete	exploration of latest technology
1930s - 1950s	**…... (31) ……**		geometric forms
1960s	decline of Modernism	pre-fabricated sections	**…... (32) …...**
1970s	end of Modernist era	traditional materials	**..... (33) …...** of historic buildings

1970s	beginning of **…... (34).....** era	metal and glass	sophisticated techniques paraded
1980s	Post-Modernism		**…... (35) …...**

Questions 36-40

Reading Passage 3 describes a number of cause and effect relationships.

Match each Cause (**36-40**) in List **A**, with its Effect (**A-H**) in List **B**.

Write your answers (**A-H**) in boxes 36 40 on your answer sheet.

NB There are more effects in List B than you will need, so you will not use all of them. You may use any effect more than once if you wish.

LIST **A** CAUSES	LIST **B** RESULTS
36 A rapid movement of people from rural areas to cities is triggered by technological advance. **37** Buildings become simple and functional. **38** An economic depression and the second world war hit Europe. **39** Multi-storey housing estates are built according to contemporary ideas on town planning. **40** Less land must be used for building.	**A** The quality of life is improved. **B** Architecture reflects the age. **C** A number of these have been knocked down. **D** Light steel frames and lifts are developed. **E** Historical buildings are preserved. **F** All decoration is removed. **G** Parts of cities become slums. **H** Modernist ideas cannot be put into practice until the second half of the 20th century.

Answer:

29 timber and stone

30 Modernism

31 International style

32 badly designed buildings/ multi-storey housmg/ mass-produced, low-cost high-rises

33 preservation

34 High-Tech

35 co-existing of styles / different styles together / styles mixed

36 G

37 F

38 H

39 C

40 D

IELTS Academic Reading Sample 144 - A spark, a flint: How fire leapt to life

READING PASSAGE 32

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1-15 which are based on Reading Passage 144 below:

A spark, a flint: How fire leapt to life

[The control of fire was the first and perhaps greatest of humanity's steps towards a life-enhancing technology.]

To early man, fire was a divine gift randomly delivered in the form of lightning, forest fire or burning lava. Unable to make flame for themselves, the earliest peoples probably stored fire by keeping slow burning logs alight or by carrying charcoal in pots.

How and where man learnt how to produce flame at will is unknown. It was probably a secondary invention, accidentally made during tool-making operations with wood or stone. Studies of primitive societies suggest that the earliest method of making fire was through friction. European peasants would insert a wooden drill in a round hole and rotate it briskly between their palms This process could be speeded up by wrapping a cord around the drill and pulling on each end.

The Ancient Greeks used lenses or concave mirrors to concentrate the sun's rays and burning glasses were also used by Mexican Aztecs and the Chinese.

Percussion methods of fire-lighting date back to Paleolithic times, when some Stone Age tool-makers discovered that chipping flints produced sparks. The technique became more efficient after the discovery of iron, about 5000 vears ago In Arctic North America, the Eskimos produced a slow-burning spark by striking quartz against iron pyrites, a compound that contains sulphur. The Chinese lit their fires by striking porcelain with bamboo. In Europe, the combination of steel, flint and tinder remained the main method of firelighting until the mid 19th century.

Fire-lighting was revolutionized by the discovery of phosphorus, isolated in 1669 by a German alchemist trying to transmute silver into gold. Impressed by the element's combustibility, several 17th century chemists used it to manufacture fire-lighting devices, but the results were dangerously inflammable. With phosphorus costing the equivalent of several hundred pounds per ounce, the hrst matches were expensive.

The quest for a practical match really began after 1781 when a group of French chemists came up with the Phosphoric Candle or Ethereal Match, a sealed glass tube containing a twist of paper tipped with phosphorus. When the tube was broken, air rushed in, causing the phosphorus to selfcombust. An even more hazardous device, popular in America, was the Instantaneous Light Box — a bottle filled with sulphuric acid into which splints treated with chemicals were dipped.

The first matches resembling those used today were made in 1827 by John Walker, an English pharmacist who borrowed the formula from a military rocket-maker called Congreve. Costing a shilling a box, Congreves were splints coated with sulphur and tipped with potassium chlorate. To light them, the user drew them quickly through folded glass paper.

Walker never patented his invention, and three years later it was copied by a Samuel Jones, who marketed his product as Lucifers. About the same time, a French chemistry student called Charles Sauria produced the first "strike-anywhere" match by substituting white phosphorus for the potassium chlorate in the Walker formula. However, since white phosphorus is a deadly poison, from 1845 match-makers exposed to its fumes succumbed to necrosis, a disease that eats away jaw-bones. It wasn't until 1906 that the substance was eventually banned.

That was 62 years after a Swedish chemist called Pasch had discovered non-toxic red or amorphous phosphorus, a development exploited commercially by Pasch's compatriot J E Lundstrom in 1885. Lundstrom's safety matches were safe because the red phosphorus was non-toxic; it was painted on to the striking surface instead of the match tip, which contained potassium chlorate with a relatively high ignition temperature of 182 degrees centigrade.

America lagged behind Europe in match technology and safety standards. It wasn't until 1900 that the Diamond Match Company bought a French patent for safety matches — but the formula did not work properly in the different climatic conditions prevailing in America and it was another 11 years before scientists finally adapted the French patent for the US.

The Americans, however, can claim several "firsts" in match technology and marketing. In 1892 the Diamond Match Company pioneered book matches. The innovation didn't catch on until after 1896, when a brewery had

the novel idea of advertising its product in match books. Today book matches are the most widely used type in the US, with 90 percent handed out free by hotels, restaurants and others.

Other American innovations include an anti-after-glow solution to prevent the match from smoldering after it has been blown out; and the waterproof match, which lights after eight hours in water.

Questions 1-8

Complete the summary below. Choose your answers from the box at the bottom of the page and write them in boxes 1 8 on your answer sheet.

NB There are more words than spaces so you will not use them all You may use any of the words more than once.

EARLY FIRE-LIGHTING METHODS

Primitive Societies saw fire as a ……..(Example)…….. gift. Answer: heavenly

They tried to **..... (1) .....** burning logs or charcoal **..... (2) .....** that they could create fire themselves. It is suspected that the first man-made flames were produced by **..... (3) .....**

The very first fire-lighting methods involved the creation of **..... (4) .....** by, for example, rapidly **..... (5) .....** a wooden stick in a round hole. The use of **..... (6) .....** or persistent chipping was also widespread in Europe and among other peoples such as the Chinese and **..... (7) .....** European practice of this method continued until the 1850s **..... (8).....** the discovery of phosphorus some years earlier.

List of Words

Mexicans	random	rotating
despite	preserve	realising
sunlight	lacking	heavenly
percussion	Chance	friction
unaware	without	make
heating	Eskimos	surprised
until	smoke	

Questions 9-15

Look at the following notes that have been made about the matches described in Reading Passage 32. Decide which type of match (**A-H**) corresponds with each description and write your answers in boxes **9-15** on your answer sheet.

NB There are more matches than descriptions so you will not use them all. You may use any match more than once.

Example	*Answer*
could be lit after soaking in water	**H**

NOTES

9 made using a less poisonous type of phosphorus

10 identical to a previous type of match

11 caused a deadly illness

12 first to look like modern matches

13 first matches used for advertising

14 relied on an airtight glass container

15 made with the help of an army design

Types of Matches

A the Ethereal Match

B the Instantaneous Light box

C Congreves

D Lucifers

E the first strike-anywhere match

F Lundstrom's safety match

G book matches

H waterproof matches

Answer:

1 preserve

2 unaware

3 chance

4 friction

5 rotating

6 percussion

7 Eskimos

8 despite

9 F

10 D

11 E

12 C

13 G

14 A

15 C