



2025 Paper, Grade 11

B2 First / IELTS. Reading, use of English and writing.

30 MIN · 23 POINTS · 19 QUESTIONS

SURNAME

FIRST NAME

SCHOOL

SCORE

Circle the correct letter, or write the letter or word on the line. Every question has only ONE correct answer. Write your e-mail in Part 4 on the lines. Use a pen.

Part 1

Questions 1 to 5 · 5 points

Read the text and decide which word best fits each gap. Circle the letter.

The quiet carriage

Many trains now have a carriage where passengers are asked not to talk on the phone or play music. The idea (1) _____ in the 1990s, when mobile phones first became common, and it has (2) _____ to most European railways. Nobody is (3) _____ to sit there; passengers choose it because they want to read, work or sleep. Yet the quiet carriage is often the source of the loudest arguments on the train. Some people simply do not (4) _____ the signs; others say they were on a call before they realised where they were. Railway staff (5) _____ to avoid the carriage altogether, and leave the passengers to police it themselves.

- 1 A began B founded C opened
- 2 A expanded B spread C stretched
- 3 A obliged B ordered C insisted
- 4 A look B notice C remark
- 5 A tend B used C happen

Part 2

Questions 6 to 14 · 9 points

Read the passage and answer the questions.

Sixpence for a good book

A In the summer of 1934 the publisher Allen Lane was waiting for a train at Exeter station after a weekend with the crime writer Agatha Christie. He wanted something to read and found nothing on the station bookstall but magazines and cheap reprints of Victorian novels. The experience, he said later, gave him an idea: good contemporary books, in a format that fitted a coat pocket, at a price that anyone could pay. Within a year he had left his uncle's firm and founded a company to publish them. He called it Penguin.

B The first ten Penguin titles appeared in July 1935, priced at sixpence, the cost of a packet of cigarettes. They were not new books; they were reprints of novels and biographies already published in hard covers by other firms, bought under licence. What was new was the price and the look. Each book had a plain cover in three horizontal bands, with the colour of the bands showing the kind of book: orange for fiction, green for crime, dark blue for biography. There were no pictures. Lane thought illustrations on covers were vulgar and, more practically, expensive.

C The book trade was sceptical. Booksellers doubted that a sixpenny book could pay its way, and publishers feared that cheap editions would kill the sale of the same books at seven shillings and sixpence. Lane needed to sell seventeen thousand copies of each title to cover his costs, and the orders from bookshops came to about seven thousand. The company was saved by an order from a buyer at Woolworths, the chain of cheap department stores, who took sixty-three thousand copies. Within a year Penguin had sold three million books.

D Historians of publishing disagree about how original Lane was. Paperbacks had existed for a century, and a German firm, Albatross, had published cheap English-language reprints with colour-coded covers from 1932; Lane had seen them. What Lane added, his defenders say, was not the idea but the scale and the nerve: the decision to print far more copies than the trade thought sensible, and to sell them in places where books had never been sold. Whether the idea was borrowed or not, by the end of the 1930s the paperback had changed who read, where they read and what they expected to pay for it.

Questions 6 to 10. Do the following statements agree with the information in the passage? Write TRUE, FALSE or NOT GIVEN on the line.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6 Lane had the idea for Penguin while he was travelling. _____ | 9 Booksellers ordered more copies than Lane needed to cover his costs. _____ |
| 7 The first Penguin books were written specially for the new company. _____ | 10 Agatha Christie's novels were among the first ten titles. _____ |
| 8 Lane chose plain covers partly to save money. _____ | |

Questions 11 to 14. Complete the sentences. Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage on the line.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 11 A sixpenny Penguin cost the same as a packet of _____. | 13 The order that saved the company came from a buyer at _____. |
|--|--|

12 Crime novels were given _____ bands on the cover.

14 A German publisher had been producing similar books since _____.

Part 3

Questions 15 to 18 · 4 points

Questions 15 and 16: choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence. Questions 17 and 18: one underlined part of the sentence is wrong. Circle its letter.

15 Not until the last passenger had left _____ the doors.

- A the driver closed
- B did the driver close
- C the driver did close

16 The report, _____ was published last week, recommends a longer school day.

- A that
- B which
- C what

17 The committee A has decided that the new library B will be built next to the station, C despite of the objections of local residents.

18 Since the bridge A was reopened, the number of cyclists B crossing the river each morning C have doubled.

Part 4

Question 19 · 5 points

Write an e-mail.

Writing · e-mail · 7 minutes

You have been asked to spend a term at a partner school abroad. Your friend Erik spent a term at the same school last year.

Write an e-mail to Erik. In your e-mail:

- explain why you are writing;
- ask what you should arrange before you go;
- ask which subjects or activities he recommends, and why.

Write 60 words or more, in complete sentences.
