

Section 1

Pugilism

A

Pugilism, a word rarely used today, is another term for boxing, a combat sport and a martial art in which two people throw punches at each other for a predetermined amount of time in a boxing ring. The term pugilism comes from the Latin word "pugil", which means "a boxer", and is related to the Latin word "pugnus", which stands for "a fist".

There is no conclusive evidence of where the practice of boxing comes from. The first known form of boxing seems to have prehistoric origins in present-day Ethiopia, where it presumably appeared in the sixth millennium BC. When the Egyptians invaded Nubia, they learned the art of boxing from the local population, consequently taking the sport to Egypt where it gained considerable popularity. From Egypt, boxing spread to other countries, including Greece, eastward to Mesopotamia, and northward, all the way to Rome. Archaeological evidence of ancient Greek boxing goes as far back as the Minoan and Mycenaean periods. Among numerous legends about the origins of boxing in Greece one stands out in particular. It says that Theseus, the founder of Athens, invented a form of fighting in which two men sat face-to-face and hit each other with their fists until one of them was dead.

B

All of this might sound like a barbaric pastime, but there is so much more to it than just two people trying to hit each other as hard as they can. Even back then, the sport had certain rules and regulations. The few rules of boxing in Ancient Greece that are known to us are mostly based on historical references and images. There were no holds or wrestling. Any type of blow with the hand was allowed, but no eye gouging. No ring was used, and there were no rounds or time limits. The fight would go on until one man was knocked out or admitted he had been beaten. Unlike the modern sport, there was no rule against hitting an opponent when he was down. There were no weight classes within the men's and boys' divisions; opponents for a match were chosen randomly. Although there is some evidence of kicks used in ancient Greek boxing, this remains a subject for debate among scholars.

Instead of gloves, Olympic boxers of the time wrapped leather thongs around their hands and wrists, leaving their fingers free. The earliest depiction of ancient boxing gloves in use comes in the form of a Minoan fresco from Thera (modern-day Santorini), which is commonly known as the Boxing Boys, and dates from around 1600 BCE. Eventually down the history road, further safety measures have been introduced to protect boxers from serious injury. The additions included mouthguards and headgear, along with revised rules governing the length of rounds and the conduct of the fight.

C

Boxing became an Olympic Games sport as early as 688 BC. This effectively meant boxing was one of the first sports added to the Games. Onomastus of Smyrna was the first winner in Olympic boxing. Despite the lack of rules and the tough nature of boxing at the Ancient Games, honour, respect, and fair play were always at the fulcrum of this noble art. At the time, the god Apollo was regarded as the inventor and guardian of the sport of boxing. Boxers in Ancient Greece who went down in history were revered as superheroes.

Boxing developed over time, with the pursuit of monetary gain becoming a significant part of the sport in England in the 17th century. Popular with the gambling crowd because of its brutality and spectacularity, it slowly evolved to become more civilised. Prizefighting was gaining popularity as well. Men were carefully trained to meet in the

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roped-off ring, usually marked out in a field. Fights went to a finish, that is, until one of the pair was unable to continue. The concept of modern boxing emerged around the mid-19th century in England. At that time, illegal fights were organized by matchmakers to win bets. Often, the police would come and break up the fights. In 1865, a journalist driven by his passion for pugilism wrote the rules of boxing, referred to as the Marquess of Queensberry's rules. Among a total of 15 rules, it mandated the fighters to wear gloves, banned wrestling, and generally made this bloody sport more humane. Another thing to note is that it introduced certain standards and promoted sportsmanship.

D

Around the same time in the 19th century, the sport began to gain widespread popularity in the United States, where the first world championship fight was held in 1892. This marked the beginning of the "Golden Age" of boxing, where legendary fighters such as Jack Johnson, Joe Louis, and Muhammad Ali dominated the sport. By the 20th century, America had become the centre of professional boxing. The sport's economic incentive rose as growing viewership brought larger purses and commercial success. The increasing popularity of boxing led to a rise in minority participation, with the first successful non-white champions coming at the beginning of the 20th century, despite severe racism plaguing their attempts to gain and hold championship titles.

E

Although predominantly a men's sport because of its ruthless nature, women are not left behind. Women's boxing has been getting increasingly more attention over time, with the first women's boxing championship taking place in 1974. Women's amateur boxing championship was first introduced at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia. Since then, it has become a regular part of the Olympic program, where women compete in three weight classes. It was officially recognized as an Olympic sport in 2012.

Women's professional boxing has also grown in popularity in recent years, with many talented female boxers competing at the highest levels of the sport. Some of the most successful female boxers include Mary Kom of India, who is a five-time World Amateur Boxing champion and the only woman boxer to have won a medal in each one of the six world championships, and Claressa Shields, who is a three-time Olympic gold medalist and the most successful American amateur boxer of all time.

Questions 1-5

Reading Passage 1 has five sections (A-E). Choose the most suitable heading for each section from the list of headings below.

Write the appropriate number (I-VIII) in boxes 1-5 on your Answer Sheet. There are more headings than sections, so you will not use all of them.

List of Headings

I Punching and Kicking

II Across the Atlantic

III Blessed by Heavens

IV Outnumbered, but not Outperformed

V Evolution and Recognition

VI Keeping it Civilised

VII The First Blow

VIII Gender Inequality

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- 1 Section A
- 2 Section B
- 3 Section C
- 4 Section D
- 5 Section E

Questions 6-10

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

In boxes 6-10 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

- 6 It is unknown what country boxing came from
- 7 Greeks were the first to come up with rules for boxing matches
- 8 No visual evidence of ancient boxing has survived
- 9 A certain deity was associated with the sports of boxing

Questions 10-14

Choose the appropriate letters **A-C** and write them in boxes 10-14 on your answer sheet.

10 Boxing in 17th century England

- A was illegal.
- B often had matches outdoors.
- C made gambling more popular.

11 Marquess of Queensberry's rules didn't require fighters to

- A wear certain equipment.
- B treat opponents with respect.
- C use wrestling techniques.

12 Boxing in the United States

- A helped defeat racism.
- B gave rise to many prominent athletes.
- C made the sports more expensive.

13 What is said about female boxing in the passage?

- A Women are less likely to be boxers
- B It has gained more fans recently
- C It is less violent

14 Which aspect of boxing has remained unchanged throughout its history?

- A How opponents are matched
- B The venues of fights
- C Prohibition of certain fighting techniques

Section 2

The Antarctic

A deep dive into what remains to be the most mysterious continent.

Antarctica is a sight to behold. Frigid landscape of snow cliffs, alternating with planes of ice, a place so seemingly hostile that any form of life seems highly improbable. Home to diverse but fragile ecosystems, the continent plays a crucial role in regulating the global climate and ocean currents.

The Antarctic and Antarctica are terms that are easily confused. To clarify, the first one is the region that includes the continent itself, the Kerguelen Plateau, which is located some 2500 kilometers north, and a handful of much smaller islands of the region. Conversely, Antarctica is a massive sheet of ice and snow with the South Pole in its centre. The name itself comes from the Greek 'antarktikos', which means 'the opposite of the Arctic'. However, the literal translation would be 'no bears'. This can be slightly confusing until you learn that the word Arctic is derived from 'arktos' with the meaning 'bear'. The bear in question is the constellation of Ursa Major, which has stars that are said to have helped sailors of the past navigate towards the Arctic. Incidentally, the Arctic has polar bears, and Antarctica does not.

Although the existence of the southern continent had been hypothesized by ancient scholars, it wasn't until the early 19th century that the first confirmed sighting of the Antarctic mainland occurred. In 1820, a Russian expedition led by Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen and Mikhail Lazarev composed of two ships, Vostok (East) and Mirniy (Peaceful), were the first to see the continent in person, followed closely by one led by British naval officer, Edward Bransfield. These initial sightings led to increased interest to the region, culminating in the famed explorations of James Clark Ross and Sir Ernest Shackleton, who made significant contributions to our understanding of the continent.

Due to its extreme location off the equator, the Antarctic region has only two distinct seasons – summer and winter, both with striking seasonal variation. Located in the southern hemisphere, its seasons are the opposite of what you would think of them. During summer months it sees virtually no sunlight – the sun sets in late April. From then on, you get increasingly cold weather with temperature going as low as 85°C; Contrastingly, September to March is the warmer season with sun almost always in the sky and, owing to this, the local animals such as seals and penguins much more active. The mid-seasons grace the continent with a sunrise and a sunset respectively, both lasting for weeks.

Despite being a gigantic glacier, technically Antarctica falls into the climatic category of a desert. Even though in our minds desert is something hot and sultry, this is not exactly what makes a desert. One striking similarity between the sandy dunes of Sahara and the endless snow-covered plains of Antarctica is the amount of annual precipitation. The region gets as little as 10 mm of rainfall a year. To put that figure into perspective, that is about 50 times less than world's average figure. Because the continent is exposed to such miniscule amounts of rain, nothing prevented ice and compacted snow from growing thicker over the course of millions of years. No rain and low temperatures, in turn, lead to very dry air with very low humidity levels. The place also has the strongest winds on the planet, with gusts reaching in excess of 300 kilometers an hour. This is mostly due to its stark seasonal change and the way these affect the movement of air masses.

The continent has no indigenous people – men and women that populate it fall into two general categories: scientists and tourists. The majority of them reside there on a semi-permanent basis, usually during the summer

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season. They concern themselves with various researches, from astronomy and biology to something more exotic, such as glaciology and oceanography. The second, much larger group of people are tourists that come from all across the world with their own aims in mind. Some - to marvel at the fields of glittering snow that span all the way to the horizon; others – to get first-hand experience of the last unconquered bastion of savage nature. There are individuals who have the Antarctic in their bucket list of places to visit – often after they have been almost everywhere else. However, the lion's share choose to limit their exposure to a view from the comfort of their cruise ship, admiring the greatness, while also keeping a safe distance from the harsh realities of the place.

All the scientific activity happening in the region has to abide by the Antarctic Treaty and the Madrid Protocol, both in an effort to keep it as a place for peaceful researches that should have environmental concerns as top priority. The former, signed in 1959 by 12 countries, aims to preserve Antarctica for peaceful and scientific purposes. It sets aside territorial claims, promotes scientific cooperation, and prohibits military activities. The Madrid Protocol, an addition to the treaty in 1991, designates Antarctica as a natural reserve, keeping a close eye on its ecosystems. The reason why the researches focus on the environmental aspect is because of the region's pivotal role in the entire planet's wellbeing. Antarctica's vast ice sheets and glaciers reflect a significant portion of solar radiation back into space, helping to maintain the planet's overall temperature balance. The frigid waters surrounding Antarctica act as a massive heat sink, absorbing and storing a great deal of warmth from the atmosphere. That is just the tip of the iceberg though. The formation of dense, cold seawater near Antarctica drives the global thermohaline circulation, also known as the ocean conveyor belt, indispensable at distributing heat around the world. This circulation system influences regional climates and weather patterns, affecting everything from precipitation levels to the intensity of tropical storms. This is why safeguarding the Antarctic region and ensuring its longevity is vital for our planet's well-being.

Questions 15-20

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 2?

In boxes 15-20 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

15 Antarctica is larger in size than The Antarctic.

16 The name of the northernmost continent originates from a celestial body.

17 No bears can be found in the Antarctic.

18 The Antarctic gets colder during winter months.

19 An unusual weather condition has led to accumulation of landmass.

20 No aboriginal population exists in the Antarctic.

Questions 21-23

Choose the appropriate letters **A-C** and write them in boxes 21-23 on your answer sheet.

21 What is said about the scientists of the Antarctic?

A They leave the continent during winter months

B The focus of their research constantly changes

C Their work has limitations imposed by international agreements

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22 Most tourists coming to see the Antarctic

A have already seen all other continents.

B do not get off the ship.

C enjoy the grand views of the place.

23 Why is it important to save the Antarctic?

A It creates fruitful scientific environment

B It aids world ocean water circulation

C It is a vital part of the global ecosystem

Questions 24-28

Answer the questions below using **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes **24–28** on your answer sheet.

The Arctic still mystifies humanity today. Many things about it can be quite puzzling at first glance. Judging by its **24** _____ levels it is a desert, although entirely covered by snow. The seasons are opposites of what we have, and its day and night cycle is one year long. Its **25** _____ are ferocious and merciless, reaching highest velocities on the planet.

The continent's **26** _____ had been predicted long before it was discovered in the beginning of the 19th century. Because of its unwelcoming climate and remote location, more serious scientific endeavour there took place almost a century later. The reason this region is of utmost importance to us is simple: its **27** _____ act as a shield against the harmful radiation Earth is exposed to. If these were to perish entirely, it would upset the intricate temperature balance and threaten our **28** _____.

Section 3

Automobile engines of yesterday, today and tomorrow

Electric cars are all the rage nowadays. Some believe that the craze was started by a well-known, eccentric billionaire and his lovechild of an electric car company. Others hold that people came to their senses about the enormous carbon footprint their cars are leaving behind.

This may come as a surprise to many, but the electric engine is not a novel idea. The first electricity-propelled vehicles were made as early as 1830, effectively predating cars equipped with the more conventional fuel engines by more than 50 years. By the beginning of the twentieth century, however, the electric motor had started lagging behind the petrol engine for a number of reasons, primarily due to their relatively high costs and unimpressive top speed. Internal combustion engine, on the other hand, was undergoing rapid development. At the time, petrol proved to be a more energy-efficient fuel, and its engine's output was easy to increase through the combined displacement volume of all cylinders. Simply put, a bigger engine normally results in more powerful car, something that is more difficult to achieve with the electric motor. These, among other factors, made it a more favourable choice for the car manufacturers of the past.

The energy crises of the 1970s and 1980s brought about renewed interest in electric cars as a way to become less dependent on the price volatility of hydrocarbon fuels. Several major car companies developed models that were either fully electric or using so-called hybrid systems where petrol and electric engines would work to complement one another. The latter would mostly be used for stop-and-go traffic, common during rush hours and city traffic in

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general. All in all, public reception of this innovation was lukewarm at best because by the time these new models went for sale the oil prices had already stabilised, which, for the time being, mostly defeated the purpose of buying an electric vehicle.

It is worth noting that the price of fuel is not the sole reason to give up on the older technology and make the switch to electric. Because of its design, the electric motor has a significantly lower number of moving parts, which in turn means reduced complexity and, consequently, servicing costs. The engine is virtually silent and does not require as much attention. If that is not attractive enough, on top of that, many countries offer financial concessions to people who choose to make the switch to driving electric. Depending on their location, they are eligible for free parking, tax refunds, and other subsidies.

However, the whole idea of electric engines is not without a fault. One concern is limited number of battery charge cycles. After continued use, the capacity of the battery goes down, reducing the car's range. The only way out is usually to replace the costly components. And since the technology is still fairly new, there is no consistent statistical data on how long these might last. Alarmingly, these batteries require particular chemical elements to produce, some of which can only be procured from a select few locations on our planet, and in limited quantities. Moreover, because the current era of electric vehicles is still in its infancy, there are not enough professionals around willing to service these cars. So unless the owner lives in a major metropolitan area, they end up having no other choice but to travel to another city should some major malfunction take place.

Then comes the issue of infrastructure. While the more glamorous cities like San Francisco boast thousands of charging stations conveniently placed, this is not the case for most other cities, where charging points are few and far apart. This means that most electric car owners are limited to recharging their vehicles from power sockets at home - if they are lucky to live in a house, that is. This limitation alone is enough to hinder mass adoption of the technology. Since demand for these cars is not quite there yet, and the share of these cars on the road is almost negligible, local authorities have little incentive to develop the charging network. This ends up in a classic Catch 22 situation with no apparent way out. A probable way out of this deadlock is for private investors to step in and take upon themselves the daunting task of giving impetus to progress; unsurprisingly, few are willing to do so because returns on this investment might take decades to manifest themselves.

Back to the century-old technology of internal combustion and things seem to look much more familiar. The servicing shops, fuel stations and spare parts are ubiquitous. Car mechanics are plenty and knowledgeable. Moreover, the vehicles themselves are well-documented, making it possible to work on them yourself. Over the past two decades, the performance, as well as higher efficiency of fossil-fuel engines have increased dramatically, partially thanks to hybrid systems. Sadly, the less savoury side of the petrol vehicle is known to all of us - the extent of harm they do to nature. Exhaust fumes and oil spills are the biggest offenders here. Another major point against fossil fuels is that oil will not last forever.

The prospects of a cleaner, more sustainable alternative to the conventional engine are very lucrative. However, there is some well-founded scepticism regarding the source of electricity that charges the new engine. At the end of the day, it is still produced by power plants that pollute the atmosphere. The truth is slightly different, thanks to how the scale of energy production works. In short, an industrial-scale energy complex is way better at generating power per unit of emissions created when compared to your average petrol car engine. This means that through centralization, the gross environmental impact is notably lower. Instead of tens of millions of cars burning fuel, there are going to be twenty modern power stations, supervised by qualified specialists and complying with the

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most stringent ecological standards. Thanks to that, the eco-friendly future, maybe for the first time in human history, becomes possible.

The bottom line is that the future is almost definitely going to be electric. The big question here is how it will come about. It could happen organically, through increased demand and heightened consumer interest in this technology. Alternatively, the state might force it on the drivers through various smog laws and taxes, leaving them no choice but to give up on their trusted gasoline engines. There is probably only one way to find out - to wait and see.

Questions 29-35

Complete the table below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.

Engine type	Advantages	Disadvantages	Comments
Electric	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• fewer 29 _____ parts• lower 30 _____ pollution• decreased environmental impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• underdeveloped, scarce 31 _____• lack of qualified mechanics• questionable 32 _____ longevity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• actively promoted by the government• developing rapidly
Petrol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• parts and 33 _____ are available everywhere• simple enough to be fixed yourself	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• limited 34 _____ reserves• high levels of pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• can work in conjunction with 35 _____

Questions 36-40

Choose the appropriate letters **A-D** and write them in boxes 36-40 on your answer sheet.

36 Why is government reluctant to expand the electric engine charging grid?

- A it is too expensive
- B not many people would benefit from it
- C people can charge their cars at home
- D private businesses are more likely to fill this niche

37 According to the text, electric engines

- A get more media attention today.
- B enjoyed prolonged period of popularity in the past.
- C just like petrol engines, rely on finite resources.
- D are mostly driven by well-off individuals.

38 How do electric cars manage to have lower environmental impact?

- A Because of the stricter ecological standards
- B Thanks to more modern technology
- C They get energy from a more efficient source
- D Their engines are easier to recycle

39 When compared to petrol engines, electric ones

- A are easier to maintain and service.
- B require more specialist knowledge to work on.

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C entail additional taxing.

D make a more distinct noise when running.

40 What is said about the future of the electric engine?

A It will probably win, one way or another

B Petrol engines are likely to remain more popular

C It depends on infrastructure development

D Its future is uncertain

Answer Keys

1 VII - The First Blow. Used figuratively, it means the beginning of the sport. Do not be tricked into picking **III - Blessed by Heavens**. Even though Ancient Greece is mentioned, there is nothing about gods in this part.

2 VI - Keeping it Civilised. The focus here is on the fact that even at the very beginning the sport had rules of some kind. Some techniques were forbidden and the fighters had to use protective equipment. Note that **I - Punching and Kicking** shouldn't be picked. Even though kicking is mentioned, it is only a small point made in the section, and it is later mentioned that it is unconfirmed whether kicking had any place in fights.

3 V - Evolution and Recognition. Both points in the heading reflect the content of the section perfectly - slow change the sport had as well as its growing popularity. The ancient god Apollo is mentioned, which might hint at heading **III - Blessed by Heavens**. But like in many other such cases, it is not the main point of the heading but only an additional detail.

4 II - Across the Atlantic. The entire section is dedicated to boxing in the United States. The Atlantic refers to the ocean that separates Europe from the Americas.

5 IV - Outnumbered, but not Outperformed. The idea of the heading is that even though female boxers are fewer in numbers, it doesn't mean that they are worse. The paragraph focuses on female boxing rapidly gaining popularity and recognition. Do not pick **VIII - Gender Inequality** because the only time something similar is mentioned is in the first sentence in connection with the rough nature of the sport.

6 TRUE. Paragraph 2 says that 'conclusive evidence' does not exist - in other words people are not sure about the origin of the sports. The idea of uncertainty is then confirmed with the phrase 'seems to have ...' in the next sentence.

7 NOT GIVEN. While Sentence 3 of section B does say that there were a few rules in Greek boxing, it does not state that it was the Greeks who were the first to come up with rules. No answer can be given here.

8 FALSE. Paragraph 4 says that there exists a Minoan fresco that depicts fighters wearing gloves - in other words, a surviving visual evidence of ancient boxing.

9 TRUE. At the end of Paragraph 5 we have Apollo mentioned - a divine patron of boxers. It is important to know the word 'deity' to answer the question correctly.

10 B. Paragraph 6 says that the fight would usually take place in a field. Answer A is wrong as nothing is said about the legal aspect - there is only mentioning of illegal betting - or gambling. No mention of gambling becoming more popular is present in the text.

11 C. Wrestling is mentioned to have been prohibited. The rules expected the fighters to wear protective equipment as well as to treat their opponents with respect.

12 B. Section D focuses on the topic and mentions names of iconic boxers. Racism stood in the way of people of colour taking part in the sport, so we cannot say that it was defeated. Even though big money is mentioned, it does not refer to the price of participating in matches, but the amount of money involved in general.

13 B. Second paragraph of Section E says that female boxing is getting increasingly popular, which leads us to the answer. Answer C is misleading here - it says that women are less likely to take part in the sport because of its violent nature. Even though the statement in the answer sounds very reasonable, we have to give answer according to the information given in the text.

14 C. Throughout the text we see occasional mention of kicks possibly being allowed. Also, there is information of allowing any kind of blow with your hand except gouging. The rules of today are much more strict. Answer A is wrong - in the past there were no weight classes or any serious matching (middle of third paragraph). 'Venue' in

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Answer B means the place the match would take place in - this has changed from fighting in the field (England) to mostly indoor matches of today.

15 FALSE. As explained in the second paragraph, Antarctica is the continent, whereas The Antarctic includes that as well as the neighbouring islands and territories.

16 TRUE. The northernmost continent in question is the Arctic - named after a star in the Ursa constellation.

17 TRUE. Last sentence of Paragraph 2 contains the answer. At this point, the main challenge is not to get confused in the two names.

18 FALSE. Paragraph 4 states that the opposite is true. The seasons in the Antarctic are inverted, so it gets warmer during winter months and vice versa.

19 TRUE. The unusual weather condition referred to here is the absence of rain, which allowed snow to amass over millions of years.

20 NOT GIVEN. Unfortunately, the only information given in the text regarding the indigenous population refers to the Arctic (the continent). No data about the entire territory is mentioned in the given text. Don't be tempted to use your background knowledge to give answers when they are not provided in the text of the task.

21 C. Paragraph 7 mentions two international treaties that limit research purposes to peaceful ones. Answer A is wrong because it is said that the majority of scientists leave it, not all of them. Answer B doesn't fit as the list of scientific fields given represents the wide array of researches done there, there is no saying that they are done one after the other.

22 B. Last sentence of Paragraph 6 hints at the fact that the majority of visitors prefer to stay on the ship, away from the cold and danger of the continent. Answer A refers to some of the tourists whose aim is to see all the continent, not 'most' of them. Answer C is too broad.

23 C. Answer A doesn't work here as no particular results of scientific effort is mentioned in the text. Answer B does not fully reflect the importance of the region in the world climate ecosystem.

24 Precipitation/rainfall. The amount of precipitation is what makes the Arctic a desert.

25 Winds. 'Velocity' is a word that helps us greatly if we are familiar with it. It is used as a synonym for 'speed', and knowing it makes it much easier to find the relevant part in Paragraph 5.

26 Existence. We have to retrace our steps back to Paragraph 3 here, where the first sighting of the continent is mentioned

27 Glaciers. 'Radiation' is the keyword here that aids us in finding the relevant part of the text in the middle of the last paragraph

28 Well-being/wellbeing. Both British and American English spellings are included

29 Moving. First sentence mentions lower number of moving components as one of the advantages that contributes to lower servicing costs as a result.

30 Noise. Sentence 2 of Paragraph 4 mentions the electric motor as 'virtually silent'. Note that the environmental aspect gets mentioned in the next point, so there is little sense to put it here as well - at it is the only one that would fit grammatically other than 'noise'.

31 Infrastructure. The word 'scarce' points us in the direction of the right answer - another case where having extensive vocabulary helps a lot. The relevant part is in sentence 2 of Paragraph 6.

32 Battery. Paragraph 5, sentence 3 mentions that battery life in terms of charging cycles is difficult to accurately predict nowadays because it is a fairly new tech.

33 Fuel. Paragraph 7, second sentence talks about the "ubiquitous" fuel and service stations. The word means that they can be found almost anywhere.

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34 Oil. Last sentence of Paragraph 7 brings up the issue of limited oil supplies.

35 Electric motor(s). Going back to Paragraph 2, sentence 2 to answer this. 'In conjunction with' means together, combined with something else.

36 B. 'Reluctant' means unwilling, without much enthusiasm. In Paragraph 6 the situation is described where because of the still comparatively low amount, there is little demand for such stations which in turn makes people think twice before getting an electric vehicle. Answer A is not mentioned - no direct price comparison is made. Answer C is shown as an alternative people have to resort to, not because it is always a more convenient option. Answer D is suggested as one of the possible solutions to the problem of lacking infrastructure, not as reason for the government to stay inactive.

37 C. Paragraph 5 has information regarding particular chemical elements that are required for battery production as well as the fact of how limited they are. There is no mentioning of Answer A at all. Answer B is wrong because originally the electric engine soon became unpopular after petrol engines had taken over the industry. Answer D has no relevance to the 'billionaire' mentioned at the beginning of the text.

38 C. Paragraph 8 focuses on how exactly electric cars manage to keep their emissions low. Answer A is related to the correct answer, but only partially - ultimately it is the higher efficiency that makes the cars cleaner, not stricter standards. Answer B is too general. Nothing about recycling is given attention in the text.

39 B. At the end of Paragraph 8 the necessity of specialist knowledge to work on these engines is mentioned. The opposite of answer A is correct - even though electric ones have fewer moving parts, they require specialist knowledge and therefore their maintenance is more difficult. Answer C states the opposite of the truth - some countries offer tax rebates for electric car owners. Answer D shouldn't be picked as electric motors are 'virtually silent' - they make very little to no noise.

40 A. The future is said to come either the natural way or through government regulation. Answers B and D do not fit the context as it is clearly said that 'the future is going to be electric'. Even though Answer C is hinted at, it is not as strong as the statement made at the beginning of the last paragraph.

Vocabulary

The vocabulary below is meant to help you with the more difficult words. If the word isn't on the list then you are either supposed to know it or it is too specific to be worth learning and you don't have to know it to answer the question. Symbols in brackets mean part of speech (see bottom of the list). Sentences in italics give examples of usage for some more complex words and phrases.

And remember — you are not given a vocabulary list (or a dictionary) at your real exam.

Section 1

Punch (n) - a hit with a clenched fist. *The boxers kept throwing punches at one another until one of them collapsed.*

Conclusive (adj) - proving something without any doubt; certain. *The results of the investigation were inconclusive, and the suspect was released after the trial.*

Consequently (adv) - as a result or after that. *He became the head of the branch and, consequently, the youngest top manager in the history of the company.*

Pastime (n) - a leisurely way to spend time, especially one that is popular among specific group of people. *Drinking tea with milk is one of the more well-known British pastimes.*

Gouge (v) - (here) to try and tear the eye by pressing hard into it with your fingers. *Eye gouging is strictly prohibited in all types of martial arts.*

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Debate (n) - an argument. A subject of debate is a question that people disagree about because there is no one definite answer to it.

Fresco (n) - a drawing on a wall or other hard surface, usually made with a special pigment.

Mouthguard (n) - a protective piece equipment that you put inside your mouth to save your teeth and gums from being damaged during a fight.

Conduct (n) - the way something is organised or regulated.

Fulcrum (n) - 'something/someone is the fulcrum of ...' means that it is given very high importance. *Discipline is the fulcrum of education - without it, students quickly lose interest and grow disorganised.*

That is - a phrase used to clarify or describe something. *We went to a concert last night. That is, we didn't really care for music, but rather wanted to catch up with some friends and have a good time.*

Mandate (v) - to impose something, such as rules or regulations.

Humane (adj) - having or expressing sympathy, compassion and other positive qualities attributed to people.

Sportsmanship (n) - fairness and respect for other participants in some game or sports.

Minority (n) - (here) referring to African-American boxers. *Minority athletes often face additional challenges because of stereotypical attitudes.*

Plague (v) - if something is plagued by something, then it constantly suffers from something unpleasant.

Presidential elections have always been plagued with attempts to sabotage or alter the results.

Ruthless (adj) - without mercy, cruel. Used to show disapproval.

Section 2

Frigid (adj) - extremely cold.

Improbable (adj) - very unlikely or nearly impossible.

Diverse (adj) - varied. Diverse species of Amazonian jungle.

Fragile (adj) - easily broken or disturbed. *The region's fragile balance is carefully maintained by volunteers.*

Clarify (v) - to make more clear or easier to understand, less confusing.

A handful of - a small amount of something.

Conversely (adv) - on the other hand. Used to introduce a contrasting point.

Constellation (n) - several stars belonging to a particular group or forming a pattern.

Incidentally (adv) - without any direct connection to something. *His rise to fame was only incidental to his singing career because he became well-known as the biggest lottery winner of the century.*

Hypothesize (v) - to guess, to make a scientific assumption based on something.

Culminate (v) - to be a result of something important, especially if it happened after a series of other things. *The concert culminated in the most spectacular fireworks show I've ever seen.*

Striking (adj) - (here) easily noticeable. *The striking contrast between the two brothers was that one was into sports, while the other was the more nerdy one.*

Virtually (adv) - basically, almost.

Sultry (adj) - characterised by high temperatures and humidity. *Singapore is pretty sultry almost all year round.*

Precipitation (n) - snow, rain or hail. *Annual precipitation in this region has been on the increase over the past decade.*

Miniscule (adj) - so low or little that it is almost non-existent. *The miniscule differences between these academic works mean that one was plagiarised.*

Gust (n) - a short, but powerful burst wind.

Stark (adj) - different, often in an unpleasant way. *The stark change from living in a nice hotel to renting a room*

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was making me uncomfortable.

Indigenous (adj) - belonging to that area rather than somewhere else. *The indigenous people of Australia.*

Reside (v) - to live somewhere, either permanently or on a temporary basis.

Bucket list - a list of things you want to accomplish in your life. *Climbing on top of the Eiffel Tower was one of the obvious things on my bucket list.*

Harsh (adj) - (about conditions or treatment) unwelcoming and unpleasant.

Abide by - to follow some laws or regulations. *As long as you are in this country you will have to abide by the rules, many of which you might find a bit excessive.*

Designate (v) - to define a purpose of something, such as a place. *This room was designated as a warehouse.*

Pivotal (adj) - crucial, vital. *The next round of talks is pivotal - this is when it will be decided whether peace negotiations are going to succeed.*

Section 3

All the rage - a set expression to mean something that is very fashionable at a particular period of time. *Ankle socks are all the rage nowadays.*

Craze (n) - something that is very popular, briefly.

Novel (adj) - new or recent. *Any novel concept is usually quite slow to gain popularity with people.*

Predate (v) - to come before something else. *Evolutionary theory suggests that sea creatures predate those living on the land.*

Lag behind (phr v) - to be slower than somebody or something else.

Bring about (phr v) - to cause something to take place. *December brought about the spirit of Christmas along with long, dark evenings.*

Volatility (n) - (here) tendency to change, especially unpredictably. *Price volatility is one thing economics is trying to study and anticipate.*

Complement (v) - to act as a nice addition to something. *They say that citruses really complement the taste of champagne.*

Lukewarm (adj) - (here, attitude towards something) lacking enthusiasm, mixed. *Lukewarm reviews of her latest movie contributed to the eventual demise of her directing career.*

Concession (n) - (here) to agree to some demands in order to achieve something.

Eligible (adj) - if you are eligible for something, then you have the right for it. *Young families in this region are eligible to interest-free loans to buy an apartment or start a business.*

Procure (n) - to get or deliver something. *Procuring any materials in this remote location is almost impossible due to expensive logistics.*

Hinder (v) - to slow something down.

Incentive (n) - a strong reason to do something. *A serious incentive to move and work up North is increased salaries and more attractive social benefits.*

Daunting (adj) - scary because of how difficult it seems to be.

Give impetus - to make some process happen quicker, easier or more productive. *Government financial support was supposed to give impetus to local small business environment, but so far it has achieved nothing.*

Ubiquitous (adj) - present everywhere, easily found.

Savoury (adj) - used figuratively here in the meaning 'pleasant'. In this meaning it is normally used in the negative, i.e. 'less savoury, unsavoury'.

Prospect (n) - a possibility of something happening in the future. *The prospect of getting rich quick and effortlessly*

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is what makes millions of people around the world buy lottery tickets.

Sustainable (adj) - something that can be supported over long period of time or even indefinitely.

Lucrative (adj) - attractive in a financial sense.

Well-founded (adj) - with strong reasons to support it. *Your enthusiasm for this company's success seems well-founded - I have checked their financial records and they seem legit.*

Stringent (adj) - very strictly controlled and monitored. *Stringent financial regulations in the sector might slow development, but will also eliminate most fraud cases.*

Organically (adv) - (here) happening naturally, usually in a gradual way.

Heightened (adj) - increased. *Her heightened mood could be explained by the three drinks she has just had.*