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## READING

Test 2

### READING PASSAGE 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1-13** which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.

# A Remarkable Beetle



Some of the most remarkable beetles are the dung beetles, which spend almost their whole lives eating and breeding in dung'.

More than 4,000 species of these remarkable creatures have evolved and adapted to the world's different climates and the dung of its many animals. Australia's native dung beetles are scrub and woodland dwellers, specialising in coarse marsupial droppings and avoiding the soft cattle dung in which bush flies and buffalo flies breed.

In the early 1960s George Bornemissza, then a scientist at the Australian Government's premier research organisation, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), suggested that dung beetles should be introduced to Australia to control dung-breeding flies. Between 1968 and 1982, the CSIRO imported insects

from about 50 different species of dung beetle, from Asia, Europe and Africa, aiming to match them to different climatic zones in Australia. Of the 26 species that are known to have become successfully integrated into the local environment, only one, an African species released in northern Australia, has reached its natural boundary.

Introducing dung beetles into a pasture is a simple process: approximately 1,500 beetles are released, a handful at a time, into fresh cow pats<sup>2</sup> in the cow pasture. The beetles immediately disappear beneath the pats digging and tunnelling and, if they successfully adapt to their new environment, soon become a permanent, self-sustaining part of the local ecology. In time they multiply and within three or four years the benefits to the pasture are obvious.

Dung beetles work from the inside of the pat so they are sheltered from predators such as birds and foxes. Most species burrow into the soil and bury dung in tunnels directly underneath the pats, which are hollowed out from within. Some large species originating from France excavate tunnels to a depth of approximately 30 cm below the dung pat. These beetles make sausage-shaped brood chambers along the tunnels. The shallowest tunnels belong to a much smaller Spanish species that buries dung in chambers that hang like fruit from the branches of a pear tree. South African beetles

dig narrow tunnels of approximately 20 cm below the surface of the pat. Some surface-dwelling beetles, including a South African species, cut perfectly-shaped balls from the pat, which are rolled away and attached to the bases of plants.

For maximum dung burial in spring, summer and autumn, farmers require a variety of species with overlapping periods of activity. In the cooler environments of the state of Victoria, the large French species (2.5 cms long) is matched with smaller (half this size), temperate-climate Spanish species. The former are slow to recover from the winter cold and produce only one or two generations of offspring from late spring until autumn. The latter, which multiply rapidly in early spring, produce two to five generations annually. The South African ball-rolling species, being a subtropical beetle, prefers the climate of northern and coastal New South Wales where it commonly works with the South African tunnelling species. In warmer climates, many species are active for longer periods of the year.

Dung beetles were initially introduced in the late 1960s with a view to controlling buffalo flies by removing the dung within a day or two and so preventing flies from breeding. However, other benefits have become evident. Once the beetle larvae have finished pupation, the residue is a first-rate source of fertiliser. The tunnels abandoned by the beetles provide excellent aeration and water channels for root systems. In addition, when the new generation of beetles has left the nest the abandoned burrows are an attractive habitat for soil-enriching earthworms. The digested dung in these burrows is an excellent food supply for the earthworms, which decompose it further to provide essential soil nutrients. If it were not for the dung beetle, chemical fertiliser and dung would be washed by rain into streams and rivers before it could be absorbed into the hard earth, polluting water courses and causing blooms of blue-green algae. Without the beetles to dispose of the dung, cow pats would litter pastures making grass inedible to cattle and depriving the soil of sunlight. Australia's 30 million cattle each produce 10-12 cow pats a day. This amounts to 1.7 billion tonnes a year, enough to smother about 110,000 sq km of pasture, half the area of Victoria.

Dung beetles have become an integral part of the successful management of dairy farms in Australia over the past few decades. A number of species are available from the CSIRO or through a small number of private breeders, most of whom were entomologists with the CSIRO's dung beetle unit who have taken their specialised knowledge of the insect and opened small businesses in direct competition with their former employer.

### Glossary

1. dung: the droppings or excreta of animals
2. cow pats: droppings of cows

Test 2

**Questions 1-5**

Do the following statements reflect the claims of the writer in Reading Passage 1?

In boxes 1-5 on your answer sheet write

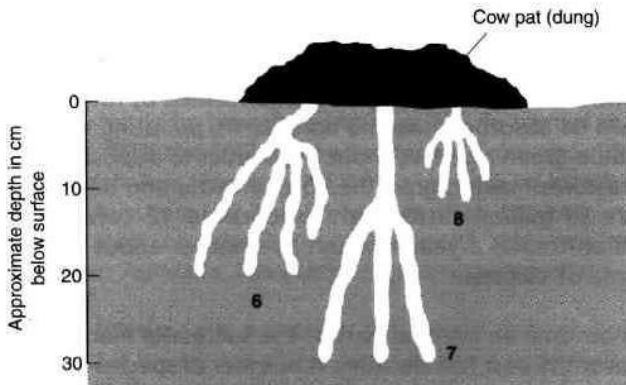
- YES** if the statement reflects the claims of the writer  
**NO** if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer  
**NOT GIVEN** if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

- 1 Bush flies are easier to control than buffalo flies.
- 2 Four thousand species of dung beetle were initially brought to Australia by the CSIRO.
- 3 Dung beetles were brought to Australia by the CSIRO over a fourteen-year period.
- 4 At least twenty-six of the introduced species have become established in Australia.
- 5 The dung beetles cause an immediate improvement to the quality of a cow pasture.

**Questions 6-8**

Label the tunnels on the diagram below. Choose your labels from the box below the diagram.

Write your answers in boxes 6-8 on your answer sheet.



Dung Beetle Types	
French	Spanish
Mediterranean	South African
Australian native	South African ball roller

**Question 9-13**

Complete the table below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER** from Reading Passage 1 for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 9–13 on your answer sheet.

Species	Size	Preferred climate	Complementary species	Start of active period	Number of generations per year
French	2.5 cm	cool	Spanish	late spring	1-2
Spanish	1.25 cm	9		10	11
South African ball roller		12	13		

## READING PASSAGE 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 14-28** which are based on Reading Passage 2 on the following pages.

### Questions 14-18

Reading Passage 2 has six sections **A-F**.

Choose the most suitable headings for sections **A-D** and **F** from the list of headings below.

Write the appropriate numbers **i-ix** in boxes 14-18 on your answer sheet.

List of Headings	
<b>i</b>	The probable effects of the new international trade agreement
<b>ii</b>	The environmental impact of modern farming
<b>iii</b>	Farming and soil erosion
<b>iv</b>	The effects of government policy in rich countries
<b>v</b>	Governments and management of the environment
<b>vi</b>	The effects of government policy in poor countries
<b>vii</b>	Farming and food output
<b>viii</b>	The effects of government policy on food output
<b>ix</b>	The new prospects for world trade

**14** Section **A**

**15** Section **B**

**16** Section **C**

**17** Section **D**

<i>Example</i> Paragraph <b>E</b>	Answer <b>vi</b>
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**18** Section **F**

### **Section A**

The role of governments in environmental management is difficult but inescapable. Sometimes, the state tries to manage the resources it owns, and does so badly. Often, however, governments act in an even more harmful way. They actually subsidise the exploitation and consumption of natural resources. A whole range of policies, from farm-price support to protection for coal-mining, do environmental damage and (often) make no economic sense. Scrapping them offers a two-fold bonus: a cleaner environment and a more efficient economy. Growth and environmentalism can actually go hand in hand, if politicians have the courage to confront the vested interest that subsidies create.

### **Section B**

No activity affects more of the earth's surface than farming. It shapes a third of the planet's land area, not counting Antarctica, and the proportion is rising. World food output per head has risen by 4 per cent between the 1970s and 1980s mainly as a result of increases in yields from land already in cultivation, but also because more land has been brought under the plough. Higher yields have been achieved by increased irrigation, better crop breeding, and a doubling in the use of pesticides and chemical fertilisers in the 1970s and 1980s.

### **Section C**

All these activities may have damaging environmental impacts. For example, land clearing for agriculture is the largest single cause of deforestation; chemical fertilisers and pesticides may contaminate water supplies; more intensive farming and the abandonment of fallow periods tend to exacerbate soil erosion; and the spread of mono-culture and use of high-yielding varieties of crops have been accompanied by the disappearance of old varieties of food plants which might have provided some insurance against pests or diseases in future. Soil erosion threatens the productivity of land in both rich and poor countries. The United States, where the most careful measurements have been done, discovered in 1982 that about one-fifth of its farmland is losing topsoil at a rate likely to diminish the soil's productivity. The country subsequently embarked upon a program to convert 11 per cent of its cropped land to meadow or forest. Topsoil in India and China is vanishing much faster than in America.

### **Section D**

Government policies have frequently compounded the environmental damage that farming can cause. In the rich countries, subsidies for growing crops and price supports for farm output drive up the price of land. The annual value of these subsidies is immense: about \$250 billion, or more than all World Bank lending in the 1980s. To increase the output of crops per acre, a farmer's easiest option is to use more of the most readily available inputs: fertilisers and pesticides. Fertiliser use doubled in Denmark in the period 1960-1985 and increased in The Netherlands by 150 per cent. The quantity of pesticides applied has risen too; by 69 per cent in 1975-1984 in Denmark, for example, with a rise of 115 per cent in the frequency of application in the three years from 1981.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s some efforts were made to reduce farm subsidies. The most dramatic example was that of New Zealand, which scrapped most farm support in 1984. A study of the environmental effects, conducted in 1993, found that the end of fer-

tiliser subsidies had been followed by a fall in fertiliser use (a fall compounded by the decline in world commodity prices, which cut farm incomes). The removal of subsidies also stopped land-clearing and over-stocking, which in the past had been the principal causes of erosion. Farms began to diversify. The one kind of subsidy whose removal appeared to have been bad for the environment was the subsidy to manage soil erosion,

In less enlightened countries, and in the European Union, the trend has been to reduce rather than eliminate subsidies, and to introduce new payments to encourage farmers to treat their land in environmentally friendlier ways, or to leave it fallow. It may sound strange but such payments need to be higher than the existing incentives for farmers to grow food crops. Farmers, however, dislike being paid to do nothing. In several countries they have become interested in the possibility of using fuel produced from crop residues either as a replacement for petrol (as ethanol) or as fuel for power stations (as biomass). Such fuels produce far less carbon dioxide than coal or oil, and absorb carbon dioxide as they grow. They are therefore less likely to contribute to the greenhouse effect. But they are rarely competitive with fossil fuels unless subsidised - and growing them does no less environmental harm than other crops.

### Section E

In poor countries, governments aggravate other sorts of damage. Subsidies for pesticides and artificial fertilisers encourage farmers to use greater quantities than are needed to get the highest economic crop yield. A study by the International Rice Research Institute of pesticide use by farmers in South East Asia found that, with pest-resistant varieties of rice, even moderate applications of pesticide frequently cost farmers more than they saved. Such waste puts farmers on a chemical treadmill: bugs and weeds become resistant to poisons, so next year's poisons must be more lethal. One cost is to human health. Every year some 10,000 people die from pesticide poisoning, almost all of them in the developing countries, and another 400,000 become seriously ill. As for artificial fertilisers, their use world-wide increased by 40 per cent per unit of farmed land between the mid 1970s and late 1980s, mostly in the developing countries. Overuse of fertilisers may cause farmers to stop rotating crops or leaving their land fallow. That, in turn, may make soil erosion worse.

### Section F

A result of the Uruguay Round of world trade negotiations is likely to be a reduction of 36 per cent in the average levels of farm subsidies paid by the rich countries in 1986-1990. Some of the world's food production will move from Western Europe to regions where subsidies are lower or non-existent, such as the former communist countries and parts of the developing world. Some environmentalists worry about this outcome. It will undoubtedly mean more pressure to convert natural habitat into farmland. But it will also have many desirable environmental effects. The intensity of farming in the rich world should decline, and the use of chemical inputs will diminish. Crops are more likely to be grown in the environments to which they are naturally suited. And more farmers in poor countries will have the money and the incentive to manage their land in ways that are sustainable in the long run. That is important. To feed an increasingly hungry world, farmers need every incentive to use their soil and water effectively and efficiently.

**Questions 19-22**

Complete the table below using the information in sections **B** and **C** of Reading Passage 2.

Choose your answers **A-G** from the box below the table and write them in boxes 19-22 on your answer sheet.

<b>Agricultural practice</b>	<b>Environmental damage that may result</b>
• 19	• Deforestation
• 20	• Degraded water supply
• More intensive farming	• 21
• Expansion of monoculture	• 22

- |   |
|---|
| <p><b>A</b> Abandonment of fallow period</p> <p><b>B</b> Disappearance of old plant varieties</p> <p><b>C</b> Increased use of chemical inputs</p> <p><b>D</b> Increased irrigation</p> <p><b>E</b> Insurance against pests and diseases</p> <p><b>F</b> Soil erosion</p> <p><b>G</b> Clearing land for cultivation</p> |
|---|



Test 2

**Questions 23-27**

Choose the appropriate letters **A-D** and write them in boxes 23-27 on your answer sheet.

- 23** Research completed in 1982 found that in the United States soil erosion
- A** reduced the productivity of farmland by 20 per cent.
  - B** was almost as severe as in India and China.
  - C** was causing significant damage to 20 per cent of farmland.
  - D** could be reduced by converting cultivated land to meadow or forest.
- 24** By the mid-1980s, farmers in Denmark
- A** used 50 per cent less fertiliser than Dutch farmers.
  - B** used twice as much fertiliser as they had in 1960.
  - C** applied fertiliser much more frequently than in 1960.
  - D** more than doubled the amount of pesticide they used in just 3 years.
- 25** Which one of the following increased in New Zealand after 1984?
- A** farm incomes
  - B** use of fertiliser
  - C** over-stocking
  - D** farm diversification
- 26** The writer refers to some rich countries as being 'less enlightened' than New Zealand because
- A** they disapprove of paying farmers for *not* cultivating the land.
  - B** their new fuel crops are as harmful as the ones they have replaced.
  - C** their policies do not recognise the long-term benefit of ending subsidies.
  - D** they have not encouraged their farmers to follow environmentally friendly practices.
- 27** The writer believes that the Uruguay Round agreements on trade will
- A** encourage more sustainable farming practices in the long term.
  - B** do more harm than good to the international environment.
  - C** increase pressure to cultivate land in the rich countries.
  - D** be more beneficial to rich than to poor countries.

**Question 28**

From the list below choose the most suitable title for Reading Passage 2.

Write the appropriate letter A-E in box 28 on your answer sheet.

- A** Environmental management
- B** Increasing the world's food supply
- C** Soil erosion
- D** Fertilisers and pesticides - the way forward
- E** Farm subsidies

## READING PASSAGE 3

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 29—40** which are based on Reading Passage 3 below.

# THE CONCEPT OF ROLE THEORY

### Role set

Any individual in any situation occupies a role in relation to other people. The particular individual with whom one is concerned in the analysis of any situation is usually given the name of *focal person*. He has the *focal role* and can be regarded as sitting in the middle of a group of people, with whom he interacts in some way in that situation. This group of people is called his *role set*. For instance, in the family situation, an individual's role set might be shown as in *Figure 6*.

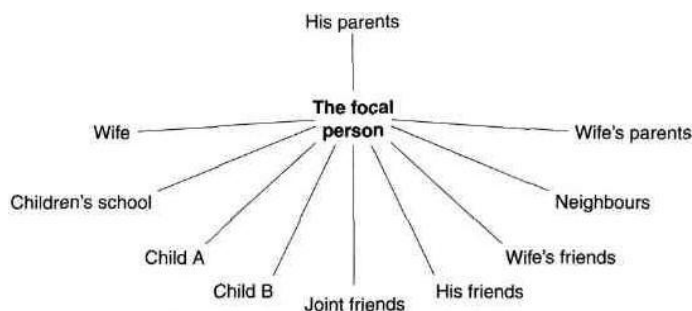


Figure 6

The role set should include all those with whom the individual has more than trivial interactions.

### Role definition

The definition of any individual's role in any situation will be a combination of the *role expectations* that the members of the role set have of the focal role. These expectations are often occupationally denned, sometimes even legally so. The role definitions of lawyers and doctors are fairly clearly defined both in legal and in cultural terms. The role definitions of, say, a film star or bank manager, are also fairly clearly defined in cultural terms, too clearly perhaps.

Individuals often find it hard to escape from the role that cultural traditions have defined for them. Not only with doctors or lawyers is the required role behaviour so constrained that if you are in that role for long it eventually becomes part of *you*, part of your personality. Hence, there is *some* likelihood that all accountants *will* be alike or that all blondes are similar - they are forced that way by the expectations of their role.

## Test 2

It is often important that you make it clear what your particular role is at a given time. The means of doing this are called, rather obviously, *role signs*. The simplest of role signs is a uniform. The number of stripes on your arm or pips on your shoulder is a very precise role definition which allows you to do certain very prescribed things in certain situations. Imagine yourself questioning a stranger on a dark street at midnight without wearing the role signs of a policeman!

In social circumstances, dress has often been used as a role sign to indicate the nature and degree of formality of any gathering and occasionally the social status of people present. The current trend towards blurring these role signs in dress is probably democratic, but it also makes some people very insecure. Without role signs, who is to know who has what role?

Place is another role sign. Managers often behave very differently outside the office and in it, even to the same person. They use a change of location to indicate a change in role from, say, boss to friend. Indeed, if you wish to change your roles you must find some outward sign that you are doing so or you won't be permitted to change - the subordinate will continue to hear you as his boss no matter how hard you try to be his friend. In very significant cases of role change, e.g. from a soldier in the ranks to officer, from bachelor to married man, the change of role has to have a very obvious *sign*, hence *rituals*. It is interesting to observe, for instance, some decline in the emphasis given to marriage rituals. This could be taken as an indication that there is no longer such a big change in role from single to married person, and therefore no need for a public change in sign.

In organisations, office signs and furniture are often used as role signs. These and other perquisites of status are often frowned upon, but they may serve a purpose as a kind of uniform in a democratic society; roles without signs often lead to confused or differing expectations of the role of the focal person.

### **Role ambiguity**

Role ambiguity results when there is some uncertainty in the minds, either of the focal person or of the members of his role set, as to precisely what his role is at any given time. One of the crucial expectations that shape the role definition is that of the individual, the focal person himself. If his occupation of the role is unclear, or if it differs from that of the others in the role set, there will be a degree of role ambiguity. Is this bad? Not necessarily, for the ability to shape one's own role is one of the freedoms that many people desire, but the ambiguity may lead to role stress which will be discussed later on. The virtue of job descriptions is that they lessen this role ambiguity.

Unfortunately, job descriptions are seldom complete role definitions, except at the lower end of the scale. At middle and higher management levels, they are often a list of formal jobs and duties that say little about the more subtle and informal expectations of the role. The result is therefore to give the individual an uncomfortable feeling that there are things left unsaid, i.e. to *heighten* the sense of role ambiguity.

Looking at role ambiguity from the other side, from the point of view of the members of the role set, lack of clarity in the role of the focal person can cause insecurity, lack of confidence, irritation and even anger among members of his role set. One list of the roles of a manager identified the following: executive, planner, policy maker, expert, controller of rewards and punishments, counsellor, friend, teacher. If it is not clear, through role signs of one sort or another, which role is currently the operational one, the other party may not react in the appropriate way — we may, in fact, hear quite another message if the focal person speaks to us, for example, as a teacher and we hear her as an executive.

**Questions 29-35**

Do the following statements reflect the views of the writer in Reading Passage 3?

*In boxes 29-35 on your answer sheet write*

**YES**                    *if the statement reflects the views of the writer*  
**NO**                      *if the statement contradicts the views of the writer*  
**NOT GIVEN**        *if it is impossible to know what the writer thinks about this*

- 29 It would be a good idea to specify the role definitions of soldiers more clearly.
- 30 Accountants may be similar to one another because they have the same type of job.
- 31 It is probably a good idea to keep dress as a role sign even nowadays.
- 32 The decline in emphasis on marriage rituals should be reversed.
- 33 Today furniture operates as a role sign in the same way as dress has always done.
- 34 It is a good idea to remove role ambiguity.
- 35 Job descriptions eliminate role ambiguity for managers.

Test 2

**Questions 36-39**

Choose **ONE OR TWO WORDS** from Reading Passage 3 for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 36-39 on your answer sheet.

- 36** A new headmaster of a school who enlarges his office and puts in expensive carpeting is using the office as a ...
- 37** The graduation ceremony in many universities is an important...
- 38** The wig which judges wear in UK courts is a ...
- 39** The parents of students in a school are part of the headmaster's ...

**Question 40**

Choose the appropriate letter **A-D** and write it in box 40 on your answer sheet.

This text is taken from

- A** a guide for new managers in a company.
- B** a textbook analysis of behaviour in organisations.
- C** a critical study of the importance of role signs in modern society.
- D** a newspaper article about role changes.

Answer key

**ACADEMIC READING**

Each question correctly answered scores 1 mark. Please note! **CORRECT SPELLING NEEDED IN ALL ANSWERS.**

**Reading Passage 1, Questions 1-13**

- 1 NOT GIVEN // NG
- 2 NO // N
- 3 YES // Y
- 4 YES // Y
- 5 NO // N
- 6 South African
- 7 French
- 8 Spanish
- 9 temperate
- 10 early spring *NOT* spring
- 11 2-5 // two to five
- 12 sub-tropical
- 13 South African tunneling/tunnelling/  
tunneler/tunneller (species)

**Reading Passage 2, Questions 14-28**

- 14 v // Governments and management of the environment
- 15 vii // Farming and food output
- 16 ii // The environmental impact of modern farming
- 17 iv // The effects of government policy in rich countries
- 18 i // The probable effects of the new international trade agreement
- 19 G // Clearing land for cultivation
- 20 C // Increased use of chemical inputs

- 21 F // Soil erosion
- 22 B // Disappearance of old plant varieties
- 23 C // was causing significant damage to 20 per cent of farmland
- 24 B // used twice as much fertiliser as they had in 1960
- 25 D // farm diversification
- 26 C // their policies do not recognise the long term benefit of ending subsidies
- 27 A // encourage more sustainable farming practices in the long term
- 28 A // Environmental management

**Reading Passage 3, Questions 29-40**

- 29 NOT GIVEN // NG
- 30 YES // Y
- 31 YES // Y
- 32 NOT GIVEN // NG
- 33 YES // Y
- 34 NO // N
- 35 NO // N
- 36 role sign
- 37 ritual
- 38 role sign
- 39 role set
- 40 C // a critical study of the importance of role signs in modern society

If you score...		
0-15	16-26	27-40
you are highly unlikely to get	you may get an acceptable	you are likely to get an
an acceptable score under	score under examination	acceptable score under
examination conditions and we	conditions but we recommend	examination conditions but
recommend that you spend a	that you think about having	remember that different
lot of time improving your	more practice or lessons before	institutions will find different
English before you take IELTS.	you take IELTS.	scores acceptable.