

IELTS ACADEMIC READING PRACTICE PAPER

On these pages you will find IELTS reading sample questions and passages.

In this first reading example you have:

- **Matching headings to paragraphs**
- **True, False, or Not Given**

• **Air Rage**

- **(A)** The first recorded case of an airline passenger turning seriously violent during a flight, a phenomenon now widely known as “air rage”, happened in 1947 on a flight from Havana to Miami. A drunk man assaulted another passenger and bit a flight attendant. However, the man escaped punishment because it was not then clear under whose legal control a crime committed on plane was, the country where the plane was registered or the country where the crime was committed. In 1963, at the Tokyo convention, it was decided that the laws of the country where the plane is registered take precedence.
- **(B)** The frequency of air rage has expanded out of proportion to the growth of air travel. Until recently few statistics were gathered about air rage, but those that have been indicate that passengers are increasingly likely to cause trouble or engage in violent acts. For example, in 1998 there were 266 air rage incidents out of approximately four million passengers, a 400% increase from 1995. In the same period American Airlines showed a 200% rise. Air travel is predicted to rise by 5% internationally by 2010 leading to increased airport congestion. This, coupled with the flying public’s increased aggression, means that air rage may become a major issue in coming years.
- **(C)** Aside from discomfort and disruption, air rage poses some very real dangers to flying. The most extreme of these is when out of control passengers enter the cockpit. This has actually happened on a number of occasions, the worst of which have resulted in the death and injury of pilots or the intruder taking control of the plane, almost resulting in crashes. In addition, berserk passengers sometimes attempt to open the emergency doors while in flight, putting the whole aircraft in danger. These are extreme examples and cases of air rage more commonly result in physical assaults on fellow passengers and crew such as throwing objects, punching, stabbing or scalding with hot coffee.
- **(D)** The causes of air rage are not known for certain, but it is generally thought that factors include: passenger behavior and personality, the physical environment and changes in society. A recent study has identified the issues that start the incidents to be as follows.

Alcohol	25%
Seating	16%

Smoking	10%
Carry on luggage	9%
Flight attendants	8%
Food	5%

- **(E)** One of the major causes seems to be the passenger's behavior or their personality. Fear of flying and the feeling of powerlessness associated with flying can lead to irritable or aggressive passengers. Also, alcohol consumed on a plane pressurized to 8000ft affects the drinker more quickly and the effects are stronger. Many people do not take account of this and drinking may increase any negative reaction to the flying environment they have, which, combined with the lowering of their inhibitions, may cause air rage. Smoking withdrawal, which some liken in severity to opiate withdrawal, is another major cause of air rage incidents. Passengers caught smoking in the toilets occasionally assault flight attendants and have been known to start fires. When conflicts occur in these conditions, they can escalate into major incidents if the passenger has a violent personality or a fear of flying and because of the enclosed nature of a plane offers no option of retreat as would be natural in a "fight or flight" reaction.
- **(F)** Some people feel that the physical environment of a plane can lead to air rage. Seats on most airlines have become smaller in recent years as airlines try to increase profits. This leads to uncomfortable and irritated passengers. Also, space for carry on luggage is often very small. Because up to 8% of checked in luggage is lost, misdirected or stolen, passengers have been trying to fit larger carry on items into these small storage areas and this can lead to disputes that can escalate into air rage. Airlines could also be to blame by raising passengers' expectations too high with their marketing and advertising. Many air rage incidents start when disappointed passengers demand to be resealed. Finally, there is some evidence to show that low oxygen levels can raise aggression level and make people feel more desperate. Airlines have lowered oxygen levels to save money. Now the level of oxygen in the air that the pilots breathe is ten times higher than in cabin class.
- **(G)** Another reason that has been suggested is that society is getting ruder and less patient. The increased congestion at airports, longer queues and increased delays have only added to this. In addition, some air rage incidents have been linked to the demanding nature of high achieving business people, who do not like people telling them what to do and resent the power that the cabin staff have over them. For them, a flight attendant is a waiter or waitress who should do what the passenger wants.
- **(H)** The strongest calls for action to control air rage have come from pilots and aircrew. The International Transport Workers' Federation argues that there are too many loopholes that let people escape punishment and that the penalties are too light. They want to notify all passengers of the penalties for air rage before taking off, rather than after the passenger begins to cause serious problems, when it may be too late. The Civil Aviation Organisation has been organizing international cooperation and penalties have increased in recent years. The most severe punishment so far has

been a 51 month jail sentence, a fine to pay for the jet fuel used and 200 hours community service for a man who attempted to enter the cockpit and to open the emergency door of a domestic US flight.

- (I) Various other measures are being used to control air rage. Air crew are getting training on how to calm passengers and how to predict where incidents might result in air rage and take action to prevent this. Other measures include, strengthening doors to stop people entering the cockpit, training crew in the use of plastic restraints to tie down unruly passengers and having pilots divert their planes if passengers cause problems. Banning passengers who are guilty of air rage from flying has also been tried to a lesser extent

IELTS Reading Sample: Questions 1 – 8

The IELTS reading sample passage has nine paragraphs **A – I**.

From the list below choose the most suitable headings for **B – I**.

Write the appropriate number (**i – xiv**) beside in boxes **1 – 8** on your answer sheet.

NB There are more headings than paragraphs, so you do not have to use them all.

List of headings

- A decline in the tolerance of passengers.
- Disproportionate growth.
- Pilots and aircrew cooperate.
- Additional action.
- Smaller seats are the norm.
- Laying the blame with the airlines
- Origins.
- A major threat to travel.
- Demands for change.
- Business people fly more.
- New research pinpoints the causes.
- The pace of life.
- Passenger at the root of the problems.
- Personal experience.

Example:

Paragraph A

Answer: vii

- Paragraph B
- Paragraph C

- 3. Paragraph D
- 4. Paragraph E
- 5. Paragraph F
- 6. Paragraph G
- 7. Paragraph H
- 8. Paragraph I

IELTS Reading Sample: Questions 9 – 14

Do the following statements agree with the information in the IELTS reading sample text?
Mark them as follows.

TRUE - if the statement agrees with the information in the text.
FALSE - if the statement does not agree with the information in the text.
NOT GIVEN - if there is no information on this in the text.

9. In the first case of air rage, one of the reasons the man was not punished was because the plane was not registered.

10. The statistics on air rage were collected by private monitoring groups.

11. The second most common catalyst for incidents is problems with seating.

12. The environment in a plane makes disagreements more likely to become serious problems.

13. Airlines have been encouraging passengers to bring more items onboard as carry-on luggage.

14. There have been no attempts to ban passengers with a history of air rage.

IELTS Sample Reading 2

In this IELTS sample reading you have:

- **multiple choice questions**
- **summary completion**
- **matching statements**

Wind Power

The power of the wind has been used for centuries to directly drive various machines to perform such tasks as grinding wheat or pumping water. Recently, however, the wind has joined other natural forces such as water and steam as a viable method of generating electricity.

Traditional means of electricity generation using coal or oil-fueled plants have two major drawbacks; they pollute the environment and the fuels they use are inefficient and non-renewable. In response to growing environmental awareness there have been calls for a greener alternative. Nuclear power, while more efficient and less polluting, is seen by many people as unacceptable, because of the danger of accidents such as those that happened at Chernobyl or Three Mile Island. Wind power, however, is clean, renewable and, with modern advances, surprisingly efficient.

In the 1970s Britain was in the forefront of research into wind power. The interest in wind diminished in the 1980s due to cheap North Sea oil, a strong pro-nuclear lobby and pricing structures that made it uneconomical to set up wind farms. Britain, the windiest country in Europe, had to wait until 1991 for its first wind farm. Located at Delabole in Cornwall, the farm was originally the idea of locals who opposed the construction of a nuclear power plant nearby and decided to set up a private company to generate power for the area using the wind. They had to fight opposition from local government and other local residents, who thought the turbines would be noisy and might interfere with television signals, but eventually, after showing local officials working wind farms in Denmark, they won and now there are 10 huge white wind turbines on the Delabole hills.

It is in Germany and Denmark that the greatest advances in wind power have come. Germany alone produces half of the wind generated electricity in Europe. Every year Germany adds 400 Megawatts (Mw) of capacity. In 2000 alone capacity expanded by 1669 Mw. Denmark now produces 30% of its electricity from wind power and this is predicted to rise to 50% by 2010. Both countries have encouraged this growth by “fixed feed tariffs” which guarantee a good price for private wind power operators.

Britain is catching up and the government has set a target 10% of all electricity to come from renewable sources by 2010, half of this to be from wind power. The 900 wind turbines in operation generate 400Mw of electricity and to meet the target roughly 400Mw will need to be added each year. With the advances in technology this is technically possible. Each turbine can now produce 400 Kilowatts (KW) compared to only 70 KW at the start of the 1980s. It will, however, need help from the government. This is being done by offering financial support and giving private power companies targets to meet.

Because many people feel wind farms spoil the view and, also, because the wind is stronger at sea, many wind farms are now being built offshore. They are usually built a few kilometres off the coast in shallow water. The construction and maintenance costs are higher, but electricity output is higher. The first in Britain was built in 2000 at Blyth, north of Newcastle, and was the largest in the world until May 2001, when a 20 turbine farm was opened at Middelgruden off Copenhagen. There are plans to construct up to 18 more in the UK by 2010. Together they will produce 800 Mw of electricity annually.

The use of wind power is far less advanced in the USA. Only 5% of America’s power comes from the wind, although it is estimated that this could be increased to as high as 12% with no changes to the power grid. However, there is an increased interest in wind power. There are plans to build a huge offshore wind farm off the coast of Cape Cod on the North East seaboard. The farm will take up over 25 square miles, have 170 turbines and produce 420Mw at a cost of \$600m. If constructed, it will be the world’s second biggest wind farm, after the 520Mw farm planned in Ireland.

IELTS Sample Reading: Questions 1 – 2

Choose the best answer to the questions below.

1. People do not like coal and oil powered power production because ...

- A. *it damages the environment.*
- B. *it is wasteful.*
- C. *they cannot be replaced once consumed.*
- D. *all of the above.*

2. Wind power ...

- A. *has only been used recently.*
- B. *promotes environmental awareness.*
- C. *avoided accidents at Chernobyl and Three Mile Island.*
- D. *is not depleted when used.*

IELTS Sample Reading: Questions 3 – 7

Complete the following summary of the third paragraph from the IELTS sample reading using **ONE OR TWO WORDS** from the reading texts.

British Wind Power

While there was a great deal of interest in wind power in the 1970s, it (3) in the 1980s. This was mainly due to intense support for (4) power and little help in making wind power affordable. So, even though Britain has some of the best winds in Europe, the first wind farm was only built in 1991. The farm at Delabole came out of opposition by (5) to a nuclear power plant. Initially, they were opposed by local officials due to fears about noise and possible obstruction to (6) . This opposition was eventually overcome only after they were shown successful examples from (7) .

IELTS Sample Reading: Questions 8 – 13

Match the **country** below or mark **none** to the statements taken from the IELTS sample reading.

Note: Some countries may not be used and countries can be used more than once.

- BR** _____ *Britain*
- G** _____ *Germany*
- D** _____ *Denmark*
- US** _____ *The United States*
- IRE** _____ *Ireland*
- N** _____ *None of the countries*

8. Plans to produce 5% of its power using wind power.

9. Produces 50% of its power from wind.

10. Produces very little of its power using wind.

11. Will have the world's largest wind farm.

12. Used to have the world's biggest off-shore wind farm.

13. Is the biggest producer of wind power in Europe