



Focus on reading *Sentence completion; matching*

FORMING A GENERAL PICTURE

- 1 a Read the title and subheading of the text opposite. Without reading the rest of the text, answer the following questions.
- 1 What general problem is the text about?
 - 2 Where does the problem exist?
 - 3 What could be a possible solution?
 - 4 What is one drawback to this solution?

- b Now read the first and last paragraphs of the text to check your answers.
- c You can often get a general picture of a text quickly by looking for proper nouns.

Look through the whole text quickly and underline or highlight all the proper nouns which refer to people or institutions. What does that part of the text tell you about the role of each of these? Spend no more than two minutes on this.

Example: (para B) *Fred Kajubi – Ugandan electrician – belongs to Uganda Change Agents Association*

SENTENCE COMPLETION
▶ Focus on IELTS page 33

- 2 In one type of sentence completion task, you have to complete sentences using words from a box.

LOCATING THE ANSWERS

- a Look through the sentence beginnings 1–6 below. Some key words have been underlined. The same words are in the text. Look for these words to help you locate the paragraphs which contain the information you need.
- b Read the paragraphs you have marked carefully, and complete the task below.

HELP

The answers all occur in just **three** paragraphs of the text

Questions 1–6

Complete each sentence with the correct ending A–J from the box.

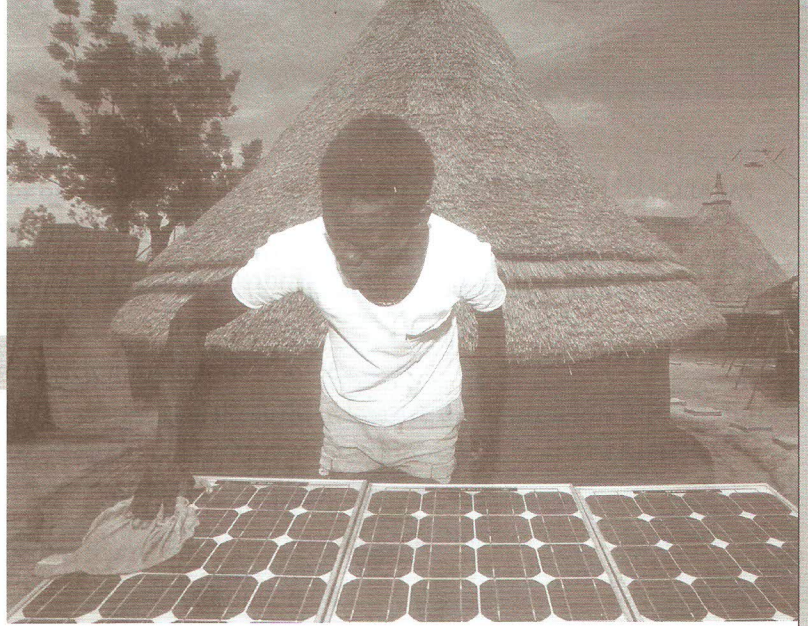
- 1 Graham Knight believes that for some purposes, it may be better to use solar power rather than energy from
- 2 Sunshine Solutions' solar panels are cheap because they use
- 3 At present, the majority of Ugandans use batteries and kerosene as sources of power, rather than
- 4 In the long term, solar panels are a cheaper source of power for radios than
- 5 It has been shown that in some places, small-scale projects for energy production are more successful than
- 6 Fossil fuels cause more damage to the environment than

- A ambitious enterprises
- B amorphous silicon
- C batteries
- D cheap technology
- E clockwork mechanisms
- F crystalline silicon
- G mains electricity
- H energy from renewable sources
- I in the past
- J local solutions

Light years ahead

Charlotte Denny in Kampala

Cheap solar panels could be the answer to Uganda's power shortage, but they are proving to be a hard sell



A Uganda may be one of the world's poorest countries, but it has been blessed with a climate that is almost perfect. With sunshine going spare, one Ugandan electrician believes he has the solution to the country's power shortage – low-tech solar panels that can run anything from a radio to a mobile phone.

B The electrician, Fred Kajubi, belongs to an organisation known as the Uganda Change Agents Association, which helps local people learn skills that can make a difference to their lives and their communities. Members of the organisation, who are known as Change Agents, run credit unions, set up self-help groups in villages, become active in local politics and, in Mr Kajubi's case, promote the use of solar power. He has set up his own small company, Sunshine Solutions, which offers customers a solar panel to meet their every need.

C The materials for the solar panels come from a company in Britain called BioDesign, set up five years ago by a retired inventor, Graham Knight. After seeing a TV programme on the invention of a radio powered by clockwork, Mr Knight decided that in some parts of the world, solar power would be a more effective energy resource for radios and similar everyday equipment. He set up a firm to make the components for low-cost solar panels for use in Africa and South America. These are sent out in kit form, together with instructions on how to assemble them. Graham Knight's panels, which use amorphous silicon, are ten times cheaper than the crystalline silicon panels more commonly used for large-scale solar power production. Sunshine Solutions can therefore sell solar panels that are much less expensive than the ones available in the shops.

D Only a small minority of Ugandans currently have access to mains electricity, which leaves most families reliant on batteries to power their radios and on kerosene lamps to light their houses. But for just 15,000 shillings (\$8.50), the same price as two months' supply of batteries, one of the solar panels sold by Sunshine Solutions can run a radio for several years. In spite of this, it's proving a struggle for the company to persuade

people to invest in their solar panels. Although the solar panels work out cheaper than batteries in the long term, the initial cost is more than many people can afford.

E Uganda plans to bring power to poor villages over the next five years, with the building of a big dam on the Nile. But even if the ambitious plans for rural electrification succeed, there will still be sections of the population that cannot afford to hook up to the national grid. 'The experience of the last couple of decades in developing countries is that ambitious schemes are not effective in getting power to the poorest people,' says Andrew Simms, an expert from the New Economics Foundation in London. 'Small-scale enterprises have a better track record at getting energy to the people who need it.' Better still, solar and other renewable energy sources allow countries to avoid the effects of pollution caused by heavy reliance on fossil fuels, Mr Simms says.

F Even the World Bank, often criticised for being obsessed with large-scale power projects, recognises that there is place for solar power. According to a World Bank representative, solar power can be an effective complement to grid-based electricity, which is often too costly for sparsely settled and remote areas.

G But even cheap technology is hard to sell in a country where half the population lives below the poverty line and there are few effective marketing and distribution channels. Mr Simms believes that the only solution to spreading solar energy more widely is government subsidies, because the initial costs of the solar power panels are beyond most household budgets.

H In the meantime, Mr Kajubi is pinning his hopes on the spread of micro-credit schemes that will loan money to families to help them raise the cash for his products. His company has yet to make a profit, although he says sales are picking up. He is planning another trip into the countryside to demonstrate his solar panels as well as a new solar cooker. Asked if he ever gets downhearted, he points to the motto on his workshop wall: Never give up, it says.

PARALLEL EXPRESSIONS

3 To do Exercise 2, you had to find related phrases in the questions and the text. Which phrases from the questions relate to the following from the text?

- 1 more effective
- 2 less expensive
- 3 only a small minority (*look for the opposite meaning*)
- 4 over several years
- 5 large-scale schemes (*look for the opposite meaning*)
- 6 schemes
- 7 have a better track record
- 8 pollution

MATCHING

► Focus on IELTS page 32

TIP The name may not be given in exactly the same form in all places (e.g. Fred Kajubi / Mr Kajubi).

4 This task involves matching two sets of information. One set will be names of people or things from the text. The second set will be statements, opinions, theories, etc. The order of the numbered items (1, 2, 3, etc.) will not be the same as in the text.

- a Look through the text quickly. In which paragraphs will you find information about the people A–D in the box below?
- b Now complete the task below. To help you, the key words in the statements have been underlined.

Questions 7–13

Look at the following descriptions (Questions 7–13) and the list of people below. Match each person with the description which relates to them.

- 7 He has set up a business selling solar panels.
- 8 He believes that small-scale projects are the most effective way of providing people with power.
- 9 He believes he can solve a problem affecting his country.
- 10 He says that solar power is more suitable than electricity for far-off places where very few people live.
- 11 He uses a very inexpensive method to produce the components for solar panels.
- 12 He thinks that the government should help people by paying part of the cost of solar power products.
- 13 He supports the idea of lending money to people to help them buy solar panels.

List of People

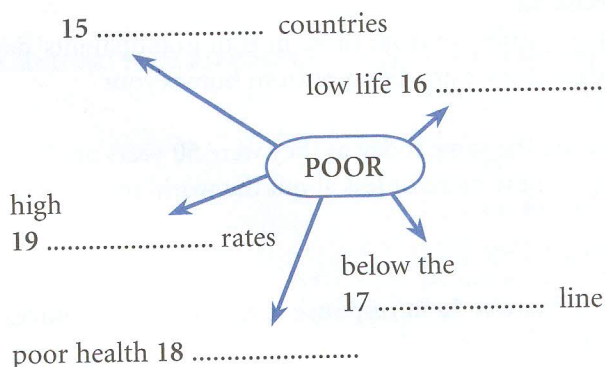
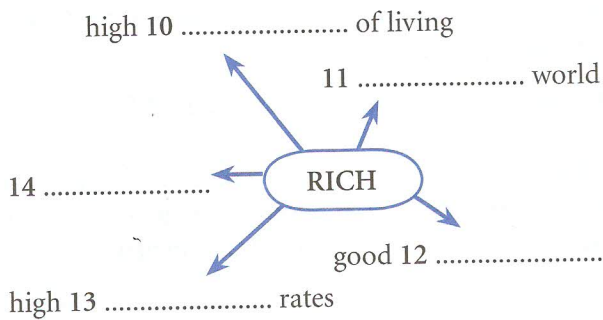
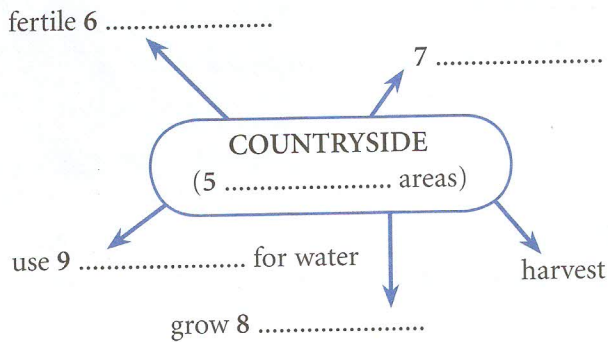
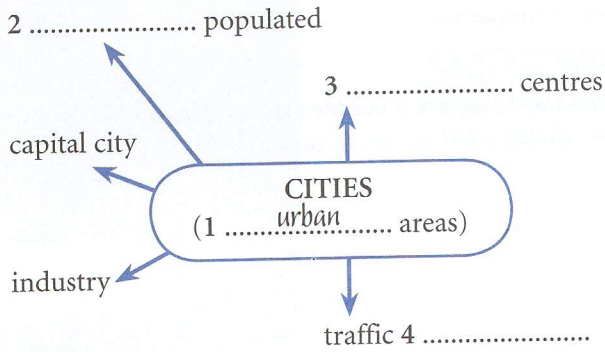
- A Fred Kajubi
- B Graham Knight
- C Andrew Simms
- D a World Bank representative

1 Topic vocabulary overview

Module B (Focus on IELTS Units 3 and 4) covered a range of topics connected with the way people live together and their share of the world's resources.

a Complete the mindmaps below using words from the box.

agriculture birth congestion crops densely developed developing expectancy facilities financial irrigation land literacy poverty prosperity rural standard urban wages



b Now complete these extracts using words and expressions from the completed mindmaps.

Listening Section 3: Growing rice in Vietnam

Student: Next, we looked at rural areas of Vietnam. Here, most people make their living through 1 as there is little industry. One of the main 2 grown is rice. This needs 3 and plenty of water. Usually, the rice plants are provided with water through 4

Writing Task 2: The advantages of city life

For the first time in human history, over 50% of the world's population lives in cities. In many ways, it makes sense to live in a 5 area, rather than in remote areas in the countryside where the population is more scattered. Those living in 6 such as towns or cities have easy access to services such as electricity and water. They are able to earn 7 and so they have a higher standard of 8 than those in rural areas, together with improved rates of 9 and a higher life 10

c Look back through the units and add more words to the diagrams.

2 Parallel phrases

In many IELTS Reading and Listening tasks, you have to be able to recognise words and phrases with similar or parallel meanings. The ability to use a wide range of vocabulary is also assessed in the Speaking and Writing Modules.

For each sentence, find two more words or phrases from the box with a similar meaning to the word in italics.

abandon associations built desert enterprises a high proportion of low-tech the majority of obstacles organisations schemes stumbling blocks unambitious constructed

- Governments could provide subsidies to encourage local *projects* / / using alternative energy sources.
- In some countries, large dams have been *made* / / to provide power, but these sometimes have harmful effects on the environment.

- 3 Unfortunately there are many *problems* / / in the way of developing an efficient recycling system.
- 4 Often, *small-scale* / / projects are more efficient than large-scale plans.
- 5 *Local* and national *groups* / / need to be formed to address the problems of poverty and unemployment.
- 6 Many people are having to *leave* / / their homes in the rural areas in order to seek work in the cities.
- 7 In many parts of the world, *most* / / people live in urban areas.

3 Describing qualities and quantities

For Writing Task 1, you often have to describe qualities and quantities. (See Module B pages 25–26.)

Read through the following sentences and choose the expression in italics which best completes each of them. Both expressions are grammatically correct; you must think about the meaning and decide which one gives correct information.

- 1 A *much lower* / *far higher* quantity of waste is produced by households in the USA than in China.
- 2 Lack of electricity is a *much more* / *far less* serious problem in Uganda than in North America.
- 3 Surprisingly, world population figures in 1700 AD were *more or less the same as* / *a great deal higher than* in 1200 AD.
- 4 Burying rubbish underground is probably a *much less* / *slightly more* effective solution than burning it, as burning produces harmful chemicals.
- 5 A *significantly greater* / *slightly lower* proportion of households in Berlin have running water, compared with Ho Chi Minh City.
- 6 It appears that population growth may be a *rather less* / *far more* urgent issue now than 20 years ago, as the increase shows signs of slowing down.
- 7 In the future, hydrogen could be a *much less* / *far more* important energy resource than oil.
- 8 One fifth of the world's population consumes a *far larger* / *much smaller* amount of the world's resources than the remaining four-fifths put together.
- 9 A *significantly higher* / *considerably lower* percentage of people travel to work by public

transport in Moscow than in Los Angeles.
 10 Many environmentalists believe that developing small community projects is a *far worse* / *rather better* idea than investing in large-scale international schemes.

b Look at the words in bold in the sentences above. Which five words always refer to quantities or numbers?

4 Topic vocabulary: money and natural resources
 Module B (Focus on IELTS Units 3 and 4) included vocabulary related to financial matters and to natural resources. These are important topics for the IELTS exam.

a Put the expressions in the box under the appropriate heading below.

budget clockwork coal costs distribution trade fossil fuels investment gas loan marketing oil renewable sales solar power subsidies electricity wind power profit cash

Money and business	Energy and resources
<i>budget</i>	

b Use words from Exercise 4a to complete these sentences.

- 1 In other cases, institutions such as banks may be prepared to give which can be repaid once the business is making a
- 2 Gas, and other are examples of non-renewable resources; at present, they contribute about 80% of the world's energy.
- 3 The main problem for individuals beginning their own small businesses is raising the to cover the initial of setting up the business.
- 4 There are two types of energy resources, non-renewable and
- 5 In some cases, the government may provide to help with some of the costs.
- 6 Renewable energy resources include and as well as water power.

c Now re-order the sentences into two separate paragraphs and write them out in your notebook. One paragraph should be about setting up a business and the other about energy resources.

1 Vocabulary

Read the pairs of sentences below and put a tick (✓) if they mean the same thing and a cross (X) if they are different. Underline any phrases which make the meanings different.

- 1 a) We are fully staffed at present.
b) We don't have any vacancies just now.
- 2 a) The prices fluctuated slightly in June.
b) There was a slight dip in prices in June.
- 3 a) Births recovered to 6 million in 1986.
b) Births reached a peak at 6 million in 1986.
- 4 a) There was a slight decrease in sales figures.
b) Sales figures fell marginally.
- 5 a) There was a steady upward trend in spending during the period.
b) Overall, spending rose steadily during the period.
- 6 a) In New York City, 40 per cent of children live below the poverty line.
b) Over half the children in New York City are very poor.
- 7 a) The initial cost of setting up a solar power system is quite low.
b) It does not cost much to run a solar power system.
- 8 a) A low intensity exercise programme would probably be best for you.
b) You should probably follow a programme of vigorous exercise.
- 9 a) We used to live in a small apartment at the edge of the town when I was a child
b) When I was young, we lived in a little flat on the outskirts of the town.
- 10 a) The job will involve supervising the children's meals.
b) The person doing this job will be responsible for cooking the children's meals.

2 Reading: True/False/Not Given

Farming comes to town to feed the world

What is one of the biggest industries in most of the world's cities? Surprisingly, it is farming. On roadside verges and balconies, alongside railway lines and by airports, city-dwellers are growing crops. A study of urban farming in 100 cities in 30 countries, released in Istanbul by the United Nations, concludes that one in three of the world's urban residents grows food, either for their own consumption or to sell for profit.

Urban agriculture provides an estimated 15 per cent of the world's food, says the report. Calcutta raises a quarter of its fish supply in tanks within the city. In Moscow, two-thirds of families now grow food.

'Planners used to believe that cities were for industry and countryside was for farming. But this is very outdated,' said the report's author, Jac Smit. Urban farming is making a nonsense of the boundaries between town and country, he said. In Bangkok, for instance, 60 per cent of the land is devoted to farming.

'Urban farms are recycling vital resources and producing high crop yields,' said Anders Wijkman, who headed the UNDP delegation in Istanbul. 'They are a life-saver for millions of urban dwellers worldwide.'

- a Do the following statements agree with the information given in the reading passage? Write *True, False or Not Given*.
 - 1 The results of research about urban farming have been made public by the United Nations.
 - 2 The majority of people who grow food in cities sell it in order to make money.
 - 3 Over one quarter of the world's food comes from farms in urban areas.
 - 4 Urban farming used to be confined to areas near city boundaries.
 - 5 Bangkok has a higher percentage of land used for farming than any other city.
 - 6 According to Anders Wijkman, urban farms tend to have disappointing harvests.
- b Use the context to help you choose the best meaning for these words in the text.
 - 1 verges (paragraph 1)
a) the edge of a road b) the surface of a road
 - 2 tanks (paragraph 2)
a) military vehicles b) large water containers
 - 3 devoted to (paragraph 3)
a) liking very much b) used for
 - 4 dwellers (paragraph 4)
a) residents b) researchers