

PAPER 1 Reading

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You are going to read three extracts which are all concerned in some way with astrology. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

The roots of astrology are probably as old as humanity's first attempts to map the heavens. The oldest astrological records we know of come from Babylon, and astrology clearly played an important role in the life of Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome. In fact, most cultures throughout history have believed that the stars influence our lives, and to judge by the avidity with which modern-day Britons scan the pages of newspapers for their daily horoscope, astrology is as popular today as ever it was. In fact, astrology is big business, and top astrologers with regular pages in newspapers and magazines earn huge annual incomes. Even the new technologies have been pressed into service; astrological web sites are visited by millions every day, and not just by the gullible or uneducated. There are students studying science at university who admit to believing that one's star sign determines personality. Hard-headed businessmen have been known to pay for astrological predictions about the rise and fall of the stock market, and a few years ago it emerged that one large bank was using astrology to help manage its five billion pound investment portfolio. Nor is it a secret that several politicians have relied on astrologers to provide insight into matters of state – believers include former American President Ronald Reagan. Even former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher once told MPs: 'I was born under the sign of Libra; it follows that I am well-balanced.'

But surely it is an irony that in our technological age so many people continue to put their faith in astrologers. After all, we are living in a period of history when science seems to have provided answers to many of the riddles and mysteries of nature. Paradoxically, however, the resultant mechanistic view of life has caused many to feel that their life has no purpose, a state of affairs also reflected by the decline in formal religious observance. Is this, perhaps, why growing numbers of people are turning to astrology with such fervour? Are they simply exhibiting a natural human longing for some meaning in their life?

- 1 Which observation does the writer make regarding astrology?
 - A Its appeal is timeless.
 - B It has gained credibility.
 - C Its popularity is in decline.
 - D Scientists have disproved its claims.
- 2 According to the writer, what is ironic about astrology today?
 - A Science has provided answers to astrological questions.
 - B Several high-ranking politicians believe in it.
 - C It has gained adherents as a result of scientific progress.
 - D Technological developments have led to a decline in religious beliefs.

Astrology Analysed

Books on astrology and its influence on our lives abound, so when *Astrology Analysed* landed on my desk, I can't say I was exactly fired with enthusiasm. Until, that is, I began to read it.

For here, at last, is a book that offers a genuine critical evaluation of the claims astrologers have been making for thousands of years. The author, Tom Maine, is an internationally acclaimed expert on the philosophy of science. In this book, he successfully brings together historical and scientific research in an account that is both informative and challenging to the reader.

Believers in astrology are often all too ready to blindly accept comments on their personality, suggestions about who is a suitable match for them, and predictions about their career, love life, etc. On the other hand, sceptics can be positively scathing in their determination to highlight astrology's flaws and inadequacies. Few people are willing to examine the subject empirically or objectively. Tom Maine is one of the few who has attempted to do so.

His approach is impartial yet probing, providing readers with a unique insight into this ancient art, and at the same time allowing them to draw their own conclusions regarding its value. Tracing its historical origins, he analyses how astrology works, and scrutinises various experiments that have been carried out to ascertain the accuracy of its claims. It makes for a fascinating read. As to my own conclusion regarding the validity of astrology, I am keeping that to myself!

- 3 According to the review, the author
- A is a popular scientist and philosopher.
 - B has a balanced approach to the subject.
 - C encourages readers to regard astrology as a science.
 - D exposes the flaws in astrological predictions.
- 4 Regarding her own views on the subject of astrology, the writer is
- A unequivocal.
 - B apathetic.
 - C noncommittal.
 - D explicit.

Nicholas Culpeper

Nicholas Culpeper is best remembered today as the author of the book commonly known as 'Culpeper's Herbal', which was published in 1653. What is not so well known about this accomplished healer is that he was also an astrologer.

In Culpeper's time, it was common practice for medicine to be linked with astrology, and had been for at least 2000 years. People saw astrology as directly affecting the efficacy of plants' healing properties. Thus, healers of the day were often also skilled astrologers. No doubt for this reason, after completing a long apprenticeship to an apothecary, where he learned about the healing properties of herbs, Culpeper went to work with the astrologer William Lilly in 1635. Lilly taught him a great deal about medical astrology, and greatly influenced his future work. Culpeper's philosophy was built on a combination of astrological and Greco-Arabic medical principles.

Believing that medical knowledge should be made available to whoever was interested, Culpeper made himself unpopular with the medical establishment of the day by writing and publishing guides in English rather than Latin, in which he outlined the principles of medical astrology and the use of medicinal herbs in healing. 'Culpeper's Herbal' was based on these principles, and was seen as a definitive work on herbal medicine for more than 250 years. Today, some astrologers still adhere to his philosophy. They argue that by studying an individual's natal chart in detail, it is possible to evaluate his or her tendency towards illness, and the body's ability to heal itself.

Although the development of Western conventional medicine has destroyed much of medical astrology's public credibility, the growing interest in alternative medicine such as acupuncture and homeopathy could stimulate a revival of interest in the subject.

- 5 In Culpeper's day, people believed that
- A plant growth was affected exclusively by astrology.
 - B astrology determined a plant's ability to cure disease.
 - C only astrologers could effectively cure illness.
 - D medical knowledge was restricted to astrologers.
- 6 According to the writer,
- A people no longer question the validity of medical astrology.
 - B Culpeper was admired in the medical circles of his day.
 - C William Lilly was strongly influenced by Culpeper's writings.
 - D Culpeper tried to make medical knowledge more accessible.

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PAPER 5 Speaking

You are going to read a magazine article. Six paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs **A–G** the one which fits each gap (7–12). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Countdown to Extinction for World's Great Apes

Gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos and orangutans – the closest living relatives of humanity – could vanish from the wild within fifty years, according to United Nations leaders who met recently in Paris. They have appealed for £15 million to save the world's great apes from extinction.

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There is no doubt that dedicated researchers and writers have raised public awareness about the plight of the great apes, and commercially successful films like *Gorillas in the Mist* have also helped to shed light on the situation. Unfortunately, in spite of this, the decline in ape numbers has not only continued but accelerated.

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Lowland and mountain gorillas range through nine African countries. Reliable figures on these animals are hard to come by, partly because the creatures are by nature reclusive and shy, and partly because the areas they inhabit are both remote and inhospitable. However, one estimate suggests that eighty to ninety percent of the population may have been lost in just five years, as new roads have opened up inaccessible forest to poachers, loggers and bush meat hunters. Only about 600 mountain gorillas survive in Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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The future looks equally bleak for the other African apes. Two chimpanzee species, *Pan troglodytes* and *Pan paniscus* (the bonobo or pigmy chimpanzee), are found in twenty-one African countries, but their populations are very small compared to the size of their potential range. There may be only 105,000 *Pan troglodytes*, and fewer than 20,000

bonobos left. The western chimpanzee has vanished from Benin, Gambia and Togo. Fewer than 400 remain in Senegal and 300 to 500 in Ghana. The population of chimps in Guinea-Bissau is below 200. And yet these animals are our closest relatives: chimpanzee DNA is so close to human DNA that one scientist has proposed that they should be reclassified as genus *Homo*.

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By 2030 less than ten percent of Africa's remaining forest is likely to remain undisturbed. The picture from south-east Asia is also disturbing: by 2030 there will be almost no habitat that could be described as 'relatively undisturbed'. The total number of orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*) in the region is unknown, but the species is at 'extremely high risk' of extinction in Sumatra, where a population put at 6,000 three years ago has been falling by 1,000 a year. It is also endangered in Borneo.

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'We cannot just put up fences to try and separate the apes from people,' says one official. 'Great apes play a key role in maintaining the health and diversity of tropical forests which people depend on. They disperse seeds throughout the forests, for example, and create light gaps in the forest canopy which allow seedlings to grow and replenish the forest ecosystem.'

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It remains to be seen whether the great apes will fare any better than the dodo, or whether they will soon only survive in 2005 as sad reminders of our inhumanity. Time, which is fast running out, will tell.

- A** Another official has said: 'It's basic arithmetic: the multiplication of threats to the great apes, the division of their habitats, the subtraction of overall ape numbers.' To get the sums right, he added, would take the combined efforts of two UN agencies, four wildlife conventions and eighteen non-governmental organisations to raise awareness, funds and 'our conservation game to stop the great apes becoming history'.
- B** The UN first sounded an alarm about the rapidly dwindling numbers of great apes in 2001 and appealed for funds. But by last year, researchers on the ground had begun to reveal an even more ominous pattern of loss. They found that ape numbers in Africa had been slashed by logging, hunting and disease.
- C** 'The clock is standing at one minute to midnight for the great apes, animals that share more than 96% of their DNA with humans,' said Klaus Topfer, the head of the UN environment programme. 'If we lose any great ape species, we will be destroying a bridge to our own origins, and with it part of our own humanity.' He called the sum required 'the bare minimum we need, the equivalent of providing a dying man with bread and water'.
- D** To survive and breed, the great apes need undisturbed forest. But such earthly edens are becoming increasingly scarce. Logging, slash and burn agriculture and the ever-increasing pressure by human populations are taking their toll, and unfortunately, political instability and war have also had a devastating effect.
- E** UN agencies, conservation organisations, donor countries and officials from twenty-three African and south-east Asian nations have been meeting in Paris to work on survival strategies. Researchers have begun to use European satellite studies to measure forest destruction, and Unesco officials are working to improve law enforcement in African national parks.
- F** It is hoped that similar fund-raising activities will also prove effective in this case. Since the funds required have not been allocated by the UN as yet, it remains to be seen exactly how much will have to be supplied by private means. But it is likely to be a significant amount.
- G** In one population studied, researchers knew of 140 gorillas. After an outbreak of the Ebola virus, they could only find seven alive. 'The stark truth is that if we do not act decisively, our children may live in a world without wild apes,' they reported.

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PAPER 5 Speaking

You are going to read a newspaper article. For questions 13–19, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

The Land under the Sea

Underwater maps reveal hidden history

Ten thousand years ago, as the last ice age drew to a close, sea levels around the world were far lower than they are today. Much of the land under the North Sea and the English Channel was part of a huge region of forests and grassy plains, where herds of horses and reindeer roamed free and people lived in villages by the lakes and rivers. Then the climate gradually became warmer (a phenomenon certainly not confined to our own age!) and the water trapped in glaciers and ice caps was released. This ancient land was submerged in the resulting deluge and all that remains to tell us that it was once lush and verdant – and inhabited – is the occasional stone tool, harpoon or mammoth tusk brought up from the sea bed by fishing boats.

Now the development of advanced sonar technology, known as bathymetry, is making it possible to study this flooded landscape in extraordinary detail. A special echo sounder is fixed to the bottom of a survey vessel, and it makes wide sweeps across the sea bed. While previous devices have only been able to produce two-dimensional images, bathymetry makes use of computers, satellite positioning devices and special software to create accurate and remarkably detailed maps. For the first time an ancient river bed leaps out of the three-dimensional image, complete with rocky ledges rising up from the bottom of the valley. The sites of pre-historic settlements can now be pinpointed, and it is also possible to see in stunning detail the sunken shipwrecks that litter this part of the sea bed.

According to archaeologist Dr Linda Andrews, this technological development is of huge significance. 'We now have the ability to map the sea bed of the Channel and the North Sea as accurately as we can map dry land,' she says. She is, however, scathing about the scale of government funding for such projects. 'We have better images of Mars and Venus

than of two-thirds of our own planet! In view of the fact that Britain is a maritime nation, and the sea has had such a massive influence on us, it's an absolute scandal that we know so little about the area just off our shores!'

Once bathymetric techniques have identified sites where people might have built their homes and villages, such as sheltered bays, cliffs with caves and the shores of freshwater lakes, divers could be sent down to investigate further. Robot submarines could also be used, and researchers hope they will find stone tools and wood from houses (which survives far longer in water than on dry land) as proof of human activity. The idea of Britain as a natural island kingdom will be challenged by these findings: Britain has been inhabited for about 500,000 years, and for much of this time it has been linked on and off to continental Europe. It remains to be seen how far this new awareness is taken on board among our 'island' people.

In fact, the use of bathymetry scanners will not be limited to the study of lost landscapes and ancient settlements. It will also be vital in finding shipwrecks. Records show that there are about 44,000 shipwrecks off the shores of Britain, but there is good reason to believe that the real figure is much higher. In addition, commercial applications are a real possibility. Aggregates for the construction industry are becoming increasingly expensive, and bathymetry scanners could be used to identify suitable sites for quarrying this material. However, mapping the sea bed will also identify places where rare plants and shellfish have their homes. Government legislation may prevent digging at such sites, either to extract material for a profit or to make the water deeper: there are plans to dredge parts of the English Channel to provide deeper waterways for massive container ships.

- 13** We are told that the area now under the sea
- A** was not previously thought to have been populated.
 - B** was created by the last Ice Age.
 - C** has yielded some archaeological artefacts.
 - D** was flooded, drowning the inhabitants.
- 14** How does the new sonar technology work?
- A** It has an echo sounder at the bottom of the sea.
 - B** It produces two-dimensional images of the sea floor.
 - C** It makes use of various devices.
 - D** It uses computers to locate pre-historic sites.
- 15** What is the most important aspect of the new scanning technique?
- A** It can pinpoint the location of shipwrecks under the sea.
 - B** It is able to follow the course of ancient rivers.
 - C** It can measure the depth of the sea bed with accuracy.
 - D** It reveals important details of underwater topography.
- 16** How does Dr Andrews feel about the lack of accurate maps of the waters around Britain?
- A** outraged
 - B** resigned
 - C** astonished
 - D** amused
- 17** The writer suggests that a better understanding of the settlements on the sea bed may
- A** inspire more young people to take up archaeology.
 - B** modify the attitudes of the British to their country's history.
 - C** provide confirmation about the dangers of global warming.
 - D** alter the perception other countries have about Britain.
- 18** Quarrying is mentioned to show that
- A** there will be little difficulty obtaining funds for research.
 - B** underwater research should be completed as soon as possible.
 - C** damage to the sea bed has not been recorded accurately so far.
 - D** the project may have practical benefits for industry.
- 19** The use of bathymetry scanners may help to
- A** preserve the marine environment.
 - B** promote dredging in the English Channel.
 - C** identify new species of plants and animals.
 - D** obtain approval to look for shipwrecks.

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PAPER 5 Speaking

You are going to read a newspaper article in which people talk about their experiences at job interviews. For questions 20–34, choose from the people (A–F). When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Which person mentions the following?

- | | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| establishing how the interview will be conducted | 20 | |
| the importance of keeping to the point | 21 | |
| revealing what motivates you | 22 | 23 |
| awareness of body language | 24 | |
| sources of information about your prospective employer | 25 | |
| dressing appropriately | 26 | |
| taking responsibility for past errors | 27 | |
| appearing to have rehearsed responses | 28 | |
| preparing inquiries to put to a prospective employer | 29 | |
| foreseeing the consequences of feeling apprehensive | 30 | |
| an abrupt ending to an interview | 31 | |
| indicating that you view the interview as a transaction | 32 | |
| a relaxed atmosphere in the workplace | 33 | |
| advantages in being honest about your failings | 34 | |

Tell us Something about Yourself

Being interviewed for a job can be a stressful experience. We asked six people what they learnt from being in that situation.

A My first interview for a job taught me a great deal. I was applying for the position of junior account executive in an advertising company, which involves dealing with clients on a face-to-face basis. It follows that you have to be good at interpersonal skills, and unfortunately, that's not the impression I gave. Like a lot of people, I tend to babble when I'm nervous. The interviewer began by asking me to say something about myself, and I started talking about my hobbies. But I got carried away and went off at a tangent, which made a bad impression. The other lesson I learnt was that if you are asked what your weaknesses are, you really shouldn't be evasive. You could mention a weakness that can also be a strength. For example, being pedantic is not always a bad thing in certain circumstances, and you should explain how you cope with that weakness, but you have to say something.

B In my present job I have to interview applicants, and I can offer a few general tips. Firstly, a candidate should not learn a speech off by heart; you will come across as insincere, as if you have practised everything in front of a mirror. Secondly, it is crucial to understand what the interviewer wants you to talk about. For instance, an interviewer might ask about a situation where your supervisor or manager had a problem with your work. Now, what the interviewer is really after is to see how you react to criticism, and the best thing is to say that you tried to learn from this. Finally, don't try to conceal your real character. When I was interviewed for a job many years ago, the interviewer asked me at the end of our talk if I had any questions. I was very keen to get the job, so I asked what opportunities there were for promotion if I were hired. I wondered if perhaps I had been too direct, but I later discovered that

employers like you to seem eager, and I think they were impressed by my enthusiasm and ambition.

C One good way to prepare for an interview is to find out as much as you can about the company you have applied to from its website and promotional material. When you are asked if you have any questions, you can show that you have done this preparatory work, which will impress the interviewer. I also think a lot of candidates are too defensive in interviews. It's not enough just to avoid giving the 'wrong' answers; you should also actively try to make a good impression. Make it clear that the interview is a two-way process: after all, you want to be sure the company is the right place for you. It's acceptable to take the opportunity, when one is offered, to interview the interviewer! One way to do this is to ask him or her some penetrating questions such as why he or she has stayed with the company for so long. Some people might think such a question is arrogant, so size up the interviewer first and decide whether it would be an appropriate thing to ask.

D I remember one interview I attended with a company that makes ice cream and other dairy products. I didn't know much about the company, and it was brought home to me that I should have found out some basic facts. I turned up in a smart business suit and tie, only to find that my prospective employers were in jeans! They believed in being casual: no private offices, everyone ate in the same canteen, people all used first names with each other etc. I realised I should have done more research. Needless to say, I didn't get the job. On another occasion, at the end of an interview, I was asked if I had anything to say. I was so relieved that the interview was over that I just smiled and blurted out: 'No thanks!' I later realised this was a mistake. A candidate should decide in advance on at least ten things to ask the interviewer: it's not necessary to ask more than two or three questions, but you need to have some in reserve in case the question you wanted to ask is answered in the course of the interview.

- E** Preparation is of extreme importance; things like finding out what form the interview will have. Will there be any sort of written component, for instance, and will you be talking to one person or a panel? And of course, you need to prepare answers to those awkward questions designed to find out more about your character. For example, you might be asked about your most important achievement so far; don't answer this in a way that makes you seem swollen-headed or complacent as this will suggest that you don't learn easily. Actually, it's not so much what people say that makes them seem arrogant as the way they sit, how they hold their heads, whether they meet the interviewer's eye, so bear that in mind. Another question interviewers sometimes ask, to find out how well you work in a team, is about mistakes you have made. You should have an example ready and admit that you were at fault, otherwise it looks as though you are the kind of person who shifts the blame onto others. But you should also show that you learnt from the mistake and wouldn't make it again.
- F** Being nervous can make you forget things, so always take detailed notes with you to an interview, even about the simplest things – this will help you feel less nervous. I also think you have to strike the right balance between being too arrogant and too self-effacing. For example, if you are asked where you see yourself in five years' time, don't be diffident about showing that you are ambitious. You could even say you'd like to be doing the interviewer's job! Show that your ambition is the force that drives you – employers are happy to see this characteristic because it also suggests you will work hard. Take every opportunity to reinforce the impression that you are eager; one way is by asking questions about the job. This suggests that you will take it seriously. You could also ask what made the last person to fill the position you have applied for successful, or what you could accomplish in the job that would satisfy the interviewer. Naturally, the answers to questions like this are valuable in themselves, but frankly, the main reason for asking is to ensure you make the right impression.