

## **Almas: The Mongolian Man-Beast Reading Passage**

A. Mongolia usually evokes images of nomadic herdsmen riding across vast grasslands, but along the western border with Russia, the Altai Mountains stretch for over a thousand kilometres, their permanently ice-capped peaks rising above 4000 metres. From these mountains have long come reports of a mysterious human-like creature called an almas. Sightings have become increasingly rare over the past hundred years but according to old accounts, almas are described as being similar in height to that of modern Mongolians, hairy, having massive jaws, receding chins and prominent eyebrow ridges. They are thought to be mainly nocturnal, are unaggressive and usually avoid contact with humans.

B. The earliest description of an almas appears in the memoirs of a Bavarian nobleman Hans Schiltberger, who was taken prisoner by the Turks in the early 1400s and sent eastward to serve a Mongol prince. "In the mountains live wild people who have nothing in common with other human beings. A pelit covers the entire body of these creatures. Only the hands and face are free of hair" Giving his seemingly incredible account some credibility is the fact that he also mentions the Przewalski horse (*Equus ferus przewalskii*), the last remaining wild species of horse which was unknown in Europe until centuries later.

C. A few scientists such as Myra Shackley, however, have suggested that the almas is (or at least was) a real creature, and that it could be a remnant population of hominids either *Homo erectus* or Neanderthals. Neanderthals - mankind's closest cousins - lived in Central Asia, the Middle East and Europe, and are thought to have died out 25000- 30000 years ago. Over the decades there has been

the occasional "find" (hair, skull droppings) but tests have shown them to be either of human origin or from known Animals.

D. Many accounts of almas seem to be tied up with Mongolia's pre-communist

Buddhism. In 1837 a pilgrim called Luvsandonoi (Mongolians typically use just a single name) found the body of a dead male almas in the Gobi Desert. He reportedly gave the skin, head, and limbs to the Galbyn Ulaan Sahius monastery. Lamas stuffed the skin. The stuffed almas was said to be hairy but with some human-like features. There are various other descriptions of monasteries with almas artefacts, even one with a complete stuffed almas. Unfortunately, communist purges in the 1930s led to the destruction of all but one of the country's more than 500 monasteries, and these artefacts were destroyed or disappeared. An interesting re-occurring element of almas stories is the use of bile (a digestive juice produced by the liver) from the gallbladder as a medicine. It was highly prized and used by lama doctors to treat a variety of disorders. Interestingly, bile from the gall bladder of black bears has long has long been used in traditional Chinese medicine.

E. One possible explanation for the almas is that it is folklore imported alongside Tibetan Buddhism from the Himalayas. From medieval times until the early twentieth century, Buddhism dominated religious, cultural and educational life in Mongolia. There were important ties with Tibet, and it was not uncommon for the religious leaders and devout followers to make the pilgrimage to the holy city of Lhasa where they would have heard the tales of the yetis, and seen various supposed yeti artefacts in monasteries. Currently,

the weight of scientific opinion is that the Yeti is a mythical creature born of a combination of bear sightings and folklore.

F. Two recent scientific bombshells give the remnant hominid theory a boost, First, the discovery of a new human species *Homo floresiensis* (nicknamed the Hobbit) and the startling fact that it occupied the Indonesian island of Flores until perhaps as recently as 12,000 years ago. Even more relevant to the almas mystery is the 2008 discovery of a female finger bone in a cave in the Siberian section of the Altai Mountains. An international team of scientists from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany have worked on the mitochondrial DNA from the finger bone. They announced in 2010 that it was from a previously unknown hominid species that lived in the Altai Mountains about 35,000 years ago.

### Questions 1 - 6

The reading passage has six paragraphs, A-F.

Choose the correct heading for paragraphs, A-F, from the list below.

Write the correct number, i-ix, as your answer to each question.

### List of Headings

i Bills of exchange precede paper money	Paragraph A
ii The English Civil War	Paragraph B
iii Advent of the Gold standard	Paragraph C
iv The Knights Templar	Paragraph D
v Recurrence of paper currency	Paragraph E
vi Goldsmiths in the role of bankers	Paragraph F
vii Scarcity of copper coins	
viii Virginian money	
ix 'Intangible' money	

## **Money Reading Passage**

**A. In China, the issue of paper money became common from about 960 but there had been occasional issues long before that. A motive for one such early issue, in the reign of Emperor Hien Tsung 806-821, was a shortage of copper for making coins. A drain of currency from China, partly to buy off potential invaders from the north greater reliance on paper money with the result that by 1020 the quantity issued was excessive, causing inflation. In subsequent centuries there were several episodes of hyperinflation, and after about 1455, after well over 500 years of using paper money, China abandoned it.**

**B. With the revival of banking in western Europe, stimulated by the Crusades, written instructions in the form of bills of exchange came to be used as a means of transferring large sums of money, and the Knights Templar and Hospitallers functioned as bankers. It is possible that the Arabs may have used bills of exchange at a much earlier date, perhaps as early as the eighth century. The use of paper as currency came much later.**

**C. During the English Civil War, 1642-1651, goldsmiths' safes were secure places for the deposit of jewels, bullion and coins. Instructions to goldsmiths to pay money to another customer subsequently developed into the cheque. Similarly, goldsmiths' receipts were used not only for withdrawing deposits but also as evidence of ability to pay and by about 1660 these had developed into banknotes.**

**D. In England's American colonies a chronic shortage of official coins led to various substitutes being used as money, including, in Virginia, tobacco, leading to the development of paper money by a different route. Tobacco leaves have drawback as currency, and consequently,**

**certificates attesting to the quality and quantity of tobacco deposited in public warehouses came to be used as money and in 1727 were made legal tender.**

**E. Although paper money obviously had no intrinsic value, its acceptability originally depended on its being backed by some commodity, normally precious metals. During the Napoleonic Wars convertibility of Bank of England notes was suspended and there was some inflation which, although quite mild compared to that which had occurred in other wars, was worrying to contemporary observers who were used to stable prices and, in accordance with the recommendations of an official enquiry, Britain adopted the gold standard for the pound in 1816.**

**F. The break with precious metals helped to make money a more elusive entity. Another trend in the same direction was the growing interest in forms of electronic money from the 1990s onwards. In some ways, e-money is a logical evolution from the wire transfers that came about with the widespread adoption of the telegraph in the 19th century, but such transfers had relatively little impact on the everyday shopper.**

## **Matching Headings Practice Exercise 3**

### **Questions 1-6**

**The reading passage has six paragraphs, A-F.**

**Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.**

**Write the correct number, i-ix, as your answer to each question**

### **List of Headings**

- i Difference in social status discourages helpful behaviour**
- ii A gruesome act**
- iii An impact of presence of others**
- iv Becoming emotionless is a convenience**
- v An inhuman response**
- vi Beautiful and affluent are valued more**
- vii Shouldering off accountability**
- viii One inaction leads to another**
- ix Hesitating to help**

**Paragraph A**

**Paragraph B**

**Paragraph C**

**Paragraph D**

**Paragraph E**

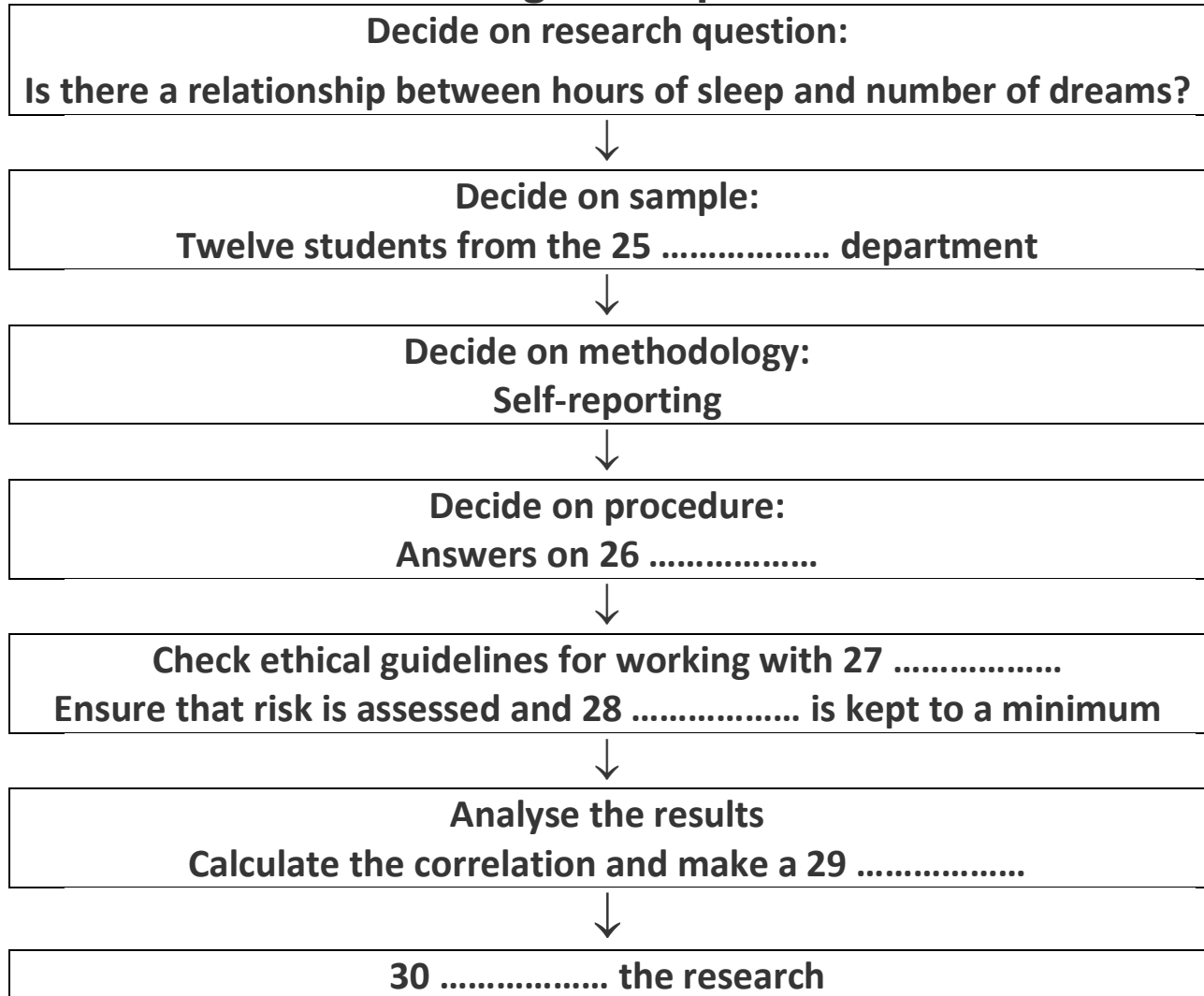
**Paragraph F**

## Questions 25-30

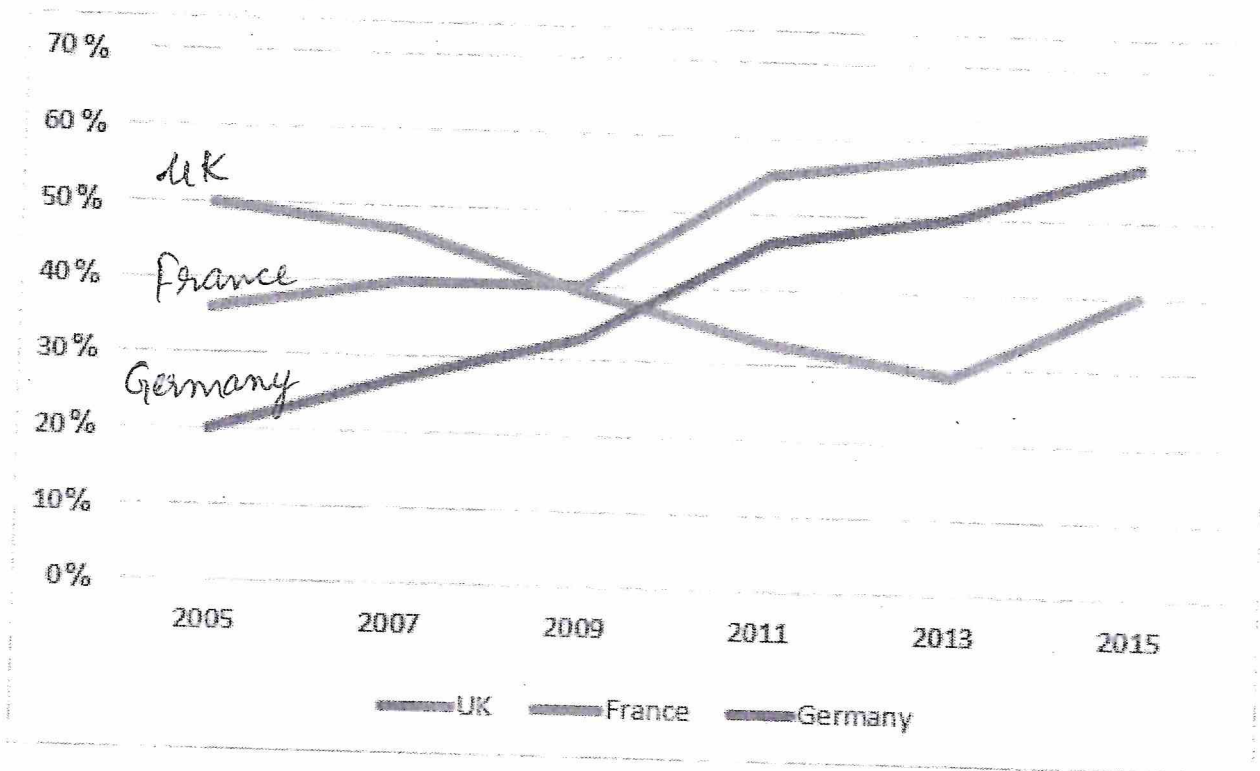
Complete the flow chart below.

Write **ONE WORD ONLY** for each answer.

### Assignment plan



The line graph below shows the household recycling rates in three different countries between 2005 and 2015.





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## HIMANSHU EDUCATIONAL HUB

Tense used in line graph:

Past tense

Active: verb form 2

Passive: was/were+v3 + by

Adjective + verb

Verb+ adverb (ly)

Introduction:

The assigned line graph depicts the information regarding how much products of home were recycled in three distinct nations over a span of one decade

Overall:

It is readily apparent that, the proportion of recycling rate in all the given countries displayed an ever increasing trend except the UK during the given time period.

Sentence formations for data depictions:

The rate of recycling was set off at \_ in 2005 in the UK which showed a slight decrease till 2007, recorded as \_. Vividly, till 2013, it bottomed out at approximately \_\_, however it climbed gradually to \_\_ in 2015. Undoubtedly, \_\_ recycling rate could be seen in France in 2005 which rose slowly to \_\_\_ in 2007 and displayed stagnation until 2004.

## Line Graph

The assigned line graph depicts the information regarding how much products of home were recycled in three distinct nations over a span of one decade (2005-15)

Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that, the proportion of recycling rate in all the given countries displayed an ever increasing trend except the UK during the given time period.

To begin with, the rate of recycling was set off at 50% in 2005 in the UK which showed a slight decrease till 2007, recorded as 48%. Vividly, till 2013, it bottomed out at approximately 29%, however it climbed gradually to 40% in 2015. Undoubtedly, 36% recycling rate could be seen in France in 2005 which rose slowly to 40% in 2007 and displayed stagnation until 2009.

Probing further, from 2009 to 2015, it hit the crest at just above 60% in France. Interestingly, only 20% recycling rate was observed / witnessed in 2005 in Germany, afterwards it went up by 12% in 2007, emerged as 32%. Furthermore, it peaked out at near about 58% upto 2015 which was second highest in comparison to its counterparts.

## **Simplicity reigns at London's biggest design festival.**

**(A) With upwards of 300 product launches, installations and exhibitions, London's annual nine-day design festival is a showcase of head-spinning choice. In many ways that's the beauty of the extravaganza, everyone has a different experience and takes something unique away from it. There were however some intriguing themes and trends in this year's edition that spoke to larger social or cultural preoccupations.**

**(B) One was the launch of two consumer electronics products designed to simplify and beautify our technology-addled lives. Both chose the new London Design Festival venue of Somerset House to show their wares. The first was a mobile phone launched by Swiss company Punkt and designed by Jasper Morrison that allows users to make calls and texts only (well, it has an alarm clock and an address book too). Punkt founder Petter Neby doesn't believe it will replace your smart phone but suggests users fit it with the same SIM card as your main phone and use it in the evenings, weekends and on holiday.**

**(C) The other electronics launch came from the unlikely French sibling duo of the Bouroullec brothers. Though tech companies like Samsung are usually prescriptive about their products the Bouroullecs (who admitted they found most TVs sad and ugly) seem to have been given free rein. Their new television for the mega Korean brand looks more like an item of furniture than an ultra-large and ultra-slim piece of tech. More importantly, it comes with simplified on-screen interaction and a 'curtain mode' that turns your screen into a shimmering pattern during ads or half-time. Again, their focus was on dialing down digital insanity.**

**(D) Customizable online furniture was also very much in vogue at this year's festival. But rest assured, weird and unreliable software or off-the-wall designs sent to a 3D printer somewhere and arriving months later, seem to be a thing of the past. Customization may finally have come of age. Two examples were Scandi-brand Hem that combined good design by the likes of Luca Nichetto, Form Us With Love and Sylvain Willenz with affordable price points. The fact that the brand opened a pop-up store in Covent Garden during the festival is a recognition of the importance of both physical and online spaces that work seamlessly together.**

**(E) Another online configurable brand to make its debut after years in development was Warsaw-based Tylko. Like Hem, Tylko has spent time and money on very powerful and easy-to-use software, but with only three designs - a table, a shelf and salt and pepper mills - it has a way to go. Its augmented reality app is simple to use however and its table has been developed with a nano-coating option that really does appear to keep pesky stains at bay. Craft and 'making' in all its forms was once again a big hit and nowhere more so than at TENT, the East London design event that gets better every year.**

**(F) A definite highlight was the massive space taken over by the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland and filled with weavers and potters doing their thing and showing their wares. Irish Design had another delectable stand over at the Rochelle School in East London too. The Souvenir Project was a series of nine non-cliché 'souvenirs' made in Ireland and included a rainbow plate by Nicholas Mosse Pottery that featured rows of animals, flowers and watering cans and commemorated the legalization of same-sex marriage in Ireland in May 2015.**

**(G) If there was one material that could be said to define the festival it might just be Jesmonite, the wonder man-made building composite. Lighter and more sustainable than concrete, its dramatic capabilities were brought to life by London-based design studio PINCH and their tour-de-force limited edition Nim table and Swedish artist Hilda Hellström's giant colorful volcano made for the restaurant in London's Ace Hotel. A show called Matter of Stuff near Covent Garden was in on the jesmonite act too, but even more intriguingly was presenting vases made out of Propolis, a resinous material collected by bees and used to seal gaps in hives that, according to their designer Marlene Huissoud, behaves like glass.**

**(H) Finally, this was the year that Chinese Design finally displayed a well-edited and inspired showcase of products. Despite the mouthful of a title, Icon Presents: Hi Design Shanghai stand at 100% Design was a meaningful selection of designers exploring materials and ideas. Young design duo Yuue's offerings were the most representative of a new conceptual approach to design that seems to be emerging. Their lamps were functional but also thought-provoking and humorous. What more could one want from the stuff that surrounds us?**

## **Questions 1-8**

**The text has eight paragraphs A-H. Which paragraph contains the following information? Write the correct letter, A-H, in boxes 1-8 on your answer sheet.**

- 1. Examples of customization**
- 2. Unusual keepsakes**
- 3. A new approach**
- 4. A simple cell phone**
- 5. Unbelievable material**
- 6. A strange TV**
- 7. Number of products shown on the festival**
- 8. Three designs of a software**

## Pangolins

A) Pangolins, often called “scaly anteaters,” are covered in tough, overlapping scales. These burrowing mammals eat ants and termites using an extraordinarily long, sticky tongue, and are able to quickly roll themselves up into a tight ball when threatened. Eight different pangolin species can be found across Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Poaching for illegal wildlife trade and habitat loss have made these incredible creatures one of the most endangered groups of mammals in the world.

B) Pangolin species vary in size from about 1.6kg (~3.5 lbs) to a maximum of about 33kg (~73 lbs). They vary in colour from light to yellowish brown through olive to dark brown. Protective, overlapping scales cover most of their bodies. These scales are made from keratin — the same protein that forms human hair and finger nails. Overlapping like artichoke leaves, the scales grow throughout the life of a pangolin just like hair; scale edges are constantly filed down as pangolins dig burrows and tunnel through the soil in search of termites and ants. Pangolin undersides do not have scales, and are covered with sparse fur. Unlike African pangolins, Asian pangolins also have thick bristles that emerge from between their scales. With small conical heads and jaws lacking teeth, pangolins have amazingly long, muscular, and sticky tongues that are perfect for reaching and lapping up ants and termites in deep cavities. Pangolins have poor vision, so they locate termite and ant nests with their strong sense of smell.

C) There are eight pangolin species. All pangolins belong to the genus *Manis* in the family *Manidae*, which is the only family within the order *Pholidota*. Pangolins’ closest living relatives are the *Xenarthrans* – anteaters, armadillos, and sloths.

D) Pangolins are found in a variety of habitats including tropical and flooded forests, thick brush, cleared and cultivated areas, and savannah grassland; in general they occur where large numbers of ants and termites are found. Asian pangolins in particular are threatened by loss of habitat due to expanding agriculture and other human uses. Pangolins dig deep burrows for sleeping and nesting that contain circular chambers. Large chambers have been discovered in terrestrial pangolin burrows that were big enough for a human to crawl inside and stand up. Some pangolin species such as the Malayan pangolin also sleep in the hollows and forks of trees and logs.

E) These solitary mammals are nocturnal and highly secretive, thus it is difficult for scientists to study them in the wild, and many mysteries remain about their habits. Some pangolin species such as the Chinese pangolin sleep in underground burrows during the day, and others including African tree pangolins and Malayan pangolins are known to sleep in trees. They emerge in the evening to forage for insects. Pangolins are well adapted for digging: they dig burrows with their strong front legs and claws, using their tails and rear legs for support and balance. Tunnelling underground, they excavate the sides and roofs of passages by pushing up and from side to side with their tough scaled bodies. They use their front and hind feet to back accumulated soil toward the burrow entrance, and vigorously kick dirt out of the entrance up to a meter or more. Pangolin scales provide good defence against predators. When threatened, pangolins can quickly curl into a ball, protecting their defenceless undersides. They also deter predators by hissing and puffing, and lashing their sharp edged tails.

F) Pangolins live predominantly on a diet of ants and termites, which they may supplement with various other invertebrates including bee larvae, flies, worms, earthworms, and crickets. This specialist diet makes them extremely difficult to maintain in captivity—they often reject unfamiliar insect species or become ill when fed foreign food. Wild pangolins locate insect nests using a well developed

sense of smell. Voraciously digging ants and termites from mounds, stumps, and fallen logs with their claws, they use their extremely long sticky tongues to capture and eat them.

G) Pangolins are hunted for food, for use in traditional medicine and as fashion accessories, and for a rampant illegal international trade in scales, skins, and meat. There is high demand for nearly all of their body parts, principally from China. The large-scale illegal trade in Asian pangolins is drastically driving down their numbers throughout Southeast Asia. Rapid loss and deterioration of available habitat places added pressure on the dwindling numbers of remaining pangolins.

### Matching Headings

Choose the correct heading from the list below (i - xi)

- i) The Asian pangolin
- ii) Distribution and habitat
- iii) Pangolin behaviour
- iv) Taxonomy
- v) Pangolin burrows
- vi) The pangolin trade
- vii) Comparison of pangolin species
- viii) What is a pangolin?
- ix) Description of a pangolin
- x) Why pangolins are endangered
- xi) The pangolin diet

### Questions 1 - 7

1. Paragraph A =
2. Paragraph B =
3. Paragraph C =
4. Paragraph D =
5. Paragraph E =
6. Paragraph F =
7. Paragraph G =



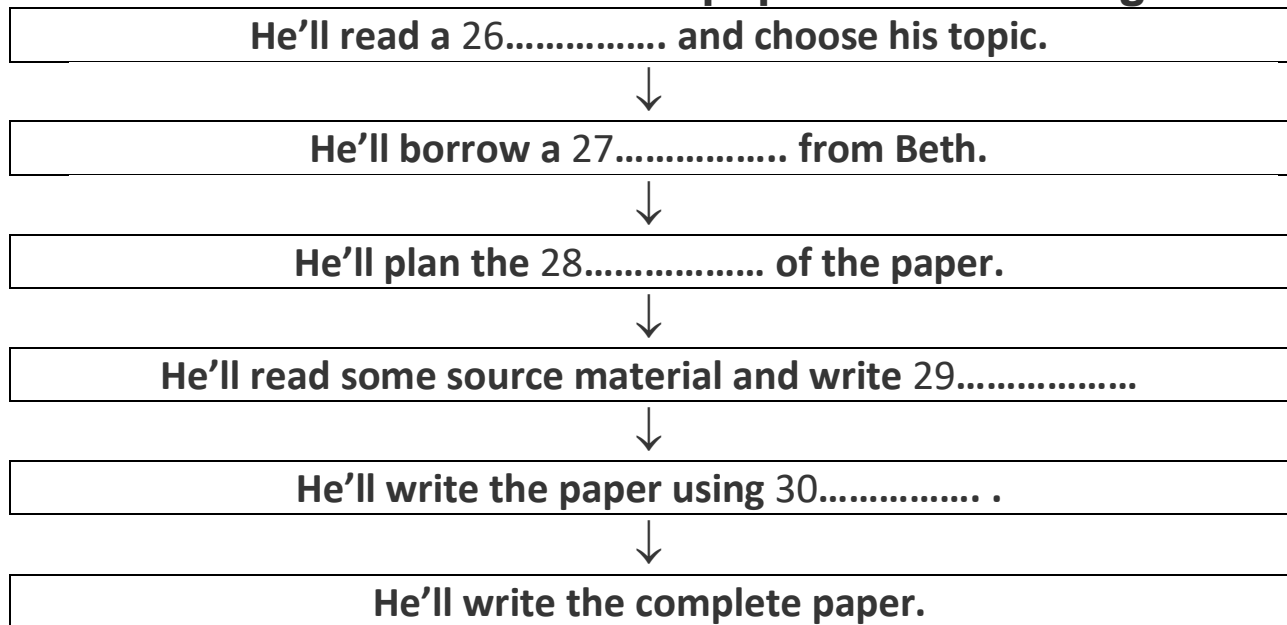
## Questions 26 – 30

Complete the flow-chart below.

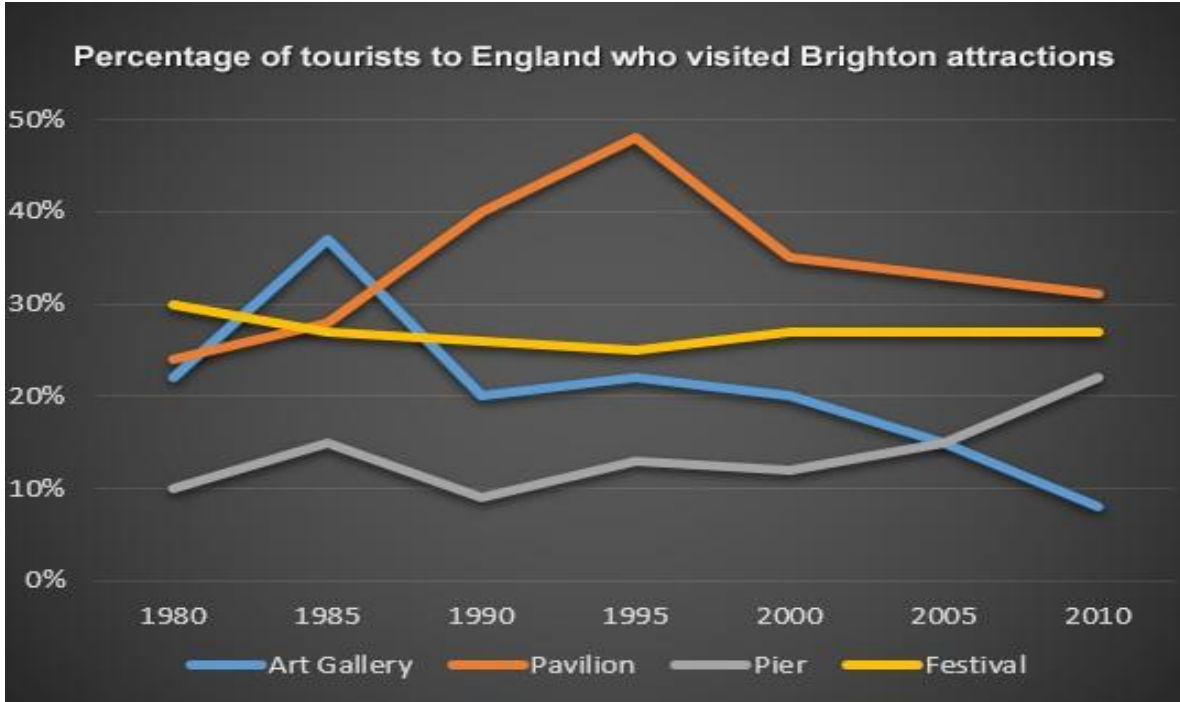
Choose **FIVE** answers from the box and write the correct letter, **A-G**, next to Questions 26-30

- A bullet points
- B film
- C notes
- D structure
- E student paper
- F textbook
- G documentary

### How James will write his paper on the Vikings



# Task - 1



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Tense used in line graph:

Past tense

Active: verb form 2

Passive: was/were+v3 + by

Introduction:

The assigned line graph illustrates the information about the percentage of travellers to England who visited four distinct attractions in Brighton from 1980 to 2010.

Overall:

it can be clearly seen that the percentage of visitors who visited the pavilion and pier followed an increasing trend, whereas those visiting art gallery and festival followed a decreasing trend.

Sentence formations for data depictions:

\_\_ tourists visited the pier in 1980, and the percentage showed some variations between 1981 and 2000. However, it rose to about \_ in the eventual year. In 1980, the percentage of visitors who visited the art gallery was \_\_, the figure rose significantly to below \_\_ after 5 years but suddenly it dropped moderately at nadir point, recorded as almost \_\_ in the eventual year.

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The assigned line graph illustrates the information about the percentage of travellers to England who visited four distinct attractions in Brighton from 1980 to 2010.

Overall, it can be clearly seen that the percentage of visitors who visited the pavilion and pier followed an increasing trend, whereas those visiting art gallery and festival followed a decreasing trend.

To begin with, 10% tourists visited the pier in 1980, and the percentage showed some variations between 1981 and 2000. However, it rose to about 23% in the eventual year. In 1980, the percentage of visitors who visited the art gallery was 21%, the figure rose significantly to below 40% after 5 years but suddenly it dropped moderately at nadir point, recorded as almost 8% in the eventual year.

Moving ahead, the pavilion was visited by 23% of England's residents, while the figure touched the peak point at about 50% in 1995 then went down slightly until 2010, amounted to 30%. Before experiencing a mild fall from 1981 to 1995, the percentile of travellers to festivals was 30% in the initial year. The figure remained stable between 2000 and 2010 at 27%.