

READING 1 hour: 3 tasks and 28 questions. The question types are always the same: **TASK 1** (8 multiple choice questions); **Task 2** (insert 8 sentences into a text); **Task 3** (match 12 statements to one of 5 or 6 short texts)

Task 1. You are going to read an article about problems with washing machines. For questions **1-8**, choose the correct answer (**A, B or C**).

How Dangerous is your Washing Machine?

First it was Samsung's Galaxy Note 7 smartphones catching fire and exploding, now it is the company's washing machines blowing up. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has recalled 2.8m Samsung washing machines after the South Korean manufacturer received 733 reports of "excessive vibration or the top detaching from the washing machine chassis". On Good Morning America, Elliot Kaye, the chairman of the CPSC, described "a very serious hazard of the top of these washing machines completely blowing off".

Nine injuries have been reported, including a broken jaw, an injured shoulder, and other fall-related injuries. One woman reported a washer top flying off and hitting her in the back, causing her to "collide into a cabinet". All of which conjures up a domestic nightmare of marauding washing machines blowing their lids and attacking their owners.

But how dangerous is the washing machine? A 2015 **Which?** investigation found that fridges, washing machines and dishwashers caused 12,000 fires in the UK between 2011 and 2014. The washing machine was found to be the deadliest home appliance of all. The apex predator of the home, if you like. Based on government data, washing machines were responsible for 14% of fires caused by faulty appliances in the period investigated, with tumble dryers and dishwashers close behind. (Irons were the least dangerous, accounting for 1% of household fires.) All three appliances combine electricity and water. They are also the ones we tend to leave on overnight or when we leave the house. It is enough to make you go and hide under your hazardous electric blanket (cause of 2% of the fires).

Are some brands safer than others? The Which? report states that in the UK "more Hoover washing machines and Hotpoint dishwashers caught fire than we would necessarily expect". Earlier this year, it warned that hundreds of UK households could be at risk from exploding washing machines after an investigation found 280 appliances, 115 of which were manufactured by Beko, were left with shattered doors after exploding. Experts said the problem was caused by coins, keys and children's toys hitting the glass at high speed and weakening it over time. Newer models with bigger doors and higher spin cycles were thought to be more prone to exploding. One of the biggest sins is probably one we all commit: overfilling the drum.

In the US, Samsung has already faced lawsuits over its washing machines. In the highest-profile case, three consumers filed a suit against the company, alleging their washing machines exploded while in use and that Samsung has known about the problem for years. One of the plaintiffs, Melissa Thaxton, described her machine coming apart in its final spin cycle: "Without warning, the washing machine just exploded. It sounded like a bomb went off in my ear."

In 2013, Samsung ordered a recall of around 150,000 washing machines in Australia, after rescue services reported a succession of house fires believed to be caused by the company's appliances. As for the latest spate in North America, Samsung is offering to fix machines at no cost and a one-year guarantee, an exchange rebate, or a full refund for eligible customers. Just don't use a Galaxy Note 7 to call for a repair.

GLOSSARY: **Which?** A magazine for consumers
Guardian 10.11.16 (Chitra Ramaswamy)

1. Samsung's washing machines

- a) vibrate and catch fire
- b) vibrate and explode
- c) catch fire and explode

2. According to the text ,

- a) washing machines are the most dangerous household appliances.
- b) all household appliances are equally dangerous.
- c) electrical appliances with water should be turned off at night.

3. A fire is more likely to be caused by

- a) drying your clothes.
- b) ironing your clothes.
- c) electric blankets.

4. According to the "Which?" report, which brand has the highest risk of exploding washing machines?

- a) Samsung
- b) Beko
- c) Hoover

5. Putting the wrong things inside the washing machine can cause

- a) doors to break
- b) the machine to blow up
- c) both A and B

6. According to the text, which statement is true?

- a) only three people have taken legal action about the washing machines.
- b) some people think that Samsung is ignoring the problem.
- c) The washing machines tend to explode in the middle of the wash programme.

7. In 2013 Samsung recalled 150,000 washing machines because

- a) a large number of their machines had caused fires.
- b) some machines had possibly caused fires in Australia.
- c) there were a lot of fires caused by their machines in Australia.

8. In recompense, all Samsung's customers can obtain

- a) free repairs for a year.
- b) a discount on a Samsung telephone.
- c) their money back.

Task 2. You are going to read an article about jobs for students. Eight sentences are missing from the article. Choose from sentences **A-I** the one which best fits each gap (**9 - 16**). There is one extra sentence which you will not use.

SO, WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT SUMMER?

Worry about your future career, or get paid to do a real job?

Our company is launching a summer engineering internship programme that will provide up to 10 weeks paid employment in genuine engineering roles. These will give you a great opportunity to put into practice all the valuable skills and knowledge you have been learning at university during the year - and help generate some cash for the following year.

We have roles around the country and are looking for undergraduates like you in your first or second year at university. We are specifically looking for students of Chemical, Mechanical, Electrical or Instrument Engineering. Our internship programme provides students like you with an opportunity to put to the test both the theory and technical understanding gained during your engineering studies, and give you the chance to see what working for us might be like after graduating. Students are provided with a line manager and a buddy or mentor. **[9]**.

If you are interested in applying for our internship programme, applications open in November every year when you can complete the online application form. We accept applications until 31st January; our selection process takes place during March.

To start the application process, click on the Job Opportunities link at the top of the page. This takes you to the Intern Scheme - click on the Title to see a brief description of the Scheme and the different job offers. Read about our different options carefully to find the best job for you. **[10]**.

Once you have submitted your application, you will receive an acknowledgement of registration and application. We will then review your application and you will be contacted to let you know the outcome in due course.

Hints and tips on completing the form:

1. The first stage to our process is completing an online application form which should take about 45 minutes. Please remember that this is the first stage of the assessment process so take time to complete the form fully, clearly and carefully. **[11]**. This form aims to find out key information about you such as your name, address, degree, your qualifications and finally, your work experience. **[12]**.

There are also some longer questions, which we require you to answer. **[13]** For these longer questions think carefully about the best examples you have and try and give enough detail. We want to know why your examples are relevant but remember to be concise so you don't exceed the word count. **[14]**. So, if you are short of time you can save what you have written every time you log out to make sure you submit the best application you can.

We must stress that unless you complete the whole application form you will not be progressed any further in the process.

2. [15]. So, please ensure you tell us about your experiences as an individual, i.e., achievements you are proud of. Think in advance about things you may have done at

university, at work (part time jobs or work experience), sports and other activities which you may be able to use as examples to the competency questions. Provide as much information as possible around these examples. They are equally, if not more important than your academic qualifications.

3. [16]. We are a very diverse group of companies so how much do you really know about us? Have a look at the company website, and prepare any questions you might have about your chosen company or the scheme, in case you are selected for interview.

Based on: http://www.boconline.co.uk/en/careers/careers-at_boc/graduates/internships/index.html

Sentences for Task 2

- A.** Don't forget that we are interested in you as a person, and not just your qualifications.
- B.** Please take the time to find out about the company.
- C.** The application form allows you to enter and then save and come back to it, so take your time.
- D.** The assessment centre is a great place to meet a managers, mentors and HR managers.
- E.** These questions will need a little more thought and we suggest that you log in and view them first.
- F.** These people will help you settle in, find your way around the company and understand how it operates.
- G.** This is the only information we will have from you so check to make sure there are no mistakes.
- H.** When you are happy that you have chosen the right role for you, click on the application form, complete and send it.
- I.** In this last section, you should also include any internships or unpaid work experience you may have done

Task 3. You will read an article about mobile applications for shopping. For questions **17 to 28**, choose from the Apps **(A -E)**. The Apps may be chosen more than once.

Five apps to take grocery shopping

Do you agonise over labels, prices and nutritional information during the weekly grocery run? Whether you simply want your family to eat healthier, or are concerned about the environmental impact of your purchases, these smartphone apps will help you make better shopping choices at the checkout.

App A

This app makes it easier for you to make the world a better place, arming you with the information you need to shop ethically and sustainably. Drawing on the latest data from the Ethical Consumer Guide, this app allows you to make conscious decisions on the products you purchase, including meat, dairy, baby and cleaning goods, based on their ethical and environmental footprint. It's a smart way to support the green brands that are making a difference.

App B

Navigating the aisles with this app is like carrying around a pocket-sized nutritionist on every shopping trip. This app trumps the many calorie counting apps on the market, offering a comprehensive package of nutritional advice that you can customise to your needs and dietary goals. By setting up a profile, specifying the foods you do and don't want in your diet, this app records your age, gender, dietary requirements, medical conditions (such as high blood pressure or diabetes) and foods you wish to avoid (such as artificial sweeteners, trans fats and food allergens). It lets you browse items within the app, or you can scan products in the supermarket for instant access to that item's nutritional information, broken down into an easy-to-read colour-coded rating system.

App C

Craving chocolate or sweets? This clever app lets you scan tempting food items and suggests healthier alternatives as you shop. With approximately 20,000 barcodes on its database, you use your iPhone's camera to scan the item (it helps if you have autofocus functionality) and the app's colour-coded nutritional information appears: green= eat the most; amber = eat moderately; red = eat the least. And if it's the latter, it offers some alternative food swap suggestions. This app takes the guesswork out of eating well. It gives you the information you need to weed out sneaky food offenders from your diet and avoid those high in hidden fats, salt, and sugar.

App D

So you think that buying in bulk is a guaranteed penny saver? Not always so. Sometimes bulkier items are just as costly – if not more – than pint-sized products, and cash-conscious shoppers are being seduced by the 'bigger is better' way of thinking. This app quickly converts product quantities in imperial (US and UK) and metric units on the spot, to determine the best price. This neat comparison calculator also weighs up the value of bundling deals (e.g. 2 for 1) and saves a list of past price comparisons for your convenience. A must-have for thrifty shoppers.

App E

Fish might be an excellent source of protein and omega-3 fatty acids, but it is also the fastest-depleting natural resource in the world as a result of overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). However,



this app provides a means to consume Aussie seafood responsibly without contributing to this growing issue. Featuring information on over 100 types of seafood, from wild-caught fisheries to imported species, the app lets you make informed ocean-friendly choices at restaurants, supermarkets and fish shops. You can search by fish species or brand and follow the ranking system, which sorts results into three categories according to what's better for your health and the environment.

Based on: <http://www.bodyandsoul.com.au/nutrition/nutrition+tips/five+apps+to+take+grocery+shopping.17139>

Which app

- 17. may help reduce pollution?
- 18. may help protect endangered species?
- 19. has a traffic light system?
- 20. takes into account serious health issues?
- 21. helps you avoid tricks used by supermarkets?
- 22. considers your body and the planet?
- 23. can tell you that carrots are better than cakes?

Find the best app for each name :

- 24. Food Switch
- 25. Money wise
- 26. Healthy options for you
- 27. Save our seas
- 28. Shop Green

	App
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THAT IS THE END OF THE READING TEST (Transfer your answers to the answer sheet)