

## Passage 1

- 1 Throughout the history of our planet, gold has been valued; almost every established culture has used gold to symbolise power, beauty and happiness. Over 6000 years ago, pieces of gold were exchanged as a system of payment which replaced bartering. Much later, the first gold coins were minted: they were an innovative way to conduct transactions because they were both portable and easy to count. The Venetians introduced the gold ducat in 1284 and it became the most popular coin in the world for more than 500 years. 5
- 2 Gold was considered by ancient people to have medicinal properties: the Ancient Chinese treated diseases such as smallpox and measles with medicines containing gold and in traditional Indian medicine drinks sprinkled with gold were thought to have healing effects. As early as 700 BC, Etruscan 'dentists' worked with gold, simply for aesthetic purposes rather than for repair work, by using it to fasten replacement teeth into patients' mouths. In fourteenth-century Europe molten gold mixed with crushed emeralds was seen as a cure for bubonic plague, although this remedy was obviously limited to the wealthy. 10 15
- 3 In former times, gold was associated with religion. Because of the Egyptians' belief that gold was the skin of their sun god, Ra, it was unavailable in Egypt to all except the pharaoh. The Incas of Peru saw gold as representing the glory of their own sun god and called it 'tears of the sun'. However, although there are more than 400 references to gold in the books of the Jewish Old Testament, one of the worst betrayals recorded was the decision by some people to worship a golden calf instead of their own god. In all of these contexts, gold was not seen as having a monetary value, so its attraction was purely aesthetic. 20
- 4 Gold is a beautiful bright yellow colour and, because it does not tarnish in air or water, it has been used since ancient times to make jewellery in the form of rings, bracelets, earrings and necklaces for both men and women, depending on local custom. Everybody loves gold jewellery. So important was gold to people that, around 300 BC, the Greeks began the practice of alchemy, an attempt to turn cheap metals into gold. Although it was never successful, alchemy continued for almost 2000 years and is seen as the foundation of modern chemistry. 25 30
- 5 In more recent times, gold has continued to have its attractions. Because it is malleable and therefore easy to work with, as well as having aesthetic properties, it is still used in dentistry. Replacing teeth with iron would be possible, but who wants a rusty smile? As a drug which can alleviate swelling caused by arthritis, gold is used in modern medicine, and particles of gold implanted in human tissue can serve as radiation therapy in the treatment of certain cancers. Many surgical instruments are made of gold because, again, it does not corrode and it can be easily sterilised, thereby reducing the risk of infection during and after surgery. 35

- 6 Because it conducts electricity and is easy to work with, gold is invaluable in modern electronics. In fact, a small amount is used in all sophisticated electronic gadgets such as cell phones and computers. The importance of high quality and reliable performance justifies the relatively high cost. Space travel requires vehicles that travel without the possibility of maintenance or repair, which is why gold, as a highly dependable material, has been used in many ways in the manufacture of every spacecraft ever launched. 40
- 7 Gold leaf – gold hammered into thin sheets – is used for decorating, or gilding, objects such as picture frames and furniture. It is used in luxury cooking in, for example, desserts and confectionery, such as Mithai, unique confectionery made in Eastern Asia for auspicious occasions. Highly skilled craftsmen use gold to adorn buildings: the splendid Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque in Brunei and the Golden Temple of Amritsar in India are decorated with gold, ranking them among the most magnificent buildings in the world. Beautiful glass can be manufactured with gold: suspending a small amount in glass produces a rich, ruby colour, as in the famous glass from Murano, near Venice. A more practical application for adding gold to glass is in the use of gold as a coating on windows to reflect the sun's rays, thus keeping buildings cool in summer. 50

## Passage 2

- 1 Sitting in the airport departure lounge, Fatimah tried to distract herself from the waves of nervousness washing over her. She looked around at the very many people who, like her, were waiting for flights, and wondered which of them would be joining her on her long-haul journey to Perth, Western Australia. She hoped that it would not be the couple with the two squabbling young sons; the parents' repeated but clearly idle threat that their flight would be cancelled unless the boys' behaviour improved only increased their noise levels. The handsome young man with the backpack looked like someone she could talk to, although, when he looked up from the book he was reading and caught her eye, she looked away, her cheeks burning at the realisation that he might somehow have been reading her thoughts. By this time, the two disobedient children were down on the floor, grappling with each other; their parents looked studiously in the opposite direction, models of detachment. 5 10
- 2 Fatimah reminded herself that this flight, much as she dreaded it, was the only way she could get to see her sister, Rashidah, who had emigrated to Perth some three years earlier; the high salary she was earning there as a newly qualified doctor gave her opportunities for globe-trotting. On the first of Rashidah's visits home, a battle of words had taken place as Rashidah tried to persuade her sister to overcome her fear of flying and make the trip to Perth the sandy beaches, the restaurants, the relaxed lifestyle had been much recommended. But Rashidah's main weapon had been the airline. 20
- 3 'Asia Express is the best airline there is, Fatimah,' she had argued emphatically. 'The seats are spacious, and everyone is given a blanket and pillow. Individual televisions are provided on the back of the seat in front of you – I don't sleep well on planes, as you know, so it's a real boon to me to be able to watch the best television Channel there is, Channel Zero. At dinner you get real cutlery, not that plastic stuff provided by some airlines, and there is a choice of three hot dishes.' Remembering her sister's words, Fatimah thought how sure of herself Rashidah invariably was. And she was much less irritable – Rashidah would not have let those horrible boys annoy her as much as she had done. Why couldn't she be more like Rashidah? 25 30
- 4 From time to time Fatimah checked the departure board – a huge electronic notice board which kept passengers updated with flight details. There was a sudden flurry of activity as passengers responded to the instruction to move to Gate 22, from where the flight to Perth would be leaving. Fatimah assumed composure which she in no way felt, picking up her bag and starting to move towards Gate 22. She almost tripped over the badly behaved boys, who were charging in front of their ineffectual parents, apparently also with Gate 22 in mind. 35

This discovery dismayed her, as did the thought that their seats on the plane might be close to hers.

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- 5 After yet another passport check at Gate 22, and a relatively short wait, Fatimah found herself boarding the plane. Rashidah's words came back to her. 'With 'Asia Express' you are greeted by your cabin crew as you board the aircraft, and you know they are dedicated to ensuring that you enjoy the flight. Throughout your journey they will circulate to check on your comfort, making sure, for example, that you are kept hydrated.' Fatimah put her bag in the overhead locker, sat down and fastened her seatbelt. A few minutes later, a steward made his way up the aisle, carrying a tray of glasses of water. Fatimah could not help thinking of her sister. She then studied the Airline magazine which had been waiting for her on her seat. 'Our cabin crew is multi-lingual and will offer you the best of Asian hospitality,' was its proud boast. She flicked through the pages to find details of the in-flight entertainment and could hardly believe her eyes. Could it really be that one of the films on offer was one she had intended seeing in the cinema but had never quite managed to do so? 45
- 6 She sipped her water and settled down to enjoy the film. Just then the two naughty boys charged noisily down the aisle on their way, presumably, to the toilet, pulling each other's arms and continuing some argument that seemed to have begun before they had even left home. Fatimah took a deep breath, closed her eyes, and smiled. 50 55

Read **Passage 1** in the Insert and answer **all** the questions below.

**1. (a) Notes**

Identify and write down the points in the passage which describe the ways in which gold was important down through the ages, and explain the uses and attractions of gold in modern times.

**USE THE MATERIAL FROM THE WHOLE PASSAGE.**

At this stage, you need NOT use your own words. To help you get started, the first point in each section of notes is done for you. You will be awarded up to 12 marks for content points.

**Content Points**

**Ways in which gold was important down through the ages**

Example: Pieces of gold exchanged as a system of payment which replaced bartering

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**The uses and attractions of gold in modern times**

Example: Is used in (modern) dentistry because it is malleable / has aesthetic properties

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**1. (b) Summary**

**Now use your notes** to write a summary in which you describe the ways in which gold was important down through the ages, and explain the uses and attractions of gold in modern times, as outlined in the passage.

**Use your own words** as far as possible. You will be awarded marks for producing a piece of writing which is relevant, well organised and easy to follow.

Your summary must be in continuous writing (not note form). You are advised to write between **150** and **180** words, including the 10 words given below. Begin your summary as follows:

Gold was always an important commodity in former times because

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2. From paragraph 4, select and write down **two** opinions and **one** fact. You may use the words of the text or your own words.

One opinion is .....

Another opinion is .....

One fact is .....

[3]

**Total marks for Section 1 [25]**

## Section 2: Reading for Meaning

Read **Passage 2** in the insert and then answer all the questions below.

From **Paragraph 1**:

3. How was Fatimah feeling as she sat in the airport lounge?

.....[1]

4. What was the 'threat' given by the parents to their two sons?

.....[1]

5. How did Fatimah feel when the handsome young man looked up from the book he was reading?

.....[1]

From **Paragraph 2**:

6. Why was Fatimah going to Perth?

.....[1]

7. How did Fatimah's sister take advantage of her salary as 'a newly qualified doctor'? **Answer in your own words.**

.....  
.....  
.....[2]

8. 'A battle of words' had taken place when Rashidah tried to persuade Fatimah to make the trip to Perth. Pick out and write down the single word from the paragraph which reinforces this idea.

.....[1]

From **Paragraph 3**:

9. Rashidah is 'sure of herself'. Pick out and write down the single word used earlier in the paragraph which reinforces this idea.

.....[1]



From Paragraph 4:

10. Fatimah was 'dismayed' after she almost tripped over the badly behaved boys. What two reasons did she have to be 'dismayed'?

(i) .....[1]

(ii) .....[1]

From Paragraph 5:

11. Fatimah had 'yet another passport checks'. What point about airline travel do you think the writer is trying to convey by the use of the word 'yet'?

.....[1]

12. Explain fully why, according to the writer, Fatimah 'could not help thinking of her sister'.

.....  
.....[2]

13. Explain in your own words what the 'proud boast' of the airline was.

.....  
.....[2]

14. Why could Fatimah 'hardly believe her eyes'?

.....[1]

15. For each of the words or phrases below, circle the letter (A, B, C or D) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the passage.

i. **distract** (line 1)

- |           |           |            |            |     |
|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----|
| A. divert | B. absorb | C. disturb | D. confuse | [1] |
|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----|

ii. **boon** (line 25)

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|----------|---------|--------------|---------|-----|
| A. bonus | B. gain | C. advantage | D. help | [1] |
|----------|---------|--------------|---------|-----|

iii. **invariably** (line 29)

- |         |           |               |            |     |
|---------|-----------|---------------|------------|-----|
| A. ever | B. always | C. habitually | D. routine | [1] |
|---------|-----------|---------------|------------|-----|

iv. **apparently** (line 38)

- |                |             |              |              |     |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----|
| A. deceptively | B. actually | C. outwardly | D. seemingly | [1] |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-----|

v. **flicked** (line 51)

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|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----|
| A. glanced | B. brushed | C. struck | D. skimmed | [1] |
|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----|

16. Reread paragraphs 1 and 2, which contain phrases that tell us about the behaviour or feelings of the writer.

Explain:

- the meaning of the phrases as they are used in the passage
- the effect of the phrases as they are used in the passage.

(a) 'he might somehow have been reading her thoughts' (line 10)

**Meaning:** .....

**Effect:** ..... [2]

(b) 'gave her opportunities for global trotting' (line 17)

**Meaning:** .....

**Effect:** ..... [2]

**Total marks for Section 2: [25]**