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Matching headings to paragraphs or sections of a text

In this type of task, you have to match headings to sections of the reading passage. First, spend one minute reading through the article to get an idea of the main topic and orientate yourself to the text. Don't worry about any unknown vocabulary.



The British Council, Taipei.

PHOTO: CATHERINE THOMAS, TAIPEI TIMES

Exam strategy:



► In the exam you are always given an example, which you should study carefully. Quickly look at Section A again.

► What is it mainly about?
 Now look at the list of headings.

► Which one fits Section A best?
 Section A mentions what clothes can tell us about someone's character, social ties, thoughts that morning and the effort he or she has put into choosing his or her outfit. Therefore iii is the best answer.

► Carefully read Section B.
 Ask yourself what the main point of the section is. When you have done this, study the list of headings and choose the one that most accurately matches the information in the section.

Important!

Notice that there are more headings than there are sections, so you do not need to use all of them.

Key vocab.

- **Insight:** Reading the Taipei Times IELTS page will give you valuable insight into the test.
- **Acquaintance:** He's more of an acquaintance than a close friend. I've only met him a few times.
- **Superficial:** Jane's really superficial. She pretends to be friends with everyone, but she really only likes people with money.
- **Ramifications:** Shoppers are now discovering the wider ramifications of Taiwan joining the WTO.
- **Extrovert:** Sarah's parties are great. She's a real extrovert and she loves meeting new people.

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READING TEST

Clothing and colour choice reveal much about the wearer

Section A

'Clothes maketh the man' goes the old adage, and it's still valid the world over. Many people believe clothing choice says much about their character as well as social ties. The cut and colour of a person's outfit not only reveal what he or she was thinking about when dressing in the morning but also illustrate the amount of effort which went into choosing the garments. Many a colour, fabric or combination can also reinforce time-honoured prejudices.

Section B

People tend to adopt some kind of uniform in daily life, usually because they are trying to fit in with certain surroundings or show their allegiance to a particular group, said German image consultant Beatrix Isabel Lied. This means that people use clothing to send signals to those around them: The wearer of a black polo-neck sweater is inevitably an artist, an intellectual or an architect. Outdoor and nature-loving types tend to opt for sensible weatherproof jackets and trekking sandals instead.

Section C

French authors Catherine Joubert and Sarah Stern have written a whole book about such types, with their insights relying heavily on the work of Sigmund Freud. Joubert and Stern believe there's no need for men to mentally analyse a new party acquaintance or female colleague. A woman's outfit speaks loudly enough, assuming the observer understands the language. 'Clothing is an expression of taste — and that can be an expression of attitude,' Lied said.

Section D

According to style advisor Lisa Zimmermann from Berlin, there is nothing superficial about judging people by the clothes they wear. 'We're talking here about the famous first 10 seconds which is all it takes to make an impression,' she says. 'Remarkably few people give serious thought to the effect of the colours they wear,' said the trained psychologist. 'Whether consciously or unconsciously, they choose a shade which they believe suits them and the situation in which they find themselves.'

Section E

Before selecting an outfit it is as well to be aware of the effects which different colours can produce. Black, for instance, has a powerful aura. 'It signals aloofness and a sense of being something special,' Zimmermann said. People who want to stand out in a crowd tend to choose black clothing. The colour also stands for concentration and minimalism. 'Black is a kind of anti-colour and allows people to keep their options open,' said professor Gisla Gniech from Bremen. Blue, the colour of the sky, is seen as being much more open than black, the so-called 'colour of power,' said Zimmermann. Gniech believes that blue stands for pragmatism and intellect. The list of colours and their alleged psychological ramifications is a long one — red clothing gets the wearer noticed and can indicate an extrovert or even eccentric character. Yellow stands for cheerfulness and optimism while pink is naturally the most romantic of colours.

Section F

Experts say it is important to be aware of the meanings of particular hues, which can vary a lot between different cultures, and to keep these in mind. Not every item of clothing is appropriate to a particular situation yet most people select what they wear with little conscious thought. 'The whole thing has much more to do with a person's habits and inborn feeling for what clothes go well with each other,' Gniech said. At the same time, the decision not to wear a particular garment is generally intuitive. 'The dress may be a great fit and flatter the figure but if you do not feel comfortable with a certain outfit you probably never will,' she said. 'People who plump for the wrong colours tend to have simply no feeling for them at all,' Zimmermann said. 'Of course such choices may represent a personal protest against accepted dress conventions.' It seems some people are just determined to get noticed.

Questions 1 – 5

- Reading Passage 1 has six sections, A-F. Choose the correct heading for each section from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number **i-viii** in the spaces provided

List of Headings

- i The importance of personal taste
- ii How men choose clothing
- iii Different things clothes tell us about the wearer
- iv Messages women can give men
- v Displaying your social group
- vi Making a first impression
- vii The effects of different colours
- viii The importance of fabric



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- 1 Section B _____
- 2 Section C _____
- 3 Section D _____
- 4 Section E _____
- 5 Section F _____

Answers:

1. v 2. iv 3. vi 4. vii 5. i