

What are Short Answer Questions in IELTS Reading?

Worksheet

Short answer questions demand that you extract exact words from the passage to answer direct questions, with strict word limits. Speed and precision in scanning are critical.

Questions

1. Question: 'Where was the sculpture discovered?' Passage: 'The ancient marble sculpture was uncovered in a remote valley in the Greek mountains during the 2019 expedition.' (Max 3 words)

- A) remote valley
- B) Greek mountains
- C) 2019 expedition
- D) ancient

2. What is the key rule for short answer questions?

- A) Write detailed explanations
- B) Use exact words from the passage
- C) Write in complete sentences
- D) Add your own interpretations

3. Question: 'What colour is the substance after heating?' Passage: 'When the white powder is heated to 200°C, it transforms into a deep red compound.' (Max 2 words)

- A) white
- B) deep red
- C) 200°C
- D) heated

4. If no word limit is stated, how many words should you use?

- A) One word only
- B) No limit
- C) 1-3 words (default)
- D) As many as needed

5. Question: 'What is the primary habitat of the Bengal tiger?' Passage: 'The Bengal tiger, native to the dense forests and mangrove swamps of India and Bangladesh, is listed as endangered.' (Max 3 words)

6. Question: 'In what year did the company launch its first product?' Passage: 'Founded in 1995, TechCorp released its flagship software suite in 2001, revolutionising the industry.' (Max 2 words)

7. Question: 'How many countries participated in the summit?' Passage: 'The international environmental summit, held in Geneva in 2022, brought together delegates from 47 nations to discuss climate policies.' (Max 2 words)

8. Define: What are short answer questions?

9. Define: Can I write my own words to answer?

10. Define: What happens if I write more words than the limit?

Answer Key

1. B) Greek mountains — 'Greek mountains' or 'remote valley in the Greek mountains' answers where it was discovered.
2. B) Use exact words from the passage — Answers must be extracted exactly from the text and respect word limits.
3. B) deep red — 'Deep red' describes the colour after heating.
4. C) 1–3 words (default) — Default assumption is 1–3 words; instructions will specify if different.
5. Identify keywords: 'primary habitat', 'Bengal tiger' Scan passage for habitat description Found: 'dense forests and mangrove swamps' Answer: dense forests and mangrove swamps
6. Identify keywords: 'year', 'first product' Scan for product launch date Found: '2001' Answer: 2001
7. Identify keywords: 'how many', 'countries' Scan for a number Found: '47 nations' Answer: 47
8. Direct questions answered using 1–3 words extracted directly from the passage.
9. No — you must use exact words from the passage. Your own words will be marked wrong.
10. The answer is marked incorrect even if the information is correct.

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