



Coventry University English Test

Reading texts

Example Test Paper

Very important:

No dictionaries to be used at all;

No copying;

No talking;

Mobile phones off;

Write names clearly on the test paper.

Student Name _____

Date _____

Test taken at _____

Administered by _____

Reading – 1

Police heads debate ethnic quotas

Chief constables in England and Wales are to discuss whether to boost the recruitment of black and Asian officers by "affirmative action".

The Association of Chief Police Officers will debate the move, which would need employment law changes. Under the plan, women would also get priority in order to boost numbers. However, critics branded the idea "reverse discrimination" and suggested that the police should make itself more attractive to ethnic minorities. Acpo says raising the 3.7% of officers from ethnic minorities to the Home Office's 7% target cannot be done without changing policy.



Fast-track system

However, a change to employment law is not favoured by the Home Office. Peter Fahy, chief constable of Cheshire, who speaks for Acpo on race and diversity, is calling for a debate on amending the law. Under the changes being considered, black and Asian recruits with the necessary qualifications would be fast-tracked, to meet quotas set by each force.

According to Acpo, the plans would represent "affirmative action", which it defines as the process of prioritising minorities once they have passed initial selection procedures. Under such a plan, if two job candidates met the required standards, the candidate whose ethnicity is under-represented in the force would be selected. Acpo says this differs from "positive discrimination", which it says means hiring minorities regardless of whether they are qualified for a job.

BBC home affairs correspondent Danny Shaw said the Home Office had indicated it would prefer to work within existing laws to increase the numbers from ethnic minorities applying to join the police. The Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Ian Blair, said recruitment from ethnic minorities in his force was close to 20% but he admitted the Met would not reach the target of 25% black & Asian officers in the workforce. He said: "The only way to achieve it would be to sack white male officers." Sir Ian said the target should have been based on the proportion of new recruits rather than on the entire workforce.

But Keith Jarrett, President of the National Black Police Association, said he supported the use of affirmative action. He told the BBC: "If we look at Hounslow in London, it's a

borough that is predominantly from a minority ethnic background. "Now whilst my white colleagues are immensely qualified to do the job, I would put forward that Hounslow would be better served as a borough by a person from an Asian background, who has got culture in common with the local inhabitants, and perhaps speaks the same language."

Nick Timmings, an employment lawyer with London-based TMP solicitors, said: "We have had clients who have worked in the police for a while and found the culture repellent.

"What the police need to be doing is make the career more attractive to people from different backgrounds." He said there was an "old boys' network" in the organisation who liked to go to the pub and added that this left out those who could not drink because of religious beliefs. He added that changes in the law required to facilitate these ideas would have to be "fairly radical".

Nick Johnson, from the Commission for Racial Equality, said there were better ways of addressing the problem of under-representation. He said: "Positive action is about going into certain communities, targeting resources, targeting promotional work, building up training and development - that's something we would support. "Picking someone simply because of the colour of their skin for a job is not something we would support." A spokeswoman added later: "These forms of 'reverse discrimination' could actually increase community tensions, rather than ease them."

'Fair and square'

British Transport Police officer Trina Allen told BBC News she did not feel she had been given special treatment when she had applied for her job. She said: "I'd hate to think that I'd get my job because of my colour. I've been through the entire process and at no point there was anything hidden to say 'apply because you're black'."

Chaz Singh, who was turned down by the force, said it would not be right to get the job because of a person's colour. "I didn't get the job fair and square. It didn't go any further than that," he said. "But to turn round and now be received in the sense that I could apply for a job because of my colour, I think that's wrong. I don't think colour should come before ability."

Matt Powell, a white candidate who was awarded compensation from Gloucestershire Police after they rejected his application, has described Acpo's proposals as an "absolute disgrace". "People want the best police force, and if you start ring-fencing jobs for certain groups, I think you're going down a very dangerous path," he said.

Reading-2

Facebook and Microsoft to build private internet highway underwater

Projects to install undersea cables from US to Spain would ensure fast enough connectivity for tech companies' virtual reality and live video services

Danny Yadron in San Francisco



Facebook and Microsoft are going underwater.

The two technology companies announced on Thursday they are to install an undersea cable from the east coast of the US to Spain to help speed up their global internet services.

Fast connectivity is particularly important to Facebook, which wants to encourage users across the world to broadcast live video and meet in virtual reality. Both activities can consume vast amounts of bandwidth.

The project marks yet another example where technology companies are assuming roles traditionally left to public utilities or the government, and until now undersea cables have traditionally been laid by telecommunications incumbents. Meanwhile, Google continues to expand Fiber, its high-speed internet program, Amazon.com effectively is building its own postal service, Uber is attempting to replace regulated cab companies and Facebook is bringing wireless internet to Africa.

In effect, the companies will have their own private internet highway between two major markets

The cable will travel from northern Virginia in the US, a major junction point in the global internet, to Bilbao in Spain, and then onward to the rest of Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. The companies said it will be highest-capacity undersea cable yet across the Atlantic. The cost wasn't disclosed.

An infrastructure-focused subsidiary of Telefónica, the Spanish telecom provider, will manage the cable. Construction is scheduled to begin in August 2016 and be completed by October 2017.

Even though Telefónica will sell access to the cable to other companies, Facebook and Microsoft are ensuring they will get premier access to quick data transfers across the sea. In effect, the companies will have their own private highway between two major markets.

There currently are more than a dozen undersea cables between America and Europe.

The decision for Facebook and Microsoft to build their own speaks to their vision for how much bandwidth they will need in the future. At Facebook's developer conference in San Francisco in April, executives showed how they envision two users on different continents meeting up virtually online using elaborate systems of headsets, cameras and other monitors. The experience will require an extraordinary amount of space on the internet's backbone.

Facebook's ability to fund its own cable now is likely to help it maintain its market dominance in the future. While upstart virtual reality companies will have to buy space on others' undersea cables, Facebook simply will have its own.

Reading – 3

Discovery of brainy T rex ancestor sheds light on dinosaur's dominance



Skull found in Uzbekistan belonging to *Timurlengia euotica*, a horse-sized forerunner of *Tyrannosaurus rex*, reveals advanced brain and hearing ability that may have helped it become ‘king of the Cretaceous’ over larger rivals

Ian Sample Science editor

Monday 14 March 2016

The dusty remains of a horse-sized tyrannosaur have shed light on an evolutionary mystery that eventually resulted in the most fearsome predators to walk the Earth, not to mention nightmares for countless four-year-olds.

While *Tyrannosaurus rex* topped the food chain 70m years ago, the earliest known tyrannosaurs were far less impressive beasts. Skeletons dating back 165m years reveal the ancestors of T rex were not much larger than a human. Quite how they rose to dominance has long been obscured by a 20m-year gap in the fossil record.

The discovery of a partial skull belonging to a 90m-year-old tyrannosaur has now given dinosaur hunters their best clue yet. While the animal was still small, at only 250kg and 3 metres long, its brain had evolved an impressive sensory system. The more advanced brain may have helped secure the tyrannosaurs’ rise to dominance.

Named *Timurlengia euotica*, the newly found species had an elongated inner ear, which would have made it good at hearing low frequency sounds: all the better for hunting prey. The name comes from Timur Leng (also known as Timur or Tamerlane), a 14th-century Central Asian warlord, and euotica, meaning “well-eared”, a reference to the animal’s large cochlea. Other parts of the skull are missing though, making it impossible to know how good its hearing and vision were.

The discovery suggests that T rex and its closest relatives did not develop their heightened senses after reaching gigantic proportions, but instead beefed up later on. Towards the end of the age of the dinosaurs, tyrannosaurs had evolved into species such as T rex, with adults that weighed 7 tonnes and measured 13m from snout to tail.

“This is the first and only one we have from this big gap in the fossil record, and it finally tells us what tyrannosaurs were doing as they transitioned into the huge T rex,” said Stephen Brusatte, a paleontologist at Edinburgh University, who describes the fossils in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

“It gives us some insight into how T rex and its closest cousins became these giant, dominant, utterly successful apex predators. The tyrannosaurs evolved these features of the brain when they were still small, and those enhanced abilities may have come in handy when the tyrannosaurs had the opportunity to become dominant,” he added.

The dinosaur’s braincase was found lying on the ground in the Kyzylkum desert in northern Uzbekistan during a field expedition in 2004. Hans-Dieter Sues at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC said that while the team realised the skull belonged to a predatory dinosaur, they could not establish the species until they brought in Brusatte, who had studied tyrannosaurs in Mongolia and China. *Timurlengia* was a “nimble pursuit hunter” Sues said, with slender, blade-like teeth for slicing through meat.

Other bones found at the Uzbek site belonged to raptors, a smattering of primitive mammals, and flying reptiles called pterosaurs. Large plant-eating, duck-billed dinosaurs lived among them and likely constituted dinner for *Timurlengia*.

For millions of years, tyrannosaurs were second-tier predators, stalking their prey beneath the larger, more ferocious allosaurs and related beasts. But for reasons that are not clear, allosaurus and its predatory peers went extinct, leaving the top rung of the foodchain empty. No longer overshadowed by allosaurs and their kind, the tyrannosaurs took over. “In evolving some of these advanced sensory features and intelligence early on, the tyrannosaurs may have had the edge to fill that niche when the other predators died out,” said Brusatte.

While keen to stress that little can be learned from just one beast, Brusatte adds that one clue to the animal’s evolutionary past is better than none. If the animal was typical for tyrannosaurs of the time, it suggests brains came before brawn on the path to apex predator. “It seems to show that tyrannosaurs evolved their huge size really late in their history, right towards the end of the age of dinosaurs, and maybe quite suddenly.”

Roger Benson, a paleontologist at Oxford University, said the finding is convincing. “I don’t think it directly tells us whether enhanced hearing was a particularly important prerequisite for tyrannosauroids to become giant predators, but that’s an interesting hypothesis,” he added.