

IELTS READING

PRACTICE TEST

Building the Titanic: Constructing the 'Unsinkable' Ship

Claim: This article explains how the Titanic was built on the infamous ship.

Building the Titanic by John Bennister offers readers a captivating history of the RMS Titanic – a ship that symbolises luxury, ambition, and eventual tragedy. The book is painstakingly researched, bringing together financial data, social insights, and developments in engineering, to explain why and how the Titanic was built. A major achievement is Bennister's ability to convey the emotions experienced by key participants at each stage of the Titanic's story. Bennister writes about the ship like the approach of an explorer (the reason for the huge sinking of the Titanic on their accounts of how it was built). Bennister reserves the tragedy for the second half of the book so that during the early chapters, the reader can enjoy the excitement that surrounded the construction of the ship.

Chapter one sets the stage in the early 20th century with an analysis of the socio-economic factors that led to the Titanic's conception. Bennister's explanation of the intense competition among the shipping companies of the day provides important insight into why the White Star Line, Titanic's owners, were so determined to build the world's largest passenger ship. Like in the book, when trying to make sense of decisions about the ship's construction and safety that appeared risky or even foolish, I found it helpful to read the chapter's explanation of the huge pressure White Star's owners faced.

Chapter two explains the complex financial basis behind the Titanic's construction. Bennister outlines the huge budget required by White Star, including it as an early example (ESSE) to explain, estimated at approximately \$500 million today. Interestingly, when he investigates the role played by the International Mercantile Marine Company (IMM) in providing the necessary financing, Bennister draws a unique conclusion: the fund requires a sophisticated sequence of shares and bond issuing by both IMM and White Star. He then uses this to interestingly reject the early reported idea that IMM financed the Titanic and argues instead that White Star financed IMM. It is an intriguing idea that warrants further exploration.

Chapter three details the design and engineering insights that defined the Titanic. Bennister provides a long list of specifics, such as the ship's length (in the centimetres), the number of rivets used and the precise amount of steel in the hull. Not being an engineering professional, I found some key attention (ESSE) a little heavy. Luckily, the chapter is aided by a fascinating discussion of how the premium materials used in the construction bolstered the infamous belief that the Titanic was 'unsinkable'.

Chapter four paints a vivid picture of what it was like to work on the construction of the Titanic at the inland and shipyard in Belfast. A staggering 15,000 workers were involved, and Bennister meticulously describes the diverse range of skilled professionals, including boilermakers, electricians, and plumbers, who contributed their expertise. An especially revealing aspect of this chapter is the inclusion of firsthand accounts from workers' letters and diary entries. Reading these, it becomes clear that while workers faced long hours, poor safety standards and low wages, they were also caught up in the excitement of constructing the largest ship ever built. Bennister closes the first part of the book with an account of the ship's launch in 1911, watched by 100,000 spectators – a clear example of how Titanic had captured the public imagination.

Questions 27–30

Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in the reading passage?

Choose **YES** if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer, choose **NO** if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer, or choose **NOT GIVEN** if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this.

- 27 Information in chapter one helps the reader to understand later chapters.
- 28 At the time of construction, the Titanic was the most expensive ship ever built.
- 29 The detailed figures in chapter three lack interest.
- 30 Professional workers who constructed the Titanic were paid well for their skills.

Questions 31–33

Complete the summary using the list of phrases, A–J below.

Key words

At the start of the second part, Bennister describes the Titanic's sea trials, which were delayed due to 31 in the Irish Sea. The trials required the ship to perform 32 that tested its readiness for its first ocean voyage. A key part of the trials was measuring the distance needed to achieve a 33

Bennister challenges the view that the sea trials produced 34 He argues that the measurements taken were troubling, and should have led to a reduction in 35 that may have avoided the tragic consequences of the Titanic's collision with the iceberg.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| A specific measurements | B essential setbacks | C substantial failures |
| D unpredictable behaviour | E repeated tests | F tight construction |
| G impressive reports | H poor conditions | I complete stop |
| J full scale | | |

Academic Reading Example Ielts Practice Tests

Zhe Xu



Academic Reading Example Ielts Practice Tests:

Academic Reading Example Ielts Practice Tests: Bestsellers in 2023 The year 2023 has witnessed a noteworthy surge in literary brilliance, with numerous engrossing novels captivating the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of popular books, exploring the fascinating narratives that have charmed audiences this year. Academic Reading Example Ielts Practice Tests : Colleen Hoovers "It Ends with Us" This touching tale of love, loss, and resilience has gripped readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover skillfully weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can prevail. Uncover the Best : Taylor Jenkins Reids "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This spellbinding historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reids compelling storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. Academic Reading Example Ielts Practice Tests : Delia Owens "Where the Crawdads Sing" This mesmerizing coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens weaves a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, entrancing readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These bestselling novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of captivating stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a exceptional and thrilling novel that will keep you wondering until the very end. The novel is a cautionary tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

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