## Đề thi thật 1: The importance of law

A The law influences all of us virtually all the time, it governs almost all aspects of our behavior, and even what happens to us when we are no longer alive. It affects us from the embryo onwards. It governs the air we breathe, the food and drink we consume, our travel, family relationships, and our property. It applies at the bottom of the ocean and in space. Each time we examine a label on a food product, engage in work as an employee or employer, travel on the roads, go to school to learn or to teach, stay in a hotel, borrow a library book, create or dissolve a commercial company, play sports, or engage the services of someone for anything from plumbing a sink to planning a city, we are in the world of law.

B Law has also become much more widely recognised as the standard by which behavior needs to be judged. A very telling development in recent history is the way in which the idea of law has permeated all parts of social life. The universal standard of whether something is socially tolerated is progressively becoming whether it is legal, rather than something that has always been considered acceptable. In earlier times, most people were illiterate. Today, by contrast, a vast number of people can read, and it is becoming easier for people to take an interest in law, and for the general population to help actually shape the law in many countries. However, law is a versatile instrument that can be used equally well for the improvement or the degradation of humanity.

C This, of course, puts law in a very significant position. In our rapidly developing world, all sorts of skills and knowledge are valuable. Those people, for example, with knowledge of computers, the internet, and communications technology are relied upon by the rest of us. There is now someone with IT skills or an IT help desk in every UK school, every company, every hospital, every local and central government office. Without their knowledge, many parts of commercial and social life today would seize up in minutes. But legal understanding is just as vital and as universally needed. The American comedian Jerry Seinfeld put it like this, 'We are all throwing the dice, playing the game, moving our pieces around the board, but if there is a problem, the lawyer is the only person who has read the inside of the top of the box.' In other words, the lawyer is the only person who has read and made sense of the rules.

D The number of laws has never been greater. In the UK alone, about 35 new Acts of Parliament are produced every year, thereby delivering thousands of new rules. The legislative output of the British Parliament has more than doubled in recent times from 1,100 pages a year in the early 1970s,to over 2,500 pages a year today. Between 1997 and 2006,the legislature passed 365 Acts of Parliament and more than 32,000 legally binding statutory instruments. In a system with so much law, lawyers do a great deal not just to vindicate the rights of citizens and organizations but also to help develop the law through legal arguments, some of which are adapted by judges to become laws. Law courts can and do produce new law and revise old law, but they do so having heard the arguments of lawyers.

*Questions 1-6 The reading Passage has six paragraphs A-F*

*Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below. Write the correct number, i-viii, in boxes 1-6 on your answer sheet.*

*List of Headings*

*i Different areas of professional expertise*

*ii Reasons why it is unfair to criticise lawyers*

*iii The disadvantages of the legal system*

*iv The law applies throughout our lives*

*v The law has affected historical events*

*vi A negative regard for lawyers vii public's increasing ability to influence the law*

*viii growth in laws*

*1..... Paragraph A*

*2..... Paragraph B*

*3..... Paragraph C*

*4..... Paragraph D*

*5..... Paragraph E*

*6..... Paragraph F*

*Questions 7-8 Choose TWO letters, A-E. Write the correct letters in boxes 7-8 on your answer sheet. Which TWO of the following statements does the writer make about legal skills in today's world?*

*A There should be a person with legal training in every hospital.*

*B Lawyers with experience in commercial law are the most in demand.*

*C Knowledge of the law is as important as having computer skills.*

*D Society could not function effectively without legal experts.*

*E Schools should teach students about the law*

E However, despite their important role in developing the rules, lawyers are not universally admired. Anti-lawyer jokes have a long history going back to the ancient Greeks. More recently the son of a famous Hollywood actor was asked at his junior school what his father did for a living, to which he replied,'My daddy is a movie actor, and sometimes he plays the good guy, and sometimes he plays the lawyer. For balance, though, it Is worth remembering that there are and have been many heroic and revered lawyers such as the Roman philosopher and politician Cicero and Mahatma Gandi, the Indian campaigner for independence.

F People sometimes make comments that characterise lawyers as professionals whose concerns put personal reward above truth, or who gain financially from misfortune. There are undoubtedly lawyers that would fit that bill, Just as there are some scientists, Journalists and others In that category, But, In general, it is no more Just to say that lawyers are bad because they make a living from people's problems than it is to make the same accusation In respect of nurses or IT consultants, A great many lawyers are involved in public law work, such as that Involving civil liberties, housing and other Issues. Such work Is not lavishly remunerated and the quality of the service provided by these lawyers relies on considerable professional dedication, Moreover, much legal work has nothing to do with conflict or misfortune, but is primarily concerned with drafting documents, Another source of social disaffection for lawyers, and disaffection for the law, is a limited public understanding of how law works and how It could be changed. Greater clarity about these issues, maybe as a result of better public relations, would reduce many aspects of public dissatisfaction with the law.

*Questions 9-13 Complete the summary below.*

*Choose ONE WORD ONLY from the passage for each answer. Write your answers in boxes 9-13 on your answer sheet. Lawyers as professionals People sometimes say that 9..... is of little interest to lawyers, who are more concerned with making money. This may well be the case with some individuals, in the same way that some 10..... or scientific experts may also be driven purely by financial greed. However, criticising lawyers because their work is concerned with people's problems would be similar to attacking IT staff or 11..... for the same reason. In fact, many lawyers focus on questions relating, for example, to housing or civil liberties, which requires them to have 12..... to their work. What's more, a lot of lawyers' time is spent writing 13..... rather than dealing with people's misfortunes.*

## Đề thi thật 2: Desertification

A

The world's great deserts were formed by natural processes interacting over long intervals of time. During most of these times, deserts have grown and shrunk independent of human activities. Paleodeserts, large sand seas now inactive because they are stabilized by vegetation, extend well beyond the present margins of core deserts, such as the Sahara. In some regions, deserts are separated sharply from surrounding, less arid areas by mountains and other contrasting landforms that reflect basic structural differences in the regional geology. In other areas, desert fringes form a gradual transition from a dry to a more humid environment, making it more difficult to define the desert border.

B

These transition zones have very fragile, delicately balanced ecosystems. Desert fringes often are a mosaic of microclimates. Small hollows support vegetation that picks up heat from the hot winds and protects the land from the prevailing winds. After rainfall, the vegetated areas are distinctly cooler than the surroundings. In these marginal areas, human activity may stress the ecosystem beyond its tolerance limit, resulting in degradation of the land. By ponding the soil with their hooves, livestock compact the substrate, increase the proportion of fine material, and reduce the percolation rate of the soil, thus encouraging erosion by wind and water. Grazing and the collection of firewood reduce or eliminate plants that help to bind the soil.

C

This degradation of formerly productive land—desertification—is a complex process. It involves multiple causes, and it proceeds at varying rates in different climates. Desertification may intensify a general climatic trend toward greater aridity, or it may initiate a change in local climate.

D

Desertification does not occur in linear, easily mappable patterns. Deserts advance erratically, forming patches on their borders. Areas far from natural deserts can degrade quickly to barren soil, rock, or sand through poor land management. The presence of a nearby desert has no direct relationship to desertification. Unfortunately, an area undergoing desertification is brought to public attention only after the process is well underway. Often little or no data are available to indicate the previous state of the ecosystem or the rate of degradation. Scientists still question whether desertification, as a process of global change, is permanent or how and when it can be halted or reversed.

E

Desertification became well known in the 1930s when part of the Great Plains in the United States turned into the "Dust Bowl" as a result of drought and poor practices in farming, although the term itself was not used until almost 1950. During the Dust Bowl period, millions of people were forced to abandon their farms and livelihoods. Greatly improved methods of agriculture and land and water management in the Great Plains have prevented that disaster from recurring, but desertification presently affects millions of people on almost every continent. Increased population and livestock pressure on marginal lands have accelerated desertification. In some areas, nomads moving to less arid areas disrupt the local ecosystem and increase the rate of erosion of the land. Nomads are trying to escape the desert, but because of their land-use practices, they are bringing the desert with them.

*1. Questions 14-19*

*Reading Passage 2 contains 9 paragraphs (A-I).*

*Which paragraphs state the following information?*

*Write the appropriate letters (A-I) in boxes 14-19 on your answer sheet.*

14. *Desertification poses a threat to people worldwide.*
15. *It is difficult to describe the process of desertification.*
16. *Desertification may alter local climates.*
17. *People have misconceptions regarding desertification origins.*
18. *It is hard to notice desertification in its early stages.*
19. *Straw grids diminish the swiftness of the surface wind.*

*2. Questions 20-23*

*Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading Passage 2?*

*In boxes 20-23, write:*

- *YES if the statement agrees with the views of the writer*
- *NO if the statement contradicts the views of the writer*
- *NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this*

20. *All desert borders are difficult to define.*
21. *Desertification is a reversible process.*
22. *Part of the Great Plains did not become a so-called "Dust Bowl" until almost 1950.*
23. *Nomads cannot get away from the desert because of their current land-use methods.*

F

It is a misconception that drought causes desertification. Droughts are common in arid and semiarid lands. Well-managed lands can recover from drought when the rains return. Continued land abuse during droughts, however, increases land degradation. By 1973, the drought that began in 1968 in the Sahel of West Africa and the land-use practices there had caused the deaths of more than 100,000 people and 12 million cattle, as well as the disruption of social organizations from villages to the national level.

G

At the local level, individuals and governments can help to reclaim and protect their lands. In areas of sand dunes, covering the dunes with large boulders or petroleum will interrupt the wind regime near the face of the dunes and prevent the sand from moving. Sand fences are used throughout the Middle East and the United States, in the same way snow fences are used in the north. Placement of straw grids, each up to a square meter in area, will also decrease the surface wind velocity. Shrubs and trees planted within the grids are protected by the straw until they take root. In areas where some water is available for irrigation, shrubs planted on the lower one-third of a dune's windward side will stabilize the dune. This vegetation decreases the wind velocity near the base of the dune and prevents much of the sand from moving.

H

Oases and farmlands in windy regions can be protected by planting tree fences or grass belts. Sand that manages to pass through the grass belts can be caught in strips of trees planted as windbreaks 50 to 100 meters apart adjacent to the belts. Small plots of trees may also be scattered inside oases to stabilize the area. On a much larger scale, a "Green Wall," which will eventually stretch more than 5,700 kilometers in length, much longer than the famous Great Wall, is being planted in northeastern China to protect "sandy lands"—deserts believed to have been created by human activity.

I

More efficient use of existing water resources and control of salinization are other effective tools for improving arid lands. New ways are being sought to use surface-water resources such as rainwater harvesting or irrigating with seasonal runoff from adjacent highlands. Research on the reclamation of deserts also is focusing on discovering proper crop rotation to protect the fragile soil, on understanding how sand-fixing plants can be adapted to local environments, and on how grazing lands and water resources can be developed effectively without being overused.

*3. Questions 24-26*

*Complete the summary below.*

*Use NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the passage for each answer.*

*Tree fences or grass belts planted inside oases can catch sand in the wind and 24..... these areas as well. The "Green Wall" is an example.*

*Water resource management and prevention of 25..... are also effective in protecting lands.*

*Scientists are trying to find 26 ..... to protect the vulnerable soil.*

## Đề thi thật 3: Termite Mounds

Could the vast towers of mud constructed by insects in sub-Saharan Africa hold the key to our energy-efficient building of the future?

A. To most of us, termites are destructive insects which can cause damage on a devastating scale. But according to Dr Rupert Soar of Loughborough University's School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, these pests may serve a useful purpose for us after all. His multi-disciplinary team of British and American engineers and biologists have set out to investigate the giant mounds built by termites in Namibia, in sub-Saharan Africa, as part of the most extensive study of these structures ever taken.

B. Termite mounds are impressive for their size alone; typically they are three metres high, and some as tall as eight metres by found. They also reach far into the earth, where the insects 'mine' their building materials, carefully selecting each grain of sand they use. The termite's nest is contained in the central cavity of the mound, safely protected from the harsh environment outside. The mound itself is formed of an intricate lattice of tunnels, which spilt into smaller and smaller tunnels, much like a person's blood vessels.

C. This complex system of tunnels draws in air from the outside, capturing wind energy to drive it through the mound. It also serves to expel spent respiratory gases from the nest to prevent the termites from suffocating, so ensuring them a continuous provision of fresh, breathable air. So detailed is the design that the nest stays within three degrees of a constant temperature, despite variations on the outside of up to 500C, from blistering heat in the daytime to below freezing on the coldest nights. The mound also automatically regulates moisture in the air, by means of best its underground 'cellar', and evaporation from the top of the mound. Some colonies even had 'chimneys' at a height of 20m to control moisture less in the hottest regions of sub-Saharan Africa.

D. Furthermore, the termites have evolved in such a way as to outsource some of their biological functions. Part of their digestive process in camera out by a fungus, which they 'farm' inside the mound. This fungus, which is found nowhere else on earth, thrives in the constant and optimum environment of the mound. The termites feed the fungus with slightly chewed wood pulp, which the fungus then breaks down into a digestible sugary food to provide the insects with energy, and cellulose which they use for building. And, although the termites must generate waste, none ever leaves the structure, indicating that there is also some kind of internal waste-recycling system.

*QUESTIONS 1-7*

*Reading Passage 3 has seven paragraphs A-G. Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below. Write the correct number, i-ix, in boxes 1-7 on your answer sheet.*

*List of heading*

*i. methods used to investigate termite mound formation*

*ii. challenging our assumptions about the nature of life*

*iii. reconsidering the termite's reputation*

*iv. principal functions of the termite mound*

*v. distribution of termite mounds in sub-Saharan Africa*

*vi. some potential benefits of understanding termite architecture*

*vii. the astonishing physical dimensions of the termite mound*

*viii. termite mounds under threat from global climate change*

*ix. a mutually beneficial relationship*

*1..... Paragraph A*

*2..... Paragraph B*

*3..... Paragraph C*

*4..... Paragraph D*

*5..... Paragraph E*

*6..... Paragraph F*

*7..... Paragraph G*

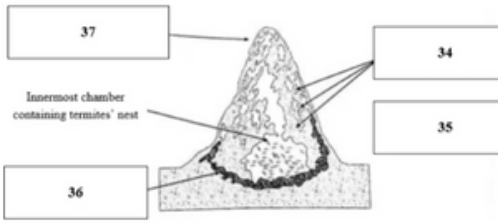
E. Scientists are so excited by the mounds that they have labelled them a 'super organism' because, in Soar's word. "They dance on the edge of what we would perceive to cool down, or if you're too cold you need to thrive: that's called homeostasis. What the termites have done is to move homeostatic function away from their body, into the structure in which they live. 'As more information comes to light about the unique features of termite mounds, we may ultimately need to redefine our understanding of what constitutes a 'living' organism.

F. To reveal the structure of the mounds, Soar's team begins by filling and covering their plaster of Paris, a chalky white paste based on the mineral gypsum, which becomes rocksolid when dry. The researcher's hen carves the plaster of Paris into half-millimatre-thick slices, and photograph them sequentially. Once the pictures are digitally scanned, computer technology is able to recreate complex three-dimensional images of the mounds. These models have enabled the team to map termite architecture at a level of detail never before attained.

G. Soar hopes that the models will explain how termite mounds create a self-regulating living environment which manages to respond to changing internal and external conditions without drawing on any outside source of power. If they do, the findings could be invaluable in informing future architectural design, and could inspire buildings that are self-sufficient, environmentally, and cheap to run. 'As we approach a world of climate change, we need temperatures to rise, he explains, there will not be enough fuel to drive air conditioners around the world. It is hoped, says Soar, ' that the findings will provide clues that aid the ultimate development of new kinds of human habitats, suitable for a variety of arid, hostile environments not only on the earth but maybe one day on the moon and beyond.'

*QUESTIONS 8-11*

*Label the diagram below. Choose ONE WORD ONLY from the passage for each answer. Write your answers in boxes 8-11 on your answer sheet.*




-network of 8..... helps to give the termites a constant
-9..... supply and to maintain a limited temperature range
-cellar to aid control of 10..... levels in mound
-top of the mound permits 11.....

*QUESTIONS 12-14*

*Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading Passage? In boxes 12-14 on your sheet, write:*

*YES if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer*

*NO if the statement contradicts with the claims of the writer*

*NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this*

*12..... The termite mound appears to process its refuse material internally.*

*13..... Dr Soar's reconstruction involves scanning a single photograph of a complete mound into acomputer.*

*14..... New information about termite architecture could help people deal with future energy crises.*