Day 7: True/False/Not Given - how can we identify them more easily?

The aim of this worksheet is to help you

- **see a range of examples of TFNG**
- **how NOT GIVEN questions work**
- **see the difference between Not Given and FALSE**
- **get a 'feel' for the type of Not Given questions that are common**

Do the Reading below to test yourself, then try the others for more practice.

Farming comes to town to feed the world

What is one of the biggest industries in most of the world's cities? Surprisingly, it is farming. On roadside verges and balconies, alongside railway lines and by airports, city-dwellers are growing crops. A study of urban farming in 100 cities in 30 countries, released in Istanbul by the United Nations, concludes that one in three of the world's urban residents grows food, either for their own consumption or to sell for profit.

Urban agriculture provides an estimated 15 percent of the world's food, says the report. Calcutta raises a quarter of its fish supply in tanks within the city. In Moscow, two-thirds of families now grow food.

'Planners used to believe that cities were for industry and countryside was for farming. But this is very outdated', said the report's author, Jac Smit. Urban farming is making a nonsense of the boundaries between town and country, he said. In Bangkok, for instance, 60% of the land is devoted to farming.

'Urban farms are recycling vital resources and producing high crop yields,' said Anders Wijkman, who headed the UNDP delegation in Istanbul. 'They are a life-saver for millions of urban dwellers worldwide'.

Taken from Focus on Academic Skills for IELTS (Longman)

True/False/Not Given

1. The results of research about urban farming have been made public by the United Nations.
2. The majority of people who grow food in cities sell it in order to make money.
3. Over one quarter of the world's food comes from farms in urban areas.
4. Urban farming used to be confined to areas near city boundaries.
5. Bangkok has a higher percentage of land used for farming than any other city.
6. According to Anders Wijkman, urban farms tend to have disappointing harvests.

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ANSWERS

1. The results of research about urban farming have **been made public** by the United Nations. **True**

Text says: *A study of urban farming in 100 cities in 30 countries, **released** in Istanbul by the United Nations...*

2. The **majority** of people who grow food in cities **sell it** in order to make money. **Not Given**

Text says: ***one in three** of the world's urban residents **grows food**, either for their own consumption or to sell for profit.*

'The majority' is a classic **NOT GIVEN** trick - we don't know **what proportion** of residents grow food in order to sell it. Many people would say FALSE because 'one in three' is not the majority, but check exactly what 'the majority' refers to.

3. **Over one quarter** of the world's food comes from farms in urban areas. **False**

Text says: *Urban agriculture provides an estimated **15 percent** of the world's food* (NOT one quarter)

4. Urban farming used to be confined to areas near city boundaries'. **Not Given**

Text says: *'Planners **used to believe** that cities were for industry and countryside was for farming. But this is very outdated', said the report's author, Jac Smit. Urban farming is making a nonsense of the boundaries between town and country.*

We don't know. No evidence. No synonyms for 'confined' (e.g. limited, restricted, only)

5. Bangkok has a higher percentage of land used for farming than any other city**. Not Given**

Text says: *In Bangkok, for instance, 60% of the land is devoted to farming.*

Comparisons, as always, are danger signals in NOT GIVEN answers. There is no comparison between Bangkok and other cities, therefore we don't know the answer.

6. According to Anders Wijkman, urban farms tend to have **disappointing** harvests. **False**

Text says: *'Urban farms are recycling vital resources and **producing high crop yields**,' said Anders Wijkman.*

William Henry Perkin - The man who invented synthetic dyes
(Test Book 9 Test 1 Passage 1)

1. Michael Faraday was the **first person** to **recognize** Perkin's **ability** as a student of chemistry.

*As a student at the City of London School, Perkin became immersed in the study of **chemistry.** His **talent** and devotion to the subject **were perceived** **by his teacher, Thomas Hall**, who encouraged him to attend a series of lectures given by the eminent scientist **Michael Faraday** at the Royal Institution.*

FALSE - his teacher was the first person to recognize his ability

2. Michael Faraday suggested Perkin should enroll in the Royal College of Chemistry.

*Those speeches fired the young chemist`s enthusiasm further, and **he later went on to attend the Royal College of Chemistry,** which he succeeded in entering in 1853, at the age of 15.*

Not Given - we do not know what Michael Faraday thought or said.

3. **Perkin** employed August Wilhelm **Hofmann** as his **assistant**.

*Perkin's scientific gifts soon caught Hofmann's attention and within two years, **he became Hofmann's youngest assistant.***

False - it's the opposite.

4. Perkin was still **young** when he made the **discovery** that made him rich and famous.

Not long after that**, Perkin made the scientific **breakthrough** that would bring him both **fame and fortune.

True

5. The **trees** from which quinine is derived grow **only** in South America.

*At the time, quinine was the **only viable medical treatment** for malaria. The drug is derived from the bark of the cinchona tree, **native to South America** and by 1856 demand for the drug was surpassing the available supply.*

NOT GIVEN - 'native' means 'originally from' but we don't know where else they grow. Words like 'only' are often Not Given - 'only' is 'too strong' or 'extreme'.

6. Perkin **hoped** to manufacture a **drug** from a **coal tar waste product.**

*He was **attempting** to manufacture **quinine** from aniline, an inexpensive and readily available **coal tar waste product.***

TRUE

7. Perkin was **inspired** by the discoveries of the famous scientist **Louis Pasteur**.

*And, proving the truth of the famous scientist **Louis Pasteur's** words 'chance favors only the prepared mind', Perkin saw the potential of his unexpected find.*

NOT GIVEN - There are no synonyms for 'inspired by' or 'discoveries'. We have no idea about what Perkin FELT about Louis Pasteur's discoveries. 'Not Given' questions are often what people thought or felt.

The Great Australian Fence

Questions 5-11

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the Reading Passage?

YES if the statement agrees with the information
NO if the statement contradicts the information
NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this in the passage

5. The fence serves a different purpose in each state.
6. The fence is only partially successful.
7. The dingo is indigenous to Australia.
8. Dingoes have flourished as a result of the sheep industry.
9. Dingoes are known to attack humans.
10. Kangaroos have increased in number because of the fence.
11. The author does not agree with the culling of kangaroos.

Taken from IELTS Practice Tests 1 (Longman)

ANSWERS

5. The fence serves a different purpose in each state.
It's known by different names in different states but was erected to keep out hordes of yellow dogs.

No

6. The fence is only partially successful.

What is this creature that threatens an entire industry, inflicting several millions of dollars of damage a year despite the presence of the world's most obsessive fence?

Yes

7. The dingo is indigenous to Australia.
The dingo was introduced to Australia more than 3,500 years ago probably with Asian seafarers.

No

8. Dingoes have flourished as a result of the sheep industry.
It is estimated that since sheep arrived in Australia, dingo numbers have increased a hundredfold.

Yes

9. Dingoes are known to attack humans.
The dingo came to represent everything that was dark and dangerous.

Not Given
(One danger of Not Given is that we assume things that are not actually in the test. For a Yes/No answer, you need evidence of dingoes attacking humans or something which says they NEVER attack humans)

10. Kangaroos have increased in number because of the fence.

Now kangaroos are ubiquitous, for without a native predator the kangaroo population has exploded inside the fence.

YES

11. The author does not agree with the culling of kangaroos.

State governments cull more than 3 million kangaroos a year to keep them from overrunning the pastoral lands.

Not Given
(Statements about the author's **feelings** are often Not Given)