



The Terracotta Army



Reading Test

EXAMPLE

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Teacher's Notes

Lesson Contents	
1.	Instructions
2.	Text 1 without reference words underlined.
3.	Text 2 with reference words underlined.
4.	Reading test questions.
5.	Reading test answer key.

Instructions

Option 1 [Medium] **** [B2/C1]

1. Distribute **text 1 (without reference words underlined)** a week before the test. Students read, check vocabulary and meanings.
2. Test day. Distribute **text 2 (with reference words underlined)** and the **questions** (no dictionaries or notes allowed).
3. Set **ONE** hour to read the text and answer the questions.
4. Take in & correct or go through answers in class (pass mark is 70%).

Option 2 [More challenging] **** [C1]

1. Test day. Distribute **text 2 (with reference words underlined)** & the **questions** (no dictionaries allowed).
2. Set **ONE** hour to read the text and answer the questions.
3. Take in and correct or go through answers in class (pass mark is 70%).

Extension Task

1. Students take a set of notes and write a *summary (add 60 minutes to the test or complete as a standalone task).

⇒ Note: the summary lesson also contains additional critical thinking questions as an extension task.

Link for Additional Material

Summary writing	www.academic-englishuk.com/summary
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The Terracotta Army: Guardians of an Emperor's Legacy (Text 1)

By A. Watson (2025) EXAMPLE

The Terracotta Army [redacted] of the twentieth century. It was found in 1974 near Xi'an, in Shaanxi Province, and it continues to fascinate both scholars and tourists. [redacted], and chariots that were buried more than two thousand years ago. It forms part of the vast mausoleum [redacted], and it demonstrates the enormous resources invested in his burial (Portal, 2007). The discovery is not only remarkable for its size but also for the [redacted] in the third century BCE. The project required huge planning, labour and resources, all of which show how [redacted].

[redacted] the warring states and creating China's first centralised empire. He was determined to consolidate his authority and to project his power beyond [redacted] of his tomb as a monumental task involving hundreds of thousands of workers. The mausoleum was designed to [redacted] palaces, rivers of mercury, and a protective army (Yuan, 2014). It reflected both political ambition and deep beliefs about the afterlife. The author argues that by replicating his empire below ground, the emperor hoped to continue ruling [redacted].

In 1974, local farmers accidentally uncovered pottery fragments while digging a well. This chance discovery led to systematic excavations by archaeologists, who revealed an enormous underground army. [redacted] historical records of such a force. Since then, three main pits have been excavated, containing more than 2,000 figures, though it is [redacted] (Ledderose, 2001). The scale of the find stunned the world and provided unprecedented insight into Qin dynasty society. It also highlighted how [redacted] challenge historical texts, since the written record alone gave no hint of the army's existence.

The figures [redacted] that suggest large-scale workshop production. They were made from local clay, shaped in separate sections such as heads, [redacted]. Workshop marks carved into the statues show that different teams of artisans collaborated, reflecting an early form of [redacted] assembled, the figures were painted with bright mineral pigments, though most of this colour disappeared quickly after excavation (Portal, 2007). [redacted] demonstrate the advanced capabilities of the Qin state. The combination of individuality and uniformity in the army illustrates both artistic skill and strict state control.

The Terracotta Army was intended to serve as guardians of the emperor in the afterlife. It represented his [redacted] on earth would continue [redacted] and control, reminding both contemporaries and future generations of the emperor's absolute power. Many scholars argue that the army was not only a [redacted] that reinforced the legitimacy of the Qin dynasty (Yuan, 2014). This dual role, both spiritual and political, [redacted] were dedicated to its creation.

[redacted]. These are especially evident in the rapid deterioration of pigments on the figures, which can flake away within minutes of exposure

to air. [REDACTED], preferring to leave some pits [REDACTED] stabilisation methods and careful environmental controls have been introduced, but conservation remains a constant concern (Portal, 2007). The Terracotta [REDACTED] with protection. At the same time, conservation work has advanced scientific understanding of [REDACTED] in other fields of archaeology.

Today the mausoleum complex is one of China's most important cultural sites. *It* was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987 and [REDACTED] (UNESCO, 1987). Exhibitions of the Terracotta Warriors have toured internationally, raising global [REDACTED], the site has become a symbol of cultural identity and national pride. For scholars, it provides invaluable evidence about early imperial China, while for the public it [REDACTED] (Portal, 2007). The Terracotta Army thus stands not only as a relic of the past but also as a living bridge [REDACTED]

Reference List

Ledderose, L. (2001) *Ten Thousand Things: Module and Mass Production in Chinese Art*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Portal, J. (ed.) (2007) [REDACTED] The British Museum Press.

Quinn, P. (2017) 'Building the Terracotta Army: Ceramic craft technology and organisation of production at Qin Shi Huang's [REDACTED]

UNESCO (1987) *Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor*. World Heritage List. Available [REDACTED]

Yuan, Z. (2014) [REDACTED] York: Abbeville Press.

The Terracotta Army: Guardians of an Emperor's Legacy (Text 2)

By A. Watson (2025)

1. The Terracotta Army [redacted] of the twentieth century. It was found in 1974 near Xi'an, in Shaanxi Province, and it continues to fascinate both scholars and tourists. [redacted], and chariots that were buried more than two thousand years ago. It forms part of the vast mausoleum [redacted], and it demonstrates the enormous resources invested in his burial (Portal, 2007). The discovery is not only remarkable for its size but also for the [redacted] in the third century BCE. The project required huge planning, labour and resources, all of which show how [redacted].

2. [redacted] the warring states and creating China's first centralised empire. He was determined to consolidate his authority and to project his power beyond [redacted] tomb as a monumental task involving hundreds of thousands of workers. The mausoleum was designed to [redacted], complete with palaces, rivers of mercury, and a protective army (Yuan, 2014). It reflected both political ambition and deep beliefs about the afterlife. The author argues that by replicating his empire below ground, the emperor hoped [redacted].

3. In 1974, local farmers accidentally uncovered pottery fragments while digging a well. This chance discovery led to systematic excavations by archaeologists, who revealed an enormous underground army. [redacted] historical records of such a force. Since then, three main pits have been excavated, containing more than 2,000 figures, though it is [redacted] (Ledderose, 2001). The scale of the find stunned the world and provided unprecedented insight into Qin dynasty society. It also highlighted how [redacted] or even challenge historical texts, since the written record alone gave no hint of the army's existence.

4. The figures [redacted] that suggest large-scale workshop production. They were made from local clay, shaped in separate sections such as heads, [redacted]. Workshop marks carved into the statues show that different teams of artisans collaborated, reflecting an early form of [redacted] assembled, the figures were painted with bright mineral pigments, though most of this colour disappeared quickly after excavation (Portal, 2007). [redacted] demonstrate the advanced capabilities of the Qin state. The combination of individuality and uniformity in the army illustrates both artistic skill and strict state control.

5. The Terracotta Army was intended to serve as guardians of the emperor in the afterlife. It represented his [redacted] on earth would [redacted] authority and control, reminding both contemporaries and future generations of the emperor's absolute power. [redacted] only a funerary provision but also a form of political propaganda that reinforced the legitimacy of the Qin dynasty (Yuan, 2014). This dual role, both [redacted] immense resources were dedicated to its creation.

6. [redacted]. These are especially evident in the rapid deterioration of pigments on the figures, which can flake away within minutes of exposure to air. [redacted], preferring to leave some

pits [redacted] stabilisation methods and careful environmental controls have been introduced, but conservation remains a constant concern (Portal, 2007). The Terracotta [redacted] with protection. At the same time, conservation work has advanced scientific understanding of [redacted] in other fields of archaeology.

7. Today the mausoleum complex is one of China's most important cultural sites. *It* was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987 and [redacted] (UNESCO, 1987). Exhibitions of the Terracotta Warriors have toured internationally, raising global [redacted], the site has become a symbol of cultural identity and national pride. For scholars, it provides invaluable evidence about early imperial China, while for the public it [redacted] (Portal, 2007). The Terracotta Army thus stands not only as a relic of the past but also as a living bridge [redacted]

Reference List

Ledderose, L. (2001) *Ten Thousand Things: Module and Mass Production in Chinese Art*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Portal, J. (ed.) (2007) [redacted] The British Museum Press.

Quinn, P. (2017) 'Building the Terracotta Army: Ceramic craft technology and organisation of production at Qin Shi Huang's [redacted]

UNESCO (1987) *Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor*. World Heritage List. Available [redacted]

Yuan, Z. (2014) [redacted] York: Abbeville Press.

Comprehension Questions

1. Headings: Choose **ONE** subheading for each paragraph (P). One title is NOT needed.

P1.	A	An army built to last beyond death
P2.	B	
P3.	C	Advanced methods of organisation and production
P4.	D	
P5.	E	A cultural treasure with worldwide significance
P6.	F	
P7.	G	Introducing one of the world's great discoveries
	H	

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2. Multiple Choice: Choose **ONE** answer for each paragraph (P).

P1.	What does the Terracotta Army mainly represent?	a.	
		b.	A funerary army to protect the emperor.
		c.	A work of art for public display.
		d.	
P2.	What was Qin Shi Huang's vision for his tomb?	a.	To create a space for religious festivals.
		b.	
		c.	To provide an archive of Chinese history.
		d.	To train future rulers.
P3.	What did the 1974 discovery demonstrate about archaeology?	a.	
		b.	That texts always provide more evidence.
		c.	
		d.	That farmers usually damage historical sites.
P4.	What do the figures reveal about their production?	a.	
		b.	They were made in separate local workshops.
		c.	
		d.	They balanced artistry with central power.
P5.	What belief does the army reflect?	a.	
		b.	That protection was needed in the afterlife.
		c.	That ordinary citizens should be honoured equally.
		d.	
P6.	What is the greatest conservation challenge?	a.	Protecting horses from collapse.
		b.	
		c.	Preserving original paint pigments.
		d.	
P7.	Why is the Terracotta Army important internationally?	a.	It is recognised internationally as a cultural site.
		b.	
		c.	It provides evidence of trade with Rome.
		d.	

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End of page 1

3. True / False: Choose **ONE** answer for each paragraph (P).

		T / F
P1.	The Terracotta Army was designed to protect Qin Shi Huang in the afterlife.	
P2.		
P3.	The army was first discovered during official government excavations.	
P4.		
P5.	The figures signified power and military order beyond life.	
P6.		
P7.	The warriors have only ever been displayed in China.	

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3. Reference Words: Choose what the underlined word in each paragraph (P) refers to.

	Word	Connection
P1.	it	
P2.	His	
P3.	Their	
P4.	Such	
P5.	This	
P6.	These	
P7.	It	

4. Key language: Search for the word in the paragraph (P) that means:

	Explanation	Word
P1.	A burial place built to honour the dead.	
P2.		
P3.	Material remains used to support knowledge.	
P4.		
P5.	Ideas spread to influence opinion.	
P6.		
P7.	To make something officially recognised worldwide.	

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5. Citations: Match the source with the point they make about the Terracotta Army

	Source		Point
i.	Portal (2007)	a.	
ii.	Ledderose (2001)	b.	The site achieved international heritage status in the late 1980s.
iii.	Quinn (2017)	c.	
iv.	Yuan (2014)	d.	The statues reveal organised workshop production using modular techniques.
v.	UNESCO (1987)	e.	

i.		ii.		iii.		iv.		v.	
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Overall Total: ___ / 40

That is the end of the reading test.

Comprehension Questions KEY

1. Headings: Choose **ONE** subheading for each paragraph (P). One title is NOT needed.

P1	<i>G</i>	A	An army built to last beyond death
P2	<i>F</i>	B	How the site was revealed to the modern world
P3	<i>B</i>	C	Advanced methods of organisation and production

ALL ANSWERS INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...