

### Part 3

**Read the article on the Suez Canal and answer Questions 26 - 45.**

#### The Canal in Rescue

On 23 March 2021, a huge container ship was passing through the Suez Canal on its way from Tanjung Pelepas, Malaysia to Rotterdam, The Netherlands. The ship, named Ever Given, unfortunately did not reach its destination as it lost the ability to steer amid high winds and a dust storm. As a consequence, it ran aground diagonally, got stuck and blocked the Suez Canal. It took about a week for the rescuers to dislodge the ship.

With its massive size of 400 metres long, its length being longer than the height of the Eiffel Tower, the blockage was a worldwide shipping crisis. With the ship being lodged against the width of the Suez Canal, it caused a massive traffic jam at one of the world's busiest shipping routes. It was estimated that the crisis cost \$400 million per hour since it delayed the delivery of goods from more than 300 vessels that were in the queue to pass the canal.

This was not the first time the Suez Canal had been blocked. The Suez Canal is a man-made waterway in Egypt connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean via the Red Sea. It enables a more direct route for shipping between Europe and Asia. The waterway is important for international trade and has brought a shortcut in maritime navigation. However, since its opening in 1869, this artificial waterway has already witnessed closure several times before the most recent one in 2021.

The first closure took place in 1956 when the Suez Canal was at the center of a brief war between Egypt and the combined forces of Britain, France and Israel. The conflict broke out after Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser announced the nationalization of the Suez Canal in an effort to go against European colonial domination. The tension is also known as the Suez Crisis which led to the canal's closure for months.

About eleven years later, the canal was closed due to a serious political conflict between Israel and Egypt. It turned into a battleground between the two countries in 1967. In an attempt to regain the control over the canal, the Egyptian government ordered a blockade and shut down the waterway. It took eight years and the canal reopened for trade again after Egypt and Israel signed a diplomatic agreement in 1975. This had led to the longest closure of the Suez Canal

After that, there were no major disturbances along the waterway until 2004. The ship which stopped the flow of the waterway traffic this time was called the Tropic Brilliance, an oil tanker. The vessel was reported to run aground after some mechanical problems and had to be refloated. This involved digging out and removing sand from alongside and under the boat to increase the presence of water around the vessel and get it to move. The ship was finally rescued and the canal was blocked for three days.

Another blockage in the waterway was in 2006. The Hong Kong-flagged Okal King Dor was traveling north when it turned at right angles to the canal. This cargo ship which weighed 93,000 tonnes drifted at the wrong angle inside the Suez Canal. The major factor of this incident was a sandstorm caused by high winds. As a consequence, the ship temporarily blocked the transit between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. Tugboats, however, were able to dislodge the cargo ship within eight hours.

Later in 2017, the Suez Canal was disturbed again by a container ship. The ship was called the OOCL Japan and it was en route from Singapore to the United Kingdom. According to the reports, some mechanical problems prompted the ship to run aground. The malfunction of its steering gear caused the ship to turn perpendicular and block the canal. The OOCL Japan was also followed by another ship and it was very likely that a more serious accident might have happened if the other ship had not stopped in time. However, the OOCL Japan was freed within a few hours by tugboats authorised by the Egyptian government.

Back to the most recent closure in March 2021, the rescue of the Ever Given container ship relied on powerful tugboats and large-capacity dredgers which worked around the clock for six days. Thanks to the rescue team, global commerce resumed again. Otherwise, about 12% of the world trade would still be at a halt and there would be a brief shortage of consumer goods since as many as 50 ships which pass the canal daily would not be able to make deliveries in time.

*adjusted from 'Suez Canal: Ever Given container ship shifted from shoreline' by BBC News, 'The Suez Canal has a contentious history and has been blocked and closed several times since opening' by Yelena Dzhanova, '9 Fascinating Facts About the Suez Canal' by Evan Andrews, and 'What to Know About the Suez Canal and the Cargo Ship That Was Stuck There' by Rick Gladstone and Megan Specia*

**Questions 26 - 30**

Read the statements below. Decide whether they are TRUE, FALSE or NOT GIVEN according to the text.

Mark a cross for the correct answer ☒. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ☒ and then mark your new answer with a cross ☒.

	True	False	Not Given
26 The incident from the ship Ever Given led to the biggest traffic jam in the world's busy canal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
27 The Suez canal is a natural waterway.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
28 In 2004, a ship needed to be rescued as a consequence of problems with its machine..	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
29 Strong winds were responsible for the closure of the Suez Canal in 2006.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
30 The rescue team worked non-stop for almost a week to dislodge the Ever Given ship.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)

**(Total for Questions 26 - 30 = 5 marks )**

**Questions 31 - 40**

**Complete the following sentences using no more than THREE words that must be taken from one point in the text.**

- 31 The Ever Given ship was unable to .....against a severe windy condition and finally ran aground. (1)
- 32 When the Ever Given ship blocked the traffic at the Suez Canal, it brought about a ..... (1)
- 33 Many ships take the Suez Canal as a .....and travel more directly between Europe and Asia. (1)
- 34 The first closure of the canal took place due to ..... between Egypt and three other countries. (1)
- 35 The Suez Canal became a .....during a political conflict in 1967. (1)
- 36 At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, an .....blocked the canal for three days. (1)
- 37 The ship from Hong Kong was reported to position at the wrong angle inside the canal due to a sandstorm while..... (1)
- 38 In 2006, the passage between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea was .....shut out for some hours. (1)
- 39 The OOCL Japan ran aground after .....did not work properly. (1)
- 40 A dangerous accident is very..... to happen if a ship suddenly blocks the waterway and the ship following it is unable to stop promptly. (1)

**(Total for Questions 31 - 40 = 10 marks)**

**Questions 41 - 45**

**Complete this summary of the text using words from the box below. Each word may be used once or not used at all**

Since it was first opened in 1869, the Suez Canal has **(41)** .....

Several closures.

**(42)** .....tensions were among the major factors that forced the canal to be closed. The **(43)** ..... conflict at the canal was relieved by a diplomatic agreement.

While a few cases took months or even years of closure, some only

**(44)** ..... hours to fix the problems and clear the waterway.

It is believed that the delayed deliveries of consumer products can cost up to some hundred million dollars per hour when there is a shipping **(45)** ..... at the Suez Canal.

trade	brought	political	longest	responded
economic	serious	required	witnessed	crisis

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**(Total for Questions 41 - 45 = 5 marks)**

**TOTAL FOR PART 3 = 20 MARKS**