

READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE TEST

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

The front page of this booklet provides practice examples to show you what the questions on the real test are like. Your test administrator or teacher will now take you through these.

Practice Example 1

The clown pulled silly faces to make the children laugh.

The word silly in this sentence means:

A: funny

B: bad

C: tricky

D: scary

E: None of these

Please fill in your answer on the answer sheet provided.

Practice Example 2

The sentence below does not have any punctuation. Choose the option with the correct punctuation.

i am a good runner

A: i am a good runner.

B: I am a good runner

C: Im a good runner.

D: I am a good runner.

E: None of these

Please fill in your answer on the answer sheet provided.

Practice Example 3

Emily has three dogs and two cats. They are all brown, but one of the dogs has spots. His name is Spot.

Which of the following is true?

A: Emily has three animals in total.

B: Emily has more cats than dogs.

C: One of Emily's cats is black.

D: All of Emily's dogs have spots.

E: None of these

Please fill in your answer on the answer sheet provided.

When you are told to begin you will have **30 minutes** to do as many questions as you can. If you don't know the answer to a question, make a guess or come back to it later. You don't lose marks if you get something wrong. It may be difficult to finish all the questions in the time allowed, so don't spend too long on any one question. Try to answer as many questions as you can. If you change your mind about an answer, please erase your original answer using an eraser and colour your new answer in on the answer sheet.

PLEASE DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO.

Question 1

For the little boy, a lolly was tangible, whereas a promise was not.

The word **tangible** in this sentence means:

- A: basic B: untouchable C: actual D: edible E: none of these
-

Question 2

Please read the following sentence.

Once Jane lifted her pen and made a start, writing the essay became easy.

If we change the start of the sentence to:

Writing the essay became easy.....

What will the ending be?

- A: after starting.
B: after lifting her pen.
C: once Jane lifted her pen and made a start.
D: once she lifted her pen and made a start.
E: None of these.
-

Question 3

The boy's incorrigible behaviour puzzled his sister.

The word **incorrigible** in this sentence means:

- A: appalling B: reformed C: incurable D: frustrated E: none of these
-

Question 4

Genealogy is fun. Just as a piece of furniture or a picture takes on much more interest if you know its history, so does an individual become more real once the ancestral elements that shaped him are known. An in-depth family history is a tapestry of all those to whom we owe our existence.

Which statement best conveys the theme of this paragraph?

- A: Finding out about our ancestors is more interesting than researching the history of objects.
B: Genealogy is a study of people and their belongings in the past.
C: Genealogy is a study of family history.
D: Genealogical research can bring meaning and life to a family's history.
E: Most genealogies are a waste of effort.
-

Question 5

Choose the option which will best replace the underlined words in the sentence to make it correct.

She done it to quick, so it came out looking rough.

- A: done it too quickly B: did it too quick C: did it too quickly D: did it to quickly E: none of these
-

Read the following paragraph to answer the next two questions (Questions 6&7).

Tailgating another vehicle is unsafe and illegal. Many rear-end collisions are caused by drivers following too close to the vehicle in front of them. The rules state that a driver must keep sufficient distance from the vehicle in front in order to stop safely and avoid a collision. Drivers should allow a minimum two seconds' gap between their vehicle and the one ahead. At sixty kilometres an hour, this equates to thirty-three metres; at a hundred it equates to fifty-five metres. More distance is needed to safely stop in rain or poor visibility.

Question 6

Tailgating another vehicle is unsafe because:

- A: all rear end collisions are caused by drivers following too close to the vehicle in front.
B: it may not allow sufficient time and space to stop and avoid a collision.
C: it is against the road rules.
D: it is a reckless practice.
E: None of these.
-

Question 7

'More distance is needed to safely stop in rain or poor visibility.' We can infer from this that:

- A: people drive faster in rain and poor visibility.
 - B: the writer is merely calculating on the safe side.
 - C: braking is more hazardous in rain and poor visibility.
 - D: the road rules state that this must be so.
 - E: All of these.
-

Read the following paragraphs to answer the next two questions (Questions 8&9).

There is a place forty kilometres north-east of Portland, Victoria, which makes for an unusual visit. It is Lake Condah. Here are to be found remains of aboriginal settlements: the circular stone bases of several hundred huts, rock-lined water channels, and stone tools chipped from rock not normally found in the area. One of the attractions of Lake Condah long ago was its fish and the most startling evidence of aboriginal technology and engineering to be found there are the systems built to trap fish.

Water courses had been constructed by redirecting streams, building stone sides and even scraping out new channels. At strategic spots, they piled rocks across the water courses to create weirs and build funnels to channel eels and fish into conical baskets. This is an eel-fishing technique which has hardly changed to the present day. Beside some of the larger traps, there are the outlines of rectangular, stone-lined ponds, probably to hold fish and keep them fresh.

On the bluffs overlooking the lake, stone circles are all that remain of ancient dwellings. Not all of the stones were quarried locally. The huts vary in size, but all have gaps for doorways located on the lee side, away from the prevailing wind. One theory is that the stone walls were only waist to shoulder high, with the top roofed by branches and possibly packed with mud.

The site presents a picture of a semi-settled people quite different from the stereotype of nomadic hunter-gatherers of the desert.

Question 8

The word 'stereotype' as used in the above passage means:

- A: distant culture.
- B: opposite picture.
- C: electronic print version.
- D: standard view.
- E: None of these.

Question 9

Lake Condah is seen as unusual, mainly because:

- A: it is so close to a main town.
 - B: there are remains of buildings still to be seen.
 - C: it reveals a society that was at least partly settled and had building and engineering skills.
 - D: there is evidence that some of the building stone was imported.
 - E: it shows the lake dwellers were totally reliant on fish for a food source.
-

Question 10

The sentence below does not have any punctuation. Choose the option with the correct punctuation.

one of these days said mary youll get into trouble

- A: One of these days, said Mary, you'll get into trouble.
 - B: "One of these days", said Mary "you'll get into trouble"
 - C: "One of these days", said Mary. "You'll get into trouble."
 - D: "One of these days", said Mary, "you'll get into trouble."
 - E: "One of these days", said Mary, "youll get into trouble."
-

Question 11

What does this sentence suggest?

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

- A: Your own possessions are always worth more to you.
- B: Birds are hard to catch, so hang on to one if you catch it.
- C: To have something is better than having nothing at all.
- D: A trained bird is twice the value of an untrained one.
- E: There is no point in being envious.

Read the following paragraphs to answer the next four questions (Questions 12 - 15).

Between us there was, as I have already said somewhere, the bond of the sea. Besides holding our hearts together through long periods of separation, it had the effect of making us tolerant of each other's yarns-and even convictions. The Lawyer-the best of old fellows-had, because of his many years and many virtues, the only cushion on deck, and was lying on the only rug. The Accountant had brought out already a box of dominoes, and was toying architecturally with the bones. Marlow sat cross-legged right aft, leaning against the mizzen-mast. He had sunken cheeks, a yellow complexion, a straight back, an ascetic aspect, and, with his arms dropped, the palms of hands outwards, resembled an idol. The Director, satisfied the anchor had good hold, made his way aft and sat down amongst us. We exchanged a few words lazily.

Afterwards there was silence on board the yacht. For some reason or other we did not begin that game of dominoes. We felt meditative, and fit for nothing but placid staring. The day was ending in a serenity of still and exquisite brilliance. The water shone pacifically; the sky, without a speck, was a benign immensity of unstained light; the very mist on the Essex marshes was like a gauzy and radiant fabric, hung from the wooded rises inland, and draping the low shores in diaphanous folds. Only the gloom to the west, brooding over the upper reaches, became more sombre every minute, as if angered by the approach of the sun.

And at last, in its curved and imperceptible fall, the sun sank low, and from glowing white changed to a dull red without rays and without heat, as if about to go out suddenly, stricken to death by the touch of that gloom brooding over a crowd of men.

From 'The Heart of Darkness', by Joseph Conrad.

Question 12

The narrator of this passage is telling his story from:

- A: a wharf.
- B: the deck of a yacht.
- C: a high vantage point.
- D: the edge of the Essex marshes.
- E: None of the above.

Question 13

The mood of the men in this passage is best described as:

- A: surly. B: resigned. C: contemplative. D: restless. E: ecstatic.

Question 14

From the passage, it is clear that the men:

- A: do not get along.
- B: show a quiet understanding.
- C: cannot be bothered with one another.
- D: have just had a quarrel.
- E: are worn out.

Question 15

The word 'diaphanous', used to describe the mist, means:

- A: almost transparent. B: fragile. C: suffocating. D: silent E: none of the above.

Read the following paragraphs to answer the next four questions (Questions 16 - 19).

Among predatory dinosaurs, few flesh-eaters were bigger, faster and nastier than the "tyrant lizard" of popular imagination, the Tyrannosaurus Rex. At least, that is what we have been led to believe.

Now research suggests that, far from being the Ferrari of dinosaurs, Tyrannosaurus Rex, whose ferocious reputation has fascinated generations of schoolchildren, was in fact a cumbersome creature with a usual running speed of twenty-five kilometres an hour. This is a mere snail's pace compared with modern animals such as the cheetah.

Unlike some of the predators of today's African savannah, which can change direction almost immediately, the dinosaur would have had to turn slowly or risk tumbling over. And while a human can spin forty-five degrees in a twentieth of a second, a Tyrannosaurus would have taken as much as two seconds, as it would have been hampered by its long tail. Thankfully, however, all its prey, such as triceratops, would have been afflicted with the same lack of speed and agility.

The findings were reached after researchers used computer modelling and biomechanical calculations to work out the dinosaur's speed, agility and weight. They based their calculations on measurements taken from a fossil dinosaur representative of an average Tyrannosaurus and concluded the creatures probably weighed between six and eight tonnes.

Calculations of the leg muscles suggest that the animal would have had a top speed of forty kilometres an hour, which is nothing compared to a cheetah's one hundred kilometres an hour. It is sobering to reflect, though, that an Olympic sprinter runs at about thirty-five kilometres an hour, not sufficient to outrun a Tyrannosaurus, should Man have been around at that time!

Question 16

Being known as the 'Ferrari of dinosaurs' means Tyrannosaurus Rex:

- A: wore shoes.
- B: was a quick and agile creature.
- C: was a hunting machine.
- D: was the most ferocious of dinosaurs.
- E: None of these.

Question 17

In turning, a Tyrannosaurus would have been hampered by:

- A: its weight.
- B: its bulky leg muscles.
- C: its overall size.
- D: its tail length.
- E: All of the above.

Question 18

In calculating the size, speed and agility of Tyrannosaurus Rex, scientists used:

- A: examination of fossils.
- B: biomechanical calculations and computer models.
- C: comparisons with modern animals.
- D: A and B together.
- E: B and C together.

Question 19

The overall theme of the passage is:

- A: Because it was cumbersome, Tyrannosaurus Rex was lucky to survive.
- B: Tyrannosaurus Rex's speed and agility were still superior to those of other dinosaurs.
- C: Tyrannosaurus Rex's fierce reputation is now laid to rest.
- D: Compared to modern predatory animals, Tyrannosaurus Rex was slow and cumbersome.
- E: None of these.

Read the following paragraph to answer the next four questions (Questions 20 - 23).

"Anne," cried Mary, still at her window, "there is Mrs Clay, I am sure, standing under the colonnade, and a gentleman with her. I saw them turn the corner from Bath Street just now. They seemed deep in talk. Who is it? Come, and tell me. Good heavens! I recollect. It is Mr Elliot himself."

"No," cried Anne, quickly, "it cannot be Mr Elliot, I assure you. He was to leave Bath at nine this morning, and does not come back till to-morrow."

As she spoke, she felt that Captain Wentworth was looking at her, the consciousness of which vexed and embarrassed her, and made her regret that she had said so much, simple as it was.

Mary, resenting that she should be supposed not to know her own cousin, began talking very warmly about the family features, and protesting still more positively that it was Mr Elliot, calling again upon Anne to come and look for herself, but Anne did not mean to stir, and tried to be cool and unconcerned. Her distress returned, however, on perceiving smiles and intelligent glances pass between two or three of the lady visitors, as if they believed themselves quite in the secret. It was evident that the report concerning her had spread, and a short pause succeeded, which seemed to ensure that it would now spread farther.

"Do come, Anne" cried Mary, "come and look yourself. You will be too late if you do not make haste. They are parting; they are shaking hands. He is turning away. Not know Mr Elliot, indeed! You seem to have forgot all about Lyme."

To pacify Mary, and perhaps screen her own embarrassment, Anne did move quietly to the window. She was just in time to ascertain that it really was Mr Elliot, which she had never believed, before he disappeared on one side, as Mrs Clay walked quickly off on the other; and checking the surprise which she could not but feel at such an appearance of friendly conference between two persons of totally opposite interest, she calmly said, "Yes, it is Mr Elliot, certainly. He has changed his hour of going, I suppose, that is all, or I may be mistaken, I might not attend;" and walked back to her chair, recomposed, and with the comfortable hope of having acquitted herself well.

From 'Persuasion', by Jane Austen.

Question 20

Anne does not believe it is Mr Elliot whom Mary sees from the window because:

- A:** Mary does not know what Mr Elliot looks like.
- B:** Mr Elliot was to have left Bath earlier that day.
- C:** it was highly unlikely Mr Elliot would be a friend of Mrs Clay.
- D:** A and B together.
- E:** B and C together.

Question 21

Anne obviously knows Mr Elliot quite well for all the following reasons EXCEPT:

- A:** she has knowledge of his travel plans.
- B:** she shows discomfort at Mary spotting him.
- C:** she is sensitive to what the other ladies might know.
- D:** she had been speaking about Mr Elliot to others in the room.
- E:** Mary refers to Anne meeting Mr Elliot in Lyme.

Question 22

Anne finally goes to the window because:

- A:** she knows in her heart that it really is Mr Elliot.
- B:** she wishes to prove Mary wrong.
- C:** she wishes to calm Mary and cover up her own lack of composure.
- D:** Mary frets that Mr Elliot will disappear from view.
- E:** Mary is creating a fuss in front of the others in the room.

Question 23

From what occurs it can be inferred that Anne:

- A: couldn't care less about Mr Elliot.
 - B: had not known Mr Elliot long enough to recognise him.
 - C: is attracted to Mr Elliot.
 - D: is uncomfortable at Mr Elliot's behaviour.
 - E: C and D together.
-

Read the following paragraph to answer the next two questions (Questions 24 & 25).

A hare was very popular with the other beasts who all claimed to be her friend. But one day she heard the hounds approaching and hoped to escape them with the help of her many friends. "What are friends for," she asked herself, "if not to help out in time of need?" Furthermore, most of her friends were big and brave, so at least one should be able to help. First she went to the horse, and asked him to carry her away from the hounds on his back. But he declined, stating that he had important work to do for his master. "I feel sure," he said, "that all your other friends will come to your assistance." She then applied to the bull, and hoped that he would repel the hounds with his horns. The bull replied: "I am very sorry, but I have an appointment with a lady. However, I feel sure that our friend the goat will do what you want." The goat, however, feared that his back might be harmed if he took her upon it. The ram, he felt sure, was the proper friend to apply to. So she went to the ram and told him the case. The ram replied: "Another time, my dear friend. I do not like to interfere on the present occasion, as hounds have been known to eat sheep as well as hares." The hare then applied, as a last hope, to the calf, who regretted that he was unable to help her. He did not like to take the responsibility upon himself, as so many older persons had declined the task. By this time the hounds were quite near, so the hare had to take to her heels. Luckily, she escaped.

Question 24

The hare was confident she would find a friend to help for all the following reasons except:

- A: she knew she was popular.
- B: she assumed friends were there to help.
- C: most of her friends were big and strong.
- D: her friends had promised help whenever she needed it.
- E: she had a wide range of friends.

Question 25

A suitable moral for this story would be:

- A: a friend in need is a friend indeed.
 - B: never rely on your friends in a time of crisis.
 - C: popularity does not mean friendship.
 - D: friendship does not exist among animals.
 - E: in a time of crisis you discover who your true friends are.
-

Question 26

The sentence below does not have any punctuation. Choose the option with the correct punctuation.

dont you understand what im saying shouted his father get down at once

- A: Don't you understand what Im saying, shouted his father. Get down at once.
 - B: "Don't you understand what I'm saying", shouted his father, "Get down at once."
 - C: "Don't you understand what Im saying", shouted his father. "Get down at once"
 - D: "Dont you understand what I'm saying." shouted his father. "Get down at once"
 - E: "Don't you understand what I'm saying?" shouted his father. "Get down at once."
-

Question 27

Choose the option which will best replace the underlined word in the sentence to make it correct.

The hotel acomodation was luxurious.

- A: acommodation
- B: accommodation
- C: accomadation
- D: accommerdation
- E: Leave it as it is.

Read the following paragraphs to answer the next five questions (Questions 28 - 32).

When I returned to the common the sun was setting. The crowd about the pit had increased, and stood out black against the lemon yellow of the sky—a couple of hundred people, perhaps. There were raised voices, and some sort of struggle appeared to be going on about the pit. Strange imaginings passed through my mind. As I drew nearer I heard Stent's voice:

"Keep back! Keep back!" A boy came running towards me. "It's movin'," he said to me as he passed; "it's screwin' and screwin' out. I don't like it. I'm goin' home, I am." I went on to the crowd. There were really, I should think, two or three hundred people elbowing and jostling one another, the one or two ladies there being by no means the least active. "He's fallen in the pit!" cried some one. "Keep back!" said several. The crowd swayed a little, and I elbowed my way through. Everyone seemed greatly excited. I heard a peculiar humming sound from the pit. "I say!" said Ogilvy. "Help keep these idiots back. We don't know what's in the confounded thing, you know!"

I saw a young man, a shop assistant in Woking I believe he was, standing on the cylinder and trying to scramble out of the hole again. The crowd had pushed him in.

The end of the cylinder was being screwed out from within. Nearly two feet of shining screw projected. Somebody blundered against me, and I narrowly missed being pitched onto the top of the screw. I turned, and as I did so the screw must have come out, for the lid of the cylinder fell upon the gravel with a ringing concussion. I stuck my elbow into the person behind me, and turned my head towards the Thing again. For a moment that circular cavity seemed perfectly black. I had the sunset in my eyes.

I think everyone expected to see a man emerge—possibly something a little unlike us terrestrial men, but in all essentials a man. I know I did. But, looking, I presently saw something stirring within the shadow: greyish billowy movements, one above another, and then two luminous disks—like eyes. Then something resembling a little grey snake, about the thickness of a walking stick, coiled up out of the writhing middle, and wriggled in the air towards me—and then another.

A sudden chill came over me. There was a loud shriek from a woman behind. I half turned, keeping my eyes fixed upon the cylinder still, from which other tentacles were now projecting, and began pushing my way back from the edge of the pit. I saw astonishment giving place to horror on the faces of the people about me. I heard inarticulate exclamations on all sides. There was a general movement backwards. I saw the shopman struggling still on the edge of the pit. I found myself alone, and saw the people on the other side of the pit running off, Stent among them. I looked again at the cylinder and ungovernable terror gripped me. I stood petrified and staring.

A big greyish rounded bulk, the size, perhaps, of a bear, was rising slowly and painfully out of the cylinder. As it bulged up and caught the light, it glistened like wet leather.

Two large dark-coloured eyes were regarding me steadfastly. The mass that framed them, the head of the thing, was rounded, and had, one might say, a face. There was a mouth under the eyes, the lipless brim of which quivered and panted, and dropped saliva. The whole creature heaved and pulsated convulsively. A lank tentacular appendage gripped the edge of the cylinder, another swayed in the air.

Those who have never seen a living Martian can scarcely imagine the strange horror of its appearance. The peculiar V-shaped mouth with its pointed upper lip, the absence of brow ridges, the absence of a chin beneath the wedgelike lower lip, the incessant quivering of this mouth, the Gorgon groups of tentacles, the tumultuous breathing of the lungs in a strange atmosphere, the evident heaviness and painfulness of movement due to the greater gravitational energy of the earth—above all, the extraordinary intensity of the immense eyes—were at once vital, intense, inhuman,

crippled and monstrous. There was something fungoid in the oily brown skin, something in the clumsy deliberation of the tedious movements unspeakably nasty. Even at this first encounter, this first glimpse, I was overcome with disgust and dread.

From 'The War of the Worlds', by H G Wells

Question 28

This is part of a science fiction story. The most important clue to this would be:

- A: the cylinder in a hole on the common.
- B: something unscrewing the cylinder from within.
- C: the sense of terror and apprehension in the crowd.
- D: the emergence of a Martian.
- E: the author's feelings of disgust and dread.

Question 29

The people in the crowd were first 'elbowing and jostling' one another because:

- A: they were retreating in fear from the pit.
- B: some were trying to push others into the pit.
- C: they were excited and curious to see what was in the pit.
- D: a few had lost their tempers.
- E: there were no police present to control them.

Question 30

The author hints that the women in the crowd were:

- A: just as aggressive as the men.
- B: more aggressive than the men.
- C: reluctant to push forward.
- D: merely passive onlookers.
- E: None of these.

Question 31

The mood of the crowd altered suddenly when:

- A: the cylinder opened.
- B: a bear emerged from the cylinder.
- C: a pair of eyes was detected peering at them from the cylinder.
- D: tentacles appeared out of the top of the cylinder.
- E: the creature opened its mouth.

Question 32

Of the Martian's features, the one most causing the writer's disgust and dread was:

- A: the slobbering mouth.
- B: the huge, intensely staring eyes.
- C: the oily, fungoid skin.
- D: the Gorgon-like tentacles.
- E: the heaving, pulsating body.

Question 33

Please read the following sentences.

We all love to win. However, we also have to know how to accept defeat.

If we change the above into a single sentence and begin:

We have to know how to accept defeat.....

What will the best ending be?

- A: however, we all love to win.
- B: but winning is better.
- C: so we can also love to win.
- D: even though we all love to win.
- E: None of these.

Question 34

He was a morose man, so people tended to avoid him.

The word morose in this sentence means:

A: large

B: cheerful

C: idiotic

D: sullen

E: none of these

Read the following paragraphs to answer the next two questions (Questions 35 & 36).

The debate on whether Australia will have a nation-wide carbon trading scheme ended last week with the government committed to a national emissions scheme from 2012. However, the decision-making as to how we power the economy in a carbon constrained world is only just beginning.

Fossil fuels like coal and oil have underpinned our economic growth and standard of living for decades. The current resources boom is there because other countries want our fossil fuels, and for all these reasons it is profitable to keep mining them. Ironically, the income may help develop the technologies to replace them, but it is a matter of which and when.

Almost certainly, in the race to reduce emissions, new technologies such as solar, wind and geothermal (heat from rocks) power will compete against gas, clean coal and perhaps nuclear energy to win the hearts and minds of the business world. In the end, business will favour whatever is a cheap, abundant and reliable solution. You can imagine the lobbying that will ensue from the different interest groups, to attract business capital and government support so that their technology wins out. There may be many collapsed ventures and lost fortunes along the way.

Question 35

Fossil fuels will be in demand for some time yet because:

A: we have no other options.

B: they are plentiful and cheap in Australia.

C: our wealth and lifestyle are at present dependent on them.

D: A and B together.

E: B and C together.

Question 36

In the writer's view 'there may be many collapsed ventures' along the way because:

A: cheaper fossil fuels will continue to be used for a long time.

B: business will favour existing sources, rather than undergoing expensive change.

C: carbon emission rules will cripple new energy sources.

D: not all the options will be adopted, so the cheaper and more efficient will survive.

E: None of these.

Read the following paragraphs to answer the next five questions (Questions 37 - 41).

One of the modern world's intriguing sources of mystery has been aeroplanes vanishing in mid-flight. One of the more famous of these was the disappearance in 1937 of a pioneer woman aviator, Amelia Earhart. On the second last stage of an attempted round the world flight, she had radioed her position as she and her navigator searched desperately for their destination, a tiny island in the Pacific.

The plane never arrived at Howland Island. Did it crash and sink after running out of fuel? It had been a long haul from New Guinea, a twenty hour flight covering some four thousand kilometres. Did Earhart have enough fuel to set down on some other island on her radioed course? Or did she end up somewhere else altogether? One fanciful theory had her being captured by the Japanese in the Marshall Islands and later executed as an American spy; another had her living out her days under an assumed name as a housewife in New Jersey.

Seventy years after Earhart's disappearance, 'myth busters' continue to search for her. She was the best-known American woman pilot in the world. People were tracking her flight with great interest when, suddenly, she vanished into thin air. Aircraft had developed rapidly in sophistication after World War One, with the 1920s and 1930s marked by an aeronautical record-setting frenzy. Conquest of the air had become a global obsession. While Earhart was making headlines with her solo flights, other aviators like high-altitude pioneer Wiley Post and industrialist Howard Hughes were grabbing some glory of their own. But only Earhart, the reserved tomboy from Kansas who disappeared three weeks shy of her 40th birthday, still grips the public imagination. Her

disappearance has been the subject of at least fifty books, countless magazine and newspaper articles, and TV documentaries. It is seen by journalists as the last great American mystery.

There are currently two main theories about Amelia Earhart's fate.

There were reports of distress calls from the Phoenix Islands made on Earhart's radio frequency for days after she vanished. Some say the plane could have broadcast only if it were on land, not in the water. The Coast Guard and later the Navy, believing the distress calls were real, adjusted their searches, and newspapers at the time reported Earhart and her navigator were marooned on an island. No-one was able to trace the calls at the time, so whether Earhart was on land in the Phoenix Islands or there was a hoaxer in the Phoenix Islands using her radio remains a mystery. Others dismiss the radio calls as bogus and insist Earhart and her navigator ditched in the water. An Earhart researcher, Elgen Long, claims that Earhart's airplane ran out of gas within fifty-two miles of the island and is sitting somewhere in a 6,000-square-mile area, at a depth of 17,000 feet. At that depth, the fuselage would still be in shiny, pristine condition if ever anyone were able to locate it. It would not even be covered in a layer of silt. Those who subscribe to this explanation claim that fuel calculations, radio calls and other considerations all show that the plane plunged into the sea somewhere off Howland Island.

Whatever the explanation, the prospect of finding the remains is unsettling to many. To recover skeletal remains or personal effects would be a grisly experience and an intrusion. They want to know where Amelia Earhart is, but that's as far as they would like to go. As one investigator has put it, "I'm convinced that the mystery is part of what keeps us interested. In part, we remember her because she's our favourite missing person."

Question 37

Amelia Earhart's nationality was:

A: English. **B:** Australian. **C:** Canadian. **D:** American. **E:** South African.

Question 38

All the following are theories about Amelia's fate EXCEPT:

- A:** she crashed on a remote island somewhere near her destination.
- B:** her plane ran out of fuel and crashed into the sea.
- C:** she was captured by the Japanese and executed as a spy.
- D:** she escaped incognito and lived under an assumed name.
- E:** she crashed somewhere on Howland Island

Question 39

The most convincing evidence that Amelia crashed somewhere on land was:

- A:** the finding of aircraft remains.
- B:** sightings by islanders.
- C:** radio contact with the coastguard from the Phoenix Islands.
- D:** distress signals from the Phoenix Islands on her particular radio frequency.
- E:** All of these.

Question 40

If the aircraft were ever recovered from its probable sea grave:

- A:** it would be hardly recognisable.
- B:** it would be in pristine condition and considered highly valuable.
- C:** it may reveal some grisly evidence.
- D:** A and C together.
- E:** B and C together.

Question 41

The fate of Amelia Earhart still fascinates investigators for all the following reasons EXCEPT:

- A:** she was a famous female aviator and adventurer.
- B:** there are such conflicting theories about her disappearance.
- C:** she was so close to the end of her journey.
- D:** she may have staged her own disappearance.
- E:** she presents one of the twentieth century's great unsolved mysteries.

Question 42

You cannot be a hero without being a coward

What does this sentence suggest?

- A: Heroes are transformed cowards.
 - B: To be truly heroic, you first have to know the meaning of fear.
 - C: Heroes are cowards in disguise.
 - D: You can never be one or the other; it is always a combination of both.
 - E: None of these.
-

Question 43

The sentence below does not have any punctuation. Choose the option with the correct punctuation.

whos going to fly qantas to sydney and use its special return offer

- A: who's going to fly qantas to Sydney and use it's special return offer?
 - B: Who's going to fly Qantas to Sydney and use its special return offer?
 - C: Who's going to fly Qantas to Sydney and use it's special return offer?
 - D: Whos going to fly Qantas to Sydney and use its special return offer.
 - E: who's going to fly Qantas to Sydney and use it's special return offer?
-

Question 44

Choose the option which best corrects the errors in this sentence.

Passed expereince tells me sitting in a draft you'll catch a cold.

- A: Passed expereince tells me if I sat in a draught you'll catch a cold.
 - B: Passed experience tells me sitting in a draught I'll catch a cold.
 - C: Past expereince tells me if I sit in a draft I'll catch a cold.
 - D: Passed experience tells me if I sit in a draught you'll catch a cold.
 - E: Past experience tells me if I sit in a draught I'll catch a cold.
-

Question 45

Far from being upright and moral, his behaviour showed him to be fallible.

The word fallible in this sentence means:

- A: capable of falling over.
 - B: weak-kneed.
 - C: capable of error.
 - D: immoral
 - E: None of these
-

Question 46

The sentence below does not have any punctuation. Choose the option with the correct punctuation.

we arent welcome here said Jenny so we had better go dont you think

- A: "We aren't welcome here, said Jenny. We had better go don't you think."
 - B: "We aren't welcome here," said Jenny, "we had better go, don't you think?"
 - C: "We aren't welcome here," said Jenny. "We had better go, don't you think?"
 - D: "We arent welcome here," said Jenny, "we had better go, don't you think."
 - E: "We are'nt welcome here," said Jenny, "we had better go, don't you think?"
-

Read the following paragraphs to answer the next two questions (Questions 47 & 48).

Until widespread clearing of land began after 1861, the Tweed Valley, from the beach dunes to the mountains, was covered by dense wetland forests and rainforest. The rainforest had plenty of red cedar, which grew along the river banks and over the floodplains and foothills. Some of these trees were huge, up to sixty metres tall and as much as two thousand years old. Cedar was highly valued for its light weight, rich pink to red colours and interesting grain patterns. The tall trees provided magnificent lengths for the mills. Much early Australian furniture was made from cedar.

The timber of the Tweed Valley was felled close to the river banks and then was tied and floated downstream to the river mouth for shipping to the big cities. The river provided the only means of removing the timber, because the felled trees were so bulky.

By the 1870s, the cedar industry was in decline. Land cleared for farming was on the increase and easily obtainable, and large cedar trees were becoming scarce. It was purely an extractive industry, which put nothing back. Given that many original trees were thousands of years old, it would have been hundreds of years before the plantings could have been harvested in any case.

Question 47

Tweed Valley cedar was valued in colonial Australia for all the following reasons EXCEPT:

- A: the trees were easy to fell and remove.
- B: the timber was sought after for furniture making.
- C: the timber was light in weight.
- D: the timber was prized for its colour and grain variations.
- E: the tree trunks were long and straight.

Question 48

Which of the following can we say caused the decline of the cedar industry?

- A: Suitable trees closer to the river grew scarce.
- B: Clearing for farming land was reducing the rainforest.
- C: Felled trees were not replaced.
- D: A and B together.
- E: B and C together.

Question 49

A tour leader needs to be a gregarious person.

The word gregarious in the above sentence means:

- A: well-travelled B: retiring C: adaptable D: chatty E: companionable

Question 50

Please read the following sentence.

When she hit the ball, she had no idea where it was going....

If we change the start of the sentence to:

She had no idea where the ball was going.....

What will the ending be?

- A:** after she hit the ball.
 - B:** while hitting it.
 - C:** when she hit it.
 - D:** when the ball was hit.
 - E:** None of these.
-

**WELL DONE. THIS IS THE END OF THE TEST.
IF YOU STILL HAVE TIME LEFT, PLEASE CHECK OVER YOUR
ANSWERS.**