



Preparation for the National Grade Six Assessment

Guide #2 | English Multiple Choice

Who are you?

If you are in grade 5 or 6 and will be taking the next National Grade Six Assessment, then this packet is for you. This packet has past exam questions which have been solved with explanations to help you learn how to solve similar questions. Completing this packet will increase your chances of passing the exam with the highest possible score.

Who are we?

This packet was created by the Caribbean Education Project, a team of students and teachers from universities in the United States and the Caribbean. Our goal is to help you with your preparations for the next exam and to help you better understand each topic. We want you to achieve your best score on the exam. If you are not clear on concepts after reading the material, ask your parent or guardian for help. If they cannot help, ask another family member or a friend. If no one can help you, then ask your parents to send us a message on Facebook or WhatsApp or e-mail us.

- To reach us through Facebook, go on Facebook and search for “Shawn Shivdat.” Then send me a message using Facebook Messenger.
- To reach us by WhatsApp, save this number “Shawn Shivdat, +1 404-406-9638” and message me on WhatsApp.
- To reach us by e-mail, send a message to this e-mail address: info@caribed.org.

Keep in contact

If you are using this packet to prepare, we would like to hear from you. Please keep in touch with us so we can help you with any questions you may have. We can also provide updates when future materials are posted. Send us your name and contact information through WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, or e-mail (listed above), or send a picture of this sheet filled out through WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, or e-mail.

Name: _____

Parent’s phone number: _____

Parent’s e-mail address: _____

**PLEASE SHARE THIS GUIDE WITH OTHERS WHO MAY BENEFIT
FROM USING IT.**



How to use this guide:

1. The following pages have a total of 40 past exam questions. Try to answer these questions in the prescribed 70 minutes. If you are not able to answer a question, skip it and go on to the next question. When you are done answering all the questions, you can return to the ones you are having trouble with during your remaining time.
2. It is okay if you were not able to answer all the questions correctly on your first try. Keep practicing the questions, and you will get better. Soon, you will be able to answer all the questions in the 70 minutes. (**TIP:** Practice makes you perfect, so keep practicing.)
3. Answers to all the questions are on the pages immediately after the practice test. When you finish answering the questions, compare your answers to the answers on these pages.
4. Mark the questions which you got wrong.
5. Read our guide to solving each question. Even for questions you got correct, read the explanations we provided because you will likely learn something from them. Our explanations provide valuable information which can provide you with additional tricks to solve other problems.
6. Always read the instructions for each question carefully before attempting to answer. Also, read the question itself carefully and pay attention to what the question is asking you to do before attempting to answer it.
7. We provide the answers to all the questions in the practice exams to help you. Do not look at the answers before you attempt the questions. If you look at the answers before, you will not learn a lot from this packet. So, do we have a deal? Okay, I heard you say yes.





MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL GRADE SIX ASSESSMENT
PRACTICE TEST
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PAPER 1

Hey students, for the purposes of practice, you can ignore the instructions listed below about shading circles on an answer sheet. We have included that here so you will be familiar with these instructions on exam day.

2013

Reading Time: 10 minutes

Writing Time: 60 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU ATTEMPT TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. In addition to this test booklet, you should have an **Answer Sheet**.
2. Write your candidate number on the answer sheet and underline the subject.
3. This test contains **40 questions**. You are required to answer **ALL** questions. Four responses are given for each question. The responses are **A, B, C** and **D**. Only **ONE** response is correct.
4. On your Answer Sheet find the number which corresponds to your question and shade the same letter as the one you have chosen.

Here is an example done for you.

1. Anita received a _____ Christmas gift.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| (A) beuitful | (B) buteful |
| (C) beautiful | (D) beautilful |

ANSWER SHEET

1. A B C D

The letter **C** is shaded on the answer sheet because **beautiful**, the correct answer, is next to **C**.

5. If you are not sure of the answer to a question, then choose the one which you think is **BEST**. Shade the letter you have chosen.
6. If you want to change your answer, erase your old answer completely, then shade your new choice.
7. When you are told to begin, turn the page and work as quickly and as carefully as you can. If you cannot answer a question, go on to the next one. You can return to that question later.
8. This test contains **40** items. You will have 60 minutes to answer them.

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.



In **questions 1 to 3**, choose the **correct** spelling of the word to complete each sentence.

1. At the farm the sheep were _____ from the goats.

- (A) seperated
- (B) sepirated
- (C) separated
- (D) seporated

2. They were asked to choose _____ clothing for the outing.

- (A) sootible
- (B) suitable
- (C) suiteable
- (D) suetable

3. Fishing is _____ an exciting sport.

- (A) truely
- (B) truly
- (C) truily
- (D) trewly

In **questions 4 and 5**, choose the word that is **opposite** in meaning to the word underlined in each sentence.

4. The obstinate pupil refused to apologise to the teacher.

- (A) adamant
- (B) eager
- (C) obedient
- (D) lazy



5. Citizens were asked to conserve water.

- (A) waste
- (B) protect
- (C) maintain
- (D) disperse

In **questions 6 to 8**, choose the **best** word to complete each sentence.

6. The announcer decided to _____ the parents of the lost child.

- (A) jail
- (B) cheat
- (C) page
- (D) train

7. The young singer rose to _____ very quickly.

- (A) stardom
- (B) approval
- (C) haughtiness
- (D) superiority

8. The drug given to the sick patient was _____ by the doctor.

- (A) dealt
- (B) dosed
- (C) denied
- (D) dispensed



In **questions 9 to 11**, choose the sentence that is **correctly** written.

9.

- (A) None of the boys are coming.
- (B) Jane has won the prize.
- (C) He is the youngest of the two brothers.
- (D) She hurted her leg.

10.

- (A) It was him you saw there.
- (B) Is she worst than her sister?
- (C) To whom does this game belong?
- (D) Seeta cannot run no more.

11.

- (A) They cycled to the finishing line.
- (B) Those people too bad.
- (C) Gave me my portion now, please!
- (D) Where did you seen that?

In **questions 12 to 14**, select the sentence which has the **correct** punctuation mark.

12.

- (A) Jane's mother bought mangoes: cherries and plums at the market.
- (B) Jane's mother bought mangoes! cherries and plums at the market.
- (C) Jane's mother bought mangoes; cherries and plums at the market.
- (D) Jane's mother bought mangoes, cherries and plums at the market.



13.

- (A) Were you at the concert yesterday,
- (B) Were you at the concert yesterday.
- (C) Were you at the concert yesterday?
- (D) Were you at the concert yesterday!

14.

- (A) The shopkeeper had these items in stock: rulers, pencils, pens and books.
- (B) The shopkeeper had these items in stock. rulers, pencils, pens and books.
- (C) The shopkeeper had these items in stock; rulers, pencils, pens and books.
- (D) The shopkeeper had these items in stock? rulers, pencils, pens and books.

In **questions 15**, choose the set of words which are arranged in **alphabetical order**.

15.

- (A) salary, salute, saint, sale, sailor
- (B) sale, salute, salary, saint, sailor
- (C) salary, sale, salute, sailor, saint
- (D) sailor, saint, sale, salary, salute

In **question 16**, select the underlined word which **does not** have a **suffix**.

16. Ravi and his friends felt great excitement and delight when the floats approached.

- (A) (B) (C) (D)



Study the extract from a dictionary carefully, then answer **questions 17 and 18**.

bell | beloved

-
- *v.* roar, yell, shout, cry, blare, trumpet, thunder, howl, bawl, halloo, holla, vociferate, sing out, *US colloq.* holler.
 - *n.* roar, yell, shout, cry, call, blare, holla, howl, *US colloq.* holler.

bellows /bélloz/ (n.) **1** a device with an air bag that emits a stream of air when squeezed, esp.: **a** (in full **pair of bellows**) a kind with two handles used for blowing air on to a fire. **b** a kind used in a harmonium or small organ.

Extract- Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus

17. Which of these words can be found on this page?

- (A) Bend
- (B) Bellboy
- (C) Belittle
- (D) Below

18. The letter *n* at the end of the word 'bellows' indicates that it is

- (A) a noun.
- (B) negative.
- (C) neutral.
- (D) a number.

In **questions 19 to 21**, what is the function of the word underlined?

19. Are you excited about going on holiday?

- (A) Conjunction
- (B) Adjective
- (C) Noun
- (D) Adverb



20. The headteacher chairs the meeting.

- (A) Adverb
- (B) Noun
- (C) Pronoun
- (D) Verb

21. Sanjay threw his bag over the wall.

- (A) Pronoun
- (B) Conjunction
- (C) Adjective
- (D) Preposition

In **questions 22 and 23**, choose the underlined word which should have an apostrophe.

22. The girls in the childrens choir said the instruments were theirs.

- (A) (B) (C) (D)

23. The grades awarded by the teachers were questioned by the students parents.

- (A) (B) (C) (D)

In **questions 24 to 26**, choose the name given to the part of the book described.

24. The section that gives a brief outline is called the

- (A) appendix.
- (B) preface.
- (C) index.
- (D) content.



25. An alphabetical listing of names and subjects found at the end is called the

- (A) index.
- (B) reference.
- (C) glossary.
- (D) forward.

26. The writer thanks those who helped in the

- (A) preface.
- (B) acknowledgement.
- (C) foreword.
- (D) introduction.

In **questions 27 and 28**, choose the **most suitable** meaning of each of the proverbs.

27. When the cat's away the mice will play.

- (A) Workers do not play when they are at work.
- (B) The mice will not play when the cat is around.
- (C) Workers neglect their duties when the supervisor is not around.
- (D) The mice will always play with the cat's toys when it is not there.

28. We never miss the water 'til the well runs dry.

- (A) The water will never be missed by its users.
- (B) When something is needed it is always there.
- (C) Whenever something is needed it is never there.
- (D) Something is missed only when it is not available.



In **questions 29 and 30**, choose the meaning of the underlined phrase.

29. The shopkeeper is always above board when he deals with his customers.

- (A) Honest
- (B) Plain spoken
- (C) Hard-hearted
- (D) Concerned

30. Despite the difficult situation, she refused to throw in the towel.

- (A) Give away the towel
- (B) Ask for help
- (C) Give up the struggle
- (D) Change her opinion

Read the passage below, then answer **questions 31 to 35**.

Of ever increasing importance in many parts of the world is the tourist industry. The presence of a volcano, especially if it is very large, or active, is a great advantage. Tourists are always eager to visit the scenes of disasters, as happened on Etna in 1971, when tourists flocked to the areas where lava overran vineyards and threatened houses. This volcano is also an attraction because it is so large and impressive, and has snow on the summit for much of the year. Mount Teide in Tenerife is an impressive and even higher volcano which has a snow cap for 3 or 4 months of the year.

Lanzarote, another Canary Island, has a few tourist volcanic attractions. There is a stretch of 18th century lava studded with numerous small craters which resemble a lunar landscape. In the same area are a few hotspots where the ground is extremely hot. Only sixty centimetres below the surface the temperature reaches 400°C. Water can be thrown into a hole and will reappear as a small geyser within seconds. Brushwood thrust into a hole in the ground bursts into flames almost immediately. Both of these localities are near a new restaurant which has an open barbeque utilising heat from subterranean sources. The restaurant is of course built on lava.

Adapted from: Communication Tasks — An Integrated Approach by Sheila Callow and P. L. Maxwell



31. The first sentence shows that tourism is

- (A) on the decline.
- (B) limited to few countries.
- (C) not attracting many people.
- (D) becoming more popular.

32. All are reasons for the attraction of visitors to Etna **except** to

- (A) see vineyards covered with lava.
- (B) see the volcano erupt.
- (C) see how impressive the volcano was.
- (D) note its snow-capped mountain peaks.

33. According to the passage, barbeque is done

- (A) in the restaurant.
- (B) in open pits.
- (C) using underground heat.
- (D) using coals.

34. Which is **not** a tourist attraction of Lanzarote?

- (A) A stretch of 18th century lava
- (B) Numerous small craters
- (C) A lunar landscape
- (D) Snow cap for 3 or 4 months

35. From the passage it can be said that

- (A) volcanoes do not provide interest for tourists.
- (B) Lanzarote is smaller than Mount Teide.
- (C) tourists visit volcanoes only at times of eruption.
- (D) restaurants are not new to volcanic areas.



Read the poem below, then answer **questions 36 to 40**.

I wonder what my kite can see,
So high above the world and me;
And if the birds are friends to him,
4 As I am friends with Jack and Jim,
And are the clouds just really rain,
That melts and pours all down again?
Oh! He must know a thousand things,
8 As much as schoolmasters, and kings;
But will he breathe a word to me?
No, he's as quiet as quiet can be.

100 Comprehension Exercises – by Harry Subnaik and Reginald Charran

36. “Wonder” in **line 1** suggests that the poet is

- (A) curious.
- (B) happy.
- (C) hesitant.
- (D) elated.

37. The author’s friends are

- (A) Jim and kings.
- (B) Jack and Jim.
- (C) schoolmasters and kings.
- (D) Jack and schoolmasters.

38. Which two lines suggest that the kite has great knowledge?

- (A) 1 and 2
- (B) 4 and 5
- (C) 7 and 8
- (D) 9 and 10



39. “No, he’s as quiet as quiet can be” in **line 10** shows that the poet

- (A) knows that kites do not talk.
- (B) feels that the kite is rude.
- (C) feels that kites should talk.
- (D) knows that kites are silent.

40. A **most** suitable title for the poem is

- (A) Kites.
- (B) My Kite and I.
- (C) Friends.
- (D) Kites in the Air.

END OF TEST



ANSWER EXPLANATIONS

In questions 1 to 3, choose the **correct** spelling of the word to complete each sentence.

QUESTION 1 ANSWER EXPLANATION

1. At the farm the sheep were _____ from the goats.

- (A) seperated
- (B) sepirated
- (C) separated
- (D) seporated

This problem is testing your ability to spell words correctly by providing 4 different spellings of the same word – “separated.”

Answer choice C is correct.

QUESTION 2 ANSWER EXPLANATION

2. They were asked to choose _____ clothing for the outing.

- (A) sootible
- (B) suitable
- (C) suiteable
- (D) suetable

This problem is testing your ability to spell words correctly by providing 4 different spellings of the same word – “suitable.”

Answer choice B is the correct.

QUESTION 3 ANSWER EXPLANATION

3. Fishing is _____ an exciting sport.

- (A) truely
- (B) truly
- (C) truily
- (D) trewly

This problem is testing your ability to spell words correctly by providing 4 different spellings of the same word – “truly.”

Answer choice B is the correct.

In questions 4 and 5, choose the word that is **opposite** in meaning to the word underlined in each sentence.

QUESTION 4 ANSWER EXPLANATION

4. The obstinate pupil refused to apologise to the teacher.

- (A) adamant
- (B) eager
- (C) obedient
- (D) lazy

The question asks us to choose the word opposite to the underlined word, which is *obstinate*. If we do not know what obstinate means, we can use the context, or situation, of the rest of the sentence. The word obstinate is describing a pupil who is refusing to apologise to the teacher. Because the student is *refusing*, we can assume that the student is being stubborn and is not following directions. Therefore, obstinate must mean something similar to stubborn. Now we must look for the **opposite** of a word like stubborn in the answer choices. Adamant means “not changing one’s mind”; eager means “wanting to do something very much”; obedient means “willing to follow orders”; and lazy means “unwilling to work”.

The word that matches this description best is answer choice **C**, *obedient*, because it is most opposite to stubborn. **Answer choice C is correct.**



QUESTION 5 ANSWER EXPLANATION

5. Citizens were asked to conserve water.

- (A) waste
- (B) protect
- (C) maintain
- (D) disperse

It is a bit harder to use context clues for this question. You could infer that citizens are usually asked to save and not use natural resources endlessly, such as water and gas. Otherwise, it is best to understand that *conserve* means “to save”.

Now we must look for the **opposite** of a word like conserve in the answer choices. Waste means “to use carelessly”; protect means “to keep safe”; maintain means “to keep something the same”; and disperse means “to spread”. The word that matches this description best is answer choice **A**, *waste*. **Answer choice A is correct.**

In **questions 6 to 8**, choose the **best** word to complete each sentence.

QUESTION 6 ANSWER EXPLANATION

6. The announcer decided to _____ the parents of the lost child.

- (A) jail
- (B) cheat
- (C) page
- (D) train

In the fill in the blank questions, it is best to figure out the context of the entire sentence and think of your own word to put into the blank. Then look at the answer choices and choose the word that matches best with your idea. For this sentence, we can say that the announcer decided to *call* or *alert* the parents of the lost child. The announcer probably wants to help the child and their parents find each other. When we look at the answer choices, *page* matches best with our idea; in this context, *page* means to send an alert or call notification. **Answer choice C is correct.**

QUESTION 7 ANSWER EXPLANATION

7. The young singer rose to _____ very quickly.

- (A) stardom
- (B) approval
- (C) haughtiness
- (D) superiority

Like we did in question 6, we fill in the blank with our own word. We can say the young singer rose to *fame* very quickly; the sentence implies that the singer is gaining popularity. In the answer choices, *stardom* is the word closest in meaning to *fame*, so **answer choice A is correct.**

8. The drug given to the sick patient was _____ by the doctor.

- (A) dealt
- (B) dosed
- (C) denied
- (D) dispensed

When we fill in the blank with our own word, we may get a sentence like “the drug given to the sick patient was handed out by the doctor”. This matches best with the word *dispensed*, which means to distribute or hand out. **Answer choice D is correct.**



In questions 9 to 11, choose the sentence that is **correctly** written.

QUESTION 9 ANSWER EXPLANATION

9.

- (A) None of the boys are coming.
- (B) Jane has won the prize.
- (C) He is the youngest of the two brothers.
- (D) She hurted her leg.

This question tests grammar rules. The best way to approach this question is to eliminate the answer choices that are incorrect until only the correct sentence is left behind. Answer choice **D** is incorrect because it uses the verb *hurted*, which is not a real word. *Hurt* is the past tense of hurt, not *hurted*, so the correct version of this sentence would be “she hurt her leg”. Answer choice **C** is incorrect because there are only two brothers being compared in age. Since only two brothers are being compared, we should use the word *younger* instead of *youngest*. If three or more brothers were being compared, we would be able to classify one as the youngest brother. Answer choice **B** is incorrect because it is not necessary to say Jane “has won” the prize – instead we can just say that Jane won the prize. That leaves answer choice **A** as the only correct one, and if we read it, we can see that there are no errors. **Answer choice A is correct.**

QUESTION 10 ANSWER EXPLANATION

10.

- (A) It was him you saw there.
- (B) Is she worst than her sister?
- (C) To whom does this game belong?
- (D) Seeta cannot run no more.

Once again, we can approach this question using elimination. Answer choice **D** is incorrect because it uses two negative phrases. The first negative phrase is “cannot” and the second is “no more”. Using two negative phrases in the same sentence causes a **double negative**, and this is not permitted according to grammar rules. Answer choice **B** is incorrect because only two people are being compared, a girl and her sister. For the same reasoning as in question 9, we would use the word *worse* to compare two people or things, and the word *worst* to compare three or more people or things. Answer choice **A** is incorrect because of order; it is better to say, “you saw him there” than to say, “it was him you saw there”. That leaves answer choice **C**, which is correct even though it may sound unusual.

The word *whom* is a substitute for the object of a **preposition**, while the word *who* is a substitute for the **subject** of a sentence. **Prepositions** include the words “to, from, on, of” and more, and they act to show relationships between people and things. You can read more about prepositions in the solution to question 21. The **subject** of a sentence is the main character of the sentence. In this sentence, the subject is the game, because that is what the sentence is all about. We can tell that *whom* is part of a prepositional phrase because it describes who the game belongs *to*. Therefore, *whom* is the correct word.

One trick to keep *whom* vs *who* straight in your head is to follow this rule: if you can replace the word with *he* or *she*, use *who*. If you can replace it with *him* or *her*, use *whom*. If we apply this rule to sentence C, we would replace the word with him/her: “this game belongs to him/her”. Therefore, we would use the word *whom*.

Answer choice C is correct.

QUESTION 11 ANSWER EXPLANATION

11.

- (A) They cycled to the finishing line.
- (B) Those people too bad.
- (C) Gave me my portion now, please!
- (D) Where did you seen that?



We will once again use the process of elimination for this question. Answer choice **D** is incorrect because it mixes the past and present tense. The word *seen* expresses the super past, and it should be used with the word *had* in front of it. For example, it should be used in a sentence like “she *had* seen the film already”. *Did* is not in the same tense as *seen*, and a correct version of this sentence using the word *did* would be “where did you see that?” Answer choice **C** is incorrect for a similar reason; *gave* is past tense while *now* is present tense. A correct version of this sentence would be “Give me my portion now, please.” Answer choice **B** is incorrect because it is missing a linking verb, which is *are*; the correct sentence would be “Those people are too bad.” Therefore, that leaves answer choice **A** as the correct sentence. **Answer choice A is correct.**

In questions 12 to 14, select the sentence which has the **correct** punctuation mark.

QUESTION 12 ANSWER EXPLANATION

12.

- (A) Jane’s mother bought mangoes: cherries and plums at the market.
- (B) Jane’s mother bought mangoes! cherries and plums at the market.
- (C) Jane’s mother bought mangoes; cherries and plums at the market.
- (D) Jane’s mother bought mangoes, cherries and plums at the market.

This sentence is describing a list of the items that Jane’s mother bought at the market. Lists most commonly use **commas (,)** to separate the different items in the list. Therefore, the correct sentence should use a comma to separate the names of the fruits. Answer choice **D** is the only one to use a comma in the list, so **answer choice D is the correct answer.**

It should be noted that the last two items in a list do not have to be separated by a comma, but they can be if the author wants to use a comma. Both of these options are correct! To be more clear about what is being said here, this means it would have also been correct to write “Jane’s mother bought mangoes, cherries, and plums at the market.”

QUESTION 13 ANSWER EXPLANATION

13.

- (A) Were you at the concert yesterday,
- (B) Were you at the concert yesterday.
- (C) Were you at the concert yesterday?
- (D) Were you at the concert yesterday!

This sentence asks a question, and questions must always end with a **question mark (?)**. Answer choice **C** is the only one to do so, so **answer choice C is correct.**

QUESTION 14 ANSWER EXPLANATION

14.

- (A) The shopkeeper had these items in stock: rulers, pencils, pens and books.
- (B) The shopkeeper had these items in stock. rulers, pencils, pens and books.
- (C) The shopkeeper had these items in stock; rulers, pencils, pens and books.
- (D) The shopkeeper had these items in stock? rulers, pencils, pens and books.

To answer this question, you must understand the usage of **colons (:)**. A colon is used for several reasons, but most commonly to present information that will explain the first half of the sentence. In this case, a colon would be used to present a list of items that explain what the shopkeeper had in stock. It is very easy to mistake a colon for a **semicolon (;)**. A semicolon is most often used to separate two parts of a sentence that are related to each other, *but each half can stand alone as their own sentence*. For example, in this sentence, the two halves of the sentence are “the shopkeeper had these items in stock” and “rulers, pencils, pens and books.” Both halves are related to each other because the second half explains the first half. However, the second half, which is “rulers, pencils, pens and books” is not a complete sentence because it doesn’t contain a verb. Therefore, since one half is not a complete sentence, a semicolon is not to be used here and this makes answer choice **C** incorrect. A period cannot be used here either because the second half cannot stand alone as a separate sentence, so answer choice **B** is incorrect. A question mark cannot be used because there is no question being asked, so answer choice **D** is incorrect. **Answer choice A is correct.**



In **questions 15**, choose the set of words which are arranged in **alphabetical order**.

QUESTION 15 ANSWER EXPLANATION

15.

- (A) salary, salute, saint, sale, sailor
- (B) sale, salute, salary, saint, sailor
- (C) salary, sale, salute, sailor, saint
- (D) sailor, saint, sale, salary, salute

We see that all of the words start with the letters “sa”, so we must look at the third letter in each word and order them alphabetically. The third letters are “i” and “l”, and because “i” comes before “l” in the alphabet, all the letters with a third letter “i” go before those with a third letter “l”. That means that the first letter in the list must have a third letter “i”, not “l”. If we look at the answer choices, the only choice that has a first letter “i” is answer choice **D**. All others are incorrect. **Answer choice D is correct.**

In **question 16**, select the underlined word which **does not** have a **suffix**.

QUESTION 16 ANSWER EXPLANATION

16. Ravi and his friends felt great excitement and delight when the floats approached.

- (A) (B) (C) (D)

A **suffix** is an ending added onto a word. A good way to look for suffixes is to see if you can take away the last few letters of a word and still have a real word that is similar in meaning. For the word “excitement”, you can take away “-ment” and get the root word “excite”, which still has a similar meaning. For “floats”, you can take away “-s” to get the root word “float”, and for “approached”, you can take away “-ed” to get the root word “approach”. For “delight”, there are no letters that you can take away from the end, which means no suffix was added onto it. “Delight” is its own root word. **Answer choice B is correct.**

Study the extract from a dictionary carefully, then answer **questions 17 and 18**.

QUESTION 17 ANSWER EXPLANATION

17. Which of these words can be found on this page?

- (A) Bend
- (B) Bellboy
- (C) Belittle
- (D) Below

bell | beloved

■ *v.* roar, yell, shout, cry, blare, trumpet, thunder, howl, bawl, halloo, holla, vociferate, sing out, *US colloq.* holler.
● *n.* roar, yell, shout, cry, call, blare, holla, howl, *US colloq.* holler.

bellows /bélloz/ **(n.)** 1 a device with an air bag that emits a stream of air when squeezed, esp.: **a** (in full **pair of bellows**) a kind with two handles used for blowing air on to a fire. **b** a kind used in a harmonium or small organ.

Extract- Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus

If we look at the top right corner of the image, we see “bell | beloved”. This tells us that this page contains all words that come between *bell* and *beloved* in an alphabetical order. We can check each answer choice to see which one is alphabetically between *bell* and *beloved*. Answer choice **A**, *bend* is not in between *bell* and *beloved*, and we know this because the third letter of *bend* is “n”, while the third letter of both *bell* and *beloved* is “l”. Therefore, any word alphabetically between *bell* and *beloved* must have a third letter “l”. They must also have a fourth letter between “l” and “o”, because those are the fourth letters of *bell* and *beloved*, respectfully. Answer choice **C** is eliminated because the fourth letter of *belittle* is “i”, which means that alphabetically, *belittle* comes before *bell* and will not appear on the page. Answer choice **D**, *below*, has a fourth letter of “o”, so to see if it appears alphabetically before *beloved*, we must compare the fifth letters. *Beloved* has a fifth letter “v” while “*below*” has a fifth letter “w”, which comes after “v” in the alphabet. Therefore, *below* comes after *beloved* and will not appear on the page. This leaves answer choice **B**, which does have a fourth letter “l” and has more letters after “l”, which means it appears alphabetically after *bell* and before *beloved*. **Answer choice B is correct.**

QUESTION 18 ANSWER EXPLANATION

18. The letter *n* at the end of the word ‘bellows’ indicates that it is

- (A) a noun.
- (B) negative.
- (C) neutral.
- (D) a number.



The letter “n” indicates that “bellows” is a noun. We can confirm that it is a noun because it is a type of device, which a thing. **Answer choice A is correct.**

In **questions 19 to 21**, what is the function of the word underlined?

QUESTION 19 ANSWER EXPLANATION

19. Are you excited about going on holiday?

- (A) Conjunction
- (B) Adjective
- (C) Noun
- (D) Adverb

“Holiday” is a thing. **Nouns** describe persons, places, or things, so “holiday” is a noun. **Answer choice C is correct.**

QUESTION 20 ANSWER EXPLANATION

20. The headteacher chairs the meeting.

- (A) Adverb
- (B) Noun
- (C) Pronoun
- (D) Verb

In this situation, the word “chairs” describes an action, and its meaning is similar to “leads”. The sentence is similar to “the headteacher leads the meeting.” Because the underlined word is an action word, it is a verb. **Verbs** describe actions. **Answer choice D is correct.**

QUESTION 21 ANSWER EXPLANATION

21. Sanjay threw his bag over the wall.

- (A) Pronoun
- (B) Conjunction
- (C) Adjective
- (D) Preposition

The word “over” describes a relationship with another word. Therefore, it is a preposition; prepositions describe relationships between words in a sentence. Prepositions include “to, over, under, above, on, from” and more. Prepositions include relationships between how two things are positioned to each other, such as one object being *on, over, above, or beside* another object. They can also represent actions done in relation to each other. For example, a boy can do something *for* or *to* his friend. “Over” is a preposition, so **answer choice D is correct.**

In **questions 22 and 23**, choose the underlined word which should have an apostrophe.

QUESTION 22 ANSWER EXPLANATION

22. The girls in the childrens choir said the instruments were theirs.

- (A) (B) (C) (D)

An apostrophe before an “s” represents ownership. The word with apostrophe “s” owns something else. The word with an apostrophe has to be a person or a place. It cannot be an object because objects cannot own things. To look for which word owns something else, look for what each underlined word can describe and own. Answer choice **A**, the “girls” aren’t describing or owning any other word in this sentence. Answer choice **B**, “childrens”, describes the choir. The choir is theirs. If we ask ourselves whose choir is it, we would answer that it is the children’s choir. Answer choices **C** and **D**, the “instruments” and “theirs” are not owning anything, because they are not people. Therefore, the correct answer is answer choice **B**, because the sentence should say the “children’s choir”. **Answer choice B is correct.**



QUESTION 23 ANSWER EXPLANATION

23. The grades awarded by the teachers were questioned by the students parents.

- (A) (B) (C) (D)

Once again, we look at the underlined words to find which words describe other words in terms of ownership. Answer choice **A**, the “grades”, don’t own any other word in the sentence. Answer choice **B**, the “teachers”, don’t own anything either. Answer choice **C**, the “students”, own the parents. When we ask ourselves whose parents are they, we answer that they are the students’ parents. Answer choice **D**, the “parents”, don’t own anything, they are being owned. **Answer choice C is correct.**

In questions 24 to 26, choose the name given to the part of the book described.

QUESTION 24 ANSWER EXPLANATION

24. The section that gives a brief outline is called the

- (A) appendix.
(B) preface.
(C) index.
(D) content.

The **appendix** is at the end of the book and contains additional information or diagrams. The **preface** is at the beginning of the book and provides background information or historical context that will make the rest of the book make more sense. The **index** is the place in the back of the book where you can find specific information, such as names or subjects, and the page numbers where they are mentioned in the book. The **content** is located at the beginning of the book, and it lists the chapters or topics that will be covered in the book, as well as what page number marks the beginning of every chapter. The content is closest to an outline, so **answer choice D is correct.**

QUESTION 25 ANSWER EXPLANATION

25. An alphabetical listing of names and subjects found at the end is called the

- (A) index.
(B) reference.
(C) glossary.
(D) forward.

As stated in the solution to question 24, the **index** is the place in the back of the book where you can find specific information, such as names or subjects, and where in the book they are mentioned. Some additional helpful terms are the reference, glossary, and forward. The **reference** is the section of the book where the author lists the other books or sources that they got their information from. The **glossary** acts like a dictionary, and it is the place in the back of the book where you can find specific information, such as names or subjects, and their definitions. The **foreword** is a short introduction to the book. The glossary is the only section to contain definitions, so **answer choice C is correct.**

QUESTION 26 ANSWER EXPLANATION

26. The writer thanks those who helped in the

- (A) preface.
(B) acknowledgement.
(C) foreword.
(D) introduction.

Answers to questions 24 and 25 explain the preface and the foreword, respectively. The **acknowledgement** is where the writer acknowledges, or thanks, the people that have helped them in their life or helped them write the book. The **introduction** acts as chapter 0 of the book. **Answer choice B is correct.**



In **questions 27 and 28**, choose the **most suitable** meaning of each of the proverbs.

QUESTION 27 ANSWER EXPLANATION

27. When the cat's away the mice will play.

- (A) Workers do not play when they are at work.
- (B) The mice will not play when the cat is around.
- (C) Workers neglect their duties when the supervisor is not around.
- (D) The mice will always play with the cat's toys when it is not there.

Proverbs are short sayings that are applied to life in general. When selecting the correct answer, you can usually ignore the ones that talk about the same exact things as the original proverb. For example, this proverb talks about cats and mice, but the meaning is about people, not cats and mice. Therefore, we can ignore the answer choices **B** and **D** that are about cats and mice. We are left with answer choices **A** and **C**. The proverb talks about the mice and the cat, which can relate to workers and their supervisor. Workers feel freer to do as they wish when their supervisor is not around, just as mice feel free to play when they are not threatened by a cat. **Answer choice C is correct.**

QUESTION 28 ANSWER EXPLANATION

28. We never miss the water 'til the well runs dry.

- (A) The water will never be missed by its users.
- (B) When something is needed it is always there.
- (C) Whenever something is needed it is never there.
- (D) Something is missed only when it is not available.

Once again, we will ignore the answer choice **A** that is talking about water, because proverbs are about life, not water specifically. In this proverb, the water is missed when the well is dry and there is no water left. This is most similar to answer choice **D**. **Answer choice D is correct.**

In **questions 29 and 30**, choose the meaning of the underlined phrase.

QUESTION 29 ANSWER EXPLANATION

29. The shopkeeper is always above board when he deals with his customers.

- (A) Honest
- (B) Plain spoken
- (C) Hard-hearted
- (D) Concerned

A good shopkeeper will leave a positive impact on his customers. If he doesn't, then they may not buy from him again and he will lose business. Therefore, it would make most sense if he has a positive personality. Answer choice **A**, honesty, is a positive trait. Answer choice **B**, being plain-spoken, is quite neutral – it is neither positive nor negative. Answer choices **C** and **D** (hard-hearted and concerned, respectively) are both more negative outlooks. **Answer choice A is correct.**

QUESTION 30 ANSWER EXPLANATION

30. Despite the difficult situation, she refused to throw in the towel.

- (A) Give away the towel
- (B) Ask for help
- (C) Give up the struggle
- (D) Change her opinion

This phrase is talking about difficult situations, and what a girl chose to do when she was faced with one. We can ignore answer choice **A** because this phrase is not about an actual towel. Throwing in the towel is a phrase for giving up; **answer choice C is correct.**



Read the passage below, then answer **questions 31 to 35**.

Of ever increasing importance in many parts of the world is the tourist industry. The presence of a volcano, especially if it is very large, or active, is a great advantage. Tourists are always eager to visit the scenes of disasters, as happened on Etna in 1971, when tourists flocked to the areas where lava overran vineyards and threatened houses. This volcano is also an attraction because it is so large and impressive, and has snow on the summit for much of the year. Mount Teide in Tenerife is an impressive and even higher volcano which has a snow cap for 3 or 4 months of the year.

Lanzarote, another Canary Island, has a few tourist volcanic attractions. There is a stretch of 18th century lava studded with numerous small craters which resemble a lunar landscape. In the same area are a few hotspots where the ground is extremely hot. Only sixty centimetres below the surface the temperature reaches 400°C. Water can be thrown into a hole and will reappear as a small geyser within seconds. Brushwood thrust into a hole in the ground bursts into flames almost immediately. Both of these localities are near a new restaurant which has an open barbeque utilising heat from subterranean sources. The restaurant is of course built on lava.

Adapted from: Communication Tasks — An Integrated Approach by Sheila Callow and P. L. Maxwell

QUESTION 31 ANSWER EXPLANATION

31. The first sentence shows that tourism is

- (A) on the decline.
- (B) limited to few countries.
- (C) not attracting many people.
- (D) becoming more popular.

The first sentence states that the tourist industry is of “increasing importance”. Since tourism is getting more and more important, it is growing and getting more popular. **Answer choice D is correct.**

Another helpful strategy for these types of reading comprehension questions is to read the questions *before* reading the passage so you know what to look for and can underline the answers if you remember them.

QUESTION 32 ANSWER EXPLANATION

32. All are reasons for the attraction of visitors to Etna **except** to

- (A) see vineyards covered with lava.
- (B) see the volcano erupt.
- (C) see how impressive the volcano was.
- (D) note its snow-capped mountain peaks.

The first paragraph mentions vineyards overrun with lava in the third line (answer choice **A**), mentions how large and impressive the volcano was (answer choice **C**), and mentions the snow cap that is on the volcano for 3-4 months (answer choice **D**). All of these describe attractions in Etna, so the exception is answer choice **B** because eruption is not mentioned. **Answer choice B is correct.**

QUESTION 33 ANSWER EXPLANATION

33. According to the passage, barbeque is done

- (A) in the restaurant.
- (B) in open pits.
- (C) using underground heat.
- (D) using coals.

The second paragraph of the passage mentions a barbeque utilizing heat from subterranean sources. Subterranean means underground.

Sub = under

Terrain = ground

Answer choice C is correct.



QUESTION 34 ANSWER EXPLANATION

34. Which is **not** a tourist attraction of Lanzarote?

- (A) A stretch of 18th century lava
- (B) Numerous small craters
- (C) A lunar landscape
- (D) Snow cap for 3 or 4 months

The second paragraph of the passage describes Lanzarote, and it mentions a stretch of 18th century lava studded with numerous small craters that resemble a lunar landscape. That means that answer choices **A, B** and **C** are tourist attractions of Lanzarote, so **answer choice D is the correct answer** because it is *not* an attraction of Lanzarote.

QUESTION 35 ANSWER EXPLANATION

35. From the passage it can be said that

- (A) volcanoes do not provide interest for tourists.
- (B) Lanzarote is smaller than Mount Teide.
- (C) tourists visit volcanoes only at times of eruption.
- (D) restaurants are not new to volcanic areas.

To answer this question, we look for that statement that the passage supports. We should look at each answer choice and ask ourselves if there is anything in the passage that would cause us to believe that answer choice is true. There is nothing in the passage that supports the idea that volcanoes are not interesting for tourists (answer choice **A**), that Lanzarote is smaller than Mount Teide (answer choice **B**), or that tourists only visit volcanoes at times of eruption (answer choice **C**). However, the second paragraph discusses restaurants near volcanic areas, which supports answer choice **D**. **Answer choice D is correct.**

Read the poem below, then answer **questions 36 to 40**.

I wonder what my kite can see,
So high above the world and me;
And if the birds are friends to him,
4 As I am friends with Jack and Jim,
And are the clouds just really rain,
That melts and pours all down again?
Oh! He must know a thousand things,
8 As much as schoolmasters, and kings;
But will he breathe a word to me?
No, he's as quiet as quiet can be.

100 Comprehension Exercises – by Harry Subnaik and Reginald Charran

QUESTION 36 ANSWER EXPLANATION

36. “Wonder” in **line 1** suggests that the poet is

- (A) curious.
- (B) happy.
- (C) hesitant.
- (D) elated.

We must look at line 1 of the passage, which reads “I wonder what my kite can see.” The rest of the passage asks questions or takes guesses as to what the kite could be seeing. Because the author is thinking about what their kite could be seeing, the word “wonder” indicates that the poet is curious. **Answer choice A is correct.**



QUESTION 37 ANSWER EXPLANATION

37. The author's friends are

- (A) Jim and kings.
- (B) Jack and Jim.
- (C) schoolmasters and kings.
- (D) Jack and schoolmasters.

The author mentions Jack and Jim, schoolmasters, and kings. However, the author only mentions being *friends* with Jack and Jim; in line 4, the author writes "As I am friends with Jack and Jim." **Answer choice B is correct.**

QUESTION 38 ANSWER EXPLANATION

38. Which two lines suggest that the kite has great knowledge?

- (A) 1 and 2
- (B) 4 and 5
- (C) 7 and 8
- (D) 9 and 10

Lines 1 and 2 asks what the kite can see. Lines 4 and 5 talk about Jack and Jim and asks whether clouds are made up of rain. Lines 7 and 8 state that the kite must know a thousand things and knows as much as schoolmasters and kings. Lines 9 and 10 state that the kite is quiet. Because the only lines that suggest that the kite has so much knowledge are lines 7 and 8, **answer choice C is correct.**

QUESTION 39 ANSWER EXPLANATION

39. "No, he's as quiet as quiet can be" in **line 10** shows that the poet

- (A) knows that kites do not talk.
- (B) feels that the kite is rude.
- (C) feels that kites should talk.
- (D) knows that kites are silent.

Line 10, paired with line 9, suggests that the poet expects the kite to talk. The poet wants to hear the kite's stories and is frustrated that the kite will not say anything. Because the author expects the kite to talk, answer choices **A** and **D** are eliminated. The best response is answer choice **C** because the author does not mention anything about the kite being rude (answer choice **B**). **Answer choice C is correct.**

QUESTION 40 ANSWER EXPLANATION

40. A **most** suitable title for the poem is

- (A) Kites.
- (B) My Kite and I.
- (C) Friends.
- (D) Kites in the Air.

Titles should be a good, short description of the following work. They should usually be named after the most important parts of the work. Because the poem is about a kite, and what the author thinks of the kite, the title should include something about a kite and something about the author. **Answer choice B is correct** because it is the title that best fits this description.

