

**Test 5****Reading and Use of English • Part 5**

You are going to read an extract from an account of a journey that a group of Norwegian explorers made across the Pacific Ocean on a raft (a very simple boat) called the Kon-Tiki. For questions 31–36, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Once in a while you find yourself in an odd situation. You get into it by degrees and in the most natural way but, when you are right in the midst of it, you are suddenly astonished and ask yourself how in the world it all came about.

If, for example, you put to sea on a wooden raft with a parrot and five companions, it is inevitable that sooner or later you will wake up one morning out at sea, perhaps a little better rested than ordinarily, and begin to think about it.

On one such morning, I sat writing in a dew-drenched logbook: – *May 17. Norwegian Independence Day. Heavy sea. Fair wind. I am cook today and found seven flying fish on deck, one squid on the cabin roof and one unknown fish in Torstein's sleeping bag. . . .*

Here the pencil stopped, and the same thought interjected itself: This is really a strange seventeenth of May – indeed, taken all round, a most peculiar existence. How did it all begin?

If I turned left, I had an unimpeded view of a vast blue sea with hissing waves, rolling by close at hand in an endless pursuit of an ever retreating horizon. If I turned right, I saw the inside of a shadowy cabin in which a bearded individual was lying on his back reading, with his bare toes carefully dug into the latticework in the low bamboo roof of the crazy little cabin that was our common home. Outside the cabin three other fellows were working in the roasting sun on the bamboo deck, looking as if they had never done anything else than float wooden rafts westward across the Pacific. Erik came crawling in through the opening with his instruments and a pile of papers.

‘98° 46' west by 8° 2' south – a good day's run since yesterday, chaps!’

He took my pencil and drew a tiny circle on a chart which hung on the bamboo wall – a tiny circle at the end of a row of nineteen circles that curved across from the coast of Peru. Herman, Knut and Torstein too came eagerly crowding in to see the new little circle that placed us a good 40 sea miles nearer the South Sea Islands than the last in the chain.

line 41

‘Do you see, boys?’ said Herman proudly. ‘That means we're 850 miles from the coast of Peru.’

‘And we've got another 3,500 to go to get to the nearest islands,’ Knut added cautiously.

So now we all knew exactly where we were, and I could go on speculating. The parrot did not care; he only wanted to tug at the log. And the sea was just as round, just as sky-encircled, blue upon blue.

141

Perhaps it had all begun ten years earlier, on a little island in the Marquesas group in the middle of the Pacific. Maybe we would land on the same island now, unless the northeast wind sent us farther south in the direction of Tahiti and the Tuamoto group. The island was called Fatu Hiva; there was no land between it and us where we lay drifting, but nevertheless it was thousands of sea miles away. I could see the little island clearly in my mind's eye, with its jagged, rust-red mountains, the green jungle which flowed down their slopes toward the sea, and the slender palms that waved along the shore. I remembered so well how we sat there on the lonely beach and looked out over this same endless sea, evening after evening. I was accompanied by my wife then, not by bearded pirates as now. We were collecting all kinds of live creatures, and images and other relics of a dead culture.



31 How does the writer suggest he is feeling in the first paragraph?

- A regretful
- B puzzled
- C amused
- D shocked

32 What does 'it' refer to at the end of the second paragraph?

- A the morning at sea
- B the writer's previous night's rest
- C the explanation for being in this situation
- D the reason for the parrot being on the raft

33 Why does the writer stop writing the logbook?

- A He realises the date which sparks off a train of thought.
- B The noise of the sea takes his mind off the task.
- C He knows it is time to begin preparing dinner.
- D He is distracted by the people around him.

34 What does the word 'chain' refer to in line 41?

- A a ring of islands in the Pacific
- B the group of people on the raft
- C a line of marks indicating the raft's progress
- D a row of charts along the bamboo wall of the cabin

35 What does the extract say about the location of Fatu Hiva?

- A There are no other islands separating it from the raft.
- B It is in the middle of the Marquesas group of islands.
- C The men on the raft hope it is where they will land.
- D It is thousands of sea miles from the Tahiti islands.

36 Why had the writer and his wife previously spent time on a Pacific island?

- A They went to the island to take photographs for a book.
- B They were painting pictures of the island.
- C They enjoyed a holiday on the island's beaches.
- D They were gathering information about the island.

Test 5**Reading and Use of English • Part 6**

You are going to read a magazine article about a teenager who has completed an unusual swim. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A-G** the one which fits each gap (37–42). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

The Isle of Wight is a large Island – about 380 square kilometres – off the south coast of Britain. You need to be an extraordinarily strong swimmer to swim round the island as it means covering a distance of over 110 kilometres. Yet this feat has just been completed by a nineteen-year-old woman called Nell O'Connor.

Nell became one of the few people to have ever swum solo, non-stop, around the Isle of Wight – a notable feat for a couple of reasons. **37**

The swimmer was welcomed by a large crowd as she touched Ryde Pier, the point where she set off last Friday at 10.31am. The ferry that leaves the island for the mainland every hour had even delayed its departure to let passengers watch her arrival. Hundreds of people were waiting on deck as well as on shore. **38** She was officially congratulated by Brian Merriman on behalf of the European Swimming Association. He is no stranger to long-distance swimming himself as he has swum across the English Channel on several occasions.

Before setting off Nell had said that she was well aware that she was attempting a very challenging task, particularly because she could not avoid occasionally having to swim against the tide. **39** She saw

sunset and sunrise and had to race against the clock to reach critical points to beat the time. Indeed, she frequently felt as if she was spending hours swimming on the spot.

40 A decision then to head inshore allowed her less tide to swim against and within an hour she was making forward progress again.

Speaking to reporters after the swim, Nell said that knowing people were thinking of her and willing her on definitely helped when the going got really tough. Her reason for doing the swim also spurred her on.

41

The swim was carried out under the generally accepted rules of the sport wearing just a standard swimming costume, goggles and a swimming cap. It was the culmination of the three-year Seven Island Swim Challenge which Nell had set herself. She had already successfully completed circumnavigations of five other islands. **42** This happened because strong winds combined with bitterly cold water to force her to give up on her attempt to swim round Foula, one of the Shetland Islands, in the far north of the British Isles.

- A She was doing the challenge to raise money for a number of charities.
- B And she was right to expect it to be tough.
- C As is the rule on such swims, Nell was accompanied by a team on a range of craft.
- D Not only was she one of the youngest people ever to complete the swim, but she also did it in only 26 hours, 37 minutes and 45 seconds, arriving more than three hours ahead of schedule.
- E But she had to abandon her next challenge after doing 32 kilometres of a 48-kilometre swim on August 13 this year.
- F They all applauded her achievement and, after being helped out of the water, she shouted a big thank you to everyone.
- G One of the toughest points of the swim was as she approached St Catherine's Point, when the current pushed her back more than a kilometre.

Test 5**Reading and Use of English • Part 7**

You are going to read some reviews of theme parks. For questions 43–52 choose from reviews (A–E). The reviews may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Which of the theme parks

is praised for being situated in a fitting place?

43

has developed from something that was part of a major event?

44

has made good use of a former industrial site?

45

is noteworthy for the opportunities it offers for sport?

46

was built in a style to match its theme?

47

frequently hosts impressive musical performances?

48

has potentially inconvenient opening times?

49

has an exciting ride that holds a record for its size?

50

has an attraction that is operated in a traditional way?

51

is most likely to appeal to one age group?

52

A Southern Fun Park

Southern Fun Park is a brilliant theme park on the south coast and is situated close to the popular resort of Telton. Perhaps its one drawback is that, unlike the larger parks on the north coast, it operates seasonally. Included in its attraction line-up are a single small rollercoaster, a selection of off-the-shelf thrill rides, and a variety of water slides. The park first opened to the public in 1979, when it was known as Crossman's Fun Park. It was constructed on what was once a limestone quarry, with the area being effectively re-landscaped to include a number of lakes. A total of 420,000 tonnes of sand were used to create its attractive new look.

B Air World

The aircraft-themed Air World is one of the world's largest indoor theme parks, and is located inside a sprawling, 180,000 square metre structure. The building is impressive in that it's designed to resemble the side profile of the body of a jumbo jet, and features models of three historic planes on its roof. The park is home to a variety of breathtaking thrill rides and family attractions, including the world's fastest rollercoaster, Concorde Cascade. Air World opened in November, 2013, and has an appropriate location close to the country's first-ever airstrip. It offers a range of restaurant facilities to suit all pockets and has quickly become a popular destination for a day out.

C Sunlands

The second-largest theme park in the entire country, Sunlands, is now a member of the largest international chain of theme parks. Located on the edge of the capital, it hosts an array of thrilling rollercoasters and flat rides. The park's headline attractions are Titan (once the tallest coaster in the country), Pluto (the world's tallest dual-track wooden coaster) and Dracula (an inverted coaster). Look out, though, for the older but no less enjoyable rides such as the Merry Rider and the Monorail transportation system. Sunlands

opened in June 1962 as the midway area of the capital's extravagant 'Centenary Exhibition', and was intended to be its lasting legacy. At that time it featured a number of family-friendly rides with a particular appeal for younger children.

D Adventure Town

One of the most popular theme parks in this country and throughout the world, Adventure Town combines classic amusement park attractions with beautiful landscaping and a huge variety of restaurants. Open all year round, the park's most famous attraction is Rolling Rainbow, one of few wooden coasters remaining that still requires a brakeman to control its speed. Modern offerings include the sixty-metre-tall Mystery Tower drop tower and the borderline-insane Niagara, which sees guests plummeting towards the ground in plane-themed gondolas. Live entertainment is a major part of Adventure Town's appeal, with acts of almost every type appearing regularly. Having first opened in 1884, Adventure Town is one of the ten oldest amusement parks in the world.

E Starry World

Starry World is an attractively unusual space-themed attraction aimed primarily at the under-tens. It has a small but not uninteresting selection of rides and is also popular because it is home to an action centre offering archery, laser shooting and golf. The Terrifying Tornado is the largest rollercoaster in the west of the country, hitting a not unimpressive top speed of 88 kilometres per hour. Bredon Farm, which hosts the park, used to be a dairy farm until its owners decided to transform it into a tourist attraction. Initially it focused purely on farm exhibits, but gradually evolved into something closer to a traditional theme park. The park plans to start hosting musical events next summer.