



Advanced Level Reading and Use of English Test

SECTION 1

Read the following passage and answer all the questions.

Reading with dogs

It is widely recognised that pets can have a beneficial effect on their owners, improving anxiety and stress. Researchers from the University of Wales have recently studied the impact of therapy dogs on literacy and communication skills in pupils. Similar research has been carried out in primary schools with children aged five to eleven, but this is the first of its kind in secondary education with teenage pupils. Rather than read to their teacher or peers, pupils who lacked confidence or motivation in reading would sit down with a dog and read aloud, in the hope that they would feel more comfortable. Initial results seem to indicate that a non-critical listener can bring out the reader in even the most reticent learner. The fact that dogs don't point out mistakes was thought to be the crucial factor.

Researchers identified certain schools for the project and asked teachers to pick pupils to take part. Parents, of course, were required to give permission for their child to sit with a specially-trained dog once a week over a school term, which is about three months. Each pupil sat and read to the dog, a King Charles Spaniel called Bella, for between 10 and 20 minutes. Teachers reported that pupils spoke up and read more confidently when reading in the presence of the dog. The new-found confidence didn't appear to transfer back to the classroom at first, as the students were reluctant to read *without* the dog. However, researchers noted that the participants were more likely to pick up a book after school hours, with some saying they now read to themselves before bed in the evening.

There are, of course, ethical considerations that need to be made when incorporating animals into education with children. Cultural differences in attitudes towards animals and potential medical issues need to be addressed. The researchers also noted that, despite the friendliness of the dog, two learners seemed to almost have a phobia of dogs, so could not feel comfortable. Therefore, although this is an exciting piece of research, it is apparent that there should be more research carried out into the possible benefits and the selection of both children and animals in order to make similar projects more widespread and successful.

For questions 1-3, please answer in complete sentences. (2 marks each)

1. *How old were the students who took part in the research?*
2. *How long did the research project last?*
3. *Why did the project not work for every pupil?*

For questions 4-8, tick (✓) the box. (1 mark each)

4. *Several different dogs were used for the research*
TRUE FALSE

5. *Every student reads to the dog for half an hour each time*
TRUE FALSE

6. *The students were chosen for the project by*
A *their parents.*
B *their teachers.*
C *the researchers*

7. *The researchers said the project also encouraged pupils to*
A *read when they get home.*
B *write their own stories.*
C *read aloud to the class.*

8. *According to the text, what should be the next step in the research?*
A *Further studies need to be conducted on this topic.*
B *Existing teaching methods should be developed first.*
C *The initiative should be offered to all schools.*

Write the words in the box. (½ a mark each)

9. **Find the word or phrase in the passage which means the SAME as:**
uncommunicative (paragraph 1)
recently discovered (paragraph 2)

10. **Find the word or phrase in the passage which means the OPPOSITE of:**
unimportant (paragraph 1)
limited (paragraph 3)

SECTION 2

Read the six short news stories below. Choose from the articles (A to F) and complete the answer grid. The articles may be chosen more than once. **One article should not be chosen at all.** One question has been done for you as an example.

<p>A. Residents in the town of Melborough were distressed to wake up this morning to find their local library had been broken into. The library, which only reopened a month ago after repainting, had glass smashed and a very small amount of money stolen. Library volunteers were relieved to discover that the majority of the money kept in the building was still safely on site. New video cameras linked to the police station will be fitted next week.</p>	<p>B. The National Library has acquired an edition of a famous novel, published in 1867. The novel, <i>The Butterfly</i>, was not particularly successful, but what makes this edition so unusual is the number of spelling errors. Reports suggest that only 100 of these particular editions were printed before the publisher noticed the proofreader's blunders and corrected the spellings. The book will eventually be displayed in the library's reception.</p>	<p>C. A remote community in the north of Scotland is getting its own library service, thanks to a frustrated reader. Elena Brown, 63, has decided that travelling 30 miles to her nearest library is too much. She has bought an old van to renovate and plans to create a mobile library she can drive around her local area once a week to serve the readers in her small community.</p>
<p>D. A city reference library was the literary setting for the start of a marriage for a Canadian couple. The couple decided on this rather unusual location because of their love of literature, which initially brought them together. After the ceremony in the chapel next door, the couple held their reception among the library's special collection of reference books. Gifts for attendees included a lifelong library membership and book tokens.</p>	<p>E. A class of bright innovators from a secondary school in South Korea have made it much simpler for their school library community to access information. They have developed an app for mobiles which students can download and use to search for the books they want to borrow. Although it's not smart enough to download entire books, students can reserve the editions they need, or receive notification when the books have been returned.</p>	<p>F. A new and more inclusive library complex has opened in the city. Featuring modified shelves for people of different heights and enough room between shelves for wheelchair access, the library aims to serve all people better. Not only are more physical needs catered for, but the book selection features a wider range of people, topics and issues. Events put on by the library will also be more accessible than before.</p>

Which article, A, B, C, D, E or F talks about

the popularity of one book?	e.g.	B
improved space for people?	1	
a special occasion?	2	
online access to services?	3	
a mistake made by a professional?	4	
a plan for an update in security?	5	
a rare book?	6	
an inventive group of young people?	7	

SECTION 3

Rewrite the sentences to give the same meaning as the original. Rewrite all direct speech as reported speech.

Example:

They're not going on holiday tomorrow because David is sick.

If David wasn't sick, they would go on holiday tomorrow.

1. She hardly ever goes out in the evenings

Rarely

2. 'Can I borrow your laptop?' Matthew asked his sister.

Matthew

3. Christine was in the office at the time so maybe it was her who answered the phone.

It might

4. I had problems because I didn't listen to your advice.

If

5. The gardener was cutting the grass when the rain started

The grass

SECTION 4 (10 marks)

Read the following sentences. They make a story. Write ONE missing word in each space.

Example:

If you could do your dream job, what would you do?

1. Ever _____ he could remember, Ivan had always been interested in trains and loved going to the station whenever he could.
2. It first started when his mum took him to the train station to _____ him from crying when he was a small boy.
3. As time went on, he wanted to visit the station more and more often and started _____ photographs of the trains as they went past.
4. His mum bought him a book to put his photos in and a notebook so he could _____ down how many and what kind of trains went through the station each day.
5. When he was old enough to go on his _____, Ivan's mum didn't come with him to the station anymore, but she enjoyed seeing his photos.
6. Every day after school, once he had finished his lessons, Ivan would go to the train station to take photos for a while _____ going home for dinner.
7. Ivan had so much fun at the station and collected thousands of photos from his visits. He posted the photos online and as a _____ of this he received many positive comments.
8. When it was _____ for him to leave school, Ivan wanted to work at the station, so he arranged an interview for a job working in the ticket office.
9. He went for his interview and even _____ he was very nervous, he was offered the job.
10. Ivan was _____ pleased that he and his family went to the city to celebrate at a restaurant. Of course, they took the train!



SECTION 5 (10 marks)

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets

Example:

Put the ice cream in the freezer so it doesn't melt. (freeze)

1. The charity's aim is to stop all _____ to animals. (cruel)
2. The children were well behaved and waited _____ for the bus. (patient)
3. It is _____ to drive a car without insurance. (legal)
4. In order to _____ at business, you need to work hard. (success)
5. Emilie sat by the river and enjoyed the _____ and the beautiful view. (silent)
6. She created a very _____ story to go with her picture. (imagine)
7. You must answer all the questions _____ on the application form. (true)
8. The dentist needs to _____ all of your teeth. (exam)
9. It was such a _____ day that Jasper's hat blew off. (wind)
10. The mysterious crime remained _____ for thirty years before a brilliant new detective was hired. (solve)

SECTION 6

Choose the correct answer in each sentence.

Example:

My dad made me wash the car yesterday.

to wash wash washed washing

1. I'd rather they _____ their dirty plates on the sink.
are taking would take taken took

2. Lucas must _____ to college because his bike's not in the garage.
to cycle have cycled cycles cycled

3. We should make a decision until we _____ the problem.
had understood will understand understand understood

4. Daniela _____ some nice things about you yesterday.
spoke told talked said

5. She _____ her best with the homework and got top marks.
did put made had

6. If he _____ a different university, he would not have met Clare.
have chosen would choose had chosen to choose

7. I think it's high time we _____ our food. I'm hungry!
ordered will order had ordered are ordering

8. The pies can _____ in the freezer until we need them.
be keeping to keep have kept be kept

9. Camila found it difficult _____ a diary every day.
have written written to write write

10. Yamato closed all the windows before _____ his flat.
to leave leaving leaves left

good luck