

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ОБРАЗОВАНИЕТО, МЛАДЕЖТА И НАУКАТА

REGIONAL OLYMPIAD IN ENGLISH

2012

Group One

Part Two

Reading Comprehension

Section ONE

Directions: *Read the text below and mark the statements that follow as **True (A)**, **False (B)** or **No information in the text (C)**. Mark your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.*

It was not very long after this that there occurred the first of the mysterious events that rid us at last of the captain, though not, as you will see, of his affairs. It was a bitter cold winter, with long hard frosts and strong winds; and it was obvious from the beginning that my poor father did not have long to live. With every day his health got worse, and my mother and I had the whole inn to run on our own. We were kept so busy that we did not pay much notice to our unpleasant guest.

Mother was upstairs with father and I was laying the breakfast table for the captain's return, when the parlour door opened and a stranger stepped in. He was a thin, pale creature, with two fingers missing from his left hand, and although he wore a sword, he did not look much like a fighter. I had been keeping watch for seafaring men, with one leg or two, and I remember this one puzzled me. He was not sailorly, and yet he had an air of the sea about him too.

I asked him what I could get for him, and he said he would take rum but as I was going out of the room to fetch it, he sat down upon a table and waved to me to come towards him. I paused where I was, with my napkin in my hand.

"Come here, sonny," he said. "Come nearer here." I took a step nearer.

"Is this table here for my mate Bill?" he asked.

I told him I did not know his mate Bill, and that this table was for a person who stayed in our house whom we called the captain.

"Well," said he, "it is quite likely that my mate Bill would be called the captain. He has a cut on one cheek and a mighty pleasant way with him, particularly in drink, that's what my mate Bill is like. We'll put it, for argument's sake, that your captain has a cut on one cheek – and we'll put it, if you like, that the cheek's the right one. Ah, well! I told you. Now, is my mate Bill here in this house?"

I told him that he was out walking.

1. The narrator was a young man.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

2. The family made a living by keeping an inn.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

3. The old inn keeper's life was getting to an end.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

4. The captain was a welcome guest at the inn.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

5. The family were about to get rid of the captain.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

6. The captain's stay at the inn would affect the future life of the narrator's family.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

7. The inn keeper's son was asked to look for sailors by the captain.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

8. One frosty evening a stranger came into the parlour of the inn.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

9. The stranger had a scar on his right cheek and carried a pirate's knife.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

10. The stranger asked the narrator about his friend Bill, while drinking his rum.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

Section TWO

Directions: From the list of heading **A – E** below choose the most suitable one for each paragraph of the text **1 - 5**. Mark your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

- A. A "how-we-lived-then" museum
- B. Brighton's toy and model museum
- C. A school holiday trip
- D. How it all started
- E. Brighton's museum and art gallery

MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR

Museums have come a long way since those boring, stuffy places of our schooldays.

1/.....

"Collecting is like a disease, we just can't stop it," says Graham Upton of his and his wife's obsession with acquiring everyday objects from the period between 1850 and 1950. Graham and Jan were both keen collectors as children and throughout their younger years crammed their bedrooms full with archaic objects. When they married in 1968 they combined their

collections and continued to add to them, filling the attic, garden shed, Wendy house and garage until neither they nor the house could take any more.

2/

In what seemed like a natural evolution, they opened up their museum of shops in East Bourne in 1988. Their museum, charting – as Graham puts it – “a hundred years of social history”, is jam-packed full of everything from old typewriters, first world war memorabilia and original radios to sauce bottles, boxed biscuits and cleaning products dating back over sixty years. “People are always popping in and bringing us things. They mainly come from old people having a clear out or children sorting through their deceased parents’ belongings but we also continue to collect things from everywhere we go, we don’t go to places especially with this purpose anymore but we can’t help it.” And it’s to the benefit of the South Coast that they can’t.

3/

Hornby sets, Meccano, Punch and Judy, Beatrix Potter china figures, plastic tea sets – if it’s fun, “retro” and a throwback to the days when toys were true treasures and not the latest plastic replica or virtual reality computer game, then this is where you’ll find it. Located under one of the arches of Brighton station is the museum. A lot bigger inside than you’d imagine, the museum spreads out onto two floors packed with niches of nostalgia. With more than 10000 articles and models on display for children and adults to enjoy, this independent, not-for-profit organization and charity is a city gem.

4/

When in Pavilion Gardens, the magnificent building of the Pavilion is likely to be what first catches your attention. But the nearby museum and art gallery is just fascinating, and entry is free. Now alongside the printed information on display visitors can use interactive technology. Presently, visitors to the gallery part of the building will be able to catch Indigo: A Blue to Dye For – a survey of the world’s oldest colouring stuff. The exhibition features art, fashion, craft and design showcasing a range of textiles, from burial cloths in Roman Egypt to contemporary fashions, including of course, the widespread denim. In fact, one of the earliest pairs of jeans will be on show.

5/

A great way to help your children at school is to show them in real life the things they are learning on paper. Education and fun: what better formula for learning? Why read about the battle of Napoleon when scenes of the historical event can be re-enacted by miniature figures? Most galleries, especially if they are council run, will have worksheets with tasks for children that tie in with the National Curriculum, help organize the handling of artifacts and will even arrange role-play scenarios based on various eras. Ask your child’s teacher what subjects they have coming up and see if you can find a nearby museum covering the same stuff – a great way to keep bored holiday kids entertained, as well as making sure they are top of the class!

Part Three

USE OF ENGLISH

Section One: Cloze

Directions: Read the text and the sentences below and for each gap circle the letter (A, B or C) of the word or phrase that best suits each space. Mark your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

Part One – The text

Some 5000 years ago, as an **1. A. antique B. years old C. age-old** story has it, **2. A. a few B. few C. a little** tea leaves **3. A. blew B. poured C. went** into a cup of hot water held by the mythical emperor Shen Nung. The ruler **4. A. said B. declared C. told** the resulting brew a **5. A. considerate B. considering C. considerable** improvement over **6. A. usual B. plain C. basic** water. Moreover, he **7. A. advised B. showed C. recommended** it as a remedy for fever and chest infection.

Emperor Shen's **8. A. prescriptions B. descriptions C. receipts** may have been extravagant. But today biomedical **9. A. investigators B. researchers C. discoverers** are finding evidence to **10. A. insure B. assure C. confirm** other centuries-old beliefs about the drink's power to prevent illness and prolong life.

Part Two – The sentences

1. Samantha was _____ out of the window, thinking of something, when Eugenie walked into the room.
A. staring B. watching C. glimpsing
2. There are about 37,000 different _____ of animals in the UK.
A. brands B. breeds C. species
3. The _____ of people living in cities is increasing every year.
A. number B. part C. portion
4. I have always told my children to give _____ old items that they don't need such as toys, CDs, clothes, etc. to charity.
A. off B. out C. away
5. We were lucky to see the wounded bird _____ high in the air.
A. raise B. rise C. arise
6. Actions _____ louder than words.
A. tell B. say C. speak

7. To celebrate Halloween, the staff in the café _____ up and put candles inside pumpkins.
 A. covered B. dressed C. wore
8. The best way to experience the impossibly scenic Ha Long Bay in Vietnam is _____ boat.
 A. by B. in C. with
9. We were _____ in a hotel on the shore of Lake Geneva.
 A. put down B. put up C. put over
10. The new album of Shakira has something that will _____ to everyone.
 A. attract B. delight C. appeal
11. If you are ever in Canada in winter, you should _____ a visit to the Niagara Falls Festival.
 A. pay B. do C. give
12. In the summer I enjoy the _____ of the frogs in the nearest marsh.
 A. creaking B. croaking C. crowing
13. Mr Blaire saw an appropriate _____ advertisement for him on the Internet yesterday.
 A. occupation B. work C. job
14. The performance was brilliant. The _____ cheered on the amateur actors.
 A. audience B. public C. viewers
15. John had to _____ up quickly to avoid the car crash.
 A. set B. pull C. give

Section Two: Error Identification

Directions: Each sentence below contains an error in grammar or usage. The error is contained in one of the underlined parts of the sentence. For each sentence, choose the letter (A, B or C) of the underlined part that contains the mistake. Mark your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

1. You mustn't talk until you are sitting an exam.
 A B C
2. Eskimo igloos are made from snow blocks build around skin tents.
 A B C
3. I don't know how to get to the language lab. Could you tell me where is it?
 A B C
4. I am not used to get up so early in the morning.
 A B C

5. It never stops to amaze me how little notice some people take of rules in public places.
A B C

Section Three: Sentence Completion

Directions: For each of the sentences below, choose the word or phrase (A, B or C) that best completes its meaning. Mark your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

1. A recent survey _____ that fewer people vote in the elections.
A. has shown B. show C. was shown
2. The principal thinks we should wear uniform, and _____ our class teacher.
A. so does B. the same thinks C. also thinks
3. Doing well on the test means _____ at least 50 points.
A. get B. to get C. getting
4. Do you have _____ homework to do in the afternoon?
A. many B. much C. a lot
5. Simon works _____ than anyone else in the company.
A. more fastly B. more fast C. faster

Section Four: Open the Brackets

Directions: For each of the sentences below, open the brackets and put the verb in the right form. Write your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

Teachers' comments in red on tests or exercise books were once considered instructive. Although admittedly the colour 1. _____ (to make) you take notice, now the schools 2. _____ (to change) it, abandoning the urgent red for tones such as green or pink.

At our local library, children were set the task of reading three books and reporting back to the librarian. Bobby, an eight-year-old pupil, 3. _____ (not to choose) books for his level – two of them were without any words – because he 4. _____ (to know) that he 5. _____ (to get) a medal for achievement anyway.

Section Five: *Sentence Transformation*

Directions: Complete the second sentence so that it is as close as possible in meaning to the first one. Write your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

1. Bill didn't cry, so the family had a good sleep.

If

2. "Have you been on holiday recently, Jane?" , asked Tony.

Tony asked

3. They say fruit and vegetables are good for your health.

Fruit and vegetables

4. He has a habit of sleeping during the day, but he didn't have such a habit when he was younger.

He didn't use

5. It's impossible for Mike to be sailing in this stormy weather. (*Use a modal verb!*)

Mike

Part Four

WRITING

Directions: Write a composition of about 150 – 170 words on **ONE** of the following topics. Write your composition on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

1. What would your ideal holiday camp be like? Think about location, accommodation, entertainment, activities, food and dining facilities. Describe it.
2. Write a story, beginning with the following sentence: *One day a few years ago a very funny thing happened to a neighbour of mine and I was happy to be around to help.*

Section Four: *Open the Brackets*

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | |

Section Five: *Sentence Transformation*

- | |
|---------|
| 1. |
| 2. |
| 3. |
| 4. |
| 5. |

Part Four

WRITING

Topic 1 / Topic 2 (Please underline to indicate your choice.)