

MYSTERY ESCAPE ROOMS

The Mystery Escape Room is a new exciting adventure that is becoming more and more popular. Unlike other options for entertainment, such as movies, theater and video games, participants are not just watching a story or virtually experiencing a story, they are *in* a story. Together with other group members, they have to solve a mystery within the allotted time (usually an hour). As one of the participants put it, "It feels like I'm in a movie!"

Each room offers a different theme, ranging from solving a murder to finding a spy before he reveals state secrets. The rooms are designed to challenge 5 to 12 people and everyone can participate and contribute to the success of the group. Although there are different levels of difficulty, the rules of the game are quite simple: participants receive a background story and are placed in a room containing a variety of clues. The objective of the game is to follow the clues in order to solve the mystery and find the way out of the room before the time runs out. The solution is revealed as the participants work together while opening puzzle boxes, finding secret compartments, and taking part in fun, hands-on experiences. In some rooms, math, science, logic and word puzzles must be solved.

In some Mystery Escape Rooms, there are voice actors who monitor the room and create an ongoing dialogue with participants. This gives the room a more realistic, and sometimes suspenseful, atmosphere. It also enables the group to get more hints, which keeps the excitement at a high level. In others, the challenge is to find the way out in less than 60 minutes. Participants must work quickly because they have less than an hour to find hidden objects, solve puzzles, open locks and find the clues that are the secrets to their escape.

Mystery Escape Rooms can be found in London, Paris, New York and San Francisco, and are quickly becoming one of the top entertainment venues in many big cities, often booked months in advance. Mystery Escape Rooms bring a new real-life entertainment experience to people who love mysteries and are looking for something exciting and a little different.

30 Although many will not manage to escape the room before the time runs out, the fun
lies in the magic, the mystery and the challenge of trying to escape. In some places,
pictures of those who do manage to win the game, and the time it took them to solve
the mystery, are posted on a website. The most rewarding prize, however, is feeling
35 that you beat the challenge after solving the mystery in less than one hour, and then
bragging about it. As one participant boasted after the experience, "We're exhausted,
exhilarated and totally hooked on the escape room phenomenon. Bring on the next
one."

Answer questions 1-8. (70 points)

1. What are we told in lines 1-6?

PUT A ✓ BY THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.

- i) How Mystery Escape Rooms are similar to video games.
- ii) What Mystery Escape Rooms offer participants.
- iii) Which movies participants take part in.
- iv) Where Mystery Escape Rooms are located.
- v) Why movies, theater and video games are a good option.
- vi) How Mystery Escape Rooms differ from other entertainments.

(2x7=14 points)

2. When the writer says "they are *in* a story" (line 4) he means the players (-).

- i) decide how much time they have
- ii) make up the theme as they play
- iii) can run out of the room when necessary
- iv) need to be active and creative

(7 points)

3. What do we learn about the game from lines 7-16?

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

We learn what

(7 points)

4. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

“Finding secret compartments” (line 14) is an example of

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(8 points)

5. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE ACCORDING TO LINES 17-23.

If players need help

(8 points)

6. The words “often booked months in advance” (line 26) show that (-).

- i) it takes months to read books about the mystery
- ii) there is great demand for these rooms
- iii) it takes months to prepare all the clues
- iv) there are not many people who like this entertainment

(7 points)

7. What are we told in lines 29-36?

- i) The majority of players win the game.
- ii) Only those who win manage to enjoy the challenge.
- iii) Being able to tell people you beat the challenge adds to the feeling of success.
- iv) Win or lose, most players show off after the game.

(7 points)

8. Which TWO skills are needed in order to win the game?

- (1)
- (2)

(2x6=12 points)