

Test 2

Section 2

Good morning, and welcome to Oniton Hall, one of the largest estates in the area. My name's Nick, and I'm one of the guides. I'll give you (1) while you're sitting down, and then we'll walk round.

The estate consists of the house, gardens, parkland and farm, and it dates back to the fourteenth century. The original house was replaced in the late seventeenth century, and of course it has had a large number of owners. Almost all of them have left their mark, generally by adding new rooms, like (2), or by demolishing others. The farm looks much as it's always done, although the current owner (3) to the flower beds.

In the seventeenth century, the estate was owned by a very wealthy man called Sir Edward Downes. His intention was to (4), after years as an active politician, and to build a new house worthy of his big collection of books, paintings and sculptures. He broke off contact with (5), and hosted meetings of (6), like painters and poets. Unusually for his time, he didn't care whether his guests were rich or poor, as long as they had talent.

Big houses like Oniton had dozens of servants until the 1920s or 30s, and we've tried to show what their working lives were like. Photographs of course don't give much of an idea, so instead, as you go round the house, you'll see volunteers dressed up as (7), going about their work. They'll explain what they're doing, and tell you their recipes, or what tools they're using. We've just introduced this feature to (8) we used to have available.

I see there are a number of children here with you today. Well, we have (9), like dressing up in the sorts of clothes that children wore in the past, and as it's a fine day, some of you will probably want to play in (10) Our latest addition is (11), that you can drive around the grounds. We'll also be going

into the farm that's part of the estate, where there's plenty to do. Most of the buildings date from the eighteenth century, so you can really step back into (12)

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Until recently, the dairy was where milk from the cows was turned into cheese. It's now the place to go for lunch, or afternoon tea, or just a cup of coffee and (13)

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The big stone building that dominates the farm is the large barn, and in here is (14) These were used in the past to (15), sow seeds, make gates, and much more.

There's a small barn, also made of stone, where you can (16), to (17) They really seem to enjoy having it done, and children love grooming them.

The horses no longer live in the stables, which instead is the place to go to buy gifts, books, our own jams and pickles, and clothes and blankets (18)

Outside the shed, which is (19), you can climb into a horse-drawn carriage for a lovely, relaxing tour of the park and farm. The carriages are well over a hundred years old.

And finally, the parkland, which was laid out in the eighteenth century, with a lake and trees that are now well established. You'll see types of cattle and sheep that are hardly ever found on farms these days. We're (20), to stop their numbers falling further.

OK, well if you'd like to come with me ...