

READING

EC5

National Reading Tests

First name _____

Last name _____

School _____

Class _____

Date of birth ○○ ○○ ○○○○

Date of test ○○ 05 2017

Total score (maximum 35)



150332



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Practice questions

In this booklet, there are different types of question for you to answer in different ways. Here are some practice questions which show you the types of question you will see in the test. The instructions tell you what you need to do. Start by reading the text in the box below.

Mia invited Ali to go to the cinema. Mia's mother drove them there and agreed that they could walk home afterwards. At the cinema, they argued about what to see. Should it be *Purple Woods*, an adventure, or *Bunny in Boots*, a cartoon? In the end, they chose a comedy called *Running Wild*.

As they emerged two hours later, a raindrop fell. This single soft drop soon became a heavy downpour. Without an umbrella, there was no point trying to stay dry. They took off their shoes and socks, splashing through deep puddles. They arrived home soaked, agreeing that the walk had been much more fun than the film.

- a What footwear did Mia and Ali remove as they went home?

Tick **two**.

- boots sandals
 slippers shoes
 socks

Hint: Check how many you have to tick.

- b Put ticks to show which statements are **true** and which are **false**.

	True	False
It was Ali's idea to go to the cinema.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mia's mother took them to the cinema.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ali and Mia saw a comedy film at the cinema.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- c Find and copy one word that shows how gently the first raindrop fell.

Hint: You must look back in the text to find this.

d Number these events from 1 to 4 to show the order in which they happened.

Mia and Ali watched a film.

Mia and Ali decided which film to see.

Mia and Ali went to the cinema.

Mia and Ali arrived home completely soaked.

Hint: Read the whole question below before you choose your answers.

e Choose the best words to fit the passage and tick your choices.

After watching a film, Mia and Ali

a) cycled skated drove walked

home in the rain. They agreed that the journey home was

b) horrible. enjoyable. boring. long.

f Look at the text in the box below.

Hint: Check how many words to underline.

Underline one word that shows that the children were drenched.

They arrived home soaked, agreeing that the walk had been much more fun than the film.

Hint: If you make a mistake and want to change your answer, cross it out clearly and underline your new answer.

STOP

Please wait until you are told to start work on page 4.

In this booklet, you have three texts to read and answer questions about. Read the first text carefully BEFORE you start answering the questions for that text. Then carefully read the next text BEFORE answering the questions and so on.

You should work through the booklet, referring to the text when you need to, until you finish page 15 or until you are asked to stop.

You have up to 60 minutes to do the test.

The escape

The car reached the airport at half past seven, skidding round a corner and spraying water over a visitor from Norway. Swerving, it rocketed into the car park. The electric side window slid down and a hand reached out to pluck a parking ticket from the machine. Then the car jumped forward again, up three ramps with the tyres screaming and crashed into a wall. Ten thousand pounds' worth of metal crumpled in on itself. The engine died. Steam hissed.

Two people got out. The driver was a short, bald man. Next to him was a woman in a fur coat.

"You told me to park on the fourth floor!" the man screamed.

"Yes, Gordon ..." the woman muttered.

"But this car park's only got three floors!" the man moaned. He pointed at the wreck of the car. "And now look!"

"Oh, Gordon ..." The woman's lips quivered. Then she blinked. "Does it really matter?" she asked.

"You're right!" he declared. "It doesn't matter at all! We're leaving the car here! We'll never see it again ...! Come on. We've got to get tickets."

Ten minutes later, they were at the ticket desk. "Good evening, sir." The man at the ticket desk had his name – OWEN – on a badge on his chest but he had pinned it on upside down. "Can I help you?"

"You certainly can, Nemo," the man said. "I want flights ..."

"Where to, sir?" Owen coughed. He had never seen such nervous-looking passengers. They looked as if they had just come off the worst fairground ride in the world.

"America," the man replied.

"Africa," the woman said at the same moment.

"Australia. Anywhere," the man said. "Just so long as it leaves soon."

"And it's got to be far away!" the woman added.

"Well, sir ..." Owen swallowed. "It would help if you actually knew where you wanted to go ..."

"I just want to go away," the man hissed, "before *she* gets here."

The ticket-seller's eyes flickered to the computer screen in front of him. "How about Perth?"

"Scotland!" the man screamed so loudly that several passengers turned to look at him.

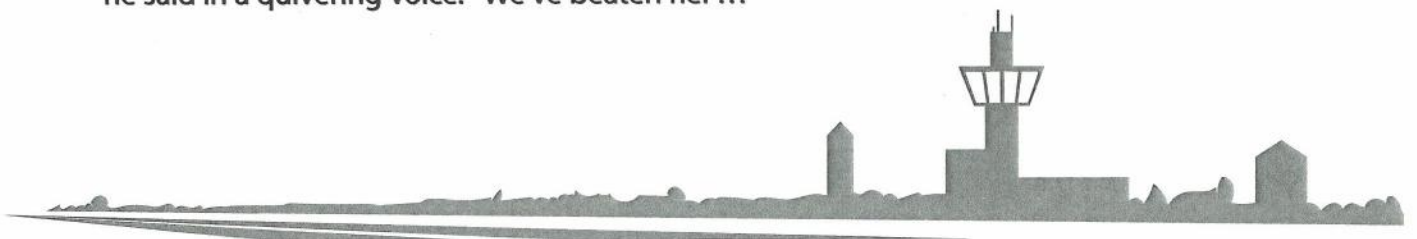
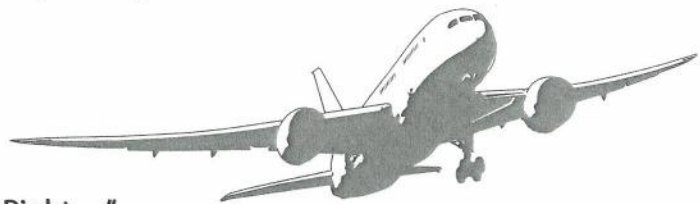
"Australia," the ticket-seller said.

"Perth-ect," the man sighed.

The ticket-seller tapped their names into the computer. "Mr Gordon Warden. Maud N. Warden. Right ..."

He tapped some more buttons and waited as the machine spat out the tickets.

Later, as the plane lurched upwards into the swirling rain, Gordon Warden and his wife sank back into their seats. Mr Warden began to giggle. "We've done it," he said in a quivering voice. "We've beaten her ..."



1 Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and tick your choices.

Mr and Mrs Warden drove to the airport

a) runway. car park. ticket office. in Norway.

Their plan was to

b) go on a summer holiday. watch the aeroplanes. crash their car. leave the country.

In the end, they got on a flight to

c) America. Africa. Australia. Scotland.

1

1m

2 Why did Mr Warden have a car accident?

Tick **two**.

- He was driving too fast.
- Another car was in his way.
- A Norwegian tourist stepped in front of the car.
- His car had a fault.
- He did not know the layout of the car park.

2

1m

3 Find and **copy one** sentence that shows that Mr and Mrs Warden were planning **not** to return.

3

1m

4 Owen thought that Mr and Mrs Warden looked very nervous.

Why were they nervous?

Tick **one**.

- They were scared of flying.
- They had just crashed their car.
- They had just been on a fairground ride.
- They did not know where they wanted to go.
- They were trying to get away from someone.

4

1m

please turn over

TOTAL

4m

5 How did Owen deal with the demands of Mr and Mrs Warden?

Tick **one**.

- He became angry with them.
- He ignored their demands.
- He was patient and polite.
- He joked around to calm them down.

5
1m

6 Find and copy two words that show the panic in Mr Warden's voice.

1. _____

2. _____

6
1m

7 Owen looked at his computer and suggested a destination. At first, Mr Warden did not like the idea, but then he changed his mind.

Why did Mr Warden change his mind?

Tick **one**.

- The flight was just about to take off.
- Owen did not offer him any other options.
- He realised the destination was very far away.
- The tickets were offered at a bargain price.

7
1m

8 What is unusual about Mr and Mrs Warden's full names?

Tick **one**.

- They rhyme.
- Gordon* and *Maud* are not real names.
- They are unusually short names.
- Their names have double meanings.

8
1m

9

Mr Warden said one word that was meant to be a joke or a play on words about where he wanted to go.

Find and copy that word.

801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900

10

In the last paragraph, Mr Warden started to giggle.

Why?

Tick **one**.

His wife sank into her seat.

He was relieved that the journey had started.

The plane made an unexpected movement.

The rain was making a swirling sound.

He was nervous about the take-off.

901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000

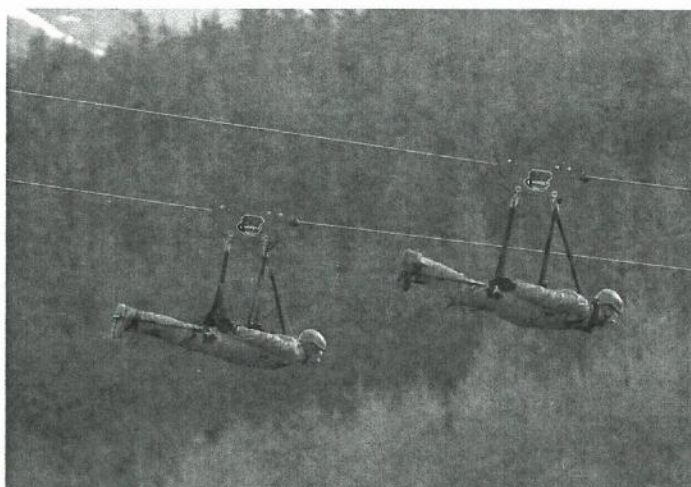
please turn over



Kid on a zipwire

What's it like to soar 500 feet through the air at 100 miles per hour? That's what I found out when I took an unforgettable trip on the longest zip wire in Europe at Zip World, Snowdonia.

I didn't expect this. Two weeks ago I was finishing school for the summer. I don't think I got out of my pyjamas for the first few days of the holidays. Now here I am standing on the edge of nothing about to fly 500 feet in the air above a quarry in North Wales. There are 15 of us in my group, all ages. We're kitted out in a cross between a spacesuit and workmen's overalls. It's not a great look, but we're not concerned with our image right now.



Zip World is based at Penrhyn Quarry in Bethesda, where slate has been mined for over 200 years. This was the biggest quarry in the world at one time and employed two thousand men. Now it employs two hundred people and some of these run Zip World in the disused parts of the quarry.

We're taken to the Little Zipper, which is the third longest zip wire in Britain. This is just a taster to familiarise ourselves with the routine. Rather than dangle from the wire, you lie flat, which gives you a brilliant sense of flying through the air. The Little Zipper calms nerves and gets everyone's adrenaline really going for the Big Zipper. We're driven slowly up the winding ascent to the top of the quarry in a red truck, all clutching our helmets and goggles like amateur astronauts. Everyone chatters, glassy-eyed with excitement.

Then suddenly I am at the start. There's a lot of drama going on. Two-way radios crackle as the well-rehearsed procedure of strapping in and launching is communicated firmly and crisply between the operators at the top and bottom of the line. There's no messing about. I can feel the blood pumping just that little bit faster around my system. The safety clip is released.

"Safety is off. Are you ready?" asks Mark, the instructor.

"I'm ready."

"Three ... Two ... One ... Go!!"

I'm flying. The first thing I notice is the exhilarating whoosh of noise. The speed literally knocks the breath out of my chest and I can't help myself, but laugh like a hyena. It feels like I'm cutting through the air. It's overwhelming. I think about how small I am and how I'm hurtling above the gigantic steps of the quarry below, soaring above the vivid blue of the quarry lake. I'm flying above the lake, getting lower as I get closer to the end of my mile-long flight. I can gauge my speed more easily along the last third of the journey, slowing down to the bottom of the run. Some people have reached 100mph.

And then it's over. The instructor unhooks me, smiling as he brings me back down to the ground. It's exhilarating. Unforgettable. I could sit here and write for hours about how it felt, but you're much better off finding out for yourself.

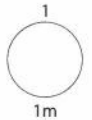
Posted by Finlay – 8 August 2016

1 Finlay wrote *I didn't expect this* at the beginning of his blog.

What did he not expect?

Tick **one**.

- to be writing a blog about himself
- to be visiting a quarry in Wales
- to be doing zipwiring during the holidays
- to be in the second week of his summer holidays
- to be wearing pyjamas for days on end

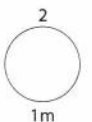


2 Look at the paragraph beginning: *I didn't expect this*.

How did Finlay change?

Tick **two** words to show the change in Finlay in the first two weeks of his holiday.

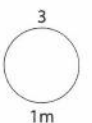
At the beginning of his holiday	Preparing for his ride on the zipwire
Tick one .	Tick one .
lazy <input type="checkbox"/>	calm <input type="checkbox"/>
bored <input type="checkbox"/>	fearful <input type="checkbox"/>
anxious <input type="checkbox"/>	excited <input type="checkbox"/>
disappointed <input type="checkbox"/>	cheerful <input type="checkbox"/>



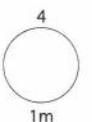
3 What is the purpose of going on the Little Zipper?

Tick **three**.

- to reduce anxiety
- to travel to the Big Zipper
- to increase fear
- to build excitement
- to reduce waiting time
- to learn what to do



4 **Find** and **copy** the **two-word** phrase that shows that the drive to the start of the Big Zipper was twisting and uphill.



please turn over



5 In the fifth paragraph, Finlay wrote:

There's a lot of drama going on.

This sentence tells us that there was a lot of ...

Tick **one**.

shouting.

confusion.

activity.

waiting around.

whispering.



6 Look at the text in the box below.

- a) Finlay felt as if he were flying.
Underline one other word that suggests this feeling.

I'm flying. The first thing I notice is the exhilarating whoosh of noise. The speed literally knocks the breath out of my chest and I can't help myself, but laugh like a hyena. It feels like I'm cutting through the air. It's overwhelming. I think about how small I am and how I'm hurtling above the gigantic steps of the quarry below, soaring above the vivid blue of the quarry lake.



- b) **Find and copy** the phrase that Finlay used to show that he had no control over his reactions.



7 Number these events from 1 to 5 to show the order in which they happened.

The last one has been done for you.

countdown

safety catch released

transfer to Big Zipper

take-off 5

instructors communicate with each other



8 Find and copy the phrase that shows that Finlay had much more to describe about his experience.

8
1m

9 What are the main messages that Finlay gave about his experience on the Big Zipper?

Tick **two**.

- He did it over and over again.
- He would never forget about it.
- He wrote the blog because he was starting to forget the experience.
- He wanted to go back again.
- He wanted to forget about it as quickly as possible.
- He wanted others to have a go.

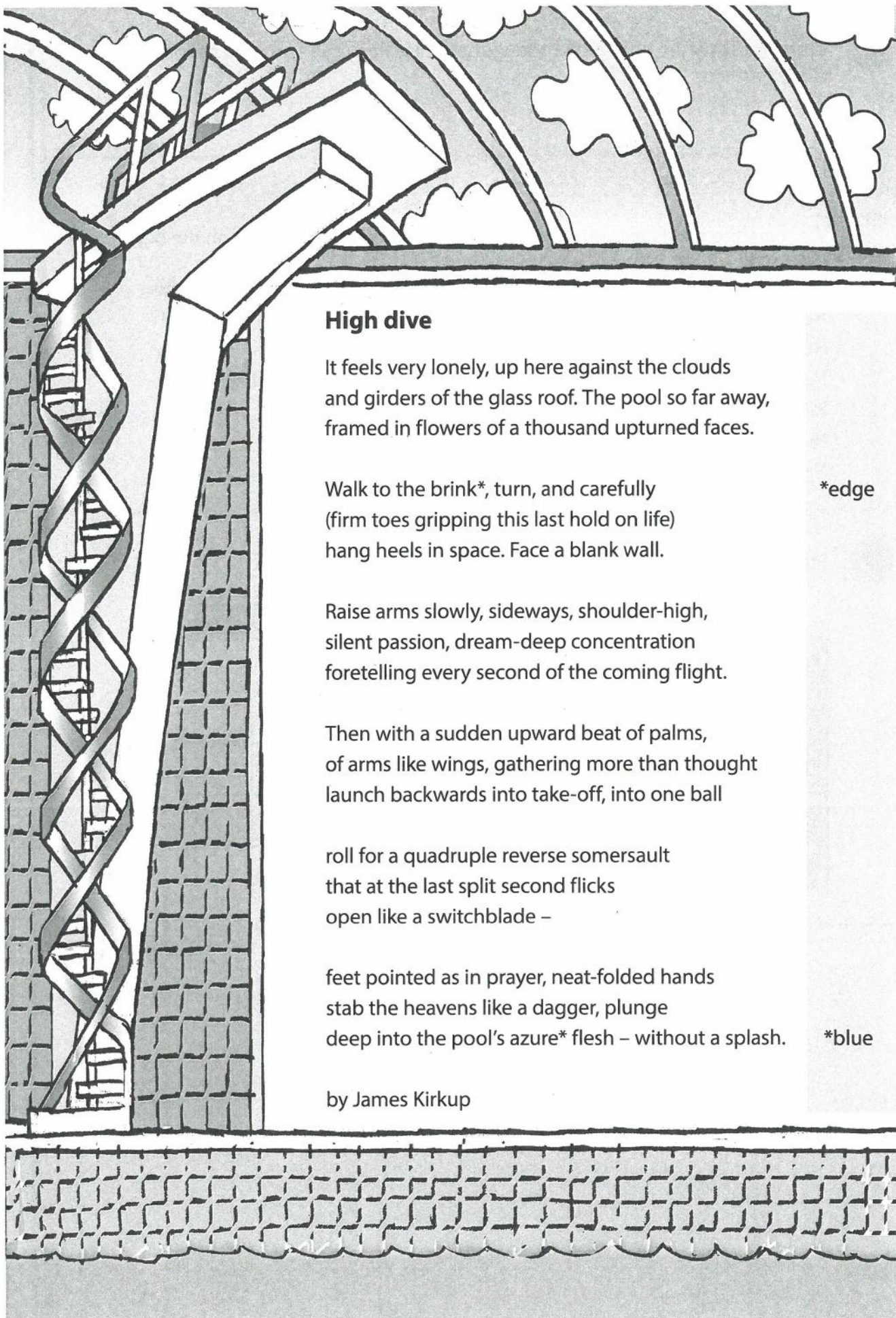
9
1m

10 Put ticks to show which statements are **true** and which are **false**.

	True	False
The Big Zipper is the longest zipwire in Europe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Penrhyn Quarry was once the biggest in the world.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The quarry has produced slate for over 200 years.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Two thousand people work at Penrhyn Quarry.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The top speed reached on the Big Zipper is 200mph.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10
2m

please turn over



High dive

It feels very lonely, up here against the clouds
and girders of the glass roof. The pool so far away,
framed in flowers of a thousand upturned faces.

Walk to the brink*, turn, and carefully
(firm toes gripping this last hold on life)
hang heels in space. Face a blank wall.

*edge

Raise arms slowly, sideways, shoulder-high,
silent passion, dream-deep concentration
foretelling every second of the coming flight.

Then with a sudden upward beat of palms,
of arms like wings, gathering more than thought
launch backwards into take-off, into one ball

roll for a quadruple reverse somersault
that at the last split second flicks
open like a switchblade –

feet pointed as in prayer, neat-folded hands
stab the heavens like a dagger, plunge
deep into the pool's azure* flesh – without a splash.

*blue

by James Kirkup

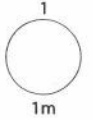
1

It feels very lonely, up here ...

What does this show about the diver's view of diving?

Tick **one**.

- The diver does not enjoy doing it.
- It is very frightening for the diver.
- The diver feels cut off from everyone.
- The diver wishes to join a team.
- This is an unfamiliar situation for the diver.

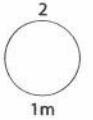


2

Where are the people who are watching the diver?

Tick **one**.

- They are all around the pool.
- They are at the deep end of the pool.
- They are at the shallow end of the pool.
- They are along one side of the pool.



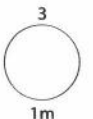
3

(firm toes gripping this last hold on life)

This line tells the reader that diving can be ...

Tick **two**.

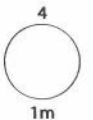
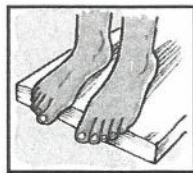
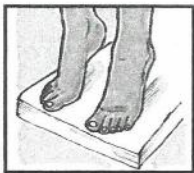
- | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| beautiful. | <input type="checkbox"/> | tiresome. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| rewarding. | <input type="checkbox"/> | dangerous. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| tense. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |



4

What is the position of the diver's feet just before the dive?

Tick **one**.



please turn over

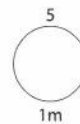


5 *silent passion, dream-deep concentration*

This shows that the diver is ...

Tick **two**.

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| scared. | <input type="checkbox"/> | focused. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| speechless. | <input type="checkbox"/> | disturbed. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| asleep. | <input type="checkbox"/> | determined. | <input type="checkbox"/> |



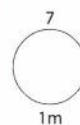
6 How does the diver begin the dive?

Tick **one**.

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| feet first | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| in a ball | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| backwards | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| sideways | <input type="checkbox"/> |



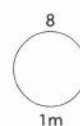
7 Find and copy the phrase that describes what the water in the pool looks like.



8 The description in the last verse makes the diver's hands and feet appear ...

Tick **one**.

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| relaxed. | <input type="checkbox"/> | dainty. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| uncontrolled. | <input type="checkbox"/> | clumsy. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| sharp. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |



9 Number these moves from 1 to 5 to show the order in which the diver does them.

The last one has been done for you.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| jump | <input type="text" value="5"/> |
| turn around | <input type="text"/> |
| move arms slowly | <input type="text"/> |
| move arms fast | <input type="text"/> |
| walk to the end of the board | <input type="text"/> |



10 Think about the whole poem.

The poem makes the reader realise that a diver has to be very ...

Tick **one**.

- precise.
- intelligent.
- nervous.
- slender.

10

1m

11 At the end, the poem suggests that the dive ...

Tick **one**.

- goes wrong.
- has a few small errors.
- is almost perfect.
- is perfect.

11

1m

12 Each verse of the poem tells you about a different part of the dive.

In the table below, use numbers **1** to **6** to show which verse tells you about each of these things.

Verse number 6 has been done for you.

Focus	Verse
diver's arms	
diver's feet	
the jump	
diver's feelings	
the entry into the water	6
the complexity of the dive	

12

2m

End of test. Please check your work.

TOTAL

9m

Acknowledgements

'The escape' adapted from *Granny* by Anthony Horowitz (Walker Books, 1994)

'Kid on a zipwire' adapted from 'Kid on a (zip)wire' by Finlay George on Visit Wales (2015)
www.visitwales.com/things-to-do/activities/rocks-ropes/zipworld-europes-longest-zipline

'High dive' by James Kirkup taken from *The Works Key Stage 2* (Macmillan Children's Books, 2006)

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