

READING

ED1

First name _____

Last name _____

School _____

Class _____

Date of birth

Date of test

Total score (maximum 40)



National Reading Tests



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.

Bryn and Sara eagerly packed their rucksacks for the final day of their castle exploration trip – today they would visit Castell y Bere. Bryn had marked on the map which castle they had investigated each day and Sara had been photographing and recording the plants that lived there. Dolbadarn Castle on the first day had been their favourite, but the views at Deganwy on the third day had been amazing!

Bryn slotted the neatly folded maps between the compass and the first aid kit in his bag, while Sara crammed her stripy hat between the camera and half-eaten packet of soggy biscuits.

- a** What did Sara have in her bag?
Tick **three**.

maps	<input type="checkbox"/>	compass	<input type="checkbox"/>
hat	<input type="checkbox"/>	biscuits	<input type="checkbox"/>
first aid kit	<input type="checkbox"/>	camera	<input type="checkbox"/>

Hint: Check how many you have to tick.

- b** Look at the text in the box below.

Underline one word that tells you that they were excited about their trip.

Hint: Check how many words to underline.

Bryn and Sara eagerly packed their rucksacks for the final day of their castle exploration trip – today they would visit Castell y Bere.

Hint: If you make a mistake and want to change your answer, then write your new answer out underneath, instead.

- c** **Find and copy two** things that Bryn had in his bag.

1. _____

2. _____

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

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

	True	False
Bryn had marked castles on the map.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dolbadarn Castle was their favourite.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sara carried the first aid kit in her rucksack.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

e Put these in order to show what Bryn and Sara did on their trip by numbering them from 1 to 4. One has been done for you.

- admired the views at Deganwy
- went home
- visited Dolbadarn Castle
- explored Castell y Bere

f Choose the best word to fit the passage and tick your choices.

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

Bryn and Sara were visiting

a) **mountains** **castles** **rivers** **towns**

and recording which

b) **people** **animals** **plants** **fungi**

lived there.

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 until you finish page 15 or until you are asked to stop, referring to the text when you need to.

You have up to 60 minutes to do the test.

White Fang

The cub came upon it suddenly. It was his own fault. He had been careless. He had left the cave and run down to the stream to drink. It might have been that he took no notice because he was heavy with sleep. (He had been out all night on the meat trail, and had but just then awakened.) And his carelessness might have been due to the familiarity of the trail to the pool. He had travelled it often, and nothing had ever happened on it.

He went down past the blasted pine, crossed the open space, and trotted in amongst the trees. Then, at the same instant, he saw and smelled. Before him, sitting silently on their haunches, were five live things, the like of which he had never seen before. It was his first glimpse of mankind. But at the sight of him the five men did not spring to their feet, nor show their teeth, nor snarl. They did not move but sat there, silent and ominous.

Nor did the cub move. Every instinct of his nature would have impelled him to dash wildly away, had there not suddenly and for the first time arisen in him another and counter instinct. A great awe descended upon him. He was beaten down to movelessness by an overwhelming sense of his own weakness and littleness. Here was mastery and power, something far and away beyond him.

The cub had never seen man, yet the instinct concerning man was his. In dim ways he recognised in man the animal that had fought itself to primacy over the other animals of the Wild. The spell of the cub's heritage was upon him, the fear and the respect born of the centuries of struggle and the accumulated experience of the generations. Had he been full-grown, he would have run away. As it was, he cowered down in a paralysis of fear, already half proffering the submission that his kind had proffered from the first time a wolf came in to sit by man's fire and be made warm.

One of the Indians arose and walked over to him and stooped above him. The cub cowered closer to the ground. It was the unknown bending over him and reaching down to seize hold of him. His hair bristled involuntarily; his lips writhed back and his little fangs were bared. The hand, poised like doom above him, hesitated and a man spoke, laughing, "*Wabam wabisca ip pit tah.*" ("Look! The white fangs!").



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

The central character in the extract is

- a) a wolf cub. a man cub. an Indian brave. a hunter.

The story describes his feelings of

- b) glee uncertainty frustration power

when, for the first time, he

- c) left his cave. swam in the stream. went into the forest. saw humans.

1a

1m

1b

1m

1c

1m

2 Look at the first paragraph.

Find and copy two words that show the cub had been to the pool before.

1. _____

2. _____

2

1m

3 ... trotted in amongst the trees.

What does the word *trotted* tell us about how the cub was feeling?

Tick **one**.

He was surprised.

He was careless.

He was carefree.

He was tired.

3

1m

4 How did the cub first become aware of the group of men?

Tick **two**.

They appeared suddenly outside his cave.

He had a dream about them.

He found them where he did not expect to.

He picked up their scent.

He woke up and one was poised above him.

He realised they were watching him, silently.

4

1m

please turn over

TOTAL

6m

5

... five live things ...

Why does the writer use this phrase to describe the men?

Tick **one**.

- to show that the Indians were alive, not dead
- because they sat so still they were like statues
- to show that the cub did not know what they were
- because they did not behave like animals



6

The spell of the cub's heritage was upon him ...

What does this mean?

Tick **one**.

- What happened in the past had influence over him now.
- He could not remember everything that happened in the past.
- What happened in the past was legend, not fact.
- He could not control what happened in the past.



7

Why did the cub not run away when he first saw the men?

Tick **one**.

- He was too tired to move.
- He wanted to sit by the fire.
- He thought the men might feed him.
- He was overwhelmed by his thoughts.



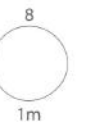
8

By not running away, how is the cub's behaviour similar to the first wolf that sat by man's fire?

In both cases ...

Tick **one**.

- the wolves wanted to be friendly with the Indians.
- the wolves recognised man's superiority.
- the wolves did not know about man's power.
- the wolves needed to prove their bravery.



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

The cub ...	True	False
had taken a different route to the pool.		
had never seen men before.		
thought the men were weak and little.		
went and sat by the men's fire.		
was defensive when the man approached him.		

9
2m

10 Which of the following sentences best summarises the last paragraph?

Tick **one**.

- The Indian was determined to capture the cub.
- The cub was pleased to meet the Indian.
- The cub's reactions made the Indian laugh.
- The Indian was frightened by the cub's fangs.

10
1m

11 Put these events in order by numbering them from 1 to 5.

- The cub ...
- was scared by the approach of a human.
- was overcome by thoughts and feelings.
- left the cave.
- bared his teeth.
- saw something unfamiliar.

11
1m

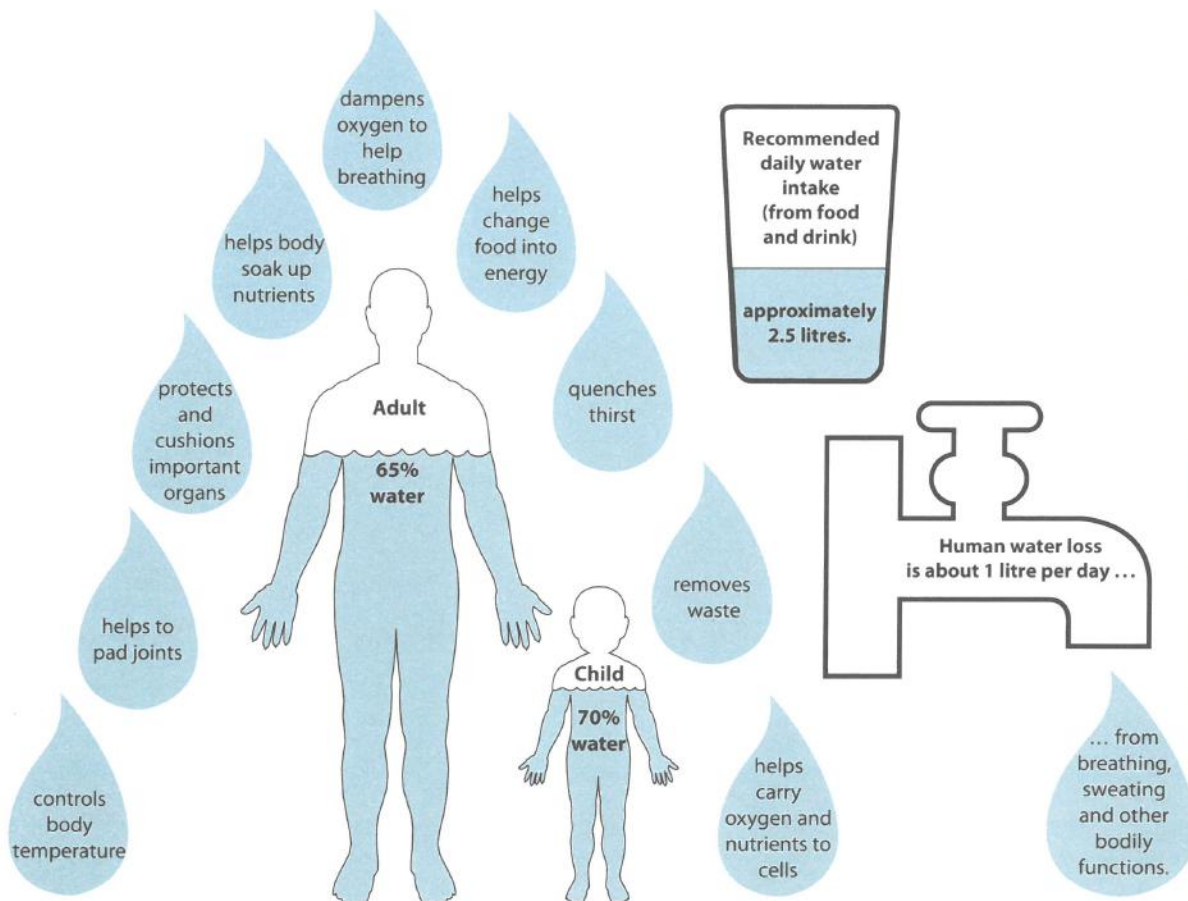
please turn over

Lost Without It

Imagine trying to live in a world dominated by dihydrogen oxide. This is a compound* that has no taste or smell and is so variable in its properties that it is generally benign but at other times swiftly lethal. Depending on its state, it can scald you or freeze you. In the presence of certain organic molecules it can form acids so nasty that they can strip the leaves from trees and eat the faces off statuary. In bulk, when agitated, it can strike with a fury that no human edifice could withstand. Even for those who have learned to live with it, it is an often murderous substance. We call it water.

Water is everywhere. A potato is 80 per cent water, a cow 74 per cent, a bacterium 75 per cent. A tomato, at 95 per cent, is little but water. Even humans are 65 per cent water, making us more liquid than solid by a margin of almost two to one. Water is strange stuff. It is formless and transparent and yet we long to be beside it. It has no taste and yet we love the taste of it. We will travel great distances and pay small fortunes to see it in sunshine. And even though we know it is dangerous and drowns tens of thousands of people every year, we can't wait to frolic in it. Because water is so ubiquitous we tend to overlook what an extraordinary substance it is. I hardly need point out that we would be lost without it.

* In science, a compound is something made by combining two or more elements.



1 What is dihydrogen oxide?

Tick **two**.

an imaginary substance

poison

a tasteless compound

an acid

a lethal element

water

1
1m

2 Look at the text in the box below.

Underline two words that show that dihydrogen oxide can be deadly.

Imagine trying to live in a world dominated by dihydrogen oxide. This is a compound* that has no taste or smell and is so variable in its properties that it is generally benign but at other times swiftly lethal. Depending on its state, it can scald you or freeze you. In the presence of certain organic molecules it can form acids so nasty that they can strip the leaves from trees and eat the faces off statuary. In bulk, when agitated, it can strike with a fury that no human edifice could withstand. Even for those who have learned to live with it, it is an often murderous substance. We call it water.

2
1m

3 *Depending on its state ...*

What does this tell us about dihydrogen oxide?

Tick **one**.

that it is always moving

that it can be found in different areas

that it can take different forms

that it is normally safe

3
1m

4 Look at the first paragraph.

Which of the following best describes the acids mentioned in the text?

Tick **one**.

polluted

hygienic

decaying

destructive

4
1m

please turn over

TOTAL
4m

5

We call it water.

What is the intended effect of this sentence?

Tick **one**.

- to surprise the reader
- to worry the reader
- to stress the dangers
- to cause confusion

5
1m

6

According to the text, for what do people *pay small fortunes*?

Tick **one**.

- keeping fit and healthy
- insurance protection against drought
- travel insurance
- going on summer holidays

6
1m

7

Look at the text in the box below.

Underline three words or phrases that might make water seem dull and unexciting.

Water is strange stuff. It is formless and transparent and yet we long to be beside it. It has no taste and yet we love the taste of it. We will travel great distances and pay small fortunes to see it in sunshine.

7
1m

8

Look at the text and diagrams.

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

	True	False
Water has no taste.		
Water has a distinct smell.		
A bacterium is 75 per cent water.		
Humans are more solid than liquid.		
Water drowns tens of thousands of people each year.		
Humans lose about 2.5 litres of water a day.		

8
2m

- 9 Put ticks to show which of the following statements from the text are **fact** and which are **opinion**.

	Fact	Opinion
... it can scald you or freeze you.		
A tomato, at 95 per cent, is little but water.		
Water is strange stuff.		
... we long to be beside it.		
... we can't wait to frolic in it.		

9
2m

- 10 Look at the whole text.

Put ticks in the table below to show whether the information can be found in the **written** section, the **diagrams** or in **both**.

	Written	Diagrams	Both
Water can be dangerous.			
Water forms part of living things.			
70 per cent of a child's body is water.			
Water is important in everyone's life.			

10
1m

please turn over

Home Truths?

Well-meaning but misinformed people think animals in the wild are “happy” because they are “free”. They imagine this wild animal roaming about the savannah on digestive walks after eating a prey that accepted its lot piously. They imagine this animal overseeing its offspring proudly and tenderly, the whole family watching the setting of the sun from the limbs of trees with sighs of pleasure. Then it is captured by wicked men and thrown into tiny jails. Its “happiness” is dashed. It yearns mightily for “freedom” and does all it can to escape. Being denied its “freedom” for too long, the animal becomes a shadow of itself, its spirit broken. So some people imagine.

That is not the way it is.

Animals are territorial. That is the key to their minds. Only a familiar territory will allow them to fulfil the two relentless imperatives of the wild: the avoidance of enemies and the getting of food and water. A biologically sound zoo enclosure – whether cage, pit, moated island, aviary or aquarium – is just another territory, peculiar only in its size and in its proximity to human territory. In a zoo, we do for animals what we have done for ourselves with houses: we bring together in a small space what in the wild is spread out. Now the river flows through taps at hand’s reach and we can wash next to where we sleep, we can eat where we have cooked, and we can surround the whole with a protective wall and keep it clean and warm. A house is a compressed territory where our basic needs can be fulfilled close by and safely. A sound zoo enclosure is the equivalent for an animal. It finds within it all the places it needs – a lookout, a place for resting, for eating and drinking, for bathing, for grooming etc. – and finds that there is no need to go hunting, food appearing six days a week.

One might even argue that if an animal could choose with intelligence, it would opt for living in a zoo. Think about it yourself. Would you rather be put up at The Ritz* with free room service and unlimited access to a doctor or be homeless without a soul to care for you?

* a luxury hotel

1 Which of the following best describes this text?

Tick **one**.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| fictional narrative | <input type="checkbox"/> | factual information | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| opinion and argument | <input type="checkbox"/> | instructions and advice | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1
1m

2 What message is conveyed in this text?

Tick **one**.

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| All animals need to be properly cared for. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Animals are more comfortable in the wild. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Zoos are best. | <input type="checkbox"/> | No-one really knows what is best for animals. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2
1m

3 In the first paragraph, the narrator describes an imagined wild animal family. Where does the family relax?

Tick **one**.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| at the foot of a tree | <input type="checkbox"/> | on the branches of trees | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| on a rock in the sunset | <input type="checkbox"/> | in a shady haven | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3
1m

4 What is the narrator's view of life in a zoo?

Tick **one**.

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| It is like being in a tiny jail. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Life is easier than in the wild. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Animals are happy to be close to humans. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Animals become dispirited. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4
1m

5 ... animals in the wild are "happy" because they are "free".

What does the narrator think about people who believe this?

Tick **two**.

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| that they have a good understanding of animal welfare issues | <input type="checkbox"/> | that they have an idealised view of nature | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| that they can see both sides of the argument | <input type="checkbox"/> | that they realise the importance of exercise for wild animals | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| that they do not understand the difficulties animals face living in the wild | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

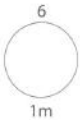
5
1m

please turn over

6 Look at the text in the box below.

Underline the **phrase** that shows that some animals in the wild **expect** to be eaten by others.

They imagine this wild animal roaming about the savannah on digestive walks after eating a prey that accepted its lot piously. They imagine this animal overseeing its offspring proudly and tenderly, the whole family watching the setting of the sun from the limbs of trees with sighs of pleasure.



7 *That is not the way it is.*

What is the effect of this single sentence paragraph?

Tick **two**.

It highlights that everything that went before it is not true.

It has more impact because it stands on its own.

It is meant to separate the animal perspective from the human one.

It separates the text to show two sides of the argument.

It shows that the narrator is feeling defensive.

It is there to introduce the true facts.



8 What does the narrator say are the main challenges for animals living in the wild?

Tick **two**.

keeping control of their territory

making sure they exercise enough

avoiding captivity

maintaining an adequate diet

protecting themselves from predators

living alongside humans



9 What does the narrator see as the advantages of living in a *compressed territory*?

Tick **two**.

You can do whatever you want.

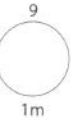
It is safe.

Everything you need is convenient.

It has proper plumbing.

It is near to friendly neighbours.

There are so many places to explore.



10

Think about the narrator's viewpoint. Put ticks to show whether the narrator would **agree** or **disagree** with the following statements.

	The narrator would	
	agree	disagree
Animals need to have freedom to be happy.		
Life in the wild is not always easy.		
It is wrong to put animals in zoos.		
Animals have everything they need in zoos.		
Living in a zoo is like living in a top quality hotel.		
Animals in the wild have no-one to look after them.		

10
2m

11

... we do for animals what we have done for ourselves ...

What does this tell us about the narrator's assumptions?

Tick **two**.

He thinks animals have the same values and needs as humans.

He feels only humans know the correct way to live.

He feels all living creatures deserve to have a roof over their heads.

He thinks zoos fulfil the same role for animals as houses do for humans.

He thinks animals really want to live in the wild.

He believes that humans are the masters of all animals.

11
1m

12

Put ticks to show which of the following statements are **fact** and which are **opinion**.

	Fact	Opinion
Animals in the wild are happy.		
People who put animals in cages are wicked.		
Animals in zoos want to escape.		
Some people believe zoos are bad for animals.		
Life in a zoo is easier than in the wild.		
Animals in zoos do not need to go hunting for food.		

12
2m

End of test. Please check your work.

TOTAL
9m

Acknowledgements

'White Fang' adapted from *White Fang* by Jack London, Airmont Publishing Company, 1970.

'Lost Without It' adapted from *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson, Transworld Publishers, 2003.

'Home Truths?' adapted from *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel, Canongate Books Ltd, 2003.

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