



هيئة جودة التعليم والتدريب
Education & Training Quality Authority

English – Grade 9

Reading

Practice Items

- Sample of Practice Items -

Part 1

Sample 1

Questions 1 – 5

Read the text about a boy who went on a school exchange trip.

Choose the correct answer **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.

Last year I _____ (0) _____ a term in Spain, and it was a great experience. Obviously, the language was different. School started and finished at different times, and I had to get up really early. I was used to going to school by car, but there, I had to _____ (1) _____ like most students who go by bike – in all types of weather. _____ (2) _____ most of the subjects were the same as in the UK, there weren't as many after-school activities. The marks you receive for the work you _____ (3) _____ in every week are important. At the end of the school year, these marks _____ (4) _____, and you get a final grade. The food in the canteen was fantastic - a lot of varieties. The meals were new for me, and I've got my mum to cook some _____ (5) _____ I've been back.

Example

0	A	spend	B	spends	C	spent	D	spending
1	A	drive	B	cycle	C	move	D	walk
2	A	Although	B	However	C	Moreover	D	Furthermore
3	A	get	B	write	C	have	D	hand
4	A	have counted	B	are counted	C	had counted	D	was counted
5	A	yet	B	for	C	since	D	just

[5 marks]

- Mark Scheme -

Part 1

Sample 1

Questions 1 – 5

Question Number	Answer	Mark	Total Marks
1	B	1	
2	A	1	
3	D	1	
4	B	1	
5	C	1	5

- Sample of Practice Items -

Part 1

Sample 2

Questions 1 – 5

Read the text about horse riding.

Choose the correct answer **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.

Horse riding is a hobby enjoyed _____ (0) _____ people of all ages. While many begin horse riding when young, some people are _____ (1) _____ horse riding late in life.

The horse has been with man through history and has served different purposes.

Horses have been used as _____ (2) _____ of transport as well as in farming and in battles. Today horses are mostly used _____ (3) _____ pleasure and in competitions.

Although you can't really understand what it is to ride a horse before trying it, however, you can prepare for your first lesson by reading about horse riding and learning as

_____ (4) _____ as possible about this sport before you ride your first horse. Horse riding is completely a new experience exactly the _____ (5) _____ as riding a bicycle for the first time.

Example

0	A	by	B	in	C	at	D	with
1	A	doing	B	starting	C	getting	D	finding
2	A	ways	B	systems	C	means	D	techniques
3	A	of	B	to	C	off	D	for
4	A	much	B	many	C	most	D	more
5	A	like	B	similar	C	same	D	alike

[5 marks]

- Mark Scheme -

Part 1

Sample 2

Questions 1 – 5

Question Number	Answer	Mark	Total Marks
1	B	1	
2	C	1	
3	D	1	
4	A	1	
5	C	1	5

- Sample of Practice Items -

Part 2

Sample 1

Questions 6 – 10

The students below need to do online research for a school project about British Columbia. Read about the students and their interests (6 – 10).

On the opposite page there is information on different websites (A – G).

Decide which website would be the most suitable for each student's research.

For Questions (6 – 10), choose the correct answer (A – G).

There are two extra letters that you do not need to use.

Example

0



Fatima is designing a brochure for her science project. She is particularly interested in finding pictures for various animals and birds living in the mountains.

H

6



Hamad's history project is about how life used to be like hundreds of years ago for the people who lived by the seaside. He also needs to find information about the ancient ways of fishing.

7



Sara wants to write about one of the most important cities and its several famous sites which can be quickly reached. She's interested in art and wants to include pictures and maps in her project.

8



Mousa is writing about bridges for his social studies. Not just bridges in towns and cities but mainly about those built in the forests and mountains which allow people to walk above ground level.

9



Noor's project is on nature and wildlife. She wants to do some research into the kind of sea life that lives in the ocean around the shores of the islands.

10



Saif is fond of reading about vehicles. He is looking for photos and some details about the means of transport that tourists can use for sightseeing around the main city and for the sea tours.

[5 marks]

Websites

- A** If you're visiting the biggest city, our website has everything you need about where to stay and what to do. We book hotels, cruises on small boats or ships and even organise your shopping trips. Private cars or taxis are available with drivers who'll take you wherever you want.
- B** Did you know that whales are wild animals? British Columbia has some of the world's most exciting creatures like bears and rare parrots too, but it's the whales that are the most attractive. Watch clips of sea lions, and listen to the sounds of the killer whales!
- C** Learn about the water plane that flies in the air and lands on water. Visitors use it to explore the islands. Another great way to travel around is to use the Sky Train which stops by the bridge or take the Sky Bus. Click on the photos for more details.
- D** Vancouver is a fantastic city, but best of all is the fact that there is a variety of places to see. Download the details of where to visit including pictures and drawings for the directions of how to get there in only a couple of minutes from the city center.
- E** Our museum was the first of its kind to display the art and culture of British Columbia. Each gallery has its own exhibition of things such as drums, paintings and wooden objects from the past when the people of the west coast used to catch and sell sea creatures.
- F** Check our website for pictures of great buildings in and around Vancouver, one of the famous cities. We also have details of bridges high up on the mountain which provide links between trees. These wooden links are like paths so you can actually enjoy discovering the birds and the wildlife!
- G** This new website has an amazing art gallery of work produced by local people. Some of the pictures present historical interest, but the most of them were taken during the past 30 years. The main topics are British Columbian nature with its wonderful geographical structures like the sea and mountains.
- H** Visit our website to see British Columbian forests. The highest point is the most famous area where you can watch birds and other animals from hidden points and tree bridges. Download our photos for the brown bears which live in the forests on the mountain.

- Mark Scheme -

Part 2

Sample 1

Questions 6 – 10

Question Number	Answer	Mark	Total Marks
6	E	1	
7	D	1	
8	F	1	
9	B	1	
10	C	1	5

Part 3

Sample 1

Questions 11 – 15

Read the text about the common pigeons.

For each question, choose the correct answer **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.



The Common Pigeons

Pigeons live in most areas of the world and are known as 'common' pigeons as they have the ability to adapt to various conditions and places. In the UK, common pigeons are the most popular birds, and are frequently found in gardens.

Before, people kept pigeons for their animals to eat. People also taught them to fly long distances so they could carry messages. Some people even kept them in cages because they can be beautiful in homes. Nowadays, however, pigeons are trained to compete against each other to fly back to their home from faraway places.

Pigeons' main type of food is seeds with small amounts of insects. While they may pick up pieces of meat from wasted meals during their search for food, this is not a natural part of their diet. Amazingly, baby pigeons feed on pigeon's milk.

Pigeons can cause a lot of problems in cities. Groups of pigeons can make places dirty and messy, leading to diseases. Pigeons' waste and nests can harm monuments. Near airports, they can be dangerous for planes. Additionally, they demand food from people during picnics.

In some cities, it is no longer allowed to feed pigeons in public places. In other cities, people have put wire fences around buildings so that there is no place for the birds to rest or use devices that make loud sounds that pigeons don't like. Recently, people have introduced larger birds to attack the pigeons and encourage them to leave. This has been the most successful in reducing the number of pigeons in the city.

Pigeons are highly intelligent birds. Pigeons are good at finding their way home by looking at things they see to guide them to their nests. They are trained to touch buttons to show their choices and get food as a reward. Pigeons can also make decisions by looking at things and remembering patterns. It is important to remember that pigeons think differently from humans.

Example

0 Why is this bird called a ‘common pigeon’?

- A** It can be found in most parts of the world.
- B** It can adjust to various environments.
- C** It is the most famous bird in the UK.
- D** It is seen very often in gardens.

11 Which of the following was NOT a use of pigeons in the past?

- A** People used them to communicate with others far away.
- B** People used them to make their houses look nice.
- C** People used them to race in competitions.
- D** People used them to feed their animals.

12 Pigeons mainly feed on

- A** insects.
- B** milk.
- C** seeds.
- D** meat.

13 Pigeons can cause health problems by

- A** annoying the public.
- B** damaging the buildings.
- C** making flying unsafe.
- D** leaving places unclean.

- Sample of Practice Items -

14 What is the best action to decrease the number of pigeons?

- A** Put wire fences around buildings.
- B** Introduce larger birds to attack them.
- C** Stop people from feeding them.
- D** Use loud sounds.

15 Pigeons can successfully decide by

- A** looking and remembering patterns.
- B** thinking differently than people.
- C** finding their way back home.
- D** making the right choices.

Part 3

Sample 1

Questions 11 – 15

Question Number	Answer	Mark	Total Marks
11	C	1	
12	C	1	
13	D	1	
14	B	1	
15	A	1	5

Part 3

Sample 2

Questions 11 – 15

Read the review of a film called *The Falcon*.

For each question, choose the correct answer **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.

There is an example (**0**) at the beginning.

The Falcon

The Falcon is a film directed by Ben King. It is a film about a 15-year-old boy called Jim Steven (played by David Blake). His family was poor, and his older brother had a boring and badly paid job in a factory. In school, Jim had very few friends, and he was always getting into trouble. He didn't want to work like his brother, and so it seemed there was little hope for him.

Then one day, he argued with his father. So he went for a walk in the neighbourhood and found a baby bird – a falcon. Jim took the young falcon home to feed and look after it, and it became his friend. He tried to learn everything he could about falcons and even went to the library to read about them, and as his bird grew, Jim taught it to fly.

Jim's English teacher noticed his growing interest, and encouraged him to bring the falcon to school, and Jim talked to his classmates about how he found the bird and trained it to fly. At first, the students did not pay attention. However, little by little, they started listening, and at the end, they all clapped. They even tried to approach the bird.

The best part of the film was the pleasure on Jim's face when he went out with his falcon as he saw his bird flying high in the sky. Although the ending makes you cry, there are some funny scenes, such as the one where the falcon flew around in the classroom. In that scene, you may wonder if, like the bird, Jim will be able to rise above his own problems. It's a film that the whole family can enjoy because of the message it carries about hope, friendship, and finding purpose in life.

Unlike other Hollywood films, *The Falcon* was completed in less than two months. It was not made with a large amount of money. There were no Hollywood stars in the film team. Also, it did not depend on any special effects to tell its story. However, once you've seen it, you'll never forget it.

Example

0 Jim Steven is the name of

- A a film actor.
- B** a character in the film.
- C a factory worker in the film.
- D a film director.

11 Jim found out about falcons from

- A a neighbour.
- B his friend.
- C a book.
- D his father.

12 While Jim was talking about his bird in class, the other pupils

- A became interested.
- B wanted to be friends.
- C seemed bored.
- D supported him.

13 What does the writer say about the film?

- A It's only suitable for children.
- B It's both sad and amusing.
- C It's happy all the way through.
- D It's rather confusing in places.

- Sample of Practice Items -

14 *The Falcon* is different from Hollywood films because it

- A** had well-known actors.
- B** used advanced filming techniques.
- C** was expensive to make.
- D** took a short time to make.

15 What is the lesson we can learn from *The Falcon*?

- A** Having lots of friends is important.
- B** True happiness comes when you are rich and famous.
- C** With help and hard work, anyone can get better.
- D** Special effects and famous actors make a story successful.

[5 marks]

- Mark Scheme -

Part 3

Sample 2

Questions 11 – 15

Question Number	Answer	Mark	Total Marks
11	C	1	
12	A	1	
13	B	1	
14	D	1	
15	C	1	5