ENGLAND GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AQA · UNIT 3 · 25 QUESTIONS

Non-fiction Reading — Practice Test

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button so it can be fixed.

1 **Books fill the shelves of the old library. Which word is a noun in this sentence: The books smell of dust?**

- A of
- B books
- C dust
- D smell

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2 **A snowman stands in the garden after fresh snow. Which sentence is a complex sentence?**

- A Snow fell on the garden.
- B The snowman was cold and white.
- C The snowman was cold and white and made of fresh snow.
- D The snowman stood in the garden while the snow fell.

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3 **A train rattles along the track through the hills. Which phrase uses alliteration?**

- A along the track
- B rattling rails
- C the train is fast
- D through the hills

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4 **A guitar plays a gentle tune in the evening. Which word is an adverb in this sentence: He played the guitar softly?**

- A played
- B guitar
- C he
- D softly

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5 **A beach at dawn is quiet and empty. Which sentence best creates a calm mood?**

- A The beach was very noisy and busy all day long.
- B Everyone shouted and ran about
- C The beach had sand and sea
- D Soft waves whispered on the sand.

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6 **A kite soars high in a blue sky. Which word is closest in meaning to soar?**

- A fly high
- B sink slowly into the sea
- C fall down very quickly indeed
- D sit still on the ground

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7 **Why might a writer use a statistic?**

- **A** to confuse the reader
- **B** to fill the page
- **C** to make the writing longer for no reason
- **D** to make an argument seem convincing

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8 **When two writers disagree, what is most useful to compare?**

- **A** the number of words they each use
- **B** their reasons and evidence
- **C** their handwriting
- **D** their favourite colours

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9 **Look around you. Every path in this park is lined with bottles, cans and wrappers that nobody bothered to bin, spreading across the grass like a stain. It takes one person one second to drop litter, and it takes a volunteer an hour to clear it. If we all used the bins, this park would be clean by the weekend. The choice is ours, and the time is now. In the extract, the word ‘volunteer’ most closely means**

A someone who helps for free

B someone who drops litter

C someone who is paid well

D someone who works for the council

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10 **I walked out onto the moor as the mist was lifting, and the whole world seemed to be breathing again. Heather brushed my legs, purple and damp, and a skylark rose somewhere above me, pouring out its song like water from a jug. I walked until the path ran out, and then I walked a little further, because that is what moors are for. In the extract, the word ‘pouring out’ most closely means**

A falling silent

B drying up

C singing freely

D holding back

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11 **What is an unreliable narrator?**

A a narrator who cannot be trusted

B a narrator who is always right

C a narrator who tells the truth all the time

D a narrator with no opinions

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12 **Which words suggest a formal register?**

- A cool, awesome
- B anyway, loads of stuff like that
- C furthermore, therefore
- D hi, yeah

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13 **How can a writer show bias?**

- A by writing in a language nobody can read
- B by giving both sides equal space and equal weight in the text
- C by writing very little
- D by choosing only facts that support one side

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14 **When comparing two texts, what should you do first?**

A decide which one is longer and pick that one

B find what they have in common

C ignore the second text

D count the words in each

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15 **Children who read for fun do better at school, and not just in English. Reading builds vocabulary, feeds the imagination like rain feeds a garden, and teaches the brain to follow an argument from start to finish. Yet fewer children than ever read for pleasure, squeezed out by screens and homework. Ten minutes a day is enough to start, and a library card costs nothing. In the extract, the word ‘squeezed out’ most closely means**

A welcomed warmly

B pushed aside

C given more time

D made easier

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16 **What is the effect of first person narration?**

A the story is always true

B the reader shares the narrator's feelings

C the story has no narrator

D the reader knows what every character thinks

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17 **What does a sarcastic tone suggest?**

A the writer is asleep

B the writer means the opposite

C the writer is being completely serious

D the writer is happy

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18 **What is the purpose of a newspaper editorial?**

A to list the television programmes

B to give the paper's opinion

C to sell tickets

D to print the weather

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19 **What is a good way to compare writers' attitudes?**

A quote only from the text you like best

B quote evidence from both texts

C ignore the attitudes

D guess without evidence

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20 **Every summer we went to the same small beach, and every summer my grandfather would roll his trousers up and paddle, pretending the water was not cold. The sand got everywhere, fine as dust and twice as stubborn: in our sandwiches, in our shoes, in the car on the way home. I can still hear the gulls and smell the salt, and I would give anything to go back for one more day. What mood does the extract create?**

- A nostalgic
- B furious
- C terrified
- D bored

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21 **Why might a writer use present tense?**

- A to confuse the reader
- B to make events feel immediate
- C to show that the events happened long ago
- D to make the story longer

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22 **Which text is most likely to use an informal register?**

A a letter to the headteacher

B a job application

C a text message to a friend

D a speech to Parliament

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23 **What is bias in non-fiction?**

A writing that is always true

B writing that gives both sides fairly

C writing with no opinions

D one-sided writing

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24

Teenagers who scroll through their phones late at night are stealing sleep from themselves, and the cost is real. Tired brains find it harder to concentrate, to remember, and to control their moods, like trying to run a race on empty legs. The fix is simple, if not easy: put the phone to charge outside the bedroom, and let the night belong to sleep. What mood does the extract create?

A concerned

B amused

C delighted

D relaxed

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25 **Every summer we went to the same small beach, and every summer my grandfather would roll his trousers up and paddle, pretending the water was not cold. The sand got everywhere, fine as dust and twice as stubborn: in our sandwiches, in our shoes, in the car on the way home. I can still hear the gulls and smell the salt, and I would give anything to go back for one more day. In the extract, the word ‘paddle’ most closely means**

A swim far out to sea on your own

B sail a small boat

C walk in shallow water

D fish with a rod

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ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. D
3. B
4. D
5. D
6. A
7. D
8. B
9. A
10. C
11. A
12. C
13. D
14. B
15. B
16. B
17. B
18. B
19. B
20. A
21. B
22. C
23. D
24. A
25. C

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