ENGLAND GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDEXCEL 2.0 · UNIT 1 · 25 QUESTIONS

19th-Century 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

A football rests on the grass before the match. Which sentence is in the active voice?

A The striker kicked the football.

B The match was won by the team

C The football was kicked hard

D The football was kicked by the striker

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2 **Autumn leaves cover the garden path in gold and red. Which sentence uses a metaphor?**

- A The leaves fell from the trees.
- B Autumn leaves are red and gold.
- C The path wore a coat of gold.
- D The path was covered in leaves.

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3 **A letter has been written to complain about a broken kettle. Which sentence uses an apostrophe correctly?**

- A It is the shops fault.
- B It is the shop's fault.
- C Its the shop's fault.
- D Its the shops fault, and I want a refund today

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4 **A lighthouse stands on the cliff above the sea. Which sentence uses a simile?**

- A The sea was grey and cold.
- B The lighthouse stood on the cliff above the grey sea.
- C The lighthouse stood like a guard over the sea.
- D The light turned slowly.

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5 **A market stall owner shouts to passers-by. Which sentence is a rhetorical question?**

- A The apples cost two pounds a kilo at this stall.
- B Please buy my apples today.
- C The stall opens at eight.
- D Who could resist apples like these?

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6 **A birthday cake with candles stands on the table. Which sentence uses a colon correctly?**

A The cake had three flavours: chocolate, lemon and coffee.

B The cake: had three flavours.

C The: cake had three flavours.

D The cake had: three flavours of chocolate, lemon and coffee.

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7 **It is now possible for a man to breakfast in Manchester and dine in London, a journey that once took three days. The steam engine has conquered distance, and with it, time itself seems shorter. Yet we must ask what is lost when everything moves so fast: the quiet of the road, the talk of fellow travellers, the slow view of the fields. In the extract, the word ‘conquered’ most closely means**

A given up on

B overcome

C ignored completely

D been beaten by

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8 **Which is most formal?**

A I am writing to complain

B I am writing to say I am really fed up

C Hi there

D Hey

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9 **What is emotive language?**

A words with no meaning

B words in a list

C words chosen to give exact measurements

D words chosen to stir feelings

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10 **Why did railways matter so much in the 19th century?**

- A they carried no passengers
- B they were the only buildings in towns
- C they changed travel and trade
- D they replaced all roads

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11 **What is first person narration?**

- A told by he, she or they
- B told by I or we
- C told by nobody
- D told by you

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12 **It is now possible for a man to breakfast in Manchester and dine in London, a journey that once took three days. The steam engine has conquered distance, and with it, time itself seems shorter. Yet we must ask what is lost when everything moves so fast: the quiet of the road, the talk of fellow travellers, the slow view of the fields. What mood does the extract create?**

- A disappointed
- B thoughtful
- C furious
- D delighted

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

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

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14 **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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15 **In a 19th-century text, what might thee and thou show?**

A names of people

B spelling mistakes

C words from another language entirely

D old forms of address

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

A to make the story longer

B to make events feel immediate

C to confuse the reader

D to show that the events happened long ago

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17 **Fever and cholera stalk our crowded streets, and the cause is plain for all to see: the water we drink is foul. Wells stand beside drains, and filth seeps into every cup, spreading sickness like poison in a well. Until each town has clean water, brought in pipes from pure springs, sickness will return with every hot summer, year after year. Clean water is not a luxury; it is a matter of life itself. Which phrase from the extract is an example of personification?**

A wells stand beside drains

B until each town has clean water

C fever and cholera stalk our crowded streets

D sickness will return with every hot summer, year after year

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18 **What is the difference between tone and mood?**

- A tone is the reader's feeling, mood is the writer's attitude
- B tone is the writer's attitude, mood is the reader's feeling
- C they are the same thing
- D neither can be found in a text

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19 **What does archaic vocabulary mean?**

- A words that have never been used
- B old-fashioned words
- C new words
- D foreign words

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20 **What is an unreliable narrator?**

- A a narrator who is always right
- B a narrator with no opinions
- C a narrator who cannot be trusted
- D a narrator who tells the truth all the time

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21 **We rose before dawn and climbed through pine woods until the trees fell away and the whole valley lay below us, white with morning mist. The peaks stood like giants in the clear air, their snowcaps touched with pink by the rising sun. I have seen many fine sights in my travels, but none that filled my heart as this one did. What mood does the extract create?**

- A bored
- B frightened
- C furious
- D awestruck

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

A writing with no opinions

B writing that gives both sides fairly

C one-sided writing

D writing that is always true

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23 **There are those who say that teaching the poor to read will only make them discontented with their lot. I say the opposite: a man who can read can learn a trade, follow the news, and teach his own children. Ignorance is a heavier chain than any iron, and it is our duty to break it. Let the schools open their doors to every child, rich or poor. What mood does the extract create?**

A amused

B uncertain

C disheartened

D determined

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24 What is register?

A the list of names in a register

B the sound of the writer's voice

C the level of formality

D the length of the text

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25 How can a writer show bias?

A by writing very little

B by choosing only facts that support one side

C by giving both sides equal space and equal weight in the text

D by writing in a language nobody can read

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ANSWER KEY

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

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