ENGLAND GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDEXCEL 2.0 · UNIT 3 · 25 QUESTIONS

Contemporary Texts 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 **An umbrella shelters two friends from the rain. Which word is an adjective in this sentence: The red umbrella kept them dry?**

- A red
- B dry
- C kept
- D them

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2 **A snowman wears a scarf and a coal smile. Which phrase is an example of personification?**

- A the snowman smiled
- B the scarf was red
- C the snow was cold
- D the snowman was white

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

A sink slowly into the sea

B fall down very quickly indeed

C sit still on the ground

D fly high

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4 **A beach is busy with families on a hot day. Which sentence is in the passive voice?**

A The sandcastle stood on the beach

B The children built the sandcastle

C The children built the sandcastle on the beach in the morning

D The sandcastle was built by the children.

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5 **A garden full of roses grows beside the cottage. Which word is closest in meaning to fragrant?**

A sweet-smelling

B very large and tall indeed

C silent and completely still

D thoroughly unpleasant

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6 **A train journey is described in a story. Which sentence best sets the scene?**

A Mist hung over the platform as the train steamed in.

B The train had many seats.

C Trains are a form of transport used by many people every day.

D I like trains a lot.

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7 **What is a flashback?**

A the first scene of a story

B a scene that looks into the future

C the last scene of a story

D a scene from the past

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8 **In January, the river runs black and fast between banks of frost, and the ducks huddle where the water is slowest. I stand on the bridge and watch the current carry leaves away, quick as messengers, and I think about how the river never stops, not for cold, not for dark, not for anyone. Which phrase from the extract is a simile?**

A in january, the river runs black and fast

B the current carry leaves away

C i stand on the bridge and watch

D quick as messengers

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9 **The corridor swallowed her whole: lockers on both sides, shouting boys, the smell of chips and floor polish. Amara kept her eyes down and her bag close, following the signs to Room 12, her heart thumping like a drum. Somewhere a bell rang, doors banged, and a hundred strangers flowed past her in both directions. Which phrase from the extract is a simile?**

- A lockers on both sides
- B somewhere a bell rang
- C like a drum
- D the smell of chips and floor polish

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

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

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11 **Which of these is a simile?**

A the brave lion

B a lion's roar

C brave as a lion

D lions are brave

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

A their reasons and evidence

B their favourite colours

C the number of words they each use

D their handwriting

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13 **Which is the best order for a story opening?**

A set the scene, then introduce a problem

B start with a list of characters

C give the ending away in the first line, then explain it

D start with the answer key

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14 **The last hundred metres were the hardest: the air thin, the wind sharp as a knife, the path gone to loose stones. Every step was an argument with my own legs, and twice I stopped and thought about turning back. Then the cloud broke, and the whole range opened below me, white and silent, and I forgot how tired I was. In the extract, the word ‘broke’ most closely means**

A grew much darker

B cleared

C fell apart noisily

D turned to rain

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15 **Thunder cracked overhead, and the rain hammered the roof like a thousand fists. Lila pulled the blanket up to her chin and counted the seconds between the flash and the rumble, the way her dad had taught her. The storm was moving away, he would have said, and she held on to that thought until her eyes grew heavy. In the extract, the word ‘rumble’ most closely means**

A bright flash of light

B sudden silence

C gentle breeze

D deep rolling sound

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16 **What is an unreliable narrator?**

A a narrator who cannot be trusted

B a narrator who tells the truth all the time

C a narrator with no opinions

D a narrator who is always right

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17 **Which word is an example of emotive language?**

A large

B cruel

C green

D round

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18 **What does synthesis mean in reading?**

A bringing ideas together

B reading only the first line

C splitting a text into single words

D copying out the text

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19 **What is the climax of a story?**

A the first paragraph

B the part where the story slows right down

C the most exciting part

D the final sentence

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20 **The tide was out, and the sand stretched away, wet and shining, like a sheet of glass. Sam and his little brother built a castle with a moat, and the waves came creeping back, licking at the walls, until the whole thing sighed and fell. Sam laughed, and they started again, because that was the game. Which phrase from the extract is a simile?**

A the tide was out

B they started again, because that was the game

C sam and his little brother built a castle

D like a sheet of glass

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21 **What is the narrator's viewpoint?**

A the title of the story

B the list of characters in the story, in order of appearance

C the position from which the story is told

D the number of pages

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22 **Which phrase uses hyperbole?**

A I will tell you now

B I have told you a million times

C I have told you twice today already

D I told you yesterday

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

- A ignore the second text
- B decide which one is longer and pick that one
- C count the words in each
- D find what they have in common

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24 **What is a topic sentence?**

- A a sentence with no verb
- B the last sentence of a whole text, right at the end
- C a sentence in speech marks
- D the first sentence of a paragraph

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25 **Thunder cracked overhead, and the rain hammered the roof like a thousand fists. Lila pulled the blanket up to her chin and counted the seconds between the flash and the rumble, the way her dad had taught her. The storm was moving away, he would have said, and she held on to that thought until her eyes grew heavy. Which phrase from the extract is a simile?**

A like a thousand fists

B her eyes grew heavy

C she counted the seconds

D thunder cracked overhead

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ANSWER KEY

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

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