ENGLAND GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDEXCEL · UNIT 3 · 25 QUESTIONS

Non-fiction Reading and Comparison — 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 dust

B smell

C books

D of

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

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

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

- A thoroughly unpleasant
- B silent and completely still
- C very large and tall indeed
- D sweet-smelling

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

4 **A train waits at the station in the early morning. Which sentence uses a dash correctly to add extra detail?**

A The train - an old steam engine - waited at the station.

B The - train waited at the station.

C The train waited - at the station.

D The train - waited at the station in the early morning fog.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

5 **A kite dances in the wind above the hill. Which sentence uses a simile?**

A The kite danced like a bright bird.

B The kite flew in the wind above the green hill.

C The hill was green and steep.

D The wind was strong.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

6 **A beach stretches along the coast under a blue sky. Which sentence uses a colon correctly?**

- A The beach: had everything.
- B The beach had: everything you could want, sand, sea and sun.
- C The beach had everything: sand, sea and sun.
- D The: beach had everything.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

- A the final sentence
- B the part where the story slows right down
- C the first paragraph
- D the most exciting part

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

8 **Why compare texts on the same topic?**

A to find out which text is longer

B to avoid reading one

C to save time reading

D to see different viewpoints

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

9 **Dear Sister, The railway has changed everything in our town. Where once the journey to London took two days by coach, it now takes but five hours, and the trains rush past like great iron horses. The station is always busy, and new houses rise on every side, for men come from far away to find work here. I believe this iron road will do more good for the country than any law yet passed. In the extract, the word ‘rise’ most closely means**

A stay the same

B are built

C fall down

D move away

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

10 **That cheap shirt costs more than its price tag. It costs the river that was dyed blue, the worker who was paid pennies, and the landfill where it will lie for two hundred years, piling up like a mountain of waste. Buying less, and buying better, is not a sacrifice; it is the only honest choice. The next time you shop, ask who made your clothes. Which phrase from the extract is a simile?**

- A like a mountain of waste
- B that cheap shirt costs more than its price tag
- C ask who made your clothes
- D buying less, and buying better

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

11 **What is tone?**

- A the number of words in a text
- B the size of the print
- C the writer's attitude
- D the date of the text

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

12 **What is an anecdote?**

A a long list of facts and figures

B a short personal story

C a formal definition

D a scientific experiment

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

13 **What is foreshadowing?**

A a hint of what is to come

B a summary at the end

C a description of what has already happened

D a list of characters

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

A reading only the first line

B bringing ideas together

C splitting a text into single words

D copying out the text

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

15 **The factory system has brought wealth to the nation, yet it has also brought suffering that no honest man can ignore. Children of eight and nine work twelve hours a day among machines that never rest, and their strength fades like a candle in the wind. If we call ourselves a civilised people, we must ask whether such labour can be right, and what laws might protect those too young to protect themselves. Which phrase from the extract is a simile?**

A children of eight and nine work twelve hours a day

B like a candle in the wind

C the factory system has brought wealth

D what laws might protect those too young

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

A a speech to Parliament

B a letter to the headteacher

C a job application

D a text message to a friend

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

17 **What is emotive language?**

A words chosen to stir feelings

B words chosen to give exact measurements

C words in a list

D words with no meaning

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

18 **What does chronological order mean?**

A events in order of importance

B events in time order

C events in reverse order

D events at random

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

A find what they have in common

B count the words in each

C decide which one is longer and pick that one

D ignore the second text

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

20 **My Dear Mother, We arrived safely after eleven weeks at sea, and the land here is beyond all I had hoped, wide and open as the sea itself. The farm is forty acres, the soil is rich, and work is plentiful for any man willing to labour. Do not grieve for us, for we are well, and I hope one day to send for you all. Your loving son, Thomas. Which phrase from the extract is a simile?**

A the farm is forty acres

B do not grieve for us, for we are well

C we arrived safely after eleven weeks at sea

D wide and open as the sea itself

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

21 **That cheap shirt costs more than its price tag. It costs the river that was dyed blue, the worker who was paid pennies, and the landfill where it will lie for two hundred years, piling up like a mountain of waste. Buying less, and buying better, is not a sacrifice; it is the only honest choice. The next time you shop, ask who made your clothes. In the extract, the word ‘sacrifice’ most closely means**

A great profit

B giving something up

C an easy pleasure with no cost at all

D quick bargain

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

22 **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 neither can be found in a text

D they are the same thing

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

23 **Which is an example of loaded language?**

- A the time is three o'clock
- B the report is ten pages long
- C disgraceful betrayal
- D the meeting took place on Tuesday

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

24 **What is a flashback?**

- A a scene that looks into the future
- B the last scene of a story
- C the first scene of a story
- D a scene from the past

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

25

Two texts agree on a topic. What can you compare?

A which text has more paragraphs in total

B which text is longer

C how each writer presents the idea

D which text is older

Understand It with Pulse

Flag a mistake

ANSWER KEY

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

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.