ENGLAND GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE OCR · UNIT 1 · 25 QUESTIONS

Communicating Information and Ideas 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 bicycle leans against the wall by the school gate. Which sentence uses a comma correctly?

A After school I ride my bicycle, home

B After school, I ride my bicycle home.

C After, school I ride my bicycle home

D After school I ride, my bicycle home every day

Understand It with Pulse

Flag a mistake

2 **A letter lies on the desk, waiting to be posted. Which opening is best for a formal letter to a company?**

- A Hey you
- B Hi there, I hope this finds you well
- C Dear friend
- D Dear Sir or Madam

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

3 **A market stall sells apples, pears and plums. Which punctuation mark should follow the word apples in a list?**

- A a question mark
- B a comma
- C a full stop to end the sentence there
- D an apostrophe to show possession

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

4 **A lighthouse keeper writes a diary entry. Which tense is best for a diary about today?**

A the passive voice

B future tense only

C past tense

D the imperative mood

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

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

B The cake: had three flavours.

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

D The: cake had three flavours.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

6 **Autumn leaves crunch underfoot on the path. Which sentence best shows the sound of the leaves?**

A The path was quite long.

B The garden was full of trees.

C Autumn is a season of the year with leaves everywhere.

D The leaves crackled and crunched underfoot.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

7 **Revising all night is a false economy. A tired brain cannot hold facts, and the hours you gain are lost the next day in mistakes and fog. Sleep is when the brain files away what you have learned, like a librarian shelving books. Go to bed, and let your brain do its homework. Which phrase from the extract is an example of personification?**

A let your brain do its homework

B the hours you gain are lost the next day

C a tired brain cannot hold facts

D revising all night is a false economy

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

8 **Which phrase creates a serious tone?**

A whatever

B no worries at all

C a matter of grave concern

D a bit of a laugh, really, nothing serious

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

A the meeting took place on Tuesday

B the time is three o'clock

C the report is ten pages long

D disgraceful betrayal

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

10 **Dear Friend, I have today visited the Great Exhibition, and I scarcely know how to describe what I saw. Machines of every kind stood in rows like soldiers on parade, and goods from every corner of the earth lay spread before me. The great glass building shone in the sun, and the crowds moved through it in wonder. It was, I believe, a glimpse of the world to come. Which phrase from the extract is a metaphor?**

- A goods from every corner of the earth
- B the crowds moved through it in wonder
- C machines of every kind stood in rows
- D a glimpse of the world to come

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

11 **What is first person narration?**

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

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

A to avoid reading one

B to find out which text is longer

C to see different viewpoints

D to save time reading

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

13 **Having five hundred friends online is not the same as having one friend you can call at midnight. Real friendship is built slowly, face to face, through shared jokes, shared silences, and being there when it matters, steady as a rock in bad weather. A like is not a conversation, and a follower is not a friend. Put the phone down, and go and talk to someone. Which phrase from the extract is a simile?**

A having five hundred friends online

B one friend you can call at midnight

C a like is not a conversation

D steady as a rock in bad weather

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

14 **Which is most formal?**

A Hey

B I am writing to complain

C I am writing to say I am really fed up

D Hi there

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

15 **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

16 **The boy who climbs the chimney is seldom more than seven years old, and his body is bent by the work, twisted like a young tree in the wind. His master feeds him little and beats him often, yet the law looks the other way. If Parliament will not act, then it falls to every decent person to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. What mood does the extract create?**

- A calm
- B delighted
- C amused
- D angry

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

- A the reader knows what every character thinks
- B the story is always true
- C the story has no narrator
- D the reader shares the narrator's feelings

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

- A how each writer presents the idea
- B which text is older
- C which text is longer
- D which text has more paragraphs in total

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

19 **Cycling to school is faster than you think, healthier than the bus, and cheaper than both. A ten-minute ride wakes you up better than any alarm, sharp as cold water on your face, and you arrive with your brain already switched on. The roads are not perfect, and rain is a fact of life, but a waterproof jacket solves that. Give it a try for one week. Which phrase from the extract is a metaphor?**

- A your brain already switched on
- B give it a try for one week
- C healthier than the bus, and cheaper than both
- D cycling to school is faster than you think

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

A the writer means the opposite

B the writer is happy

C the writer is being completely serious

D the writer is asleep

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

21 **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

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

22 **The boy who climbs the chimney is seldom more than seven years old, and his body is bent by the work, twisted like a young tree in the wind. His master feeds him little and beats him often, yet the law looks the other way. If Parliament will not act, then it falls to every decent person to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. Which phrase from the extract is an example of personification?**

- A it falls to every decent person to speak
- B the boy who climbs the chimney
- C his master feeds him little and beats him often
- D the law looks the other way

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

23 **What is an unreliable narrator?**

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

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

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

A the number of words they each use

B their handwriting

C their reasons and evidence

D their favourite colours

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

25 **What is tone?**

A the number of words in a text

B the date of the text

C the writer's attitude

D the size of the print

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

ANSWER KEY

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

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.