ONTARIO ENGLISH, GRADE 12, UNIVERSITY PREPARATION (ENG4U) · UNIT B

Reading and Literature Studies — Practice Test

Ontario English, Grade 12, University Preparation (ENG4U) • 10 questions

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Reading II - Why We Keep Diaries

Use this reading for questions 1 to 5.

People keep diaries for different reasons, but one reason recurs: a diary lets a person talk to a future self. A teenager who writes about a difficult week may read the entry years later and recognize both how much has changed and how much has stayed the same. The diary does not solve problems, but it preserves a record of how they felt.

Historians value diaries for a similar reason. A diary records ordinary life, meals, weather, worries, in a way official documents rarely do. Together, personal and historical value make the diary a small archive, kept not in a basement, but in a drawer, waiting for a reader who may be the writer, grown older.

1 **A recurring reason people keep diaries is to**

- **A** solve problems immediately
- **B** impress historians
- **C** replace official documents
- **D** talk to a future self through preserved entries

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2 **A teenager reading an old entry may recognize**

A only what they ate

B nothing about their past

C both change and continuity in themselves

D only how much they have changed

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3 **Historians value diaries because they record**

A official decisions only

B ordinary life in ways official documents rarely do

C only major political events

D weather forecasts accurately

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4 **The diary is compared to a small archive kept**

- **A** in a drawer, waiting for a reader
- **B** in a museum basement
- **C** in a school library
- **D** on a public website

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5 **The main idea of Reading II is that diaries**

- **A** solve the problems they describe
- **B** replace all other historical sources
- **C** are only useful to teenagers
- **D** preserve personal experience for future reflection and history

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Reading III - The Bridge Builders

Use this reading for questions 6 to 10.

The bridge took three years to build, and the town watched it rise span by span across the river. Engineers tested the steel in winter, when cold made metal contract, and workers poured concrete in summer heat, checking each section before the next began. Delays came from floods in the second year, which washed out a temporary road and pushed the schedule back by months.

When the bridge opened, the first crossing was made by a school bus, carrying children who had previously taken a long detour to school. The mayor called the bridge a link, but the children called it a shortcut, and both descriptions were true. A bridge, after all, is both a structure and a change in how people live.

6 **Why did engineers test the steel in winter rather than in summer?**

- **A** To see how cold made the metal contract
- **B** Because cold stopped all work
- **C** Because winter was the only dry season
- **D** Because concrete sets faster in cold

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7 **Delays in the second year came from**

- A the mayor changing the design
- B floods that washed out a temporary road
- C a shortage of school buses
- D workers refusing summer work

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8 **The first crossing of the opened bridge was made by**

- A a school bus carrying children
- B the mayor car alone
- C a train with engineers
- D workers on foot

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9 **Before the bridge, children travelling to school took**

- A a shortcut across the river
- B a ferry every morning
- C no route at all
- D a long detour

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10 **The final point of Reading III is that a bridge is**

- A only a mayor project
- B a structure with no social effect
- C both a structure and a change in how people live
- D only a shortcut for children

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ANSWER KEY

1.	D	**5.**	D	**9.**	D
2.	C	**6.**	A	**10.**	C
3.	B	**7.**	B		
4.	A	**8.**	A		

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