QUEBEC ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, SECONDARY IV · UNIT B

Reading Written Texts — Practice Test

Quebec English Language Arts, Secondary IV • 25 questions

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 to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Reading I - The Winter Market

Use this reading for questions 1 to 4.

Every Saturday in January, Maya helped her grandmother sell jam at the winter market in Montreal. The stall was small, with jars lined up like coloured lights, and the cold air smelled of cinnamon and wood smoke. Maya knew most of the regular customers by name, and she liked hearing their stories while she wrapped jars in brown paper.

One morning, an old man arrived late and looked worried. He had promised his daughter a jar of raspberry jam for her birthday, but the raspberry jars were sold out. Maya remembered one jar kept aside for her own family. She looked at her grandmother, who nodded. Maya wrapped the last jar and handed it to the man, who thanked her with tears in his eyes.

On the bus home, Maya felt both proud and a little sad. She had given away something special, but she had also learned that a small kindness can matter more than keeping a favourite thing for yourself.

1 **What is the main idea of Reading I?**

- **A** Maya learns that a small kindness can matter more than keeping a favourite thing
- **B** Maya learns how to make jam from her grandmother
- **C** Maya decides to stop working at the market
- **D** Maya discovers a new kind of fruit

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2 **According to Reading I, why was the old man worried?**

A The raspberry jam he had promised his daughter was sold out

B He had lost his bus ticket home

C He could not find the market at all

D He had forgotten his daughter's birthday

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3 **What can the reader infer about Maya's grandmother from the passage?**

A She dislikes all market customers

B She refuses to sell jam in winter

C She supports Maya's generous choice

D She wants Maya to work alone

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4

In Reading I, what does the phrase 'jars lined up like coloured lights' mainly do?

A It states the exact price of each jar

B It explains how jam is made

C It shows that the market is dangerous

D It creates a bright, welcoming image of the stall

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Reading II - The River Path

Use this reading for questions 5 to 8.

After school, Tomas walked the river path near his home in Quebec City. He carried a notebook and stopped often to sketch birds, bridges, and the boats that moved slowly on the St. Lawrence River. The path was quiet in autumn, and the leaves made a soft sound under his shoes.

One afternoon, Tomas found a wooden bench with a small brass plate. The plate named a teacher who had walked the same path for forty years and had taught hundreds of students to notice the river. Tomas sat on the bench and wrote in his notebook: 'To notice is the first step to caring.'

From that day, Tomas did not only sketch what he saw. He wrote one question each day about the river, such as why the water rose after rain. His teacher praised his questions, and Tomas realized that careful observation can lead to real learning.

5 **What is the main idea of Reading II?**

- **A** Careful observation of the river leads Tomas to real learning
- **B** Tomas learns to build boats on the river
- **C** Tomas decides to leave Quebec City
- **D** Tomas teaches his teacher to sketch

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6 **According to Reading II, what did Tomas write on the bench?**

- A The name of his favourite bird
- B To notice is the first step to caring
- C The date the bench was built
- D A list of boats on the river

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7 **What can the reader infer about the teacher named on the plate?**

- A The teacher disliked walking outdoors
- B The teacher built the bench alone
- C The teacher valued close attention to the natural world
- D The teacher never taught in Quebec City

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8 **In Reading II, why does Tomas begin writing a question each day?**

- **A** Because his teacher orders him to stop sketching
- **B** Because the river path is closed
- **C** Because he loses his notebook
- **D** Because his observation of the river raises questions he wants to answer

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Reading III - A Letter Never Sent

Use this reading for questions 9 to 12.

When Sara cleaned her attic, she found a letter her grandfather had written but never sent. It was addressed to his brother in another town, and it described the first winter the family spent in a new home, with snow piled high against the door and neighbours who shared bread and firewood.

Sara read the letter twice. She noticed that her grandfather thanked his neighbours more than he complained about the cold. She decided to write to her own brother, who lived far away, and to tell him about her life, her school, and the neighbours who helped her family.

Sara never found out why the first letter was never sent. Still, finding it changed her. She understood that a letter can keep a family close across distance and time, even when it arrives many years late.

9 **What is the main idea of Reading III?**

- **A** Finding an old letter helps Sara understand how letters keep a family close
- **B** Sara learns to build a new home in winter
- **C** Sara decides to move to another town
- **D** Sara discovers how to bake bread

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10 **According to Reading III, what did the grandfather's letter mainly describe?**

- **A** A journey across the ocean
- **B** The family's first winter in a new home
- **C** A school Sara attended
- **D** A job in a far city

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11 **What can the reader infer about Sara's grandfather from his letter?**

- **A** He disliked his brother completely
- **B** He never lived through a winter
- **C** He was grateful to neighbours who helped his family
- **D** He refused all help from others

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12 **In Reading III, why does Sara decide to write to her brother?**

- **A** Because her brother asks her for money
- **B** Because she must leave her home
- **C** Because she loses the old letter
- **D** Because the old letter shows her the value of staying in touch

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13 **What is a theme in a story?**

- **A** A central message or idea explored by the story
- **B** The first sentence of a story
- **C** The name of the main character
- **D** The place where a story is set

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14 **What is a simile?**

A A comparison without like or as

B A comparison using like or as

C A word that imitates a sound

D An extreme exaggeration

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15 **What is a metaphor?**

A A comparison using like or as

B A repeated first sound

C A direct comparison without like or as

D A question asked for effect

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16 **What is personification?**

A Giving a character a human name

B Describing a place in detail

C Ending a story suddenly

D Giving human qualities to a nonhuman thing

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17 **What is the setting of a story?**

A The time and place in which a story happens

B The main problem in a story

C The lesson of a story

D The order of events

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18 **What is the plot of a story?**

A The feeling a story creates

B The sequence of events in a story

C The time and place of a story

D The author of a story

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19 **What is conflict in a story?**

A A happy ending to a story

B A description of a character

C A struggle between opposing forces

D A title given to a story

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

- A The first event in a story
- B The final sentence of a story
- C A list of characters
- D The point of greatest tension or turning point

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21 **What is tone in a text?**

- A The writer's attitude toward the subject
- B The feeling created in the reader
- C The number of pages in a text
- D The topic of a text

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22 **What is mood in a text?**

A The writer's attitude toward the subject

B The feeling a text creates in the reader

C The main character's name

D The time of day in a story

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23 **In the sentence 'The room was as cold as a freezer,' which device is used?**

A Metaphor

B Personification

C Simile

D Hyperbole

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24 **In the sentence 'The wind whispered through the trees,' which device is used?**

A Simile

B Alliteration

C Irony

D Personification

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25 **In the sentence 'Time is a thief,' which device is used?**

A Metaphor

B Simile

C Hyperbole

D Alliteration

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ANSWER KEY

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

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