تمارين استيعاب المقروء في النصوص الحجاجية



تم تحميل هذا الملف من موقع المناهج الإماراتية	
موقع المناهج ⇦ المناهج الإماراتية ⇦ الصف الثاني عشر ⇦ لغة انجليزية ⇦ الفصل الأول ⇦ ملفات متنوعة ⇦ الملف	
تاريخ إضافة الملف على موقع المناهج: 2026-11-25 23:21:00	
المزيد من مادة لغة انجليزية:	ملفات ا كتب للمعلم ا كتب للطالب ا اختبارات الكترونية ا اختبارات ا حلول ا عروض بوربوينت ا أوراق عمل منهج انجليزي ا ملخصات وتقارير ا مذكرات وبنوك ا الامتحان النهائي ا للمدرس

التواصل الاجتماعي بحسب الصف الثاني عشر					
صفحة المناهج الإماراتية على فيسبوك					

المزيد من الملفات بحسب الصف الثاني عشر والمادة لغة انجليزية في الفصل الأول	
تمارين استيعاب المقروء في النصوص الحجاجية	1
كل ما يخص اليوم الثاني في الامتحان 26/11/2026	2
أوراق عمل مراجعة المفردات للوحدة الأولى Boundaries Pushing	3
مراجعة قواعد للمرحلة الثانوية	4
نماذج قراءة بمواصفات الهيكل الوزاري	5

تحميل تطبيق المناهج للهواتف الذكية	
تطبيق المناهج على Store App (آبل)	تطبيق المناهج على Play Google (أندرويد)



Academic Year 2026-2027: ENGLISH SUMMER CAMP

Future Grade 12 students
High school students
لنك قروب القناة
https://t.me/seniors271

skills covered:

- Reading
- Writing
- Grammar
- Vocabulary
- Speaking





Comprehension Skills: Specific Information · Inference · Connections · Text Features

Exercise 1: Argumentative Text

School Uniforms Should Be Mandatory

Walk into any secondary school in the morning and you will see hundreds of students, each dressed differently, each trying to make a personal statement before the first bell even rings. Supporters of school uniforms argue that this daily fashion contest does more harm than good, and they are right. Uniforms should be mandatory in all schools because they reduce distraction, save families money, and create a stronger sense of belonging among students.

First, uniforms remove a major source of distraction from the classroom. When students are free to wear whatever they like, morning routines can turn into anxious decisions about which outfit will earn approval from classmates. Teachers report that arguments over clothing, from mild teasing to serious bullying, often begin with what a student is wearing. A single, simple dress code removes this problem almost entirely, allowing lessons to start on time and stay focused on learning rather than looks.

Second, uniforms are a practical way to ease the financial pressure many families feel. Fashionable clothing changes constantly, and children can feel real pressure to keep up with the latest trends, which are often expensive. A uniform costs a fixed amount and can be reused for an entire year, or even passed down to younger siblings. For households managing tight budgets, this predictability matters far more than critics of uniforms tend to admit.

Finally, uniforms build unity. When every student wears the same clothing, differences in wealth become far less visible, and students are judged less by what they own and more by who they are. Schools that have introduced uniforms often report improved attendance and a stronger sense of shared identity among students, since the uniform becomes a symbol of the school itself rather than of any one social group.

Critics claim uniforms limit self-expression, but students still have countless ways to express themselves through hobbies, art, writing, and conversation. The small trade-off of a shared dress code is a fair price for calmer classrooms, fairer treatment, and real savings for families. For these reasons, school uniforms should be required everywhere.

Questions

1. Based on the article, how do uniforms help a family's budget?

A) Uniforms are always the least expensive clothing option available
B) Uniforms are handed out to every family completely free of charge
C) Uniforms have one set price and can be reused or passed down

2. What issue do teachers connect to student clothing, according to the author?

A) Test scores rise noticeably whenever students are made to wear uniforms
B) Clothing choices frequently spark disputes among students, from teasing to bullying
C) Parents frequently complain that school uniforms look outdated or unfashionable

3. What is the author's likely attitude toward critics who say uniforms limit expression?

A) The author fully agrees and suggests uniforms should be scrapped
B) The author feels self-expression has no real place in school
C) The author downplays the concern, noting other outlets for expression remain

almanahj.com

4. How would the writer likely respond to a school worried that uniforms cost families too much?

A) That worry only really matters for lower-income families
B) That worry is unfounded, since uniforms actually save money over time
C) That worry is legitimate, so the school should avoid uniforms

5. Which everyday situation mirrors the author's claim about cutting down on distraction?

A) A workplace dress code that speeds up morning routines
B) A restaurant that changes its entire menu every single day
C) An office letting every employee choose their own outfit daily

6. The idea that uniforms foster a "shared identity" resembles which comparison?

A) Teammates wearing matching jerseys to show group unity
B) A city that features many different architectural styles
C) A shop that rewards loyal customers with special discounts

7. Why does the essay include three separate body paragraphs?

A) To weigh two different schools against one another
B) To narrate a sequence of events in chronological order
C) To offer one distinct supporting reason within each paragraph

8. What purpose does discussing opponents near the essay's end serve?

A) To recognize an opposing view and then reaffirm the main claim
B) To shift the essay's focus onto a completely different subject
C) To side entirely with the people who disagree with uniforms

almanahj.com

Exercise 2: Argumentative Text

Raise the Minimum Age for Social Media

Most social media platforms currently allow users as young as thirteen to create an account, yet mounting evidence suggests this age limit is far too low. Lawmakers and school leaders should raise the minimum age for social media to at least sixteen, because younger teenagers are especially vulnerable to the mental health risks, social pressures, and safety dangers these platforms create.

The strongest reason to raise the age limit is the impact on mental health. Researchers have repeatedly linked heavy social media use among early teens to higher rates of anxiety, poor sleep, and low self-esteem. Thirteen-year-olds are still developing the emotional skills needed to handle constant comparison with curated, filtered versions of other people's lives. Delaying access by even a few years would give young people more time to build resilience before facing these pressures.

A second reason concerns safety. Younger teenagers are more likely to accept friend requests from strangers, share personal information without thinking it through, or fall for scams and manipulation. Predators and bad actors specifically target younger users because they are easier to deceive. Raising the age limit would not eliminate these risks entirely, but it would reduce the pool of easily influenced users and give platforms a clearer group to protect.

Opponents argue that teenagers will simply lie about their age to join anyway, and this is partly true today. However, that is an argument for stronger verification methods, not a reason to give up on the idea altogether. Combining a higher minimum age with better identity checks, such as those already used for online banking, would make the rule far more effective than the current honor-system approach.

Finally, a higher age limit sends a clear message to families and schools about how seriously society takes early adolescence. Just as we restrict driving, voting, and other responsibilities until a certain age, we should treat unsupervised access to global, unfiltered platforms with similar caution. Raising the minimum age to sixteen is a reasonable, achievable step toward protecting a vulnerable group without banning social media outright.

Questions

1. According to the passage, what is the current minimum age to join most social media platforms?

A) Eighteen
B) Thirteen
C) Sixteen

2. What danger does the writer link to younger teens using these platforms?

A) They tend to accept friend requests from people they don't know
B) They tend to post more advertisements than older users do
C) They tend to open several duplicate accounts on purpose

3. What does the author likely think about banning social media entirely?

A) The writer wants every age group banned from social media
B) The writer prefers a higher age limit rather than a total ban
C) The writer thinks a full ban could never be enforced

4. Why does the author bring up driving and voting as comparisons?

almanahj.com

A) To claim social media poses more risk than driving does
B) To push for teens to be allowed to drive and vote younger
C) To show age limits already protect people in other areas

5. The mention of bank-style identity checks relates to which wider idea?

A) The background of how banking regulations were created
B) Identity-verification tools already used across other industries
C) How much money social media companies spend each year

6. Which situation elsewhere best matches the writer's main point?

A) A theater keeping certain films from younger viewers to protect them
B) A library that places no limits on borrowing books
C) A shop that sells one product to shoppers of any age

7. How are the central paragraphs of the essay arranged?

A) By listing events in the order that they happened
B) By devoting one paragraph to each reason backing the claim
C) By sharing a personal story about using social media

8. What role does the paragraph starting with "Opponents argue" serve?

A) To bring up a fresh idea unconnected to the topic
B) To wrap up and bring the passage to a close
C) To recognize a counterpoint and then respond to it

almanahj.com

Exercise 3: Argumentative Text

Schools Should Cut Back on Homework

After a full day of classes, many students go home only to face two or three more hours of assignments before they can rest. Schools should significantly reduce the amount of homework given, especially in the lower and middle secondary years, because excessive homework harms wellbeing, does little to improve learning, and takes time away from activities that help students grow in other ways.

The first problem with heavy homework loads is their effect on student wellbeing. Teenagers already face pressure from exams, social relationships, and part-time jobs, and stacking hours of extra work onto an already long school day leaves little room for sleep or relaxation. Sleep researchers have found that teenagers need close to nine hours of rest each night, yet many report staying up late simply to finish assignments. Tired students struggle to concentrate the next day, which can create a frustrating cycle where more homework leads to worse performance, not better.

Second, research on the actual academic benefit of homework is far less convincing than most people assume. Several studies comparing schools with heavy homework loads to those with lighter ones have found only small differences in test scores, particularly once students reach an amount beyond roughly an hour per night. Beyond that point, additional homework appears to bring diminishing returns rather than steady improvement, which suggests that quality of practice matters more than sheer quantity.

Finally, homework often crowds out experiences that matter just as much as academic content. Time spent with family, playing sports, pursuing hobbies, or simply resting all contribute to a well-rounded, mentally healthy young person. When homework consumes every evening, students lose the chance to develop the very skills, such as independence and social connection, that schools claim to value.

None of this means homework should disappear completely; some practice outside class is genuinely useful. But schools should set clear limits, perhaps capping nightly homework at around thirty to forty-five minutes per subject, so that learning continues without swallowing every free hour students have.

Questions

1. According to the passage, how many hours of sleep do sleep researchers say teenagers need each night?

A) Twelve hours
B) Six hours
C) Close to nine hours

2. What amount of nightly homework does the author suggest as a possible limit per subject?

A) Ten minutes
B) Thirty to forty-five minutes
C) Two to three hours

3. What is the writer's likely stance on getting rid of homework altogether?

A) The writer wants homework removed entirely from every classroom
B) The writer sees value in homework as long as it stays limited
C) The writer shares no clear opinion about homework amounts

4. Why does the author bring up the idea of "diminishing returns"?

almanahj.com

A) To suggest homework ought to be swapped for extra testing
B) To show that more homework adds little benefit past a point
C) To claim more homework always raises scores proportionally

5. The point about losing time for family and hobbies ties to which broader idea?

A) How important standardized testing is for students
B) The need for balance between schoolwork and personal life
C) How expensive extracurricular activities can be for families

6. Which scenario best matches the essay's point about overloading without rest?

A) A student who studies for a single hour before an exam
B) An athlete who trains nonstop and ends up injured and slower
C) A chef who follows a written recipe exactly as instructed

7. What does the closing paragraph of this essay accomplish?

A) It introduces a completely new argument not discussed before
B) It softens the argument by suggesting a fair middle ground
C) It sums up the whole essay using direct quotations

8. How does the second body paragraph support its claim?

A) By sharing a personal anecdote about a single student
B) By citing research comparing scores across different homework loads
C) By quoting a student's opinion directly

almanahj.com

Exercise 4: Argumentative Text

It Is Time to Phase Out Traditional Zoos

For over a century, zoos have promised visitors a chance to see exotic animals up close, but the cost of that experience is far higher than most people realize. Traditional zoos, where wild animals are kept in artificial enclosures for public entertainment, should be gradually phased out and replaced by wildlife sanctuaries and conservation-focused reserves, because the current model causes unnecessary animal suffering, teaches a distorted view of nature, and no longer serves its original educational purpose effectively.

The most pressing problem is animal welfare. Many species kept in zoos, particularly large mammals like elephants and big cats, evolved to roam vast distances or hunt across wide territories. Confining them to small enclosures, however well designed, often leads to repetitive pacing, aggression, or signs of psychological distress that caretakers describe as unmistakable. No amount of enrichment fully replaces the space and freedom these animals would experience in the wild.

Second, zoos can teach a misleading lesson about the natural world. Watching a lion sleep behind glass tells visitors very little about how that animal actually hunts, communicates, or interacts with its environment. Some critics argue this creates a false sense that nature is simply something to observe passively, rather than a complex system that humans depend on and must protect.

Third, the educational argument that once justified zoos has weakened considerably. Documentaries, live wildlife streams, and virtual reality now offer far more detailed, accurate glimpses into animal behavior than a static enclosure ever could, often filmed in the animals' actual habitats. This raises a fair question: if better educational tools already exist, does confining animals for public viewing still serve a purpose that outweighs the harm?

Supporters insist zoos fund important conservation research and breeding programs for endangered species. This is true in some cases, and such programs should continue in dedicated sanctuaries. But conservation work does not require keeping animals on permanent public display. Phasing out traditional zoos in favor of sanctuary-style facilities would preserve genuine conservation benefits while ending unnecessary suffering.

Questions

1. According to the passage, what psychological signs do some zoo animals show due to confinement?

A) Improved appetite and better sleep
B) Repeated pacing, aggression, or visible distress
C) Stronger social bonds formed with visitors

2. What does the author say now offers better educational views of animal behavior than zoos?

A) Documentaries, live streams, and virtual reality
B) Newspaper articles and printed magazines
C) Souvenir shops located inside zoos

3. What does the writer likely think of conservation programs run inside zoos?

A) The writer sees no value in these programs whatsoever
B) The writer wants these programs expanded into more zoos
C) The writer values them but prefers they move to sanctuaries

almanahj.com

4. Why does the author bring up virtual reality and documentaries?

A) To suggest zoos should install virtual reality attractions
B) To argue technology makes zoos pointless as entertainment
C) To question whether zoos are still needed for education

5. The point about animals evolving to roam wide areas ties to which broader concept?

A) The background of how animals became domesticated
B) The financial side of operating a zoo
C) How habitat and evolution shape natural animal behavior

6. Which example best matches the concern about a "distorted view of nature"?

A) A weather report built from satellite imagery
B) A museum display that accurately depicts a historical moment
C) A staged photo that misrepresents an actual unrelated event

7. How does the writer handle the counterpoint about conservation funding?

A) By skipping over the counterpoint without addressing it
B) By insisting the opposing claim has no truth to it
C) By admitting it's true, then proposing an option that keeps the benefit

8. What does the rhetorical question in paragraph four accomplish?

A) It pushes readers to question whether zoos justify their cost
B) It pulls attention away from the essay's central argument
C) It delivers a firm, statistics-based conclusion

almanahj.com

Exercise 5: Argumentative Text

The Case for Going Cashless

Coins jingling in a pocket and crumpled bills in a wallet may soon feel like relics of the past. Societies should continue moving toward a cashless system built on digital payments, because this shift increases convenience, improves financial transparency, and reduces certain types of crime, even though the transition must be handled carefully to avoid leaving anyone behind.

The clearest advantage of digital payments is convenience. A single tap of a card or phone can complete a transaction in seconds, without the need to count change or search for exact amounts. Businesses benefit too, since digital transactions reduce the time employees spend handling and counting physical money, and reduce errors that come with manual cash handling. For a fast-paced modern economy, this efficiency adds up across millions of daily transactions.

A second benefit is financial transparency. Digital payments leave a clear, traceable record of every transaction, which makes it far harder to hide income or conduct transactions designed to avoid taxes. Governments that have piloted mostly cashless systems report improved ability to track economic activity and close gaps that once allowed certain kinds of tax evasion to go unnoticed. This transparency benefits honest taxpayers by ensuring the system is fairer for everyone.

Third, reducing cash in circulation can lower the appeal of certain crimes. Robberies targeting cash-heavy businesses, counterfeit currency, and money laundering through untraceable bills all depend heavily on the existence of physical cash. While digital systems bring their own risks, such as online fraud, these risks can be managed through strong security measures in ways that are often more effective than protecting physical currency.

Critics rightly point out that elderly people, those without bank accounts, and communities with unreliable internet access could be left behind by a fully cashless system. This is a legitimate concern, not a reason to abandon the idea, but a reason to move gradually, ensuring accessible digital alternatives and continued acceptance of cash during the transition period.

Questions

1. According to the passage, what is one convenience benefit of digital payments for businesses?

A) Less time spent handling cash and fewer counting mistakes
B) No further need to employ any staff members
C) Extra funding provided through government subsidies

2. What crime-related upside does the writer tie to less physical cash?

A) It makes crimes like robbery and counterfeiting less appealing
B) It wipes out every type of financial crime completely
C) It leads to a rise in the number of banks

3. What does the writer think about the concerns critics raise?

A) The writer takes them seriously and favors a gradual shift
B) The writer believes the critics are completely mistaken
C) The writer brushes off these concerns as unimportant

4. Why does the author note that digital systems bring risks such as fraud?

almanahj.com

A) To claim digital payments are riskier than cash overall
B) To show balance by admitting a drawback while still supporting the idea
C) To call for banning all transactions made online

5. The mention of governments tracking economic activity relates to which broader idea?

A) Tariffs applied to international trade
B) The origins of paper money as a concept
C) Tax transparency's role in a fair economic system

6. Which scenario best mirrors the writer's point about convenience?

A) Self-checkout that lets shoppers scan and pay instantly
B) A shop accepting only one uncommon currency
C) A toll booth taking only long lines of cash

7. What does the essay's last paragraph mainly do?

A) It repeats the introduction word for word
B) It shifts to a completely unrelated topic
C) It responds to a counterpoint and offers a compromise

8. How is the passage's overall argument put together?

A) Three separate reasons followed by a counterargument response
B) One reason restated repeatedly in different words
C) A timeline tracing the history of currency

almanahj.com

Exercise 6: Argumentative Text

Video Games Deserve More Credit

Video games are often blamed for wasted time, aggression, or poor grades, yet this reputation overlooks a growing body of evidence pointing in the opposite direction. Schools and parents should recognize that, in moderation, video games can meaningfully improve cognitive skills such as problem-solving, spatial reasoning, and quick decision-making, rather than treating all gaming as a harmful distraction.

One clear benefit lies in problem-solving. Many popular games require players to analyze a situation, test different strategies, and adjust their approach when the first attempt fails. Puzzle games in particular train players to break large problems into smaller, manageable steps, a skill that transfers directly to subjects like mathematics and science. Researchers studying regular players of such games have found measurable improvements in tasks requiring logical planning compared to non-players.

A second advantage is spatial reasoning. Games that involve navigating three-dimensional worlds, building structures, or solving physics-based puzzles ask players to mentally rotate objects and judge distances constantly. Studies comparing action-game players to non-players have found the players perform better on tasks measuring how accurately someone can visualize and manipulate objects in space, a skill useful in fields ranging from engineering to surgery.

Third, fast-paced games sharpen decision-making under pressure. Titles that require split-second reactions train the brain to process visual information quickly and choose an appropriate response almost instantly. This kind of rapid, accurate decision-making has obvious value beyond gaming, whether in driving, sports, or any situation demanding a quick, correct response.

None of this suggests unlimited screen time is harmless; excessive gaming can still crowd out sleep, exercise, and face-to-face relationships, and violent content deserves separate consideration from cognitive benefits. But dismissing video games entirely ignores real evidence of their value. A balanced view, one that recognizes both the benefits and the risks, serves students far better than blanket condemnation.

Questions

1. According to the passage, what type of games specifically trains players to break problems into smaller steps?

A) Puzzle-based games
B) Sports-themed games
C) Music rhythm games

2. What skill do three-dimensional action games help improve, according to the passage?

A) Timing tied to music cues
B) Comprehension of written text
C) Reasoning about space and objects

3. What is the author's overall view on video games?

A) Games are completely harmless and should never be limited
B) Games offer real benefits but are best enjoyed in moderation
C) Games should be kept away from students entirely

4. Why does the writer note that violent content needs its own discussion?

almanahj.com

A) To argue violent games are always good for players
B) To suggest schools should focus mainly on violent games
C) To show awareness that this concern isn't being ignored

5. Linking spatial skills to fields like engineering and surgery reflects which idea?

A) A timeline of video game console history
B) How much medical school tuition typically costs
C) Skills learned in games transferring to real careers

6. Which situation best parallels the essay's point about quick decisions under pressure?

A) A chef cooking a meal with no time pressure
B) A driver reacting instantly and correctly to a road hazard
C) A reader taking several hours to finish a novel

7. How does the writer organize the supporting evidence in the passage?

A) By telling one continuous personal story
B) By covering three cognitive skills, each in its own paragraph
C) By listing release dates of various video games

8. What is the closing paragraph meant to do?

A) Introduce a brand-new argument unrelated to the rest
B) Acknowledge real concerns while restating a balanced main point
C) Take back the claims made earlier in the essay

almanahj.com

Exercise 7: Argumentative Text

Start Second Languages Earlier

In many school systems, students do not begin formal foreign language classes until they are eleven or twelve years old, often after their most flexible years for language learning have already passed. Schools should introduce second-language instruction much earlier, ideally starting in early primary school, because young children absorb new languages more naturally, gain lasting cognitive benefits, and open more doors for their future.

The strongest argument for starting early rests on how the young brain works. Researchers studying language acquisition have found that children under roughly age ten or eleven can often acquire pronunciation and grammar patterns of a new language with far less conscious effort than older learners, who tend to translate mentally rather than think directly in the new language. This window does not close completely later in life, but it becomes noticeably narrower, meaning schools that wait until adolescence are working against the brain's natural strengths rather than with them.

Second, learning a language early appears to bring benefits well beyond the language itself. Multiple studies link early bilingualism to improved attention control, better problem-solving, and even some delay in age-related cognitive decline much later in life. These benefits arise not simply from knowing two languages, but from the mental exercise of constantly switching between different grammatical systems and vocabularies, a workout that strengthens the brain much as physical exercise strengthens the body.

Third, an early start gives students more practical years to reach genuine fluency, rather than a few years of surface-level vocabulary before graduation. Fluency opens opportunities: greater ease traveling, wider friendships across cultures, and a real advantage in an increasingly global job market where multilingual employees are valued.

Some argue younger children are still mastering their first language and should not be confused by a second. Yet decades of research on bilingual households show that children raised with two languages from an early age typically reach normal, sometimes superior, milestones in both languages. Delaying second-language instruction protects against a problem that, for most children, does not actually exist.

Questions

1. According to the passage, at what age do many school systems currently begin formal foreign language classes?

A) Five or six
B) Eleven or twelve
C) Sixteen or seventeen

2. What cognitive benefits does the passage link to early bilingualism, besides language itself?

A) Neater handwriting skills
B) Sharper focus, better problem-solving, and slower cognitive decline
C) Improved athletic ability

3. How does the author likely view worries about confusing kids with two languages?

A) The writer has no stated opinion on this worry
B) The writer agrees and supports waiting to teach languages
C) The writer sees this worry as largely unsupported by research

almanahj.com

4. Why does the author compare switching between languages to physical exercise?

A) To show mental effort can build ability over time, like exercise
B) To claim learning a language is easier than exercising
C) To argue language learning can replace physical activity

5. The idea of a narrowing learning "window" relates to which broader concept?

A) Developmental periods when certain skills are easiest to learn
B) The cost of hiring a private language tutor
C) The background of translation software development

6. Which scenario best matches the essay's point about early advantages adding up?

A) A musician who starts practicing young and gains extra years of skill
B) A driver who gets licensed at the earliest legal age
C) A shopper who always buys the least costly item

7. How are the supporting reasons arranged within the passage?

A) One clear reason builds the argument in each paragraph
B) The same argument is repeated four separate times
C) The reasons appear with no clear order at all

8. What does the closing paragraph of this essay accomplish?

A) It simply repeats the essay's title once more
B) It shifts to a new topic unrelated to the rest
C) It answers a counterpoint directly using supporting evidence

almanahj.com

Exercise 8: Expository Text

How Coral Reefs Form

Coral reefs are often described as the rainforests of the ocean, supporting an extraordinary variety of marine life despite covering only a small fraction of the seafloor. These vast underwater structures begin with something surprisingly small: tiny animals called coral polyps, and understanding how they build entire reefs reveals a remarkable process that unfolds over thousands of years.

A coral polyp is a soft-bodied creature related to jellyfish and sea anemones, typically just a few millimeters wide. Despite its small size, each polyp extracts calcium carbonate from seawater and uses it to construct a hard, cup-shaped skeleton around its body. A single polyp's skeleton is tiny, but polyps rarely live alone. They form colonies of thousands or even millions of genetically identical individuals, all connected and continuously adding new skeletal material as older polyps die, leaving their stony remains behind as a foundation.

This slow accumulation of skeletons is what eventually forms a reef. Over centuries, layer upon layer of calcium carbonate builds up, creating the large, complex structures divers recognize as coral reefs. The shapes reefs take depend heavily on local conditions such as water temperature, depth, and wave action, which is why reefs vary enormously in appearance from branching, tree-like formations to solid, rounded mounds.

Corals cannot build these structures alone. Most reef-building corals share a close partnership with microscopic algae called zooxanthellae, which live inside the coral's tissue. Through photosynthesis, the algae produce sugars that supply much of the coral's energy, while the coral provides the algae with shelter and access to sunlight. This partnership is so essential that when water becomes too warm, corals often expel their algae in a stress response known as bleaching, which can leave the coral pale, weakened, and vulnerable to death if conditions do not improve.

Reefs typically require warm, shallow, clear water to thrive, which is why most of the world's reefs are found in tropical regions. Given the right conditions, a reef can continue growing for thousands of years, becoming home to an estimated quarter of all marine species despite occupying less than one percent of the ocean floor.

Questions

1. According to the passage, what material do coral polyps use to build their skeletons?

A) Volcanic rock
B) Sand and clay
C) Calcium carbonate

2. What is the name of the algae that live inside coral tissue?

A) Zooxanthellae
B) Kelp
C) Plankton

3. Why is coral bleaching considered so harmful to a reef?

A) It strips away the coral's key energy source, leaving it fragile
B) It makes entire reefs sink down to the ocean floor
C) It kills off every fish living in the surrounding area

almanahj.com

4. Based on the passage, why do most coral reefs form in tropical regions rather than colder waters?

A) Coral polyps cannot live near any coastline at all
B) Reefs need warm, shallow, clear water most common in the tropics
C) Tropical waters have no ocean currents present

5. The coral-algae relationship described in the passage illustrates which broader biological idea?

A) Two different species helping each other survive
B) Two unrelated species competing for resources
C) One species hunting and consuming the other

6. Which comparison best matches the idea of tiny skeletons building an entire reef?

A) A single tree growing with no roots at all
B) Countless sand grains slowly piling up into a dune
C) One brick somehow forming a whole building alone

7. What is the second paragraph mainly meant to do?

A) Compare two separate ocean ecosystems side by side
B) Argue that coral reefs deserve stronger legal protection
C) Walk through how a single polyp builds reef structure

8. How does paragraph four use the concept of bleaching?

A) As the central topic of the entire passage
B) As a side note unrelated to the main idea
C) As proof of what happens when the coral-algae bond fails

almanahj.com

Exercise 9: Expository Text

Understanding the Water Cycle

Every drop of water in a glass has likely existed for millions of years, cycling endlessly between oceans, clouds, rivers, and living things. This continuous movement, known as the water cycle, relies on a handful of key processes that recycle the same finite amount of water across the entire planet.

The cycle typically begins with evaporation, the process by which liquid water transforms into water vapor and rises into the atmosphere. Heat from the sun drives most evaporation, especially from oceans, which cover roughly seventy percent of Earth's surface and therefore contribute the majority of atmospheric water vapor. Plants contribute too, through a related process called transpiration, in which water absorbed by roots eventually escapes as vapor through small openings in leaves.

As water vapor rises, it encounters cooler air at higher altitudes. Cooler air holds less moisture, so the vapor condenses back into tiny liquid droplets or ice crystals, clustering around microscopic particles of dust or pollen in the air. This condensation is what forms clouds, visible collections of countless tiny droplets suspended in the atmosphere.

When droplets within a cloud combine and grow heavy enough, gravity pulls them back to Earth as precipitation, which may fall as rain, snow, sleet, or hail depending on temperature conditions at different altitudes. Some precipitation lands directly in oceans and lakes, rejoining bodies of water immediately, while some falls on land.

Water that falls on land follows several possible paths. Some flows across the surface as runoff, eventually reaching rivers and streams that carry it back toward the ocean. Some soaks into the ground, becoming groundwater that can remain stored underground for long periods or slowly resurface through springs. Some is absorbed by plant roots, later returning to the atmosphere through transpiration, restarting the cycle.

Because this system has no true beginning or end, scientists describe it as a cycle rather than a one-way process. The same water molecules move continuously between air, land, and sea, meaning the water cycle has operated in essentially the same way for billions of years, sustaining nearly all life on Earth.

Questions

1. According to the passage, what percentage of Earth's surface is covered by oceans?

A) About seventy percent
B) About ninety percent
C) About fifty percent

2. What is the process called when water absorbed by plant roots escapes as vapor through leaves?

A) Precipitation
B) Transpiration
C) Condensation

3. Why do clouds tend to form higher in the sky rather than near the ground?

A) Cooler air up high causes water vapor to condense into droplets
B) Higher altitudes simply contain more available oxygen
C) Higher altitudes never experience any wind movement

almanahj.com

4. Based on the passage, why do scientists describe the water cycle as continuous rather than one-way?

A) Water molecules keep circulating with no clear start or end
B) Fresh water is constantly being newly created on Earth
C) The entire process only happens once every year

5. Describing groundwater as being "stored" underground relates to which broader concept?

A) How mountain ranges are formed over time
B) Natural reserves holding resources for later use
C) The engineering behind building large dams

6. Which daily example best mirrors evaporation followed by condensation?

A) A river steadily flowing downhill toward the sea
B) Ice slowly melting into a puddle on the ground
C) Steam rising off a pot and forming drops on a cool lid

7. How is the passage mainly organized?

A) As a list of unrelated facts about oceans
B) As a comparison between two competing scientific theories
C) As a sequence following each stage of the water cycle

8. What does the closing paragraph mainly do?

A) It explains why the process counts as a true cycle
B) It introduces an entirely new stage never mentioned before
C) It claims the water cycle was only recently discovered

almanahj.com

Exercise 10: Expository Text

How Vaccines Protect the Body

Long before modern medicine could explain why, people noticed that surviving certain illnesses, such as smallpox, seemed to protect a person from catching that same disease again. Vaccines work by using this natural principle deliberately, training the body's immune system to recognize and fight a specific disease without requiring a person to experience the full illness first.

The immune system's main defense against infection relies on specialized cells that can recognize foreign invaders, such as viruses or bacteria, based on distinctive markers on their surface called antigens. When the immune system encounters a new antigen for the first time, it takes time, often several days, to identify the threat and produce the right defenses, which is why early infections can feel severe before the body catches up.

Vaccines shortcut this delay by introducing a harmless version of a pathogen's antigens into the body, without causing the actual disease. Depending on the vaccine, this might involve a weakened form of the virus, an inactivated version that cannot reproduce, or, in newer vaccines, just a small piece of genetic material that instructs cells to briefly produce a single harmless viral protein. Whichever method is used, the immune system detects these antigens as foreign and begins building defenses exactly as it would during a real infection.

Crucially, this process also creates memory cells, specialized immune cells that remain in the body long after the vaccine is given. These memory cells retain a detailed record of the antigen they encountered, allowing the immune system to recognize the actual pathogen quickly if it appears later. Instead of taking days to respond, a vaccinated immune system can often identify and destroy the real threat within hours, frequently before symptoms even develop.

This is why vaccinated individuals who do encounter a disease typically experience milder symptoms, or no symptoms at all, compared to unvaccinated individuals facing the same pathogen for the first time. Because vaccines rely on the body's own immune defenses rather than external treatment, their protective effect can last for years, and in some cases, an entire lifetime.

Questions

1. According to the passage, what are the distinctive markers on the surface of viruses or bacteria called?

A) Antigens
B) Vaccines
C) Enzymes

2. What do memory cells created by vaccination allow the immune system to do?

A) Prevent every possible illness for life
B) Produce antibodies before a person is even born
C) Quickly recognize a real pathogen encountered later

3. Why might a first-time infection feel especially severe?

A) Early infections come from an entirely different kind of pathogen
B) The immune system always overreacts no matter what
C) The body hasn't yet identified the threat, delaying its response

almanahj.com

4. Based on the passage, why might a vaccinated person experience only mild symptoms if exposed to a disease?

A) The vaccine physically stops the pathogen from entering the body
B) Memory cells allow a much quicker response than a first infection
C) Vaccinated people can never become infected under any condition

5. Describing memory cells as keeping a "record" relates to which broader concept?

A) A filing system built for fast future retrieval
B) The building of physical barriers for protection
C) The gradual process of forgetting information

6. Which scenario best mirrors how vaccines prepare the immune system in advance?

A) A cookbook that lists ingredients needed for a recipe
B) A fire drill readying people to react fast in a real emergency
C) A forecast predicting rain sometime during the next week

7. How does the passage build its explanation across paragraphs?

A) By comparing several unrelated diseases to one another
B) By explaining natural immunity first, then how vaccines speed it up
C) By listing historical dates tied to vaccine invention

8. What role does the opening line about smallpox play?

A) It gives historical context introducing the idea behind vaccines
B) It presents statistics on how well vaccines perform
C) It argues that smallpox remains common today

almanahj.com

Exercise 11: Expository Text

The Printing Press and the Spread of Ideas

Before the fifteenth century, producing a single book in Europe could take a scribe months or even years, copying every word by hand onto parchment. Books were rare, expensive, and largely limited to wealthy institutions such as churches and universities. The invention of the mechanical printing press changed this reality permanently, transforming how information moved through society.

Johannes Gutenberg, a goldsmith from the German city of Mainz, is widely credited with developing Europe's first practical printing press around 1440. His key innovation was movable metal type: individual letters cast from a durable metal alloy that could be arranged, inked, pressed onto paper, and then rearranged to print entirely different pages. Earlier printing methods existed elsewhere in the world, including carved wooden blocks used in East Asia centuries earlier, but Gutenberg's combination of movable type, oil-based ink, and a mechanical press adapted from wine presses made large-scale printing dramatically faster and more consistent than handwriting.

The effects of this invention spread quickly across Europe. Within decades, printing presses appeared in major cities from Italy to England, and the cost of producing a book dropped sharply since a single set of type could print hundreds of identical copies rather than requiring a scribe to start from scratch each time. This meant that texts once available only to the wealthy elite began reaching merchants, students, and eventually ordinary literate citizens.

Perhaps the most significant consequence was how printing accelerated the spread of new ideas. Scientific discoveries, religious texts, and political pamphlets could now circulate widely and rapidly, reaching readers across national borders within months rather than decades. Historians often point to the rapid spread of the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century as a direct example of how printed pamphlets allowed new religious ideas to reach ordinary people far faster than earlier handwritten methods ever could.

Printing also encouraged rising literacy rates, since cheaper, more available books gave ordinary people a practical reason to learn to read. In this way, a single mechanical invention reshaped education, religion, science, and politics, establishing patterns of mass communication that, in many respects, still influence how information spreads today.

Questions

1. According to the passage, who is credited with developing Europe's first practical printing press?

A) Johannes Gutenberg
B) A university professor in England
C) A scribe from Italy

2. What was Gutenberg's key innovation, according to the passage?

A) Movable metal type
B) A new type of parchment
C) A faster method of hand copying

3. Why were books so scarce before the printing press existed?

A) Copying them by hand demanded huge amounts of a scribe's time
B) Paper hadn't been invented anywhere in the world yet
C) There was simply no public demand for books back then

almanahj.com

4. Based on the passage, why does the author mention the Protestant Reformation?

A) To claim religion mattered little before printing arrived
B) To give a concrete example of printing spreading new ideas
C) To describe the invention of movable type in depth

5. Pamphlets reaching readers "across national borders" relates to which broader concept?

A) The decline of societies based on farming
B) The building of international trade routes
C) Communication technology spreading information across large groups fast

6. Which modern example best parallels the printing press's effect on the spread of ideas?

A) The internet letting information reach people worldwide almost instantly
B) A single announcement read aloud in one town square
C) A handwritten letter passed between two neighbors

7. How is the passage primarily structured?

A) As a comparison between two unrelated inventions
B) As a persuasive case for a personal opinion
C) As a timeline tracing an invention's widening impact

8. What does the passage's final paragraph mainly accomplish?

A) It introduces a completely unrelated new invention
B) It claims literacy actually dropped after printing began
C) It draws a wider conclusion about the invention's lasting impact

almanahj.com

Exercise 12: Expository Text

What Causes a Volcano to Erupt

Beneath Earth's solid outer crust lies a layer of intensely hot, partly molten rock, and under the right conditions, this material can force its way to the surface in a dramatic event known as a volcanic eruption. Understanding what triggers an eruption requires looking at pressure, temperature, and the composition of molten rock deep underground.

Volcanoes typically form above regions called magma chambers, large underground pockets where molten rock, known as magma, collects before an eruption. Magma is less dense than the solid rock surrounding it, so it naturally tends to rise upward whenever a path exists, much like oil rising above water. As magma accumulates in a chamber, pressure inside gradually builds, particularly as dissolved gases such as water vapor and carbon dioxide try to expand and escape from the liquid rock.

Under normal conditions, solid rock above the chamber contains this pressure, much like a cap holding gas inside a bottle. However, pressure inside the chamber does not stay constant. It can rise dramatically as more magma flows in from deeper within the earth, or as trapped gases expand further while nearing the surface, where pressure from the surrounding rock is lower. Eventually, if the pressure exceeds what the surrounding rock can withstand, cracks form, allowing magma and gas to force their way upward through a route sometimes called a vent.

What happens once magma reaches the surface depends heavily on its composition. Magma with lower silica content tends to be thinner and flows more easily, allowing gases to escape gradually, which typically produces relatively calm, flowing eruptions such as those common in Hawaii. Magma with higher silica content is thicker and traps gas more effectively, building far greater pressure before release, which tends to produce sudden, violent, explosive eruptions capable of launching ash and rock high into the atmosphere.

Scientists monitor volcanoes for warning signs including small earthquakes caused by moving magma, changes in ground shape as chambers fill, and shifts in gas emissions, all of which can indicate rising pressure long before an eruption actually occurs. While predicting the exact timing of an eruption remains difficult, these warning signs allow communities living near active volcanoes valuable time to prepare.

Questions

1. According to the passage, what is the underground pocket where molten rock collects called?

A) A fault line
B) A magma chamber
C) A vent

2. What type of magma tends to produce calm, flowing eruptions according to the passage?

A) Magma with no gas content at all
B) Magma with higher silica content
C) Magma with lower silica content

3. Why does magma with high silica content tend to produce more explosive eruptions?

A) It contains no dissolved gases whatsoever
B) It's thicker and traps gas, letting pressure build higher
C) It cools down instantly the moment it forms

almanahj.com

4. Based on the passage, why do scientists monitor small earthquakes near volcanoes?

A) Small quakes can signal moving magma and rising pressure
B) Small quakes have no link to volcanic activity at all
C) Small quakes always mean no eruption will happen

5. Comparing magma to "oil rising above water" illustrates which broader scientific concept?

A) A chemical reaction taking place between oil and water
B) Less dense material naturally rising above denser material
C) The process by which erosion wears down rock

6. Which everyday example matches the passage's idea of pressure building until release?

A) A cup of water poured out slowly and calmly
B) A shaken soda bottle whose cap bursts off from pressure
C) A candle that burns down evenly over time

7. How is the passage organized overall?

A) As a comparison of volcano safety laws across countries
B) As a persuasive push for volcano-based tourism
C) As a cause-and-effect explanation of what triggers an eruption

8. What does the closing paragraph mainly explain?

A) That eruptions can never be predicted under any circumstance
B) That warning signs help communities prepare despite uncertain timing
C) A completely different kind of natural disaster

almanahj.com

Exercise 13: Expository Text

How Bees Tell Each Other Where to Find Food

A single honeybee colony can contain tens of thousands of worker bees, all cooperating to gather enough food to support the entire hive. Coordinating this effort without spoken language might seem impossible, yet honeybees have developed one of the most remarkable communication systems in the natural world: a movement-based signal known as the waggle dance.

When a worker bee, often called a scout, discovers a promising source of nectar or pollen, it returns to the hive and performs a distinctive pattern of movement on the vertical surface of the honeycomb. The dance consists of a straight run, during which the bee vibrates or "waggles" its abdomen rapidly, followed by a loop back to the starting point, after which the bee repeats the straight run in the opposite direction, forming a rough figure-eight shape.

Remarkably, this dance encodes precise information about the food source's location. The angle of the straight run relative to a vertical line on the honeycomb indicates the direction of the food relative to the sun's position outside the hive. If the straight run points directly upward, for example, the food source lies in the same direction as the sun; if the run angles thirty degrees to the left of vertical, the food lies thirty degrees to the left of the sun's direction.

Distance is communicated too, primarily through the duration of the waggle portion of the dance. Longer waggle runs generally indicate a food source that is farther away, while shorter runs suggest something closer to the hive. Some researchers have also suggested that the intensity or vigor of the dance may reflect the quality of the food source, encouraging other bees to prioritize richer locations over less productive ones.

Other worker bees follow closely behind the dancing scout, sensing the vibrations and movements before flying off to locate the described food source themselves, sometimes traveling considerable distances based purely on this information. Once discovered by biologist Karl von Frisch in the twentieth century, the waggle dance remains one of the clearest known examples of complex, symbolic communication occurring outside of human language, revealing a level of coordination in insect societies that continues to surprise researchers today.

Questions

1. According to the passage, what is the name of the movement-based signal bees use to communicate food locations?

A) The waggle dance
B) The circle song
C) The spiral dance

2. What does the duration of the waggle run indicate?

A) The number of bees needed for the task
B) The specific color of the flower found
C) The distance to the discovered food source

3. Why is the angle of the dance measured relative to a vertical line rather than a fixed compass direction?

A) The vertical surface stands in for the sun's position outdoors
B) The angle carries no real meaning and is purely decorative

almanahj.com

C) Bees are actually unable to sense direction at all

4. Based on the passage, why might other bees follow closely behind a dancing scout?

A) To sense the movements needed to find that same food later
B) To compete with the scout for space on the honeycomb
C) To physically keep the scout from leaving the hive

5. Encoding both direction and distance in a dance connects to which broader concept?

A) How long a typical worker bee lives
B) The process through which flowers get pollinated
C) A coded system where signals reliably stand for real information

6. Which human activity best parallels the purpose of the waggle dance?

A) Painting a picture depicting a natural landscape
B) Singing a song purely meant for entertainment
C) Giving someone directions using specific distances and angles

7. How does the passage build its explanation across paragraphs?

A) By arguing that bees outsmart humans in general
B) By first describing the dance, then explaining what its parts mean
C) By comparing two entirely unrelated species of insect

8. What is the purpose of mentioning Karl von Frisch in the final paragraph?

A) To claim his research has since been proven wrong
B) To pivot to a completely unrelated topic altogether
C) To credit him for discovering this communication system

almanahj.com

Answer Key

Exercise 1: School Uniforms Should Be Mandatory (Argumentative)

1. C 2. B 3. C 4. B 5. A 6. A 7. C 8. A

Exercise 2: Raise the Minimum Age for Social Media (Argumentative)

1. B 2. A 3. B 4. C 5. B 6. A 7. B 8. C

Exercise 3: Schools Should Cut Back on Homework (Argumentative)

1. C 2. B 3. B 4. B 5. B 6. B 7. B 8. B

Exercise 4: It Is Time to Phase Out Traditional Zoos (Argumentative)

1. B 2. A 3. C 4. C 5. C 6. C 7. C 8. A

Exercise 5: The Case for Going Cashless (Argumentative)

1. A 2. A 3. A 4. B 5. C 6. A 7. C 8. A

Exercise 6: Video Games Deserve More Credit (Argumentative)

1. A 2. C 3. B 4. C 5. C 6. B 7. B 8. B

Exercise 7: Start Second Languages Earlier (Argumentative)

1. B 2. B 3. C 4. A 5. A 6. A 7. A 8. C

Exercise 8: How Coral Reefs Form (Expository)

1. C 2. A 3. A 4. B 5. A 6. B 7. C 8. C

Exercise 9: Understanding the Water Cycle (Expository)

1. A 2. B 3. A 4. A 5. B 6. C 7. C 8. A

Exercise 10: How Vaccines Protect the Body (Expository)

1. A 2. C 3. C 4. B 5. A 6. B 7. B 8. A

Exercise 11: The Printing Press and the Spread of Ideas (Expository)

1. A 2. A 3. A 4. B 5. C 6. A 7. C 8. C

Exercise 12: What Causes a Volcano to Erupt (Expository)

1. B 2. C 3. B 4. A 5. B 6. B 7. C 8. B

Exercise 13: How Bees Tell Each Other Where to Find Food (Expository)

1. A 2. C 3. A 4. A 5. C 6. C 7. B 8. C

almanahj.com

EXTRA.....
Exercise 1: Harnessing the Sun

Skills assessed: Details / Mood, Tone & Attitude / Main Points / Overall Meaning

For most of human history, people relied on wood, coal, and oil to keep their homes warm and their lights burning. Today, a quieter revolution is taking place on rooftops and in open fields: the rise of solar power. Solar panels capture sunlight and convert it directly into electricity, using a technology called the photovoltaic effect. When light particles strike a panel's silicon cells, they knock electrons loose, and this movement of electrons creates an electric current. It sounds almost too simple to be true, yet this process now supplies a growing share of the world's energy.

One of the biggest reasons solar power has spread so quickly is that the cost of panels has dropped dramatically. Thirty years ago, solar electricity was far more expensive than electricity from coal or gas. Manufacturers have since found cheaper materials and faster production methods, so prices have fallen by more than ninety percent since the 1980s. In sunny regions, including much of the Gulf, solar farms can now generate electricity more cheaply than fossil fuel plants, which has encouraged governments and private companies alike to invest heavily in large-scale solar projects.

Of course, solar power is not without its challenges. Panels only generate electricity when the sun is shining, so cloudy days and nighttime hours leave a gap that must be filled by other sources or by stored energy. Batteries are improving, but they remain costly, and building enough storage to power an entire city through the night is still a work in progress. There is also the question of what happens to old panels once they wear out; recycling programs are still catching up with the pace of installation.

Despite these hurdles, the direction is clear. Engineers keep refining panel efficiency, and falling prices keep drawing new investment. Whether solar power will one day replace fossil fuels entirely is still an open question, but for now it stands as one of the most promising tools we have for meeting rising energy demand without releasing more carbon into the atmosphere.

Comprehension Questions (16 marks — 2 marks each)

1. According to the passage, what takes place when light particles strike a solar panel's silicon cells? *[Details]*

A. They reflect off the surface, producing no result

B. They heat the silicon until it becomes liquid

C. They dislodge electrons, producing an electric current

2. Roughly how much has the cost of solar panels decreased since the 1980s? *[Details]*

A. It has fallen by more than ninety percent

B. It has dropped by roughly fifty percent

C. It has stayed at almost the same level

3. What is the writer's overall attitude toward solar power's future? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Hopeful, though careful not to overstate things

B. Furious that it has become so widespread

C. Fully convinced that it is doomed to fail

4. What tone does the writer use when discussing the difficulty of storing solar energy? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Honest and measured in its assessment

B. Mocking and scornful in its assessment

C. Panicked and alarming in its assessment

almanahj.com

5. What is the central idea of the second paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Solar panels are hard to install in sunny climates

B. Coal is cheaper than solar power in all cases

C. Falling prices have made solar far more competitive

6. What is the central idea of the third paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Solar energy currently has no genuine drawbacks

B. Storage and recycling remain unresolved obstacles

C. Cloudy weather has no impact on solar output

7. What is this passage's main purpose? *[Overall meaning]*

A. To offer a step-by-step guide to installing a panel

B. To present a balanced view of solar power's growth and hurdles

C. To claim that solar power ought to be prohibited

8. Which sentence best sums up the passage overall? *[Overall meaning]*

A. Solar power was once trendy but has since been dropped

B. Solar power has grown cheaper and more common, though storage and recycling gaps persist

C. Solar energy only functions well in cold regions

almanahj.com

Exercise 2: The Silk Road

Skills assessed: Specific Information / Mood, Tone & Attitude / Main Points / Overall Meaning

Long before airplanes or container ships, a vast network of trade routes connected East Asia with the Mediterranean world. Historians call this network the Silk Road, though it was never a single road at all. Instead, it was a web of overland paths and sea lanes stretching roughly six thousand kilometres, linking China, Central Asia, India, Persia, and Europe. Merchants rarely travelled the entire distance themselves; instead, goods passed from trader to trader in a long relay, changing hands many times before reaching their final destination.

Silk was the good that gave the route its name, and for centuries China guarded the secret of silk production closely. But the Silk Road carried far more than fabric. Spices, precious stones, glassware, paper, and gunpowder all moved along these paths, and so did ideas. Buddhism spread from India into China partly through monks who travelled with merchant caravans. Mathematical knowledge, artistic styles, and even certain diseases, including the bubonic plague, also travelled along these same routes.

Traders who used the Silk Road faced serious dangers. Bandits waited along isolated stretches, and the terrain itself was often brutal: scorching deserts, freezing mountain passes, and vast stretches with no water for days at a time. To manage these risks, merchants usually travelled in large caravans, sometimes numbering in the hundreds, protected by hired guards and guided by experienced local scouts who knew where the wells and safe resting points could be found.

By the 15th century, the rise of sea travel offered a faster and often safer alternative, and the overland Silk Road gradually declined in importance. Yet its legacy did not disappear. The exchange of goods, religions, and knowledge that took place over those centuries helped shape the cultures of Asia and Europe in ways that are still visible today, from culinary traditions to religious practices found thousands of kilometres from where they began.

Comprehension Questions (16 marks — 2 marks each)

1. Approximately how long was the Silk Road network? *[Specific Information]*

A. Around six thousand kilometres

B. Around sixty thousand kilometres

C. Around six hundred kilometres

2. Which illness is noted as having travelled along the Silk Road? *[Specific Information]*

A. Cholera spread among many communities there

B. The bubonic plague travelled along the routes

C. Malaria was carried by desert traders

3. How does the writer regard the dangers merchants encountered? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Dismissively, treating the risks as overstated

B. Respectfully, recognising the risks as genuine

C. With amusement at how easily danger was avoided

4. What tone marks the closing paragraph's account of the Silk Road's legacy? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Regretful that the network faded away

B. Reflective, emphasising its lasting impact

C. Indifferent toward its long-term influence

5. What is the central idea of the second paragraph? *[Main points]*

almanahj.com

A. Silk was the sole good ever exchanged on the route

B. The route carried goods, ideas, and diseases beyond silk alone

C. China refused to sell silk to any other nation

6. What is the central idea of the third paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Merchants preferred travelling entirely by themselves

B. The route's terrain was always calm and safe

C. Traders faced genuine dangers and journeyed in guarded groups

7. What is this passage's main purpose? *[Overall meaning]*

A. To outline modern shipping lanes linking Asia and Europe

B. To show how the route linked distant lands and shaped history

C. To claim sea travel always outperformed land travel

8. Which sentence best captures the passage as a whole? *[Overall meaning]*

A. The route was risky yet influential, spreading exchange for centuries

B. The route operated only briefly before disappearing entirely

C. The route was one paved road built by a single empire

almanahj.com

Exercise 3: Why Teenagers Need More Sleep

Skills assessed: Details / Mood, Tone & Attitude / Main Points / Overall Meaning

Anyone who has tried to wake a teenager for an early class knows the struggle is real. Parents and teachers sometimes assume this is simple laziness, but scientists who study sleep say something else is going on. During adolescence, the body's internal clock shifts later, a change driven by the hormone melatonin, which begins releasing later in the evening than it did during childhood. As a result, most teenagers do not feel genuinely sleepy until around eleven at night, even if they went to bed at nine the year before.

This shift creates a mismatch with school schedules that were designed decades ago and rarely account for how adolescent biology actually works. If a student's body does not want to fall asleep until eleven but school starts at seven thirty, the arithmetic simply does not add up. Sleep researchers recommend that teenagers get between eight and ten hours of sleep each night, yet studies from several countries suggest that many manage barely six or seven, leaving a significant sleep debt that builds up over the school week.

The consequences of this shortfall go well beyond feeling groggy at breakfast. Sleep plays a critical role in memory consolidation, the process by which the brain files away what was learned during the day. Students who are chronically under-slept often struggle to concentrate, retain new material, and regulate their emotions, which can affect both academic performance and relationships with friends and family. Some researchers have even linked long-term sleep deprivation in teenagers to higher rates of anxiety and mood difficulties.

A handful of school districts have experimented with pushing start times later, and the early results are encouraging: students report feeling more alert, and some schools have seen modest improvements in grades and attendance. Change is slow, though, since shifting school hours affects bus schedules, sports practices, and working parents' routines. For now, most teenagers are left to manage the mismatch themselves, often by sacrificing sleep on weekdays and trying, not always successfully, to catch up on weekends.

Comprehension Questions (16 marks — 2 marks each)

1. What accounts for teenagers' internal clocks shifting later? *[Details]*

A. Drinking too much caffeine each day

B. A delayed release of the hormone melatonin

C. A change in when school begins

2. How many hours of nightly sleep do experts suggest for teens? *[Details]*

A. Twelve to fourteen hours nightly

B. Four to six hours nightly

C. Eight to ten hours nightly

3. What is the writer's stance on the notion that tired teens are simply lazy? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. The writer disputes it using scientific findings

B. The writer avoids discussing it altogether

C. The writer fully endorses this common view

4. What tone accompanies the discussion of efforts to shift school start times? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Cautiously hopeful about the possible outcomes

B. Entirely indifferent to the whole issue

C. Furious and full of firm demands

almanahj.com

5. What is the central idea of the third paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Teenagers function fine without much sleep at all
B. Sleep loss merely affects how tired students feel
C. Sleep deprivation harms memory, focus, mood, and mental health

6. What is the central idea of the closing paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Later start times show promise but are hard to adopt widely
B. Schools flatly reject any change to their timetables
C. Every school has already shifted to a later start

7. What is this passage's main purpose? *[Overall meaning]*

A. To explain the biology behind teen sleep and its effects on school
B. To criticise teenagers for staying up too late
C. To promote a particular sleep-tracking gadget

8. Which statement best sums up the passage as a whole? *[Overall meaning]*

A. School timetables suit teen biology perfectly well
B. Teens get exactly the sleep they need with no issues
C. Biology delays teen sleep, clashing with early schedules and causing real effects

almanahj.com

Exercise 4: Coral Reefs Under Pressure

Skills assessed: Specific Information / Mood, Tone & Attitude / Main Points / Overall Meaning

Coral reefs cover less than one percent of the ocean floor, yet they support roughly a quarter of all marine species, making them among the richest ecosystems on the planet. A coral reef is built not by plants but by tiny animals called polyps, which secrete a hard calcium carbonate skeleton around themselves. Over thousands of years, the skeletons of countless generations pile up, forming the elaborate structures that provide shelter and food for fish, crustaceans, and countless other creatures.

What gives many corals their brilliant colour is a partnership with microscopic algae called zooxanthellae, which live inside the coral's tissue. The algae photosynthesise and share the energy they produce with their coral host, while the coral provides the algae with a protected home and nutrients. This relationship is remarkably efficient, but it is also fragile. When water temperatures rise even slightly above normal, corals become stressed and expel the algae living inside them, a process known as bleaching, which leaves the coral pale and vulnerable.

Bleaching events have become far more frequent and severe over the past few decades as ocean temperatures have climbed. A coral can survive a mild, short bleaching event and recover its algae once conditions improve, but repeated or prolonged bleaching often kills the coral outright. Scientists monitoring reefs in Australia, the Caribbean, and the Red Sea have documented mass bleaching events affecting enormous stretches of reef within a single season, with some regions losing more than half their coral cover.

Researchers are testing several strategies to help reefs survive, including breeding coral strains that tolerate higher temperatures and growing coral fragments in nurseries before transplanting them onto damaged reefs. These efforts show promise on a small scale, but most scientists agree that the most important step is reducing the rise in ocean temperatures itself. Without that, even the most resilient coral strains may eventually struggle to keep pace with a warming sea.

Comprehension Questions (16 marks — 2 marks each)

1. What share of marine species do coral reefs support, per the passage? *[Specific Information]*

A. About one percent of them
B. Almost every marine species alive
C. Roughly a quarter of them

2. What are the algae living within coral tissue called? *[Specific Information]*

A. A type called phytoplankton
B. A type called chlorella
C. A type called zooxanthellae

3. How does the writer regard the dangers facing coral reefs? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Worried yet informative throughout
B. Detached and indifferent throughout
C. Sarcastic and mocking throughout

4. What tone does the closing paragraph take on reef-saving efforts? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Cautiously encouraging while stressing a bigger fix is needed
B. Confident these steps alone will solve everything
C. Dismissive of every attempt to assist reefs

5. What is the central idea of the second paragraph? *[Main points]*

almanahj.com

A. Bleaching occurs only when ocean water turns cold

B. Coral shares no relationship with any other creature

C. Coral's colour comes from a fragile algae bond that heat disrupts

6. What is the central idea of the third paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Coral always recovers completely from any bleaching episode

B. Bleaching events have become rarer over recent decades

C. Bleaching has grown more frequent and severe, killing large reef areas

7. What is this passage's main purpose? *[Overall meaning]*

A. To list every fish species found on coral reefs

B. To explain how reefs function and why warming threatens them

C. To argue that coral reefs are not truly important

8. Which statement best sums up the passage as a whole? *[Overall meaning]*

A. Coral reefs stay unaffected by ocean temperature shifts

B. Coral reefs are entirely artificial structures built by people

C. Coral reefs are fragile, valuable systems increasingly threatened by warming seas

almanahj.com/e 2026 2025

Exercise 5: The Camel: Built for the Desert

Skills assessed: Details / Mood, Tone & Attitude / Main Points / Overall Meaning

Few animals are as closely tied to desert life as the camel, and its body reveals just how thoroughly it has adapted to some of the harshest environments on Earth. The hump, often mistaken for a water reservoir, is actually made of fat, not water. When food is scarce, the camel's body breaks this fat down for energy, allowing the animal to survive for long stretches without eating. A well-fed camel's hump stands firm and upright; a camel that has gone a long time without food will have a hump that droops or leans to one side.

Camels are also remarkable at conserving water, which matters enormously in a place where water sources can be days apart. Their kidneys are extraordinarily efficient, producing highly concentrated urine and very dry droppings to minimise moisture loss. Camels can also tolerate changes in body temperature that would be dangerous for most mammals, allowing their internal temperature to rise during the heat of the day rather than sweating it away, then releasing that heat at night when temperatures drop. This strategy alone saves a significant amount of water that would otherwise be lost to sweating.

When a camel finally does reach water, it can drink astonishing amounts in a short time, sometimes more than a hundred litres in just a few minutes. Most mammals would suffer serious harm from drinking that quickly, since it would dilute their blood dangerously, but a camel's oval-shaped red blood cells are specially built to swell without bursting, letting the animal rehydrate rapidly and safely.

Even the camel's eyes and nose show clear adaptations. Long, thick eyelashes and a third, transparent eyelid keep sand out during dust storms, while nostrils that can close almost completely prevent sand from entering the lungs. Taken together, these features explain why camels have served desert communities for thousands of years as reliable transport, and why they remain a powerful symbol of endurance across the Arabian Peninsula and beyond.

Comprehension Questions (16 marks — 2 marks each)

1. What does the text say a camel's hump actually consists of? *[Details]*

A. Solid muscle tissue throughout

B. Stored fat rather than water

C. Reserved water for later use

2. About how much water can a camel drink within minutes? *[Details]*

A. Over a hundred litres at once

B. Around ten litres at once

C. Under one litre at once

3. What is the writer's attitude toward the camel's adaptations? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Doubtful that such traits are real

B. Bored by these physical details

C. Admiring and quite impressed by them

4. What tone appears when the writer discusses the camel's role in desert life? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Confused about its true purpose

B. Dismissive of the camel's value

C. Respectful of its long history

5. What is the central idea of the second paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Camels rely on several tactics to conserve scarce water

almanahj.com

B. Camels lose large amounts of water through sweating

C. Camels cannot survive without water nearby at all times

6. What is the central idea of the third paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Fast drinking harms camels just as it harms other mammals

B. A camel's blood cells let it rehydrate fast and safely

C. Camels never drink large volumes of water at once

7. What is this passage's main purpose? *[Overall meaning]*

A. To compare camels in detail with other desert creatures

B. To explain how to keep a camel as a pet

C. To describe the physical traits that suit camels to desert life

8. Which statement best sums up the passage as a whole? *[Overall meaning]*

A. The camel's body has evolved remarkable traits suited to survival

B. Camels handle heat and water exactly like other mammals

C. Camels cannot survive the desert without human assistance

almanahj.com

Exercise 6: Rethinking Waste: The Circular Economy

Skills assessed: Specific Information / Mood, Tone & Attitude / Main Points / Overall Meaning

For most of the modern era, manufacturing has followed a simple pattern: extract raw materials, make a product, sell it, and eventually throw it away. Economists call this the linear model, and it has a serious flaw: it assumes an endless supply of raw materials and an endless capacity for landfills to absorb waste. Neither assumption holds up well in a world of nearly eight billion people. In response, a growing number of businesses and governments are exploring an alternative known as the circular economy.

The basic idea behind a circular economy is to keep materials in use for as long as possible, rather than sending them to a landfill after a single use. This can take several forms. Products might be designed from the start to be repaired easily rather than replaced. Manufacturers might take back old items, break them down, and reuse the components in new products. Even packaging is being redesigned, with some companies now testing containers meant to be returned, cleaned, and refilled dozens of times instead of thrown away after one use.

One well-known example comes from the fashion industry, which produces roughly ninety-two million tonnes of textile waste every year. Several major clothing brands have begun collecting used garments from customers, sorting them by fabric type, and either repairing them for resale or breaking them down into fibres that can be spun into new fabric. Similar programmes exist in electronics, where companies extract valuable metals like gold and copper from old phones and computers rather than mining new ore.

Critics point out that a fully circular economy is still far from reality; recycling technology remains imperfect, and many materials still degrade in quality each time they are reprocessed. Even so, supporters argue that every tonne of material kept in circulation is a tonne that does not need to be extracted from the earth or burned in an incinerator. Whether or not the circular economy fully replaces the old linear model, it is reshaping how many industries think about the products they make.

Comprehension Questions (16 marks — 2 marks each)

1. About how much textile waste does the fashion industry produce yearly? *[Specific Information]*

A. Nine hundred tonnes each year

B. Ninety-two million tonnes each year

C. Nine million tonnes each year

2. Which valuable metals are pulled from old electronic devices? *[Specific Information]*

A. Iron and tin from devices

B. Gold and copper from devices

C. Silver and lead from devices

3. What is the writer's attitude toward the linear manufacturing model? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Critical of its flawed assumptions

B. Entirely neutral and unconcerned

C. Fully supportive without reservation

4. What tone appears when the writer covers criticism of the circular economy? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Balanced, weighing limits against benefits

B. Entirely dismissive of its worth

C. Furious at critics who complain

5. What is the central idea of the second paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. A circular economy depends entirely on burning all its waste

B. Packaging can never really be redesigned to cut waste

almanahj.com

C. A circular economy keeps materials in use via repair and reuse

6. What is the central idea of the third paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Fashion and electronics firms are testing real circular methods

B. Clothing brands refuse to collect used garments at all

C. No industry has tried any circular practices yet

7. What is this passage's main purpose? *[Overall meaning]*

A. To give step-by-step instructions for launching a brand

B. To explain the circular economy and how industries adopt it

C. To argue that recycling ought to be banned outright

8. Which statement best sums up the passage as a whole? *[Overall meaning]*

A. The circular model aims to extend material use and reshape industry

B. The circular model has fully replaced the linear one worldwide

C. No real examples of circular practices currently exist anywhere

almanahj.com

Exercise 7: Robots on Mars

Skills assessed: Details / Mood, Tone & Attitude / Main Points / Overall Meaning

Since the 1970s, humans have sent a series of robotic explorers to Mars, each one more capable than the last. The earliest landers could barely move, but modern rovers such as Curiosity and Perseverance are essentially mobile laboratories, equipped with cameras, drills, and chemical analysers that let scientists study the Martian surface without a single human ever setting foot there. These machines are controlled from Earth, though not in real time; because Mars can be more than two hundred million kilometres away, radio signals can take over twenty minutes to arrive, so engineers cannot simply steer the rover with a joystick.

Instead, mission teams plan each day's activities carefully in advance, sending a batch of commands that the rover carries out largely on its own. Onboard software helps the rover avoid obstacles and correct its path if something unexpected appears in front of it. This kind of independence is essential, since a rover that had to wait forty minutes for a round-trip signal every time it faced a rock would move painfully slowly across the Martian landscape.

Perseverance, which landed in 2021, carries a particularly interesting piece of equipment: a small instrument capable of producing oxygen from the thin, carbon-dioxide-rich Martian atmosphere. The experiment, though modest in scale, is a step toward a future in which astronauts might generate breathable air, or even rocket fuel, directly on Mars rather than hauling every resource from Earth. The rover also collects rock samples, sealing them in tubes and leaving them on the surface for a future mission to retrieve and bring back to Earth.

None of this comes cheap or easy. Missions to Mars fail more often than they succeed, and even a successful landing depends on a sequence of split-second manoeuvres nicknamed the seven minutes of terror, during which a spacecraft must slow from thousands of kilometres per hour to a gentle touchdown, all without any help from mission control. Given the risks and the cost, it says something about human curiosity that space agencies keep trying, sending increasingly sophisticated machines to a planet no person has yet visited in person.

Comprehension Questions (16 marks — 2 marks each)

1. Why can't Mars rovers be steered live with a joystick? *[Details]*

A. Radio signals need too long to cross the distance

B. Mars rovers were not built with wheels

C. Mars has no atmosphere for signals to cross

2. What raw material fuels Perseverance's oxygen-making device? *[Details]*

A. Rock samples gathered from the ground

B. Frozen water ice beneath the surface

C. The carbon-dioxide-rich Martian air

3. What is the writer's attitude toward Mars missions in the closing paragraph? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Impressed by human persistence despite the risks

B. Certain every Mars mission will end in failure

C. Convinced Mars missions are a waste of funds

4. What does the phrase 'seven minutes of terror' suggest about landing? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. It was a routine, low-risk procedure

B. It was a tense, high-stakes moment

almanahj.com

C. It was a slow, uneventful wait

5. What is the central idea of the second paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Rovers are steered live from Earth in real time

B. Rovers depend on preset commands and onboard software to act

C. Rovers cannot dodge obstacles without human guidance nearby

6. What is the central idea of the third paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Perseverance tests technology that could aid future astronauts

B. Perseverance's chief task is locating other rovers

C. Perseverance carries no scientific instruments on board

7. What is this passage's main purpose? *[Overall meaning]*

A. To describe Mars's surface geography in considerable detail

B. To explain how rovers work and why exploring Mars stays hard

C. To argue that robots should permanently replace astronauts

8. Which statement best sums up the passage as a whole? *[Overall meaning]*

A. No spacecraft has ever landed successfully on Mars

B. Mars rovers are simple machines needing constant live control

C. Despite huge distances and risk, advanced rovers keep exploring Mars

almanahj.com/e

Exercise 8: From Bitter Bean to Sweet Treat

Skills assessed: Specific Information / Mood, Tone & Attitude / Main Points / Overall Meaning

Long before chocolate became the sweet treat found in shops today, it existed in a very different form. The cacao tree, native to the tropical rainforests of Central and South America, produces pods filled with bitter seeds that ancient civilisations, including the Maya and later the Aztecs, ground and mixed with water, chilli, and spices to make a frothy, unsweetened drink. Far from being a casual snack, this cacao beverage held ceremonial importance and was sometimes used as currency, with cacao beans traded for goods and even used to pay taxes.

When Spanish explorers brought cacao back to Europe in the sixteenth century, the drink slowly changed to suit European tastes. Sugar and, eventually, milk were added, softening the bitterness that had defined the original Mesoamerican recipe. For roughly two centuries, chocolate remained a beverage enjoyed mostly by wealthy Europeans, since cacao was expensive to import and time-consuming to prepare, requiring the beans to be roasted, ground, and processed largely by hand.

Everything changed in 1828, when a Dutch chemist named Coenraad van Houten developed a press capable of extracting cocoa butter from roasted cacao beans, leaving behind a fine powder that could be mixed easily with liquid. This invention made chocolate cheaper and quicker to produce, and it also created a surplus of cocoa butter, which manufacturers soon began combining with cocoa powder and sugar to create solid, moulded chocolate bars, a form previously impossible to make in large quantities.

From there, chocolate spread rapidly beyond the wealthy classes. Companies in Switzerland, Britain, and the United States competed to refine the recipe further, eventually adding milk to create milk chocolate in the 1870s. Today, chocolate is grown, processed, and consumed on a global scale, yet its origins as a bitter, ceremonial drink brewed by Mesoamerican civilisations are largely forgotten by the millions who unwrap a chocolate bar without a second thought.

Comprehension Questions (16 marks — 2 marks each)

1. Which civilisations first made a drink from cacao seeds? *[Specific Information]*

A. The Maya and the Aztecs

B. The Egyptians and the Phoenicians

C. The Romans and the Greeks

2. In what year did van Houten create his cocoa press? *[Specific Information]*

A. In the year 1928

B. In the year 1828

C. In the year 1728

3. What is the writer's attitude toward chocolate's origins? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Dismissive of any historical background at all

B. Angry that chocolate has changed so drastically

C. Interested in showing how different its history is

4. What tone marks the closing paragraph on people's knowledge of chocolate's past? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Indifferent to whether that history survives

B. Reflective, noting the history is now mostly forgotten

C. Boastful about how much people actually know

5. What is the central idea of the second paragraph? *[Main points]*

almanahj.com

A. Sugar was never once added to European chocolate

B. Chocolate became affordable for everyone almost right away

C. Chocolate stayed a costly drink for wealthy Europeans for centuries

6. What is the central idea of the third paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Solid chocolate bars existed well before van Houten's press

B. Van Houten's press cut costs and enabled solid chocolate bars

C. Van Houten's invention had no real effect at all

7. What is this passage's main purpose? *[Overall meaning]*

A. To trace chocolate's shift from bitter drink to sweet treat

B. To explain how to successfully grow cacao trees

C. To compare the taste of various chocolate brands today

8. Which statement best sums up the passage as a whole? *[Overall meaning]*

A. Chocolate began as a bitter drink and slowly became today's treat

B. Chocolate was invented in Europe with no earlier roots

C. Chocolate has always been made exactly as it is now

almanahj.com

Exercise 9: The Restless Earth

Skills assessed: Details / Mood, Tone & Attitude / Main Points / Overall Meaning

Beneath the calm surface of the planet, enormous forces are constantly at work. Earth's outer layer is broken into massive plates that drift slowly across a hot, semi-fluid layer beneath them, moving at roughly the speed a fingernail grows. Where these plates meet, pressure can build up over decades or even centuries until it is released suddenly, sometimes as an earthquake and sometimes by forcing molten rock upward through the crust in the form of a volcanic eruption.

Not all volcanoes behave the same way, and their behaviour largely depends on the type of magma feeding them. Thin, runny magma allows gas to escape easily, producing relatively gentle eruptions where lava flows steadily downhill, as is common in places like Hawaii. Thick, sticky magma traps gas beneath the surface until pressure builds to dangerous levels, then releases it violently, hurling ash, rock, and gas high into the atmosphere. These explosive eruptions are far more destructive and can affect areas hundreds of kilometres away.

Scientists monitor active volcanoes closely, watching for warning signs such as small earthquakes, changes in ground shape, and shifts in gas emissions, all of which can signal that magma is moving beneath the surface. Modern monitoring has improved dramatically, allowing many eruptions to be predicted days or even weeks in advance, giving communities time to evacuate. Even so, predicting the exact moment of an eruption remains extremely difficult, and some volcanoes still catch scientists by surprise.

Despite the destruction volcanoes can cause, they are not purely harmful. Volcanic soil is often exceptionally fertile, which is why some of the most productive farmland in the world lies near active volcanoes, and eruptions over millions of years have played a part in shaping much of Earth's atmosphere and landscape. Living near a volcano is a trade-off many communities have made for generations, weighing real danger against real benefit.

Comprehension Questions (16 marks — 2 marks each)

1. What produces gentle eruptions with steadily flowing lava? *[Details]*

A. Magma that is thin and runny

B. Magma that is thick and sticky

C. A total absence of any magma

2. What warning signs do scientists watch for before an eruption? *[Details]*

A. Only shifts in local air temperature

B. Unusual changes in the ocean's tides

C. Small quakes, shape changes, and gas shifts

3. What is the writer's overall attitude toward volcanoes? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Completely indifferent to their effects

B. Balanced, weighing both danger and benefit

C. Purely negative, seeing only destruction

4. What tone marks the discussion of eruption prediction's limits? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Dismissive of monitoring's overall value

B. Honest, admitting real uncertainty remains

C. Overconfident, claiming predictions are always right

5. What is the central idea of the second paragraph? *[Main points]*

almanahj.com

A. Every single volcano erupts in the exact same way

B. Magma type decides whether an eruption is gentle or violent

C. Volcanoes are found only within Hawaii's island chain

6. What is the central idea of the closing paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Volcanoes offer no benefits of any sort

B. No one has ever settled near a volcano

C. Volcanoes bring benefits like fertile soil alongside real dangers

7. What is this passage's main purpose? *[Overall meaning]*

A. To argue that volcanic regions be permanently emptied

B. To explain how volcanoes erupt and how people weigh the risks

C. To describe lava's precise chemical makeup in detail

8. Which statement best sums up the passage as a whole? *[Overall meaning]*

A. Volcanoes are fully predictable and pose no danger nearby

B. Volcanic soil is too poor for farming near volcanoes

C. Volcanoes stem from shifting plates and bring both risk and benefit

almanahj.com

Exercise 10: The Long Journey of Migratory Birds

Skills assessed: Specific Information / Mood, Tone & Attitude / Main Points / Overall Meaning

Every year, billions of birds undertake journeys that stretch across entire continents and oceans, travelling from their breeding grounds to warmer regions and back again with the changing seasons. The Arctic tern holds one of the most astonishing records: it travels roughly seventy thousand kilometres annually, flying from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back, which means a tern that lives thirty years will have flown a distance equal to travelling to the moon and back several times over.

Scientists have long wondered how birds manage to navigate such enormous distances without becoming lost. Research suggests that birds use several tools at once. Many species can detect Earth's magnetic field, a sense that helps them maintain a consistent direction even over open ocean where there are no landmarks. Others rely on the position of the sun and stars, essentially reading the sky like a map, while some appear to memorise visual landmarks such as coastlines, rivers, and mountain ranges along familiar routes.

Migration is not simply about direction; timing matters just as much. Birds that leave too early or too late risk arriving at their destination when food is scarce or weather conditions are dangerous. Many species appear to respond to changes in day length, which triggers hormonal shifts that prepare their bodies for the physical demands of the journey, including building up fat reserves that will fuel muscles for days or even weeks of continuous flight.

Unfortunately, migratory birds now face growing obstacles along their ancient routes. Wetlands where birds traditionally rest and refuel are being drained for development, while artificial lights in cities can disorient night-flying species, sometimes leading to fatal collisions with buildings. Conservationists have begun working across national borders to protect key stopover sites, recognising that a bird's survival depends not just on conditions at its final destination but on the safety of every stop along the way.

Comprehension Questions (16 marks — 2 marks each)

1. Roughly how far does the Arctic tern travel each year? *[Specific Information]*

A. About seven thousand kilometres

B. About seven hundred kilometres

C. About seventy thousand kilometres

2. What natural sense keeps many birds oriented over open ocean? *[Specific Information]*

A. Their ability to sense Earth's magnetic field

B. Their keen and highly developed hearing

C. Their strong and reliable sense of smell

3. What is the writer's attitude toward threats migratory birds now face? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Concerned, pointing to genuine risks to survival

B. Amused by the struggles birds encounter

C. Unbothered, treating the threats as trivial

4. What tone marks the description of the Arctic tern's journey? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Impressed by the sheer scale achieved

B. Bored by the finer points of migration

C. Skeptical that such a trip is possible

5. What is the central idea of the second paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Scientists have no clue how birds navigate

almanahj.com

B. Birds combine magnetic, celestial, and visual cues to navigate

C. Birds rely on just a single method to navigate

6. What is the central idea of the third paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Migration timing has no real bearing on a bird's survival

B. Birds migrate at completely random points during each year

C. Timing, guided by daylight and fat stores, matters as much as direction

7. What is this passage's main purpose? *[Overall meaning]*

A. To give detailed instructions for building a birdwatching hide

B. To argue that migration be studied only in labs

C. To explain why and how birds migrate and the threats they face

8. Which statement best sums up the passage as a whole? *[Overall meaning]*

A. Scientists have solved every mystery of bird navigation fully

B. Birds rely on remarkable navigation, yet face growing human threats

C. Migratory birds cover only short distances and face no threats

almanahj.com/e
2026 2025

Exercise 11: A Press That Changed the World

Skills assessed: Details / Mood, Tone & Attitude / Main Points / Overall Meaning

Before the fifteenth century, producing a book in Europe was a slow, painstaking process. Scribes copied texts by hand, letter by letter, a task that could take months or even years to complete a single volume. As a result, books were rare and expensive, owned mostly by monasteries, universities, and the wealthy. Literacy itself remained limited, partly because there was so little for most people to read even if they had the skill.

That changed around 1440, when a German goldsmith named Johannes Gutenberg developed a printing press that used movable metal type. Rather than carving an entire page from a single block of wood, as earlier printing methods in East Asia had done, Gutenberg's system used individual letters that could be arranged, inked, pressed onto paper, and then rearranged to print an entirely different page. This flexibility made the process dramatically faster and, once the initial equipment was built, far cheaper per copy than hand-copying had ever been.

The effects spread quickly across Europe. Within fifty years of Gutenberg's invention, printing presses had appeared in more than two hundred cities, producing millions of books on subjects ranging from religion and science to poetry and law. Prices fell as printing became more common, and books that had once been rare treasures became accessible to merchants, craftsmen, and eventually ordinary citizens, fuelling a rise in literacy across the continent.

Historians often point to the printing press as one of the most transformative inventions in human history, not simply because it produced more books, but because of what those books made possible. Ideas that had previously spread slowly through word of mouth or costly manuscripts could now travel across borders within months, contributing to major shifts including the Reformation and the broader intellectual movement known as the Renaissance. A single invention, built to speed up the copying of letters, ended up reshaping how an entire civilisation thought and communicated.

Comprehension Questions (16 marks — 2 marks each)

1. Who built a movable-type printing press around 1440? *[Details]*

A. A French merchant called Jean Bonnet

B. An Italian scholar called Leonardo da Vinci

C. A German goldsmith called Johannes Gutenberg

2. How many cities had presses within fifty years of the invention? *[Details]*

A. More than two hundred cities

B. Roughly twenty cities in total

C. Fewer than ten cities total

3. What is the writer's attitude toward the press's historical impact? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Annoyed that communication methods changed

B. Doubtful that it had much effect

C. Convinced that it was truly transformative

4. What tone marks the description of book-making before the press? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Fully neutral, showing no interest at all

B. Sympathetic toward the scribes' slow, hard labour

C. Mocking of the effort scribes put in

almanahj.com

5. What is the central idea of the second paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Movable type began in Europe with no earlier models

B. Gutenberg's press was slower than copying by hand

C. Gutenberg's movable type made printing faster and cheaper

6. What is the central idea of the third paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Printing spread fast across Europe, cutting prices and lifting literacy

B. Book prices climbed sharply right after printing began

C. Printing remained confined to just one city for centuries

7. What is this passage's main purpose? *[Overall meaning]*

A. To compare various papers used in early printing

B. To explain the press's invention and its lasting social impact

C. To describe medieval scribes' daily routines in detail

8. Which statement best sums up the passage as a whole? *[Overall meaning]*

A. The press barely affected literacy or the spread of ideas

B. Books stayed rare and costly even after the press arrived

C. Gutenberg's press sped up book output, spreading literacy widely

almanahj.com

Exercise 12: Life in Extreme Dryness

Skills assessed: Specific Information / Mood, Tone & Attitude / Main Points / Overall Meaning

Deserts cover roughly one-fifth of the Earth's land surface, yet they are far from empty of life. What defines a desert is not necessarily heat but a lack of precipitation, typically less than 250 millimetres of rain per year, which means some deserts, such as parts of Antarctica, are bitterly cold rather than scorching. Whether hot or cold, every desert forces its plants and animals to solve the same basic problem: how to survive with almost no reliable water.

Desert plants have developed a range of clever strategies to cope with scarce water. Cacti store water in thick, fleshy stems and reduce water loss by having spines instead of broad leaves, which would lose far more moisture through evaporation. Other plants, such as certain desert wildflowers, take a different approach entirely, remaining as dormant seeds in the soil for years until a rare rainfall triggers rapid germination, flowering, and seed production within just a few weeks before the ground dries out again.

Animals face similar pressures and have evolved equally varied solutions. Many desert creatures, including foxes and certain rodents, are nocturnal, remaining hidden in burrows during the scorching daytime heat and emerging only at night when temperatures drop. Some animals obtain nearly all the moisture they need from the food they eat, rarely or never drinking standing water directly. The kangaroo rat of North America, for example, can survive its entire life without ever taking a drink.

Human communities have lived in deserts for thousands of years as well, developing their own methods for managing scarce water, from underground channels that transport water across long distances with minimal evaporation to architecture designed to trap cool air and shade. As climate patterns shift and populations grow, understanding how desert life has adapted to extreme dryness has become increasingly relevant well beyond the deserts themselves, offering lessons for water management in a warming world.

Comprehension Questions (16 marks — 2 marks each)

1. Roughly what share of Earth's land is desert? *[Specific Information]*

A. Roughly one-half of the land

B. About one-fifth of the land

C. About one-tenth of the land

2. Which animal can live its whole life without drinking water directly? *[Specific Information]*

A. The desert kangaroo rat

B. The common desert camel

C. The common desert fox

3. What is the writer's attitude toward desert plants and animals? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Admiring of their extreme adaptations

B. Doubtful such adaptations are possible

C. Bored by their survival strategies

4. What tone marks the closing paragraph on desert survival lessons? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Dismissive, treating them as irrelevant now

B. Alarmed that deserts are spreading unchecked

C. Thoughtful, suggesting they hold useful lessons

5. What is the central idea of the second paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Desert plants use varied tactics to cope with scarce rain

almanahj.com

B. All desert plants store water the exact same way

C. Desert plants cannot survive without regular daily rainfall

6. What is the central idea of the third paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. No desert animals are ever active during the night

B. Desert animals require constant access to open standing water

C. Desert animals use traits like nocturnal habits to handle dryness

7. What is this passage's main purpose? *[Overall meaning]*

A. To argue deserts should be avoided by all life

B. To explain how desert life, humans included, adapts to dryness

C. To describe tourist attractions found across desert regions

8. Which statement best sums up the passage as a whole? *[Overall meaning]*

A. Only human communities manage to survive in deserts

B. Despite extreme dryness, plants, animals, and people have all adapted

C. Deserts are lifeless places where survival is essentially impossible

almanahj.com

Exercise 13: Every Drop Counts

Skills assessed: Details / Mood, Tone & Attitude / Main Points / Overall Meaning

Water covers most of the Earth's surface, yet only a small fraction is available for human use. Roughly ninety-seven percent of the planet's water is salt water locked in oceans, and of the remaining freshwater, most is frozen in glaciers and ice caps or buried underground, leaving less than one percent readily accessible in lakes, rivers, and shallow groundwater. This scarcity, combined with a growing global population, has made water conservation an increasingly urgent priority in many regions of the world.

Household water use often gets attention first, since small changes can add up quickly. A leaking tap that drips once per second can waste more than eleven thousand litres of water in a single year, an amount that many households only discover once they see an unusually high bill. Simple fixes, such as repairing leaks promptly, installing low-flow showerheads, and running washing machines only with full loads, can significantly reduce a household's water footprint without requiring major lifestyle changes.

Agriculture, however, uses far more water than households do, accounting for roughly seventy percent of global freshwater withdrawals, largely for irrigating crops. Traditional flood irrigation, where entire fields are simply covered in water, is inefficient because much of the water evaporates or seeps away before reaching plant roots. Drip irrigation, which delivers water directly to a plant's root zone through a network of tubes, can cut water use by thirty to sixty percent compared with flood irrigation while often producing equal or better crop yields.

Governments and businesses are also exploring larger-scale solutions, including desalination plants that convert seawater into freshwater and wastewater recycling systems that treat used water for reuse in irrigation or industry. These technologies remain costly and energy-intensive, which limits how widely they can be adopted, but they are becoming increasingly important in arid regions, including much of the Gulf, where natural freshwater supplies alone cannot meet growing demand.

Comprehension Questions (16 marks — 2 marks each)

1. What portion of Earth's water is ocean salt water? *[Details]*

A. About seventy percent of it

B. About fifty percent of it

C. About ninety-seven percent of it

2. By how much can drip irrigation cut water use versus flooding? *[Details]*

A. Five to ten percent less

B. Thirty to sixty percent less

C. Ninety to a hundred percent less

3. What is the writer's attitude toward the water conservation efforts described? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Indifferent to whether water gets saved

B. Supportive, showing them as practical and useful

C. Skeptical that any method truly works

4. What tone marks the discussion of desalination and recycling? *[Mood, tone and attitude]*

A. Dismissive of their usefulness in every case

B. Overconfident, claiming they carry no downsides

C. Balanced, noting value alongside cost and energy needs

5. What is the central idea of the second paragraph? *[Main points]*

almanahj.com

A. Washing machines should never be run to save water
B. Small household fixes, like mending leaks, cut real waste
C. Household water use barely affects the overall supply

6. What is the central idea of the third paragraph? *[Main points]*

A. Farming uses most freshwater, and better irrigation cuts this a lot
B. Farming uses very little water when compared with households
C. Flood irrigation stands as the most efficient watering method

7. What is this passage's main purpose? *[Overall meaning]*

A. To argue that water conservation is needless in most regions
B. To describe in detail how glaciers and ice caps form
C. To explain water scarcity and ways to conserve it in daily life

8. Which statement best sums up the passage as a whole? *[Overall meaning]*

A. Since fresh water is scarce, conservation across sectors matters more
B. Fresh water is so plentiful that conservation barely matters
C. Farms and households use about equal shares of the world's water

almanahj.com

Answer Key

Exercise 1: Harnessing the Sun

Q#	Skill	Correct Answer
1	Details	**C**
2	Details	**A**
3	Mood, tone and attitude	**A**
4	Mood, tone and attitude	**A**
5	Main points	**C**
6	Main points	**B**
7	Overall meaning	**B**
8	Overall meaning	**B**

Exercise 2: The Silk Road

Q#	Skill	Correct Answer
1	Specific Information	**A**
2	Specific Information	**B**
3	Mood, tone and attitude	**B**
4	Mood, tone and attitude	**B**
5	Main points	**B**
6	Main points	**C**
7	Overall meaning	**B**
8	Overall meaning	**A**

Exercise 3: Why Teenagers Need More Sleep

Q#	Skill	Correct Answer
1	Details	**B**
2	Details	**C**
3	Mood, tone and attitude	**A**
4	Mood, tone and attitude	**A**
5	Main points	**C**
6	Main points	**A**
7	Overall meaning	**A**
8	Overall meaning	**C**

Exercise 4: Coral Reefs Under Pressure

Q#	Skill	Correct Answer
1	Specific Information	**C**
2	Specific Information	**C**
3	Mood, tone and attitude	**A**
4	Mood, tone and attitude	**A**
5	Main points	**C**
6	Main points	**C**
7	Overall meaning	**B**
8	Overall meaning	**C**

Exercise 5: The Camel: Built for the Desert

almanahj.com

Q#	Skill	Correct Answer
1	Details	**B**
2	Details	**A**
3	Mood, tone and attitude	**C**
4	Mood, tone and attitude	**C**
5	Main points	**A**
6	Main points	**B**
7	Overall meaning	**C**
8	Overall meaning	**A**

Exercise 6: Rethinking Waste: The Circular Economy

Q#	Skill	Correct Answer
1	Specific Information	**B**
2	Specific Information	**B**
3	Mood, tone and attitude	**A**
4	Mood, tone and attitude	**A**
5	Main points	**C**
6	Main points	**A**
7	Overall meaning	**B**
8	Overall meaning	**A**

Exercise 7: Robots on Mars

Q#	Skill	Correct Answer
1	Details	**A**
2	Details	**C**
3	Mood, tone and attitude	**A**
4	Mood, tone and attitude	**B**
5	Main points	**B**
6	Main points	**A**
7	Overall meaning	**B**
8	Overall meaning	**C**

Exercise 8: From Bitter Bean to Sweet Treat

Q#	Skill	Correct Answer
1	Specific Information	**A**
2	Specific Information	**B**
3	Mood, tone and attitude	**C**
4	Mood, tone and attitude	**B**
5	Main points	**C**
6	Main points	**B**
7	Overall meaning	**A**
8	Overall meaning	**A**

Exercise 9: The Restless Earth

Q#	Skill	Correct Answer
1	Details	**A**
2	Details	**C**
3	Mood, tone and attitude	**B**
4	Mood, tone and attitude	**B**

almanahj.com

5	Main points	**B**
6	Main points	**C**
7	Overall meaning	**B**
8	Overall meaning	**C**

Exercise 10: The Long Journey of Migratory Birds

Q#	Skill	Correct Answer
1	Specific Information	**C**
2	Specific Information	**A**
3	Mood, tone and attitude	**A**
4	Mood, tone and attitude	**A**
5	Main points	**B**
6	Main points	**C**
7	Overall meaning	**C**
8	Overall meaning	**B**

Exercise 11: A Press That Changed the World

Q#	Skill	Correct Answer
1	Details	**C**
2	Details	**A**
3	Mood, tone and attitude	**C**
4	Mood, tone and attitude	**B**
5	Main points	**C**
6	Main points	**A**
7	Overall meaning	**B**
8	Overall meaning	**C**

Exercise 12: Life in Extreme Dryness

Q#	Skill	Correct Answer
1	Specific Information	**B**
2	Specific Information	**A**
3	Mood, tone and attitude	**A**
4	Mood, tone and attitude	**C**
5	Main points	**A**
6	Main points	**C**
7	Overall meaning	**B**
8	Overall meaning	**B**

Exercise 13: Every Drop Counts

Q#	Skill	Correct Answer
1	Details	**C**
2	Details	**B**
3	Mood, tone and attitude	**B**
4	Mood, tone and attitude	**C**
5	Main points	**B**
6	Main points	**A**
7	Overall meaning	**C**
8	Overall meaning	**A**

almanahj.com