

English

TEST INSTRUCTIONS

FILL IN YOUR DETAILS

Turn to your ANSWER SHEET and fill in your name, school, grade, section, today's date, your date of birth and gender.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

Go to the ENGLISH ANSWER SHEET.

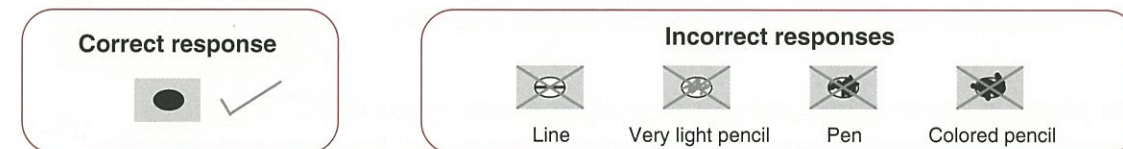
This test has **45 QUESTIONS**. Each question has four possible options.

Choose the **BEST** answer from the four options, **A, B, C** or **D**.

FILL in **ONE** circle on your answer sheet with a pencil.

If you make a mistake, erase the pencil mark and fill in a different circle.

You must colour the entire circle as shown below:



Marks are NOT deducted for incorrect answers.

ALL ANSWERS SHOULD BE MARKED ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET ONLY.

EQUIPMENT ALLOWED IN THIS TEST

You may use a 2B or B pencil for this test. You may NOT use a dictionary for this test.

TIME ALLOWED FOR TEST

The time allowed to complete this test is **60 minutes**.

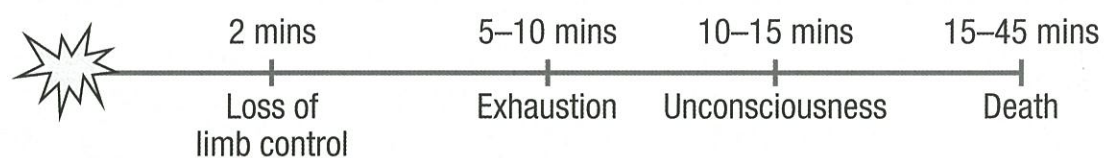
Escape from Ice

In cold countries during winter months, rivers and lakes sometimes freeze over. People who walk across or skate on the ice need to be careful because, even though it may appear stable, the ice can be dangerously thin in patches. If you do find yourself falling through ice, these tips may help save your life.

- Stay calm and regulate your breathing. Falling into ice cold water triggers a 'gasp reflex' which can cause you to inhale water and drown. Take a moment to process what has just happened.
- If you are fully submerged under the ice sheet, look for a patch of light. This is likely to be where you fell in, and it offers the best chance of you getting out.
- If your head is above water, face the direction from where you came. Even though the direction you were heading may provide a shorter route to escape, you have no idea how strong that section of ice is. You do know, however, the path that you took to get here was strong enough to support you before you fell in.
- When you find a suitable place to exit the water, move your body into a horizontal position and slide your hands as far forward on the ice as possible. Bang the ice with the base of your hand to dent it – this will allow you to get a grip on the ice. Pull with your arms and kick your legs until you are out of the water.
- If you can't haul yourself fully out of the water, get as much of your body out as possible. If you feel yourself losing consciousness, allow your hair to freeze to the ice. This may keep your head out of the water until help arrives.
- If you can't get any part of your body out of the water, minimise heat loss by staying as still as possible. If you have a life jacket, move into the HELP (Heat Escape Lessening Posture) position as shown.
- Once out of the water, lie flat and roll across the ice, away from the water. Rolling avoids putting too much pressure on any one area of ice.
- Find a warm place, a warm drink and dry clothes as soon as possible. Your body temperature will have dropped drastically and hypothermia will likely kick in. Take off the wet clothes as these will continue to reduce your body temperature.



Typical timeline of events after falling in water of temperatures near zero degrees



41 Which statement best describes the overall purpose of this text?

- A to provide a history of snapping shrimps
- B to reveal a surprising fact about snapping shrimps
- C to challenge current research about snapping shrimps
- D to describe the scientific benefits of snapping shrimps

42 What is an effect of comparing the snapping shrimp to the blue whale?

- A It reinforces old ideas about the blue whale.
- B It reveals an unusual fact about the blue whale.
- C It challenges a common assumption about the blue whale.
- D It shows that scientists have been wrong about the blue whale.

43 At what moment does the loud sound made by the snapping shrimp occur?

- A when the jet of water starts to slow down
- B when the bubbles of water vapour collapse
- C when the bubbles of water vapour warm up
- D when the jet of water reaches 100 km per hour

44 How does the shrimp catch its prey?

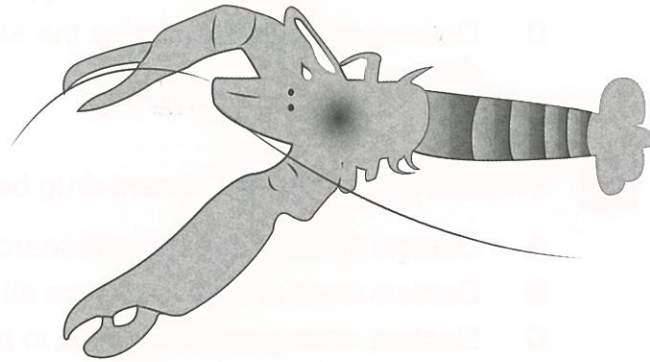
- A by shooting poison at its prey
- B by crushing its prey with its claw
- C by trapping its prey in its hiding place
- D by snapping its claw to knock out its prey

45 Which piece of information is provided in the last paragraph?

- A The military discovered the existence of snapping shrimps.
- B Scientific studies into snapping shrimps have aided military tactics.
- C Snapping shrimps can interfere with underwater scientific equipment.
- D Scientific studies have revealed the hostile nature of snapping shrimps.

Snapping Shrimps

Despite being less than five centimetres long, the snapping shrimp competes with much larger animals for the title of the loudest animal in the world. These shrimps, members of the Alpheidae family, are found in shallow tropical and subtropical waters. The most impressive fact about them is that they can emit sound at an astonishing 218 decibels – louder than a gunshot, a rocket launch or a jet engine. And louder than the animal often thought to be the loudest in the world – the blue whale – which can reach up to 188 decibels.



The noise is not directly made from the sound of the shrimp snapping its single oversized claw, as scientists used to believe. Video shot at 40,000 frames per second shows clearly that the noise occurs 700 microseconds after the claw has snapped shut. The noise comes instead from burst bubbles, an effect known as cavitation.

This is how it works: the claw is shut so rapidly that a jet of water travelling at approximately 100 kilometres per hour squirts out, fast enough to create expanding bubbles of water vapour. When the water slows down and normal pressure is restored, the bubbles collapse, creating intense heat (more than 4,500 degrees Celsius), a loud pop and a flash of light. This process is a very rare phenomenon called sonoluminescence, where sound generates light.

Shrimps use this noise to stun prey, communicate and find mates. When feeding, the shrimp usually lies in a concealed spot, such as a burrow. The shrimp then extends its antennae outwards to check if any fish are passing by. Once it feels movement, the shrimp inches out of its hiding place, pulls back its claw, and releases a “shot” that stuns the prey. The shrimp then pulls its prey into the burrow and feeds.

The impact of this shot does not end there. The underwater cacophony produced by a large number of these shrimps can disrupt military and scientific efforts to “see” through the ocean using sonar. In fact, studies into snapping shrimp acoustics began in World War II because the enormous noise created by these small creatures made it so difficult to detect hostile submarines.

- 1** According to the text, why do people fall through ice?
- A They are unaware of the dangers.
 - B They fail to exercise sufficient caution.
 - C They lack the skills to walk across ice properly.
 - D They do not use the right equipment for the conditions.

- 2** What do both steps 2 & 3 suggest may save your life?
- A returning to your point of origin
 - B moving your head to keep warm
 - C swimming underneath the ice sheet
 - D taking the shortest path away from the water

- 3** If you fall through ice, you should stay calm and
- A remove your outer layer of clothing.
 - B adopt the HELP position.
 - C plan an escape strategy.
 - D call out for help.

- 4** In step 4, why do you make a small hole in the ice with your hand?
- A to get your body into a horizontal position
 - B to stop your hands from freezing
 - C to drag yourself out of the water
 - D to help you breathe

- 5** Which word best describes the tone in which this information is presented?
- A terrifying
 - B humorous
 - C emotional
 - D dispassionate

Job of a Friend

The job of a friend is a role that we never formally apply for. Yes, there is a selection process where each party puts the feelers out to assess the other's suitability, but the job description is not explicitly defined and the qualities of the applicant are never stated. "Hi. I would like to be your friend. I am sincere, trustworthy, and a lot of fun. What would I be required to do in this role?" This is a conversation that we never have. A friendship is an unspoken agreement that often begins through chance. There is no design, no plan, and the expectations of the other party are rarely defined. And this is perhaps why many friendships don't last.

Friendships, especially when we are young, are fluid and fragile. Primary school children can be the best of friends in the morning and sworn enemies after lunch. Friendship contracts can be broken by a poorly chosen word, a selfish gesture, or from an allegiance to a third party. And these petty deal-breakers don't change that much as we move into adulthood, only the context does. Failing to admire someone's new toy in kindergarten is the equivalent of failing to comment on someone's selfie on social media – a sackable offence in some teens' circles.

It's these little things that cause the problems. These little slights that, had we known our friendship depended upon them, could have easily been avoided, or at least apologised for immediately afterwards. But this lack of clarity in the friendship contract makes finding our way through friendships actually rather tricky. If the rules were made clear at the start of the contract, a lot of heartache could be spared.

Through experience we get better at being a friend. We learn how these quirky individuals we call our friends will react to certain behaviours, and we learn to adapt our behaviours to suit each person. Equally, we become more tolerant, less demanding, and we expect less from our friends as we age. Having trodden through many an emotional minefield in my time, I now feel well qualified to be a friend. If only I had known the rules when I was younger.



- 36 According to the text, what is the biggest problem affecting pharmaceutical research?
- A Medicines are being rushed to the market without sufficient research.
 - B The research is skewed to suit the interests of pharmaceutical companies.
 - C Research is conducted on subjects without sufficient precautions being taken.
 - D Doctors are unable to judge the effectiveness of medicines due to the amount of data.

- 37 What led to the anti-depressant drug being misprescribed?
- A Doctors ignored important research.
 - B Doctors were unable to access all the relevant data.
 - C Doctors were given incentives to prescribe the drug to patients.
 - D Doctors were unable to diagnose depression accurately in the 1990s.

- 38 What is the author's opinion of pharmaceutical companies?
- A They lack the funds needed for comprehensive research.
 - B They need greater support from the medical community.
 - C They lack the skills to conduct research effectively.
 - D They need to be forced to behave ethically.

- 39 What does the text suggest about doctors?
- A They do not listen to pharmaceutical companies.
 - B They have lost the trust of pharmaceutical companies.
 - C They can be influenced by pharmaceutical companies.
 - D They ought to work more closely with pharmaceutical companies.

- 40 *Several studies which indicated that the drug posed a serious risk to teenagers' lives were left unpublished ...*

Why were these studies eventually published?

- A demand from the public
- B advances in data analysis
- C release of a new drug
- D changes in the law

Bad Medicine

Research studies into the benefits of medicinal drugs are usually funded by the manufacturer of that drug. If the data presents an unfavourable outcome, the research is often 'buried' and the public never gets to hear about it. The consequences of this can be fatal.

From 1992 to 1999, an anti-depressant drug was being prescribed by doctors who had a limited understanding of its effect on teenagers. Several studies which indicated that the drug posed a serious risk to teenagers' lives were left unpublished, and were therefore never read by the doctors prescribing the drug. During the seven-year period, 8000 young patients who were prescribed the medication suffered a severe disability as a direct result of taking the drug. Almost 850 patients died.

The burying of unflattering data is not uncommon. Pharmaceutical companies are generally not altruistic entities; they operate for profit just like most other businesses. If a drug they have been developing is shown to be ineffective, they will often repeat the research until the data shows something more favourable. This is the study that will then be published.

It has been suggested that, of the papers published in medical journals, up to 80% are somehow biased in favour of the drug manufacturers, with many drugs being trialled on groups that are not representative of the people they are designed to help. Subsequently, medicines are frequently given to cohorts of people they were never trialled on, or for uses that have not been properly researched. It seems unimaginable that doctors, who are supposed to care for people, would prescribe medicines that are potentially harmful to their patients, but with a seemingly endless supply of published findings, it becomes hard for them to keep abreast of current research, and impossible for them to scrutinise all of the data.

Additionally, doctors themselves are not immune from bias. Many drug companies offer incentives to health professionals, from free lunches to free trips away, and a strong positive correlation has been found between the number of sweeteners a company offers and the number of prescriptions written for that company's drugs.

Public health advocates are now calling for measures to clean up the industry. These include a publicly-available database of the raw data from all research, removing people from drug approval boards if they have links to pharmaceutical companies, and heavier penalties for companies that bend the rules.

As a response to the outcry for greater transparency, the original data on the anti-depressant drug mentioned above was finally published. This time the report stated that the drug was ineffective when used to treat major depression, and was associated with significant side-effects in teenagers. This report came too late for the teenagers and their families affected by the drug, but the full disclosure of data from clinical trials in the future may help to avoid a repeat of such a tragedy.



- 6 According to the text, what makes maintaining friendships difficult?
- A an oversupply of potential friendships
 - B a lack of commitment from both parties
 - C a failure to define roles and responsibilities
 - D the pressure of meeting a friend's expectations
- 7 According to the text, what is true about the life-cycle of friendships?
- A Friendships are not expected to last.
 - B Friendships are often stumbled upon.
 - C Friendships become more intense over time.
 - D The rules of friendship change as people age.
- 8 Which word best describes the author's tone in this text?
- A resigned
 - B emotional
 - C optimistic
 - D reflective
- 9 The text compares friendships with employment because the author believes
- A friendships require a lot of hard work.
 - B making friends prepares people for the workplace.
 - C life would be better if we treated friendships like jobs.
 - D being a friend is the most important job you will have in your lifetime.
- 10 What conclusion can be drawn about the author from the text?
- A The author finds it difficult to make new friends.
 - B The author did not have many friends while growing up.
 - C The author has perfected the process of searching for friends.
 - D The author has come to understand the complexities of friendships.

Choose the best word(s) for each blank space.

Hang-gliding

It wasn't **11** Toshi had taken off on his maiden solo flight **12** he realised the safety clip for his harness was missing. Of all the things he **13** forgotten in his **14** to fly, this tiny clip was the one thing he should definitely not have forgotten. If his harness **15** snap, he would find himself in all kinds of trouble.

11 Choose the best option for space 11.

- A since
- B prior
- C until
- D while

12 Choose the best option for space 12.

- A that
- B then
- C when
- D before

13 Choose the best option for space 13.

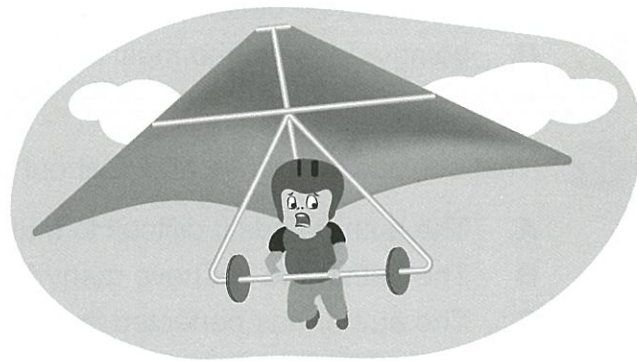
- A must have
- B could have
- C must not have
- D could not have

14 Choose the best option for space 14.

- A eager
- B eagerly
- C eagering
- D eagerness

15 Choose the best option for space 15.

- A might
- B would
- C were to
- D happens to



Replace the **bolded** words. The meaning of the text should remain the same.

Seby

My older brother, Seby, **infuriates** me with his **puerile** behaviour. He surrounds himself with **superficial** people and **fawns over** them at every opportunity. I **envisage** that one day he will begin to question his friendships. Or maybe not.

31 Select the best word to replace **infuriates**.

- A angers
- B puzzles
- C surprises
- D disappoints

32 Select the best word to replace **puerile**.

- A reckless
- B childish
- C dishonest
- D aggressive

33 Select the best word to replace **superficial**.

- A rich
- B timid
- C shallow
- D spiritual

34 Select the best word to replace **fawns over**.

- A ignores
- B flatters
- C criticises
- D encourages

35 Select the best word to replace **envisage**.

- A fear
- B hope
- C pretend
- D imagine



Choose the correctly spelt word for each blank space.

Guilty

It is **26** that a jury can clear a man of such a **27** offence when the evidence for his guilt is so **28**. I am **29** to lose faith in the **30** system.

26 Choose the best option for space 26.

- A uncontionable
- B uncontienable
- C unconscienable
- D unconscionable

27 Choose the best option for space 27.

- A hineous
- B henious
- C heinous
- D hienous

28 Choose the best option for space 28.

- A overwelming
- B overwellming
- C overwehlmimg
- D overwhelming

29 Choose the best option for space 29.

- A begining
- B beginning
- C beggining
- D begginning

30 Choose the best option for space 30.

- A judicial
- B juditial
- C judeicial
- D judeitial



16 Which word should have a comma (,) after it?

Unbeknownst to the majority of the audience gathered there darkness was about to descend on the theatre.

- A Unbeknownst
- B majority
- C gathered
- D there

17 Which word should have a semicolon (;) after it?

My daughter has done a bungee jump before I am an old man who is too afraid to try.

- A done
- B jump
- C before
- D man

18 Which part of the sentence should have brackets () around it?

On my computer there is a button I press the large, red one that updates all my files.

- A there is a button
- B a button I press
- C the large, red one
- D red one that updates

19 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- A I felt a tingling sensation all over my face on my lips, my nose and my ears.
- B I felt a tingling sensation all over my face: on my lips, my nose and my ears.
- C I felt a tingling sensation all over my face; on my lips, my nose and my ears.
- D I felt a tingling sensation all over my face — on my lips — my nose and my ears.

20 Which two words should have a comma (,) after them?

It is an unwritten rule that a gentleman having once stated his opinion shall allow others to state theirs before continuing.

- A rule stated
- B gentleman opinion
- C once theirs
- D opinion theirs

Survivor

From between two large planks of wood, a thin shaft of light peeled away at Rohan's eyelids. He could hear chickens outside, scratching and bickering. Did the world not know that the day began much later?

'It's half past five, kid,' said Jayne, as if reading her brother's thoughts. 'Time to get up.' She threw off her sleeping bag and thrashed her arms around in an attempt to warm herself. 'Half past five,' she reiterated, pacing the room enthusiastically. 'It's going to be a good day.' She put on her coat and muddy boots. 'A very good day.'

When Rohan was younger he liked the way that Jayne repeated her phrases – he found it somewhat reassuring – but now, like so many other things about his sister, it was so incredibly annoying.

'Come on, kid!' said Jayne, kicking at Rohan's feet, soft at first, but then harder when she saw that Rohan wasn't budging. 'Today, you'll become a man!'

'You mean I'll become a murderer.'

'It's not murder if you eat it.' Jayne removed the planks from the doorway to allow the sun to smother Rohan. 'I'm sorry,' she said, but her apology, as usual, was steeped in sarcasm.

Why had Rohan agreed to come on this survival trip? He was not built for it. They both knew it.

Outside the hut, Jayne prodded last night's fire with a stick. It was still smoking; she added more wood. 'I'll go to the river to get some water. If you haven't killed it by the time I get back, I'm leaving you here. You'll have to find your own way home.'

'I'm not even hungry,' protested Rohan.

'We've got twenty miles to cover today. Twenty miles. One quick chop to the neck. You can use my axe.'

Through the doorway came an axe, followed by a chicken.

Jayne's footsteps trailed off to the river. The chicken, unaware of Rohan's dilemma, looked at the boy. It clucked and turned its head to the side.

Back in the real world, chickens came wrapped in plastic; they didn't have feet and feathers, and feelings.



21 What is a sign that Rohan's relationship with Jayne has changed?

- A Rohan now finds Jayne irritating.
- B Jayne now plays tricks on Rohan.
- C Rohan now respects Jayne's authority.
- D Jayne now makes Rohan do jobs for her.

22 Why does Jayne want Rohan to kill a chicken?

- A as punishment for sleeping late
- B because Jayne is afraid to do it herself
- C so Rohan can move on from childhood
- D because it woke them up too early

23 *'It's not murder if you eat it.'*

What point is Jayne making here?

- A Chickens do not have feelings.
- B Killing an animal for food is justified.
- C Chicken meat is good for your health.
- D The word *murder* only applies to the killing of people.

24 Which word best describes Jayne?

- A disorganised
- B respectful
- C supportive
- D controlling

25 *Back in the real world, chickens came wrapped in plastic ...*

What kind of world is Rohan thinking of?

- A a world where people and animals exist in harmony
- B a world where unpleasant things are kept out of sight
- C a world where individuals are responsible for their own survival
- D a world where young people don't have to face difficult challenges