

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.

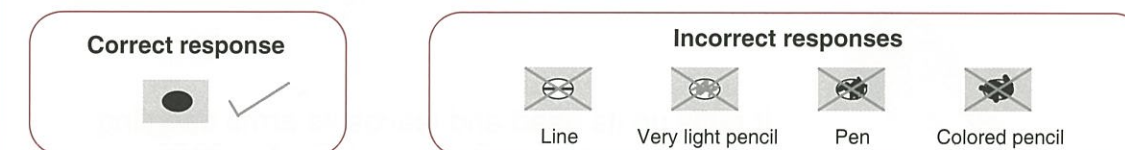
This test has **45 QUESTIONS**. Each question has four possible options.

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


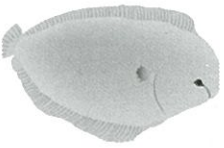


The time allowed to complete this test is **60 minutes**.

Mimic Octopus

An animal's markings are often very important for survival. Many birds use their bright markings to attract a mate, while leopards take advantage of their spots to hide in the grass while hunting. Other creatures, like the chameleon, can change colour to blend in with the environment when hiding from predators. The mimic octopus, though, has a unique trait - it can change not only its colour, but also its shape and behaviour to disguise itself as several different marine animals.

First discovered in 1998 off the coast of Indonesia, the mimic octopus is now well-recognised around the world as a master of mimicry. Naturally brown in colour, it can change its appearance to resemble crabs, sea snakes, jellyfish and several different species of poisonous fish. Whenever a predator approaches, the octopus transforms itself to scare the predator away. For example, if a damsel fish comes near, the octopus buries its body in the sand leaving just two striped legs on show - the two legs resemble the head and tail of a banded sea snake which is known to eat damsel fish.

Having such a wondrous talent has meant there has been a lot of interest in the octopus since it first came to public attention. Some scientists are worried that this may put the octopus at risk as divers try to catch them for aquariums and collectors.

Animal mimicked	How the octopus changes
lion fish 	It waves its legs around its body to look like the deadly spines of a lion fish.
flounder fish 	It flattens its body with its legs by its side to imitate a flounder moving along the sand.
jellyfish 	It puffs up its head and leaves its arms dangling as it swims close to the water's surface like a jellyfish.
crab 	It squashes its body and uses two legs to mimic crab claws. When another crab comes by looking to mate, the octopus eats it.

41 In bomb detection, what advantage do bees have over beagles?

- A Bees eat less food than beagles.
- B Bees work better in a team than beagles.
- C Bees have better memories than beagles.
- D Bees learn the job more quickly than beagles.

42 How does a bee demonstrate that it has detected explosives?

- A by buzzing loudly
- B by beating its wings
- C by showing its tongue
- D by flying towards the source

43 According to the text, what could be a problem when using bees to detect explosives?

- A The bees may attack each other.
- B The bees may become drowsy in the box.
- C The bees may be attracted by other smells.
- D The bees may fly away when they get bored.

44 Why are 36 bees used instead of just one bee?

- A Different bees detect different explosives.
- B Having more bees makes the system more reliable.
- C Bees die when they are separated from their group.
- D Some bees learn from other members of their group.

45 Why do bees only work for two days?

- A They have a short memory.
- B They have a short life-span.
- C They need to be fed.
- D They need to rest.

Bee for Bomb!

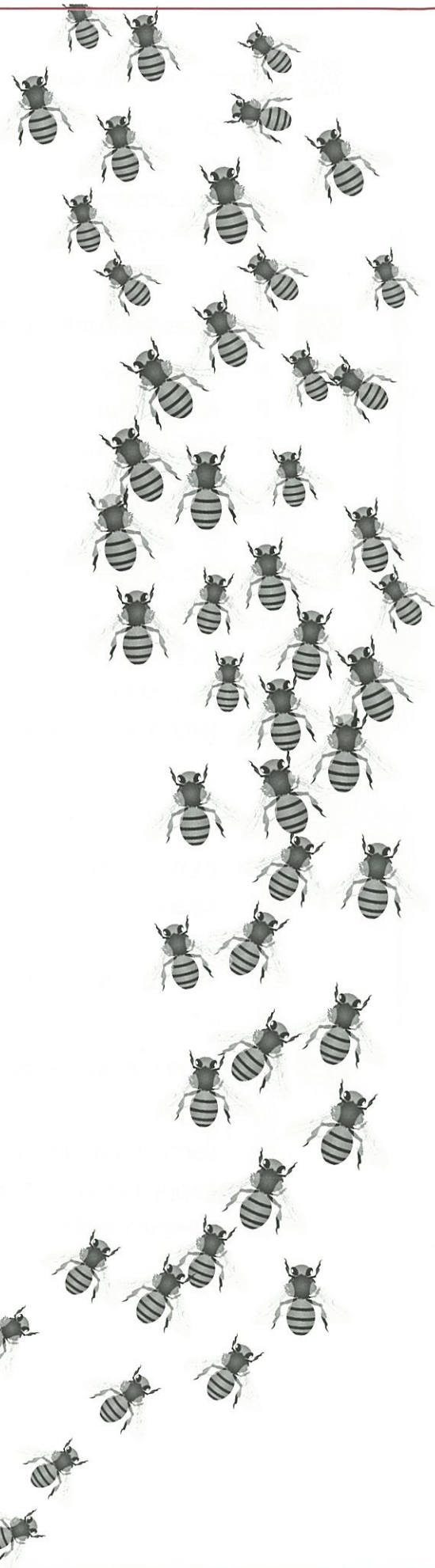
Honeybees may soon be replacing beagle dogs at airports. Laboratory tests involving bees have shown that they are as good as beagles at detecting explosives.

'Bees can detect some odours that are present in parts per trillion – that's equivalent to detecting a grain of salt in an Olympic-sized swimming pool,' says Dr Nesbit, a research scientist specialising in scent detection. Bees are also readily available in large numbers and are much easier to train than dogs. Training a bee takes just a matter of hours, and groups of bees can be trained at the same time. A bee may not have the 'friendly factor' of a beagle but it costs a lot less to train.

Each bee is placed in a harness and briefly exposed to the odour of explosives. After each whiff of the scent the bee is rewarded with a drop of syrup. To receive this treat the bee sticks out its tongue (or more accurately, its proboscis). This is repeated a number of times. The bee becomes so used to sticking out its tongue at the smell of explosives that a protruding tongue is an indicator of the presence of explosives.

Up to 36 harnessed bees are loaded into a portable box and a number of digital cameras closely monitor the activity inside. Air is let into the box through a vent and computer software tracks the movement of the bees' tongues. If enough of these tongues start wagging, the alarm is raised.

This new system, however, is not without its problems. If an airport has a display of fresh flowers or if a passenger is sucking on a syrupy lollipop, there's a chance that the bees will react. There is also the danger that the bees will quickly forget the association they have been trained to detect. Their brains are much smaller than those of beagles, and this is why the unharmed bees will be released back into the hive after working just a two-day shift.

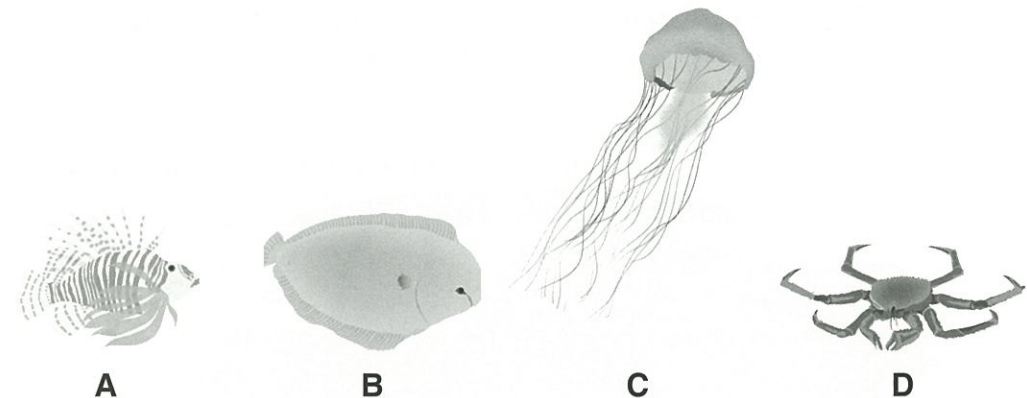


- 1 What makes the mimic octopus special?
- A It can copy many other animals.
 - B It can produce different types of poison.
 - C It can change its appearance to attract mates.
 - D It can make the water around it change colour.

- 2 Why is the damsel fish mentioned in this text?
- A The mimic octopus eats the damsel fish.
 - B The mimic octopus tricks the damsel fish.
 - C The mimic octopus imitates the damsel fish.
 - D The mimic octopus protects the damsel fish.

- 3 What does the table show?
- A animals the mimic octopus eats
 - B animals that eat the mimic octopus
 - C animals the mimic octopus pretends to be
 - D animals that behave like the mimic octopus

- 4 Which animal does the mimic octopus imitate to attract food?



- 5 What does the final paragraph highlight?
- A a global threat
 - B a potential problem
 - C a scientific discovery
 - D an environmental crisis

Bravado

We all knew it was a bad idea, but none of us spoke up. That's the problem with boys – too much bravado, too much swagger, too afraid to look weak in front of other boys. I looked at my friends but no-one was cracking, no-one was suggesting that we should, perhaps, rethink this. And so the silence made the decision for us.

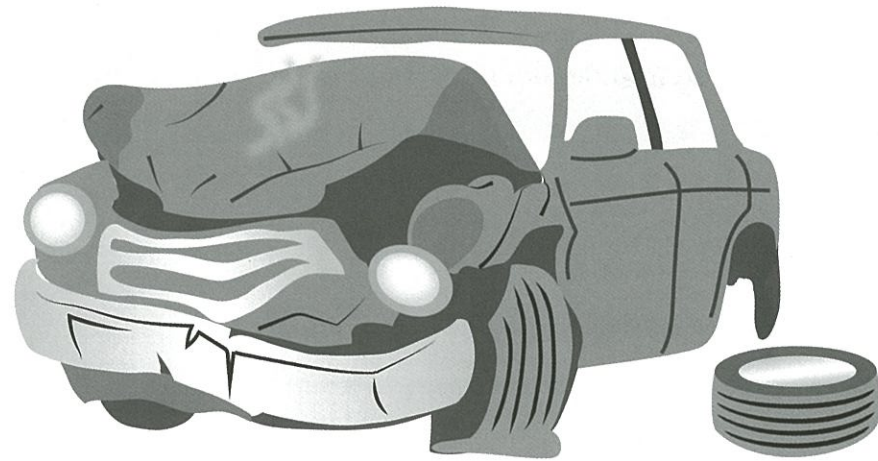
Of course it was exciting. Doing anything that you're not supposed to do is always going to be exciting. And when you're told by adults specifically not to do this, and there's a bored group of boys with little to lose, there's only going to be one outcome.

All five of us pushed the car, and when it started to roll, we hopped in. Shay was in the driver's seat because he was the only one who had had any experience of driving. His father's tractor, he said, was the perfect vehicle in which to learn.

It wasn't a big hill, and the car was old and ramshackle, so we weren't expecting it to pick up speed like it did. Shay tried to steer but the wheel came off in his hands. We should have jumped out then, but we didn't. Bravado again.

We saw the other vehicle approaching and waved frantically at it. And we screamed for the driver to move out of the way. But it was too late.

I got off lightly – just minor cuts and bruises, but Shay was not so lucky. Four weeks later, when he came out of hospital, his leg still full of metal pins, he said to me, 'I was hoping you would talk me out of taking the car that day, but you didn't.' And that made me feel rather guilty.



36 Which word best describes the author as a child?

- A brave
- B proud
- C imaginative
- D affectionate

37 How does the author look back on his relationship with his grandparents?

- A with regret
- B with sadness
- C with humour
- D with fondness

38 Why does the author return to the house as an adult?

- A to look for the sword he had left behind
- B to see if the house had been looked after
- C to revisit the memories of his childhood
- D to check on the health of his grandparents

39 How does the author describe the house in the second half of the text?

- A as a safe family home
- B as a decaying building
- C as a place for adventure
- D as a vast estate fit for royalty

40 How does the author feel at the end of the text?

- A satisfied with his discovery
- B confused about his childhood
- C happy to have left his past behind
- D disappointed with who he has become

Going Back

Back then it was a castle to me. I would sit high on cushions, like royalty, while my grandmother served me tea. At night, she would tuck me in a huge bed and tell me stories of kings and warriors. And in the morning, I would look out onto my vast kingdom and plan that day's adventures.

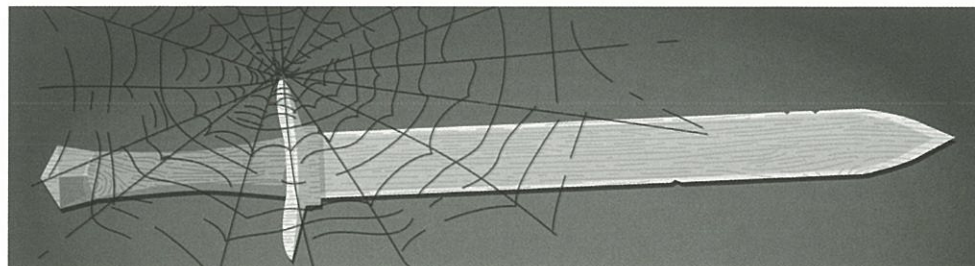
My grandfather fashioned me a sword from an old tree branch. When I slayed dragons in the royal arena or chopped through the forest to rescue fair maidens, the sword was with me. With it tucked in my belt I would mount Canter, the royal horse, and ride her slowly around the yard, my grandfather close beside me to fend off unruly attackers.

The best days of my childhood were at that house.

When I visited the castle many years later, I found a cottage with flaking paint, its drawbridge just a gate hanging lopsidedly on a rusty hinge. The arena was a patch of dirt no wider than I am now tall, and the forest was a line of three tired trees. Where was my kingdom?

I wandered around the garden trying to piece together my history. Was this really the place from which my parents, literally, had to drag me? I stood for a moment, by the stable door, at the back of the cottage. Canter was long gone but the memories came flooding back. In the corner of the stable under a mound of dust and spider webs was a painted stick. A sword?

The stick had a handle that had been lovingly carved to support the grasp of a tiny hand. And in those carvings I found my past. I then knew that my memories were real, and not the wishful thinking of an ageing romantic. I didn't need to come back to the house again. My kingdom was forever with me.



6 *We all knew it was a bad idea, ...*
What was the bad idea?

- A not speaking up
- B removing the wheel
- C trying to drive the car
- D pushing the car so fast

7 *And so the silence made the decision for us.*
Why were the boys silent?

- A They were trying to act tough.
- B They were too excited to speak.
- C They were thinking through their plans.
- D They didn't want the adults to hear them.

8 What caused the car to crash?

- A The car veered into oncoming traffic.
- B Shay deliberately rammed another vehicle.
- C The car's rear wheels came off while driving.
- D Shay jumped out of the car when it picked up speed.

9 What is the main reason for the author feeling guilty?

- A He disappointed his parents.
- B He did not visit Shay in the hospital.
- C He feels he could have prevented the accident.
- D He took something that did not belong to him.

10 What does the text suggest about groups of bored boys?

- A They want to be treated like adults.
- B They value friendship above all else.
- C They become excited by little things.
- D They get a thrill from defying authority.

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

Oh, Brother!

It would **11** been easier if she had done it herself. But **12** she let her brother have a go, **13** the urge to tell him that he was messing things up. **14** polite to say anything, she sat there **15** silence and bit her tongue. 'Oh, Brother!' she thought.

11 Choose the best option for space 11.

- A of
- B had
- C have
- D having

12 Choose the best option for space 12.

- A instead
- B therefore
- C though
- D just

13 Choose the best option for space 13.

- A resist
- B resisted
- C resisting
- D resistance

14 Choose the best option for space 14.

- A So
- B Such
- C That
- D Too

15 Choose the best option for space 15.

- A in
- B on
- C with
- D during



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

Basketball Rematch

Disregarding my advice, the school council went ahead with the **contentious** basketball rematch with the neighbouring school. Both teams started **apprehensively**, with our neighbours eking out a **slender** lead. But before half-time, the match **inevitably** had to be abandoned due to poor sportsmanship.

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

- A Ignoring
- B Following
- C Welcoming
- D Questioning

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

- A confusing
- B concluding
- C confidential
- D controversial

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

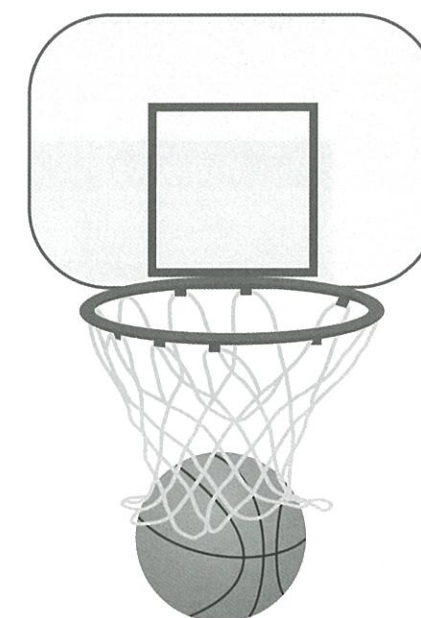
- A carelessly
- B cheerfully
- C cautiously
- D confidently

34 Select the best word to replace **slender**.

- A narrow
- B fortunate
- C significant
- D short-lived

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

- A bizarrely
- B regrettably
- C predictably
- D embarrassingly



Choose the correctly spelt word for each blank space.

Computer Problems

I was having **26** with my computer, so I used some **27** and read the **28**. I am not an expert; I am just an **29** computer user who used a bit of **30** to fix a computer.

26 Choose the best option for space 26.

- A ishues
- B ishews
- C issues
- D issews

27 Choose the best option for space 27.

- A initive
- B initiative
- C initiative
- D innitaitive

28 Choose the best option for space 28.

- A manual
- B manuel
- C mannual
- D mannule

29 Choose the best option for space 29.

- A ordnary
- B ordinary
- C ordinary
- D ordainry

30 Choose the best option for space 30.

- A intelgince
- B intelignce
- C intelligince
- D intelligence

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

Even though it was pouring with rain Akira went to the football match and played in goal.

- A though
- B rain
- C match
- D played

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

Early last year, I joined a fitness club I got so hungry I ate a lot more and put on weight.

- A Early
- B club
- C ate
- D more

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

My family moved here from the city of Buenos Aires the capital of Argentina when I was three years old.

- A the city of
- B Buenos Aires
- C the capital of Argentina
- D when I was

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

To make mouth-watering blueberry pie wait until August to get the best blueberries.

- A make
- B mouth-watering
- C pie
- D August

20 Which word should have a colon (:) after it?

I find many things interesting and have a variety of hobbies reading books, baking cakes and climbing trees.

- A things
- B interesting
- C variety
- D hobbies

Shill Reviewing

Customers who shop online cannot inspect the products to check their quality. Other customers' reviews can provide some guidance. But are these reviews reliable? It is possible that some of these reviews were written by the company that makes the product. This process is called 'shill reviewing' and it is commonly found on websites such as Amazon and eBay.

Customer Reviews



★★★★★ **High Comfort**, September 18, 2012

By **Bryon** - [See all my reviews](#)

I just bought my second pair of this wonderful design. These shoes feel great, forever.

The following advice from Internet shopping guru Kristen O'Reilly will help you to identify a shill review.

- Look out for reviews that use over-the-top phrases like 'by far the best ...' and 'the greatest ever'. If they appear too good to be true, they probably are.
- When a new product enters the market, the manufacturer will sometimes generate interest by planting a few favourable comments. When there are lots of reviews, the chance of these being shill reviews is reduced.
- The more reviews a particular customer has written, the more likely the reviewer is to be genuine. Customers who have posted just a couple of (overwhelmingly positive) reviews should be treated with caution, particularly if that reviewer has only been reviewing products by the same manufacturer.
- If a product has been receiving only negative reviews and then suddenly receives a run of really amazing comments, these are likely to be shill reviews.
- It is not uncommon for a shill reviewer to write reviews by logging in under different usernames. If two reviews are written in a similar style and are equally glowing, they may have been written by the same person, particularly if they were posted around the same time.

- 21 The purpose of this article is to teach people
- how to spot a fake review.
 - how to write a good review.
 - how reviews can save customers money.
 - how to improve the reviews of a product.

- 22 Who is the intended audience for this article?
- online shoppers
 - website developers
 - writers of shill reviews
 - product manufacturers

- 23 Why do people post shill reviews?
- to increase the profile of a reviewer
 - to improve the reputation of a product
 - to discourage other customers from posting reviews
 - to limit the number of negative reviews of a product

- 24 Kristen O'Reilly would probably not believe a reviewer who has written
- only a small number of reviews.
 - reviews using the same username.
 - both positive and negative reviews.
 - reviews on many different products.

- 25 What might make you think that the sample review given in the passage could be a shill review?
- the reviewer's username
 - the number of 5-star ratings
 - the reviewer's description of the product
 - the number of reviews the product has received