

READING

ED5

National Reading Tests

First name _____

Last name _____

School _____

Class _____

Date of birth ○○ ○○ ○○○○

Date of test ○○ ○○ (2)(0)(1)(7)

Total score (maximum 38)



150335



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Practice questions

In this booklet, there are different types of question for you to answer in different ways. Here are some practice questions which show you the types of question you will see in the test. The instructions tell you what you need to do. Start by reading the text in the box below.

Tulips are beautiful flowers but they are not particularly expensive or special. You can buy a tulip bulb in a garden centre quite cheaply. However, four hundred years ago in the Netherlands, tulips were one of the most valuable things money could buy. Tulips originally came from Turkey, but in 1593 people discovered that the bulbs could grow very well in the Netherlands. After that, they became wildly popular. It is said that one man gave eight pigs, five cows, twelve sheep and a bed – all in exchange for one tulip! The most bizarre story is about a sailor who mistook a tulip bulb for an onion and ate it for his lunch. If he had sold it instead of eating it, he would have made enough money to feed the whole crew of his ship for a year.

- a** According to the text, which words could be used to describe tulips **now**?

Tick **two**.

rare useful
attractive cheap
surprising

Hint: Check how many you have to tick.

- b** Look at the text in the box below.

Hint: Check how many words to underline.

Underline one word that tells you that tulips used to be worth a lot.

You can buy a tulip bulb in a garden centre quite cheaply. However, four hundred years ago in the Netherlands, tulips were one of the most valuable things money could buy.

Hint: If you make a mistake and want to change your answer, cross it out clearly and underline your new answer.

- c** **Find and copy** the **two-word** phrase that shows that tulips became very well liked in the Netherlands.

Hint: You must look back in the text to find this.

d Number these sentences from 1 to 4 to show the order in which they happened.

Many people started wanting to own tulips.

Tulips came from Turkey.

Tulips became less expensive.

It was discovered that tulips could grow outside Turkey.

e Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and tick your choices.

Hint: Read the whole question below before you choose your answers.

The text tells the story of a man who swapped

a) a ship's crew a turkey an onion a lot of goods

for a tulip. The writer presents the man's actions as

b) sensible. surprising. selfish. generous.

f Put ticks to show which statements are **true** and which are **false**.

	True	False
Tulips were first discovered in the Netherlands.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tulips can now be bought in garden centres.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The sailor thought a tulip bulb was an onion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

STOP

Please wait until you are told to start work on page 4.

In this booklet, you have three texts to read and answer questions about. Read the first text carefully BEFORE you start answering the questions for that text. Then carefully read the next text BEFORE answering the questions and so on.

You should work through the booklet, referring to the text when you need to, until you finish page 15 or until you are asked to stop.

You have up to 60 minutes to do the test.

Do monsters really exist?

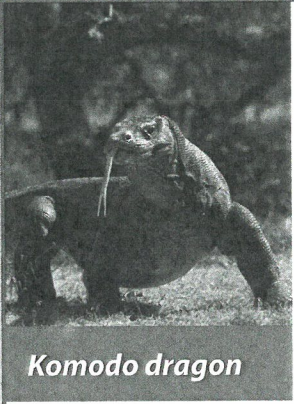
Deep in the heart of a Scottish lake lies the horned, twenty-foot-long Loch Ness Monster (Nessie). In the forests of the Pacific Northwest area of America walks a large, muscular, human-like creature named Bigfoot, who stands between seven and ten feet tall.

Or so the legends say.

Sightings of these beasts have divided opinion over their existence for centuries. So how do we sort the science fact from the science fiction?

It is the job of a *cryptozoologist* to collect and analyse evidence of sightings such as these, and determine the strength of the claims. They study creatures that have not yet been accepted by science as real, aiming to discover completely new species. However, many people suspect that the origins of these rumoured creatures are solely rooted in myths and legends. So is it a waste of time to hunt for evidence of these potentially mythical beasts?

Well, here are three cases to consider.

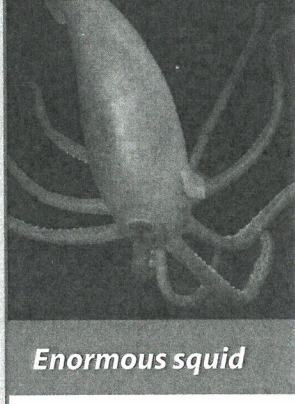


Komodo dragon

Komodo dragon

Before 1912, the Komodo dragon was completely unknown and large lizards were all thought to be extinct. However, compelled by rumours of the dragon, W. Douglas Burden travelled to the mysterious

Indonesian island of Komodo to investigate. The expedition discovered that the stories were, in fact, true. The largest of these lizards measured over ten feet from nose to tail and the males were capable of killing water buffalo several times their own weight. Today, the dragons still live on Komodo and its neighbouring islands but they are an endangered species; an ecological disaster in their small habitat, such as a single volcanic eruption, could wipe them out of existence.



Enormous squid

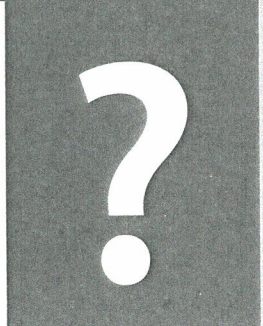
Enormous squid

Tales describing a dangerous nautical creature – the enormous squid – have circulated throughout the world since ancient times, the most famous being the Norse Kraken which was supposedly as

large as an island and able to devour ships whole. Although widely regarded as mythical, like mermaids or sea serpents, this aquatic monster was confirmed as an actual species when a large squid beak washed up on Denmark's shores over two thousand years after the first reported sightings! Some of the alleged antics were probably exaggerated, however. Typically living at great depths in the ocean, enormous squid are rarely seen and sightings are often undocumented, preserving their air of mystery.

Two-headed horror?

Early explorers to Australia described bizarre creatures never before seen by Europeans, with heads like deer, that stood upright like humans and hopped like frogs. The creatures sometimes sported two heads – one on their shoulders, and one on the stomach. Such accounts were understandably disregarded and ridiculed. That changed in the 1770s, when a dead specimen of this odd beast was exhibited in England as a public curiosity. Today, these creatures are familiar as kangaroos, known for their leaping abilities and the female pouch for carrying young.



So, with the 'official' discovery of these beasts in mind, perhaps one day Nessie and Bigfoot will also turn out to be more than just the stuff of legends.

1 According to the text, have these creatures been proved to be real?

	Yes	No
Loch Ness Monster		
Bigfoot		
Komodo dragon		
enormous squid		
mermaid		
sea serpent		
kangaroo		

1
1m

2 According to the text, what is the job of a cryptozoologist?

Tick **two**.

- to decide how convincing the evidence for new discoveries is
- to prove that the Loch Ness Monster and Bigfoot are real
- to track the development of previously discovered species
- to describe the possible characteristics of imaginary beasts
- to gather reports of unusual creatures
- to promote interest in unknown animal sightings

2
1m

3 *However, many people suspect that the origins of these rumoured creatures are solely rooted in myths and legends.*

What does this suggest?

Tick **one**.

- These creatures did exist once, a long time ago.
- It is impossible that these creatures could ever have existed.
- These creatures gave the inspiration for many imaginary beasts.
- The idea of these creatures grew out of stories and folk tales.

3
1m

please turn over

TOTAL
3m

4

So is it a waste of time to hunt for evidence of these potentially mythical beasts?

How does the writer go on to help the reader decide on an answer to this question?

Tick **one**.

- by describing the mythical creatures as if they were real
- by explaining how cryptozoology works
- by giving information on creatures that turned out to be real
- by demonstrating how some legends can never be disproved

4
1m

5

According to the text, which of the following might threaten the future of Komodo dragons?

Tick **one**.

- other large lizards that are as yet unknown
- increasing numbers of visitors to the island
- rising levels of aggression in water buffalo
- the island becoming too small to sustain them
- the potential for volcanic activity

5
1m

6

The writer describes the enormous squid as a strange beast that lives in the sea.

Find and copy both **two-word** phrases used to do this.

1. _____

2. _____

6
1m

7

What were the main reasons it took so long to confirm the existence of the enormous squid?

Tick **two**.

- Most people were afraid of the danger.
- They devoured everyone who saw them.
- People thought they were like mermaids or sea serpents.
- No physical evidence was found for years.
- They lived very deep in the ocean.
- They are less common in Denmark than elsewhere.

7
1m

- 8 For some of the statements in the text there is supporting proof that they are true, but for others there is no confirmed proof yet.

Put ticks to show if each statement is **true** or if there is **no proof yet**.

	True	No proof yet
<i>... Bigfoot, who stands between seven and ten feet tall.</i>		
<i>Tales ... have circulated throughout the world since ancient times ...</i>		
<i>... as large as an island and able to devour ships whole.</i>		
<i>Today, these creatures are familiar as kangaroos ...</i>		
<i>... Nessie and Bigfoot will also turn out to be more than just the stuff of legends.</i>		

8
2m

- 9 Put ticks to show which statements are **true** and which are **false**.

	True	False
Since being identified, all the creatures mentioned in the text have become extinct.		
It took over two thousand years for evidence of the enormous squid to be discovered.		
Komodo dragons are generally heavier than water buffalo.		
The 'two-headed horror' was a kangaroo carrying its young.		
At first, people who had not seen them did not believe reports about kangaroos.		

9
2m

- 10 Which of the following statements provides the best overall summary of the text?

Tick **one**.

A
 It seems likely that one day scientists will prove the Loch Ness Monster really does exist.

C
 Although there have always been rumours about mythical beasts, some really do exist.

B
 A dragon is not an imaginary creature after all.

D
 The term 'monsters' only applies to beasts that do not really exist.

10
1m

TOTAL
9m



In the rush-hour traffic jam

Wearily, drearily, stiff with strain
I stared through the windows streaked with rain
At the truck in front and the bus to the rear,
Fearing the traffic just never would clear.

Moodily, broodily turning my gaze
Away from the stifling blue exhaust haze,
Grumbling as miserably, creeping like snails,
Commuters inched homeward, noses to tails.

Strangely, amazingly there to the right
I noticed the most incongruous¹ sight
Of an elderly gentleman, relaxed at the wheel,
The warmth of whose smile I could virtually feel.

Unhappily, snappily, ill-mannered lout,
I said, "What are you so happy about?"
"Son," he said gently, "try being like me
When you find that you're somewhere you don't want to be.

Gently, intently, I empty my mind
And over displeasure I draw down a blind
Frustration flows out, mem'ries flood in
And I'm back to my boyhood away from the din.

Lazily, daisily in meadow I lie,
Exploring cloud mountains in summer's blue sky,
Warmed by the sun and cooled by the breeze,
Lulled by the birdsong filling the trees.

Slowly, silently parting the sedge
That's growing down to the water's edge,
I see shadowy fish in sparkling rill.
That's where memories take me still."

Beguilingly², smilingly with twinkling eye,
He waved a hand in brief goodbye,
Leaving me lost in remembered dreams
Of summers and sunshine, meadows and streams.

¹ out of place

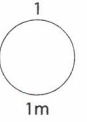
² in a charming way

by Philip C. Gross

1 Find and **copy two** words or phrases that show how slowly the traffic was moving.

1. _____

2. _____



1m

2 How did the narrator feel when he **first** saw the elderly man?

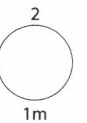
Tick **one**.

soothed by his calming influence

resentful of how happy he seemed

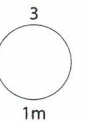
bored by his pointless rambling

amused by his behaviour



1m

3 Find and **copy** the line that shows that the narrator was aware he was being rude.



1m

4 *"Son," he said gently, "try being like me
When you find that you're somewhere you don't want to be."*

What do these lines suggest about the elderly man?

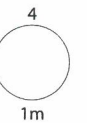
Tick **one**.

He felt sympathetic towards the narrator.

He knew a shortcut to avoid the traffic.

He actually needed to be going the other way.

He thought he was rather special.



1m

please turn over



4m

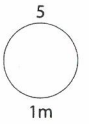
5

*"Frustration flows out, memories flood in
And I'm back to my boyhood away from the din."*

What does this show about the elderly man?

Tick **two**.

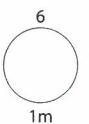
- His negative thoughts left him easily.
- His bad mood affected the external situation.
- He radiated negative thoughts.
- His memories quickly filled his mind.
- He lost control of his chain of thoughts.
- He felt overcome with emotion.



6

Tick **all** the senses that the elderly man used to describe the place he thought about.

- sound touch
- sight smell
- taste



7

Choose the best group of words to fit the passage and tick your choices.

In the traffic jam, the elderly man

- a) remembered considered created recalled
- dreams he had ideas for holidays pleasant daydreams memories from his childhood

when he wanted to

- b) experience resolve escape capture
- and enjoy pleasures the traffic problems from the commotion special moments

in the world around him.

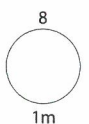


8

Which of the following best summarises the elderly man's advice to the narrator?

Tick **one**.

- It is usually best to let your frustration out (and shout if you need to).
- When I feel frustrated, I find it helps to remember happy times.
- When I feel trapped, I try to think positively about how I can change things.
- There is never an excuse for bad manners, even from children.
- When this is over I recommend a trip to the country.



9

What was the narrator left doing at the **end** of the poem?

Tick **one**.

- recalling dreams of summers
- remembering a previous holiday
- imagining places he had not visited
- waving goodbye to his new friend

9
1m

10

Complete the table below to show the comparison between being **in the traffic jam** and **what the elderly man said** for each of the following features.

Find and **copy** a word or phrase from the text to complete each row.

	In the traffic jam	What the elderly man said
the air quality		<i>cooled by the breeze</i>
the amount of space		<i>exploring cloud mountains</i>
the weather		

10
2m

11

Here is a copy of the poem on page 8.

The narrator's mood changed throughout the poem.

Label the poem to show how the narrator was most likely to be feeling in each section.

- A** – captivated and intrigued
- B** – baffled and irritated
- C** – miserable and annoyed
- D** – relaxed and reflective

11
2m

TOTAL
9m

The invisible man

This is an extract from *The Invisible Man*, written by H.G. Wells in 1897. Here, a scientist who has discovered how to make himself invisible ventures out into the city for the first time.

In going downstairs the first time I found an unexpected difficulty because I could not see my feet; indeed I stumbled twice, and there was an unaccustomed clumsiness in gripping the bolt. By not looking down, however, I managed to walk passably well.

My mood, I say, was one of exaltation. I experienced a wild impulse to jest, to startle people, to clap men on the back, fling people's hats astray, and generally revel in my extraordinary advantage.

I tried to get into the stream of people, but they were too thick for me, and in a moment my heels were being trodden upon. I took to the gutter, the roughness of which I found painful to my feet.

Such a crowd in the roadway, I could not hope to penetrate, and dreading to go farther from home I decided to run up the white steps of a house and stand there until the crowd should have passed.

For the moment I did not notice two urchins stopping by me. "See 'em," said one. "See what?" said the other. "Why - them footmarks - bare. Like what you makes in mud."

I looked down and saw the youngsters were gaping at the muddy footmarks I had left behind me up the newly whitened steps. "There's a barefoot man gone up them steps, or I don't know nothing," said one. "And he ain't never come down again. And his foot was a-bleeding."

He hesitated and advanced with outstretched hand. A man pulled up short to see what he was catching, and then a girl. In another moment he would have touched me. Then I saw what to do. I made a step, the boy started back with an exclamation, and with a rapid movement I swung myself over the wall.

They rushed round and saw my new footmarks flash into being on the lower step and upon the pavement. "What's up?" asked someone. "Feet! Look! Feet running." Everybody in the road, except my pursuers, was pouring along, and this not only impeded me but them. There was an eddy of surprise and interrogation, and in another moment I was rushing headlong round the Square, with six or seven astonished people following my footmarks.

The search for invisibility

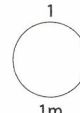
Who hasn't daydreamed about being invisible? We can use camouflage to blend into a background to avoid being seen, but true invisibility has long been considered a flight of fancy. Now, though, scientists are developing high-tech 'metamaterials' to create light-bending cloaks. These can divert light waves around an object to come back together on the other side, effectively rendering the object invisible. Wells' tale is still far from becoming reality, though. So far, metamaterials only work for very small objects (smaller than a pinhead) and are extremely expensive.

1 Look at the paragraph beginning *In going downstairs the first time ...*

Find and copy both **two-word** phrases that show that the scientist was not used to being invisible.

1. _____

2. _____



2 *By not looking down, however, I managed to walk passably well.*

Why did not looking down make it easier for the invisible man to walk?

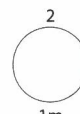
Tick **one**.

because he was not distracted by how clumsy he looked

because he could rely on his feet to work instinctively

because if he held his head up he looked like he was walking normally

because he was frightened to look where he was going



3 What did the invisible man mean by his *extraordinary advantage*?

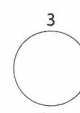
Tick **one**.

his unique ability and the sense of power it brought

his excellent mood and playful manner

the success of his unexpected outing

the public recognition of his scientific achievement



4 Why did the invisible man end up walking in the gutter?

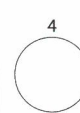
Tick **one**.

He was pushed there by the bustling crowd.

It was better for concealing his footprints.

It was less crowded and dangerous.

He was trying to cross the road.



5 *"There's a barefoot man gone up them steps, or I don't know nothing," said one.*

Why did the boy say "or I don't know nothing"?

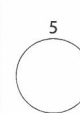
Tick **one**.

to show he was unsure of what he saw

to show how clever he thought he was

to express his surprise

to show how certain he was



TOTAL

please turn over



6

Then I saw what to do. I made a step...

Why did the invisible man make a step?

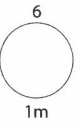
Tick **one**.

to divert the boy's attention

to stamp on the boy's hand

to get higher up the steps

to get further away from the boy



7

Number these events from 1 to 5 to show the order in which they happened.

The invisible man...

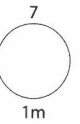
ran through the streets.

jumped over a wall.

had his footprints spotted.

walked undetected in the crowds.

ran up the white steps.



8

Look at *The search for invisibility* on page 12.

How do metamaterials make an object invisible?

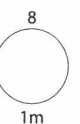
Tick **one**.

They redirect the light bouncing off an object into your eyes, which dazzles you so you cannot see the object.

They blur the image of an object, which causes it to blend into its surroundings.

The light allowing you to see an object is bounced back to your eyes to create the effect of a mirror.

The light bends around an object then rejoins its path as though the object was not there.

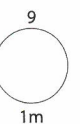


9

Look at the text in the box below.

Underline the **two** drawbacks of metamaterials.

Now, though, scientists are developing high-tech 'metamaterials' to create light-bending cloaks. These can divert light waves around an object to come back together on the other side, effectively rendering the object invisible. Wells' tale is still far from becoming reality, though. So far, metamaterials only work for very small objects (smaller than a pinhead) and are extremely expensive.



10 Look at *The search for invisibility* on page 12.

Find and copy the words or phrases that are used to mean:

1. disguised but not invisible _____
2. an unrealistic idea _____
3. scientifically sophisticated _____

10
2m

11 Here is a copy of the text on page 12.

Label each arrow to show the purpose of each part of the text.

A – to describe the experience of being invisible

B – to provide a modern-day perspective

C – to set the context of the story

D – to help the reader visualise an event in the story

The invisible man

This is an extract from *The invisible man*, written by H.G. Wells in 1897. Here, a scientist who has discovered how to make himself invisible ventures out into the city for the first time.

Going downstairs the first time I found an unexpected difficulty because I could not see my feet, indeed I stumbled twice, and there was an unaccustomed clumsiness in gripping the bolt. By not looking down, however, I managed to walk passably well.

My mood, I say, was one of exaltation. I experienced a wild impulse to jest, to startle people, to clap men on the back, fling people's hats astray, and generally revel in my extraordinary advantage.

I tried to get into the stream of people, but they were too thick for me, and in a moment my heels were being trodden upon. I took to the gutter, the roughness of which I found painful to my feet.

Such a crowd in the roadway, I could not hope to penetrate, and dreading to go farther from home I decided to run up the white steps of a house and stand there until the crowd should have passed.

For the moment I did not notice two urchins stopping by me. "See 'em," said one. "See what?" said the other. "Why – them footmarks – bare. Like what you makes in mud." I looked down and saw the youngsters were gazing at the muddy footmarks I had left behind me up the newly whitened steps. "There's a barefoot man gone up them steps, or I don't know nothing," said one. "And he ain't never come down again. And his foot was a-bleeding."

He hesitated and advanced with outstretched hand. A man pulled up short to see what he was catching, and then a girl. In another moment he would have tumbled me. Then I saw what to do. I made a step, the boy started back with an exclamation, and with a rapid movement I swung myself over the wall.

They rushed round and saw my new footmarks flash into being on the lower steps and upon the pavement. "What's up?" asked someone. "Feet! Look! Feet running." Everybody in the road, except my pursuers, was pouring along, and this not only impeded me but them. There was an eddy of surprise and interrogation, and in another moment I was rushing headlong round the Square, with six or seven astonished people following my footmarks.

The search for invisibility

Who hasn't daydreamed about being invisible? We can use camouflage to blend into a background to avoid being seen, but true invisibility has long been considered a flight of fancy. Now, though, scientists are developing high-tech 'metamaterials' to create light-bending cloaks. These can divert light waves around an object to come back together on the other side, effectively rendering the object invisible. Wells' tale is still far from becoming reality, though. So far, metamaterials only work for very small objects (smaller than a pinhead) and are extremely expensive.

11
1m

12 What type of text is each extract most likely to have come from?

Tick **one** per extract.

	<i>The invisible man</i> Tick one .	<i>The search for invisibility</i> Tick one .
crime novel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
science experiment method	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
science fiction novel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
history textbook	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
science magazine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12
1m

End of test. Please check your work.

TOTAL
8m

Acknowledgements

'Do monsters really exist?' adapted from 'Top 10 Cryptids That Turned Out to be Real'
<http://listverse.com/2010/08/13/top-10-cryptids-that-turned-out-to-be-real/>

and

www.unmuseum.org/bigliz.htm

and

'Are massive squid really the sea monsters of legend?' by Melissa Hogenboom (2014)
www.bbc.co.uk/earth/story/20141212-quest-for-the-real-life-kraken

'In the rush-hour traffic jam' by Philip C Gross taken from *The Works 8*, chosen by John Foster
(Macmillan Children's Books, 2009)

'The invisible man' adapted from *The Invisible Man* by H G Wells (Penguin English Library, 2012)

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