

English Mock Test 5

Name: _____

Date: _____

Time allowed: **50 minutes**

50 questions, 1 mark each

Answer **every** question. Each question has five options, **A** to **E**, and exactly one is correct. Work out the answer and mark the letter you have chosen. Marks are not taken away for a wrong answer, so it is worth having a go at every question.

Read this passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

The March Sisters

by Louisa May Alcott

This extract comes from the opening of Little Women, first published in 1868. The four March sisters, Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy, live with their mother, whom they call Marmee. The family has lost its money, and their father is away with the army in the American Civil War. It is the week before Christmas. The extract has been shortened.

1 "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," grumbled Jo, lying on the rug.

"It's so dreadful to be poor!" sighed Meg, looking down at her old dress.

5 "I don't think it's fair for some girls to have plenty of pretty things, and other girls nothing at all," added little Amy, with an injured sniff.

"We've got Father and Mother, and each other," said Beth contentedly from her corner.

10 The four young faces on which the firelight shone brightened at the cheerful words, but darkened again as Jo said sadly, "We haven't got Father, and shall not have him for a long time." She didn't say "perhaps never," but each silently added it, thinking of Father far away, where the fighting was.

15 Nobody spoke for a minute; then Meg said in an altered tone, "You know the reason Mother proposed not having any presents this Christmas was because it is going to be a hard winter for everyone; and she thinks we ought not to spend money for pleasure, when our

men are suffering so in the army. We can't do much, but we can make
20 our little sacrifices, and ought to do it gladly. But I am afraid I
don't," and Meg shook her head, as she thought regretfully of all
the pretty things she wanted.

"I shall get a nice box of Faber's drawing pencils; I really need
them," said Amy decidedly.

25 "I don't believe any of you suffer as I do," cried Amy, "for you
don't have to go to school with impertinent girls, who plague you if
you don't know your lessons, and laugh at your dresses, and label
your father if he isn't rich, and insult you when your nose isn't
nice."

30 "If you mean libel, I'd say so, and not talk about labels, as if
Papa was a pickle bottle," advised Jo, laughing.

"I know what I mean, and you needn't be statirical about it. It's
proper to use good words, and improve your vocabilary," returned
Amy, with dignity.

35 As young readers like to know 'how people look', we will take this
moment to give them a little sketch of the four sisters, who sat
knitting away in the twilight, while the December snow fell quietly
without, and the fire crackled cheerfully within.

Fifteen-year-old Jo was very tall, thin, and brown, and reminded one
40 of a colt, for she never seemed to know what to do with her long
limbs, which were very much in her way. She had a decided mouth, a
comical nose, and sharp, gray eyes, which appeared to see
everything, and were by turns fierce, funny, or thoughtful. Her
long, thick hair was her one beauty, but it was usually bundled into
45 a net, to be out of her way. Round shoulders had Jo, big hands and
feet, a flyaway look to her clothes, and the uncomfortable
appearance of a girl who was rapidly shooting up into a woman and
didn't like it. Elizabeth, or Beth, as everyone called her, was a
rosy, smooth-haired, bright-eyed girl of thirteen, with a shy
50 manner, a timid voice, and a peaceful expression which was seldom
disturbed. Her father called her 'Little Miss Tranquility', and the
name suited her excellently, for she seemed to live in a happy world
of her own, only venturing out to meet the few whom she trusted and
loved.

55 The clock struck six and, having swept up the hearth, Beth put a
pair of slippers down to warm. Somehow the sight of the old shoes
had a good effect upon the girls, for Mother was coming, and
everyone brightened to welcome her. Meg stopped lecturing, and

lighted the lamp, Amy got out of the easy chair without being asked,
60 and Jo forgot how tired she was as she sat up to hold the slippers
nearer to the blaze.

"They are quite worn out. Marmee must have a new pair."

"I'm the oldest," began Meg, but Jo cut in with a decided, "I'm the
man of the family now Papa is away, and I shall provide the
65 slippers, for he told me to take special care of Mother while he was
gone."

"I'll tell you what we'll do," said Beth, "let's each get her
something for Christmas, and not get anything for ourselves."

Everyone thought soberly for a minute, then Meg announced, as if the
70 idea was suggested by the sight of her own pretty hands, "I shall
give her a nice pair of gloves."

"Army shoes, best to be had," cried Jo.

"Some handkerchiefs, all hemmed," said Beth.

"I'll get a little bottle of cologne. She likes it, and it won't
75 cost much, so I'll have some left to buy my pencils," added Amy.

Please answer these questions. (Look at the passage again if you need to.) You
should choose the best answer and mark its letter.

Q1. Why is Jo grumbling at the very start of the passage?

- A. She has to work for a fussy old lady.
- B. Her old dress is worn out.
- C. There will be no Christmas presents this year.
- D. Her sister has taken the best seat by the fire.
- E. It is snowing and she cannot go out.

Q2. 'added little Amy, with an injured sniff' (lines 6-7)

What does 'injured' tell us about how Amy felt?

- A. She had hurt herself and was in pain.
- B. She had a bad cold.
- C. She was angry with her sisters.
- D. She felt hard done by, as if she had been treated unfairly.
- E. She was pretending to cry so that she would get a present.

Q3. Which sister reminds the others that they still have their parents and each other?

- A. Meg
- B. Jo
- C. Beth
- D. Amy
- E. Marmee

Q4. 'She didn't say "perhaps never," but each silently added it' (lines 12-13)

What does this tell us about the sisters?

- A. They had been told that their father would never come back.
- B. They were all secretly afraid their father might never come home from the war.
- C. They did not want to see their father again.
- D. They were too cross with Jo to answer her.
- E. They all thought Jo was exaggerating.

Q5. 'then Meg said in an altered tone' (line 15)

What does 'altered' mean?

- A. changed
- B. angry
- C. louder
- D. cheerful
- E. trembling

Q6. According to Meg, why had Mother suggested that there should be no presents this Christmas?

- A. The family had already spent all its money on the play.
- B. Father had written to say that presents were not allowed.
- C. The shops had nothing left to sell.
- D. The girls had behaved badly all year.
- E. It would be a hard winter, and money should not be spent on pleasure while the soldiers were suffering.

Q7. 'But I am afraid I don't' (lines 20-21)

What is Meg admitting?

- A. She is frightened of the hard winter.
- B. She does not believe what Mother said.
- C. She has already spent her money.
- D. She is not really glad to give up the things she wants.
- E. She does not know how to make sacrifices.

Q8. 'said Amy decidedly' (line 24)

How did Amy speak?

- A. doubtfully, as if she was unsure
- B. firmly, as if her mind was made up
- C. quietly, so that nobody heard
- D. sadly, with a sigh
- E. rudely, interrupting Meg

Q9. 'impertinent' (line 26)

What type of word is this?

- A. a noun
- B. a verb
- C. an adjective
- D. an adverb
- E. a pronoun

Q10. 'who plague you if you don't know your lessons' (lines 26-27)

What does 'plague' mean here?

- A. make you ill
- B. help you
- C. report you to the teacher
- D. test you
- E. tease and pester

Q11. 'as if Papa was a pickle bottle' (lines 30-31)

Why does Jo say this, laughing?

- A. Amy has muddled 'label' with 'libel', which makes it sound as if the girls stick labels on their father.
- B. The girls at school have really been sticking labels on Papa's things.
- C. Jo thinks Papa is a figure of fun.
- D. Papa used to work in a pickle factory.
- E. Jo wants to change the subject away from school.

Q12. Amy uses the words 'statirical' (line 32) and 'vocabiliary' (line 33).

Why has the author spelled these words wrongly?

- A. because the book was written before spelling was fixed
- B. because they are American spellings
- C. to show that Amy gets the long words wrong at the very moment she is boasting about using good words
- D. to show that Jo cannot spell
- E. to show that Amy is too young to go to school

Q13. 'while the December snow fell quietly without' (lines 37-38)

What does 'without' mean here?

- A. with nothing
- B. outside
- C. silently
- D. for ever
- E. not at all

Q14. How old is Jo?

- A. twelve
- B. thirteen
- C. fourteen
- D. fifteen
- E. sixteen

Q15. 'reminded one of a colt, for she never seemed to know what to do with her long limbs' (lines 39-41)

What does this comparison suggest about Jo?

- A. She could run faster than any of her sisters.
- B. She loved riding horses.
- C. She was wild and could not be controlled.
- D. She was graceful and elegant.
- E. She was tall and gangly, and moved awkwardly, like a young horse.

Q16. 'were by turns fierce, funny, or thoughtful' (line 43)

What does this tell us about Jo's eyes?

- A. They were fierce, funny and thoughtful all at once.
- B. They kept turning to look round the room.
- C. They changed colour when she was angry.
- D. They looked fierce at some times, funny at others and thoughtful at others.
- E. They were always fierce.

Q17. 'the uncomfortable appearance of a girl who was rapidly shooting up into a woman and didn't like it' (lines 46-48)

What does this tell us about Jo?

- A. She was growing up fast and did not want to.
- B. She was ill and uncomfortable.
- C. She had grown taller than her mother.
- D. She wanted to be treated as a grown woman.
- E. She was sitting in an uncomfortable chair.

Q18. 'with a shy manner, a timid voice, and a peaceful expression' (lines 49-50)

How many adjectives are there in this phrase?

- A. one
- B. two
- C. three
- D. four
- E. five

Q19. 'only venturing out to meet the few whom she trusted and loved' (lines 53-54)

What does 'venturing out' mean here?

- A. going outside the house
- B. daring to leave her own private world to be with people
- C. setting off on a long journey
- D. going to visit her friends at school
- E. running away from home

Q20. What did Beth put down to warm when the clock struck six?

- A. the kettle
- B. a pair of gloves
- C. some bread for tea
- D. a pair of slippers
- E. her mother's shawl

Q21. 'Amy got out of the easy chair without being asked' (line 59)

What does this suggest?

- A. Amy was too tired to sit down.
- B. Amy wanted to go and meet Mother at the door.
- C. Amy usually had to be told to give up the best chair, but wanted it ready for Mother.
- D. Amy had been told off for sitting in the chair.
- E. The easy chair was broken.

Q22. 'I'm the man of the family now Papa is away' (lines 63-64)

Why does Jo say this?

- A. She wishes she could go and fight in the army.
- B. She is the oldest of the four sisters.
- C. She has been left in charge of the family's money.
- D. She wants Meg to stop lecturing her.
- E. She wants to buy the slippers herself, because Papa asked her to take special care of Mother.

Q23. 'as if the idea was suggested by the sight of her own pretty hands' (lines 69-70)

What is the author hinting about Meg?

- A. Meg chooses a present that reflects her own interests, since she is proud of her hands.
- B. Meg has made the gloves herself.
- C. Meg's hands are cold from the snow.
- D. Meg has been saving up for gloves all year.
- E. Meg wants to keep the gloves for herself.

Q24. Whose idea was it that each girl should buy a present for Mother instead of for herself?

- A. Meg's
- B. Beth's
- C. Jo's
- D. Amy's
- E. Mother's

Spelling

In these sentences there are some **spelling** mistakes. In each sentence there is either **one** mistake or **no** mistake. The words are split into four groups, **A** to **D**. Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark its letter. **If there is no mistake, mark E.**

Q25.

Mum worried that the rain would spoil our picnic.

A

B

C

D

- A. Mum worried
- B. that the rain
- C. would spoil
- D. our picnic.
- E. No mistake

Q26.

We rowed across to the little island in the middle of the lake.

A

B

C

D

- A. We rowed across
- B. to the little island
- C. in the middle
- D. of the lake.
- E. No mistake

Q27.

It was truely the best holiday we have ever had.

└──────────┘ └────────┘ └────────┘ └──────────┘

A

B

C

D

- A. It was truely
- B. the best
- C. holiday we
- D. have ever had.
- E. No mistake

Q28.

We grew crystals in a jar during our sience lesson on Friday.

└──────────┘ └──────────┘ └──────────┘ └────────┘

A

B

C

D

- A. We grew crystals
- B. in a jar during
- C. our sience lesson
- D. on Friday.
- E. No mistake

Q29.

Most of the class said that they liked the museum but preferred the zoo.

A **B** **C** **D**

- A. Most of the class
- B. said that they
- C. liked the museum but
- D. preferred the zoo.
- E. No mistake

Q30.

I looked the word up in my new pocket dictionary before class.

A **B** **C** **D**

- A. I looked the word
- B. up in my new
- C. pocket dictionary
- D. before class.
- E. No mistake

Q31.

We had our final rehearsal on the day before the school play.

A

B

C

D

- A. We had our final
- B. rehearsal on
- C. the day before
- D. the school play.
- E. No mistake

Q32.

The warden at the reserve was amazed by Mia's knowledge of birds.

A

B

C

D

- A. The warden at the
- B. reserve was amazed
- C. by Mia's knowledge
- D. of birds.
- E. No mistake

Q33.

The magician's audience gasped in genuine astonishment.

A **B** **C** **D**

- A. The magician's
- B. audience gasped
- C. in genuine
- D. astonishment.
- E. No mistake

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The Frost Fairs

In these sentences there are some **punctuation and grammar** mistakes. The nine numbered lines follow on from one another and make one short passage. On each numbered line there is either **one** mistake or **no** mistake. The words are split into four groups, **A** to **D**. Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark its letter. **If there is no mistake, mark E.**

Q34.

In 1683, the Thames froze solid, and stalls sold pies cakes and ale.

-----	-----	-----	-----
A	B	C	D

- A. In 1683, the Thames
- B. froze solid, and
- C. stalls sold pies
- D. cakes and ale.
- E. No mistake

Q35.

Old London Bridge slowed the river, so it's water froze more easily.

-----	-----	-----	-----
A	B	C	D

- A. Old London Bridge
- B. slowed the river,
- C. so it's water
- D. froze more easily.
- E. No mistake

Q36.

Boatmen, who could not row charged a penny to walk across.

A **B** **C** **D**

- A. Boatmen, who
- B. could not row
- C. charged a penny
- D. to walk across.
- E. No mistake

Q37.

A printer sold cards, he printed each buyer's name on them.

A **B** **C** **D**

- A. A printer sold cards, he
- B. printed each
- C. buyer's name
- D. on them.
- E. No mistake

Q38.

The crowds of people on the frozen river was enormous.

└──────────┘ └──────────┘ └──────────┘ └──────────┘

A

B

C

D

- A. The crowds of
- B. people on the
- C. frozen river
- D. was enormous.
- E. No mistake

Q39.

The last fair, in 1814, lasted less days than anyone had expected.

└──────────┘ └──────────┘ └──────────┘ └──────────┘

A

B

C

D

- A. The last fair, in 1814,
- B. lasted less days
- C. than anyone
- D. had expected.
- E. No mistake

Q40.

Hardly nobody expected an elephant to cross the ice, but one did.

└──────────┘ └──────────┘ └──────────┘ └──────────┘
A **B** **C** **D**

- A. Hardly nobody expected
- B. an elephant to
- C. cross the ice,
- D. but one did.
- E. No mistake

Q41.

When a new bridge was built in 1831, the river began to flow faster.

└──────────┘ └──────────┘ └──────────┘ └──────────┘
A **B** **C** **D**

- A. When a new bridge
- B. was built in 1831,
- C. the river began
- D. to flow faster.
- E. No mistake

Q42.

Visitors often ask whether it could ever freeze again?

A **B** **C** **D**

- A. Visitors often
- B. ask whether it
- C. could ever freeze
- D. again?
- E. No mistake

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Grandma's Allotment

In this passage you have to choose the best word, or group of words, to complete each numbered line so that it makes sense and is written in correct English. The numbered lines follow on from one another and make one short passage, so read them in order. Choose the **best** answer and mark its letter.

Q43. Every Saturday I help Grandma on her allotment, and we always walk in _____ the squeaky green gate.

- A. threw
- B. through
- C. though
- D. thorough
- E. thought

Q44. This spring her neighbour, Mr Okafor, gave us some useful _____ about keeping slugs off the lettuces.

- A. advise
- B. advised
- C. advices
- D. advice
- E. adviser

Q45. He _____ us over to his own plot to show us a ring of crushed eggshells round each plant.

- A. led
- B. lead
- C. leaded
- D. leads
- E. leading

Q46. We were _____ to water the seedlings every evening, but on hot days we sometimes forgot.

- A. suppose
- B. supposing
- C. supposed
- D. supposedly
- E. supposes

Q47. 'You had better _____ a net over the strawberries too,' Mr Okafor warned, 'or the blackbirds will eat them.'

- A. to put
- B. putting
- C. puts
- D. putted
- E. put

Q48. Grandma hung old CDs on strings over the peas to prevent the pigeons _____ them.

- A. to eat
- B. for eating
- C. from eating
- D. of eating
- E. to eating

Q49. A week of heavy rain was forecast, and we dug up the last potatoes _____ the skin of our teeth.

- A. with
- B. on
- C. under
- D. by
- E. from

Q50. 'If we had planted the beans a fortnight earlier,' sighed Grandma, 'we _____ be picking them by now.'

- A. will
- B. would
- C. had
- D. would have
- E. did

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