

English Mock Test 12

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 Princess Loses Herself

by **George MacDonald**

This extract comes from The Princess and the Goblin, first published in 1872. Princess Irene, who is about eight years old, lives in a large old house, half castle and half farmhouse, on the side of a mountain. Her nursery has a ceiling painted blue with stars, like the night sky. The extract has been shortened.

1 One very wet day, when the mountain was covered with mist which was constantly gathering itself together into raindrops, and pouring down on the roofs of the great old house, whence it fell in a fringe of water from the eaves all round about it, the princess could not
5 of course go out. She got very tired, so tired that even her toys could no longer amuse her. You would wonder at that if I had time to describe to you one half of the toys she had. But then, you wouldn't have the toys themselves, and that makes all the difference: you can't get tired of a thing before you have it.

10 It was a picture, though, worth seeing—the princess sitting in the nursery with the sky ceiling over her head, at a great table covered with her toys. The next moment after you see her sitting there, her nurse goes out of the room.

Even that is a change, and the princess wakes up a little, and looks
15 about her. Then she tumbles off her chair and runs out of the door, not the same door the nurse went out of, but one which opened at the foot of a curious old stair of worm-eaten oak, which looked as if never anyone had set foot upon it. She had once before been up six steps, and that was sufficient reason, in such a day, for trying to
20 find out what was at the top of it.

Up and up she ran—such a long way it seemed to her!—until she came to the top of the third flight. There she found the landing was the end of a long passage. Into this she ran. It was full of doors on each side. There were so many that she did not care to open any, but
25 ran on to the end, where she turned into another passage, also full of doors. When she had turned twice more, and still saw doors and only doors about her, she began to get frightened. It was so silent! And all those doors must hide rooms with nobody in them! That was dreadful. Also the rain made a great trampling noise on the roof.
30 She turned and started at full speed, her little footsteps echoing through the sounds of the rain—back for the stairs and her safe nursery. So she thought, but she had lost herself long ago. It doesn't follow that she was lost, because she had lost herself, though.

35 Very soon she was sure that she had lost the way back. Rooms everywhere, and no stair! Her little heart beat as fast as her little feet ran, and a lump of tears was growing in her throat. But she was too eager and perhaps too frightened to cry for some time. At last her hope failed her. Nothing but passages and doors
40 everywhere! She threw herself on the floor, and burst into a wailing cry broken by sobs.

She did not cry long, however, for she was as brave as could be expected of a princess of her age. After a good cry, she got up, and brushed the dust from her frock. Oh, what old dust it was! Next,
45 like a true princess, she resolved on going wisely to work to find her way back: she would walk through the passages, and look in every direction for the stair. This she did, but without success. She went over the same ground again and again without knowing it, for the passages and doors were all alike. At last, in a corner, through a
50 half-open door, she did see a stair. But alas! it went the wrong way: instead of going down, it went up. Frightened as she was, however, she could not help wishing to see where yet further the stair could lead. It was very narrow, and so steep that she went on like a four-legged creature on her hands and feet.

55 When she came to the top, she found herself in a little square place, with three doors, two opposite each other, and one opposite the top of the stair. She stood for a moment, without an idea in her little head what to do next. But as she stood, she began to hear a curious humming sound. Could it be the rain? No. It was much more
60 gentle, and even monotonous than the sound of the rain, which now she scarcely heard. It was more like the hum of a very happy bee that had found a rich well of honey in some globular flower, than anything else I can think of at this moment. Where could it come from? She laid her ear first to one of the doors to hearken if it

65 was there—then to another. When she laid her ear against the third door, there could be no doubt where it came from: it must be from something in that room. What could it be? She was rather afraid, but her curiosity was stronger than her fear, and she opened the door very gently and peeped in. What do you think she saw? A very old
70 lady who sat spinning.

Perhaps you will wonder how the princess could tell that the old lady was an old lady, when I inform you that not only was she beautiful, but her skin was smooth and white. Her hair was combed back from her forehead and face, and hung loose far down and all
75 over her back. That is not much like an old lady—is it? Ah! but it was white almost as snow. And although her face was so smooth, her eyes looked so wise that you could not have helped seeing she must be old. The princess, though she could not have told you why, did think her very old indeed—quite fifty, she said to herself. But she
80 was rather older than that, as you shall hear.

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 could the princess not go outside?

- A. She was ill in bed.
- B. It was pouring with rain.
- C. It was the middle of the night.
- D. Her nurse had locked the door.
- E. She had lessons all day.

Q2. 'whence it fell in a fringe of water from the eaves'
(lines 3-4)

What does 'whence' mean?

- A. when
- B. to where
- C. afterwards
- D. from where
- E. because

Q3. 'even her toys could no longer amuse her' (lines 5-6)

What type of word is 'amuse'?

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

Q4. 'you can't get tired of a thing before you have it' (lines 8-9)

What point is the narrator making?

- A. The more toys you have, the happier you will be.
- B. You should never wish for things you do not have.
- C. The princess had not yet played with her toys.
- D. Toys are only fun on wet days.
- E. It is only once you own something that you can grow tired of it.

Q5. 'The next moment after you see her sitting there, her nurse goes out of the room.' (lines 12-13)

Why does the author suddenly write in the present tense here?

- A. because the story is set in the future
- B. because the author has made a mistake
- C. to make the reader feel they are watching the scene as it happens
- D. to show that the nurse is speaking
- E. to show that this part is a dream

Q6. 'Even that is a change' (line 14)

Why does the nurse leaving the room count as 'a change'?

- A. The nurse never usually left the princess alone.
- B. The nurse had changed her clothes.
- C. Nothing at all had been happening, so even a small event made a difference.
- D. The rain stopped as the nurse went out.
- E. The princess wanted the nurse to go.

Q7. 'a curious old stair of worm-eaten oak' (line 17)

What does 'worm-eaten' tell us about the stair?

- A. It was very old, with its wood full of tiny holes made by grubs.
- B. It was covered in worms.
- C. It was newly built.
- D. It had been painted brown.
- E. It was made of stone.

Q8. 'She had once before been up six steps, and that was sufficient reason, in such a day, for trying to find out what was at the top of it.' (lines 18-20)

What does this suggest?

- A. She had been told to go up the stair.
- B. She had already seen what was at the top.
- C. She was frightened of the stair after going up six steps.
- D. The stair had only six steps.
- E. Having already been partly up the stair, she needed nothing more than a dull day to make her go further.

Q9. How many flights of stairs did the princess run up before she reached the long passage?

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

Q10. 'And all those doors must hide rooms with nobody in them! That was dreadful.' (lines 28-29)

Why did this thought frighten her?

- A. She thought robbers were hiding behind the doors.
- B. It made her feel completely alone in a huge, strange, silent place.
- C. She was not allowed to open doors.
- D. She knew the rooms were full of goblins.
- E. She was worried about waking people up.

Q11. 'So she thought, but she had lost herself long ago.' (line 32)

What does this tell us?

- A. She believed she was running back to the stairs, but she had already lost her way.
- B. She had found the stairs but forgot to go down them.
- C. She had been lost in the house many years before.
- D. She knew she was lost and was not worried.
- E. She was thinking about her nursery instead of looking.

Q12. 'It doesn't follow that she was lost, because she had lost herself, though.' (lines 32-34)

What does the narrator mean?

- A. She knew exactly where she was all along.
- B. She had forgotten who she was.
- C. Somebody had left her there on purpose.
- D. Not knowing where she was did not mean that things would end badly for her.
- E. She would never find her way home.

Q13. 'a lump of tears was growing in her throat' (line 37)

What is being described?

- A. a sore throat caused by the cold
- B. the tight, choking feeling in your throat when you are about to cry
- C. something she had swallowed
- D. tears running down her neck
- E. a cough caused by the old dust

Q14. What did the princess do when her hope failed her?

- A. She shouted for her nurse.
- B. She sat down on the stair.
- C. She opened one of the doors.
- D. She ran up to the roof.
- E. She threw herself on the floor and cried.

Q15. 'she was as brave as could be expected of a princess of her age' (lines 42-43)

What does this mean?

- A. She was as brave as anyone could expect from a child as young as she was.
- B. She was braver than any grown-up.
- C. She was not brave at all.
- D. Princesses are always braver than other children.
- E. She was too old to cry.

Q16. 'she resolved on going wisely to work to find her way back' (lines 45-46)

What does 'resolved' mean here?

- A. solved
- B. refused
- C. decided firmly
- D. remembered
- E. gave up

Q17. Why did her careful search for the stair fail?

- A. She was too tired to walk any further.
- B. It had grown too dark to see.
- C. The doors were all locked.
- D. The passages and doors all looked the same, so she kept going over the same places.
- E. She was looking for the wrong stair.

Q18. 'Frightened as she was, however, she could not help wishing to see where yet further the stair could lead.' (lines 51-53)

What does this show about the princess?

- A. She was no longer frightened at all.
- B. She thought the stair would lead her home.
- C. She was too frightened to think clearly.
- D. She had been told to climb it.
- E. Her curiosity was stronger than her fear.

Q19. Why did the princess climb the second stair on her hands and feet?

- A. She had hurt her leg.
- B. It was very narrow and steep.
- C. She was pretending to be an animal.
- D. She wanted to be very quiet.
- E. The steps were broken.

Q20. 'It was much more gentle, and even monotonous' (lines 59-60)

What does 'monotonous' mean?

- A. keeping to one note without changing
- B. very loud
- C. frightening
- D. tuneful and lively
- E. far away

Q21. 'the hum of a very happy bee that had found a rich well of honey in some globular flower' (lines 61-62)

What does this comparison suggest about the sound?

- A. It was coming from a real bee in the room.
- B. It was sharp and angry, like a sting.
- C. It was contented and peaceful rather than frightening.
- D. It was coming from the garden outside.
- E. It meant that someone was eating honey.

Q22. How could the princess tell that the lady was old, even though her skin was smooth?

- A. She walked with a stick.
- B. She told the princess her age.
- C. Her face was covered in wrinkles.
- D. Her hair was nearly white and her eyes looked very wise.
- E. She spoke in a shaky voice.

Q23. 'Her hair was combed back from her forehead and face, and hung loose far down and all over her back.' (lines 73-75)

How many nouns are there in this sentence?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5
- E. 6

Q24. 'quite fifty, she said to herself. But she was rather older than that, as you shall hear.' (lines 79-80)

What does the ending suggest?

- A. The old lady is exactly fifty years old.
- B. The old lady is far older than an ordinary person, so there may be something magical about her.
- C. The princess is very good at guessing ages.
- D. The old lady is younger than she looks.
- E. The narrator does not know how old she is.

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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.

Grandma sat by the fire all evening and nitted a scarf.

A

B

C

D

- A. Grandma sat by
- B. the fire all
- C. evening and
- D. nitted a scarf.
- E. No mistake

Q26.

Mia picked the prettyest shell from the pile on the sand.

A

B

C

D

- A. Mia picked
- B. the prettyest shell
- C. from the pile
- D. on the sand.
- E. No mistake

Q27.

Police officers kept everyone away from the scene of the accident.

A

B

C

D

- A. Police officers
- B. kept everyone
- C. away from the scene
- D. of the accident.
- E. No mistake

Q28.

The debt was finally paid off after ten long years.

A

B

C

D

- A. The debt was
- B. finally paid off
- C. after ten
- D. long years.
- E. No mistake

Q29.

Our teacher asked us to find a word that would rhyme.

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

- A. Our teacher
- B. asked us to
- C. find a word
- D. that would rhyme.
- E. No mistake

Q30.

The passengers grew anxious as the storm got worse.

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

- A. The passengers
- B. grew anxious as
- C. the storm
- D. got worse.
- E. No mistake

Q31.

The explorers set off well equipped for the icy journey.

A

B

C

D

- A. The explorers
- B. set off well
- C. equipped for
- D. the icy journey.
- E. No mistake

Q32.

The spy's disguise fooled the guards at the castle gate.

A

B

C

D

- A. The spy's disguise
- B. fooled the guards
- C. at the castle
- D. gate.
- E. No mistake

Q33.

The physician prescribed a soothing ointment for my rash.

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

- A. The physician
- B. prescribed a
- C. soothing ointment
- D. for my rash.
- E. No mistake

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The Ravens of the Tower

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.

Have you ever heard the legend of the Tower of London ravens.

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

- A. Have you ever
- B. heard the legend
- C. of the Tower
- D. of London ravens.
- E. No mistake

Q35.

Its said that the kingdom will fall if the birds ever fly away.

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

- A. Its said that
- B. the kingdom will
- C. fall if the birds
- D. ever fly away.
- E. No mistake

Q36.

Tower ravens (there are at least six live in the castle grounds.

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

- A. Tower ravens
- B. (there are at least six
- C. live in the
- D. castle grounds.
- E. No mistake

Q37.

Today, the raven's are looked after by a Ravenmaster.

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

- A. Today, the
- B. raven's are looked
- C. after by a
- D. Ravenmaster.
- E. No mistake

Q38.

Nobody never harms them, and the Ravenmaster feeds them well.

A

B

C

D

- A. Nobody never
- B. harms them, and
- C. the Ravenmaster
- D. feeds them well.
- E. No mistake

Q39.

The Ravenmaster, who knows each bird by name, feeds them raw meat.

A

B

C

D

- A. The Ravenmaster,
- B. who knows each bird
- C. by name, feeds
- D. them raw meat.
- E. No mistake

Q40.

"Their wings are trimmed", said our guide, "so they stay close."

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

- A. "Their wings
- B. are trimmed", said
- C. our guide, "so
- D. they stay close."
- E. No mistake

Q41.

In fact, one of the Tower's ravens have escaped more than once.

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

- A. In fact, one of
- B. the Tower's ravens
- C. have escaped
- D. more than once.
- E. No mistake

Q42.

Luckily for the kingdom most of them seem happy to stay.

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

- A. Luckily for
- B. the kingdom most
- C. of them seem
- D. happy to stay.
- E. No mistake

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The Bake-Off Disaster

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. My friends told me that _____ going to bake a chocolate cake for the village show.

- A. their
- B. there
- C. they're
- D. the
- E. then

Q44. I wanted to make lemon biscuits, _____ I was outvoted.

- A. but
- B. so
- C. because
- D. or
- E. if

Q45. Jamal, _____ mum runs the bakery on the high street, offered to bring the flour.

- A. who's
- B. who
- C. which
- D. whom
- E. whose

Q46. Sadly, the oven was far too hot, and this had a disastrous _____ on our sponge.

- A. affect
- B. effect
- C. affection
- D. efficient
- E. effort

Q47. When it came out of the oven, the sponge was burnt _____ a crisp.

- A. into
- B. as
- C. like
- D. to
- E. for

Q48. We _____ have checked the temperature before we put the tin in.

- A. should
- B. shall
- C. will
- D. ought
- E. can

Q49. _____ Jamal nor I could bear to watch as the judge tasted it.

- A. Either
- B. Both
- C. Neither
- D. Not
- E. None

Q50. To our amazement, she gave us a prize _____ being the most cheerful team.

- A. of
- B. for
- C. by
- D. with
- E. at

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