

English Mock Test 13

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 Wreck on the Reef

by R. M. Ballantyne

This extract comes from The Coral Island, first published in 1858. Ralph Rover, who tells the story, is about fifteen and has gone to sea on a ship sailing to the Pacific Ocean. His two best friends on board are Jack Martin, a tall, clever youth of eighteen, and Peterkin Gay, a small, funny boy of about fourteen. The extract has been shortened.

1 At last we came among the Coral Islands of the Pacific, and I shall
never forget the delight with which I gazed—when we chanced to pass
one—at the pure, white, dazzling shores, and the verdant palm-trees,
which looked bright and beautiful in the sunshine. And often did we
5 three long to be landed on one, imagining that we should certainly
find perfect happiness there! Our wish was granted sooner than we
expected.

One night, soon after we entered the tropics, an awful storm burst
upon our ship. The first squall of wind carried away two of our
10 masts; and left only the foremast standing. Even this, however, was
more than enough, for we did not dare to hoist a rag of sail on it.
For five days the tempest raged in all its fury. Everything was
swept off the decks except one small boat. The steersman was lashed
to the wheel, lest he should be washed away, and we all gave
15 ourselves up for lost. The captain said that he had no idea where we
were, as we had been blown far out of our course; and we feared much
that we might get among the dangerous coral reefs which are so
numerous in the Pacific. At day-break on the sixth morning of the
gale we saw land ahead. It was an island encircled by a reef of
20 coral on which the waves broke in fury. There was calm water within
this reef, but we could only see one narrow opening into it. For
this opening we steered, but, ere we reached it, a tremendous wave

broke on our stern, tore the rudder completely off, and left us at the mercy of the winds and waves.

25 "It's all over with us now, lads," said the captain to the men; "get the boat ready to launch; we shall be on the rocks in less than half an hour."

The men obeyed in gloomy silence, for they felt that there was little hope of so small a boat living in such a sea.

30 "Come boys," said Jack Martin, in a grave tone, to me and Peterkin, as we stood on the quarterdeck awaiting our fate—"Come boys, we three shall stick together. You see it is impossible that the little boat can reach the shore, crowded with men. It will be sure to upset, so I mean rather to trust myself to a large oar. I see
35 through the telescope that the ship will strike at the tail of the reef, where the waves break into the quiet water inside; so, if we manage to cling to the oar till it is driven over the breakers, we may perhaps gain the shore. What say you; will you join me?"

We gladly agreed to follow Jack, for he inspired us with confidence,
40 although I could perceive, by the sad tone of his voice, that he had little hope; and, indeed, when I looked at the white waves that lashed the reef and boiled against the rocks as if in fury, I felt that there was but a step between us and death.

The ship was now very near the rocks. The men were ready with the
45 boat, and the captain beside them giving orders, when a tremendous wave came towards us. We three ran towards the bow to lay hold of our oar, and had barely reached it when the wave fell on the deck with a crash like thunder. At the same moment the ship struck, the foremast broke off close to the deck and went over the side,
50 carrying the boat and men along with it. Our oar got entangled with the wreck, and Jack seized an axe to cut it free, but, owing to the motion of the ship, he missed the cordage and struck the axe deep into the oar. Another wave, however, washed it clear of the wreck. We all seized hold of it, and the next instant we were struggling in
55 the wild sea. The last thing I saw was the boat whirling in the surf, and all the sailors tossed into the foaming waves. Then I became insensible.

On recovering from my swoon, I found myself lying on a bank of soft grass, under the shelter of an overhanging rock, with Peterkin on
60 his knees by my side, tenderly bathing my temples with water, and endeavouring to stop the blood that flowed from a wound in my forehead.

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

Q1. What did the three boys often long to do when they passed a coral island?

- A. sail round it
- B. draw a map of it
- C. be landed on one
- D. catch fish near it
- E. go home to England

Q2. 'the verdant palm-trees' (line 3)

What does 'verdant' mean?

- A. green and full of growth
- B. tall and thin
- C. swaying
- D. dry and dusty
- E. very old

Q3. 'Our wish was granted sooner than we expected.' (lines 6-7)

What does this sentence hint to the reader?

- A. The captain will let the boys go ashore for a holiday.
- B. The boys will be granted three wishes.
- C. The boys will never reach an island.
- D. The boys will soon land on an island, but not in the happy way they imagined.
- E. The voyage will end safely in England.

Q4. 'The first squall of wind carried away two of our masts' (lines 9-10)

What is a 'squall'?

- A. a loud shout
- B. a sudden, violent gust
- C. a small wave
- D. a long, gentle breeze
- E. a heavy rain cloud

Q5. 'we did not dare to hoist a rag of sail on it' (line 11)

Why does the narrator say 'a rag of sail'?

- A. because the sails were old and torn
- B. because the sailors had used the sails as rags
- C. because the sails had been swept away
- D. to show that the sails were made of cloth
- E. to show that even the smallest scrap of sail would have been too much in such a wind

Q6. For how long had the storm raged when the crew saw land ahead?

- A. two days
- B. three days
- C. five days
- D. six days
- E. seven days

Q7. 'The steersman was lashed to the wheel' (lines 13-14)

What does 'lashed' mean here?

- A. whipped
- B. tied firmly with rope
- C. soaked with spray
- D. ordered to stay
- E. blown hard against

Q8. 'we all gave ourselves up for lost' (lines 14-15)

What does this mean?

- A. Everyone had lost their way on the deck.
- B. Everyone gave themselves up to the captain.
- C. Everyone had lost their belongings.
- D. Everyone believed they were going to die.
- E. Everyone stopped working and went to sleep.

Q9. 'ere we reached it' (line 22)

What does 'ere' mean?

- A. before
- B. after
- C. where
- D. as soon as
- E. because

Q10. What happened to the ship's rudder?

- A. It was struck by lightning.
- B. It hit the coral reef.
- C. The captain had it removed.
- D. Jack cut it free with an axe.
- E. A huge wave tore it off.

Q11. 'left us at the mercy of the winds and waves' (lines 23-24)

What does this mean?

- A. The winds and waves showed them mercy and grew calmer.
- B. They were left alone on the ship by the crew.
- C. With no rudder they could not steer, so the wind and sea decided where the ship went.
- D. They were thrown into the sea.
- E. They were able to steer safely into the calm water.

Q12. 'The men obeyed in gloomy silence' (line 28)

Why were the men so silent?

- A. They felt there was little hope that the small boat could survive such a sea.
- B. The captain had ordered them not to speak.
- C. The storm was too loud for them to hear each other.
- D. They were angry with the captain.
- E. They were too cold to speak.

Q13. 'little hope of so small a boat living in such a sea' (line 29)

What does 'living' mean here?

- A. being lived in
- B. moving about quickly
- C. earning money
- D. staying afloat and surviving
- E. growing larger

Q14. 'said Jack Martin, in a grave tone' (line 30)

What does 'grave' mean here?

- A. cheerful
- B. serious
- C. very deep and low
- D. whispering
- E. angry

Q15. Why did Jack believe the little boat would not reach the shore?

- A. It had a hole in the bottom.
- B. The captain would not let the boys on board.
- C. It had no oars.
- D. It would be swept out to sea.
- E. It would be so crowded with men that it would turn over.

Q16. What was Jack's plan for reaching the shore?

- A. to cling to a large oar until the waves carried it over the breakers into the calm water
- B. to take the small boat and row through the opening
- C. to swim straight to the island on his own
- D. to stay on the ship until the storm was over
- E. to steer the ship through the narrow opening

Q17. 'although I could perceive, by the sad tone of his voice, that he had little hope' (lines 40-41)

What does this show about Jack?

- A. He was sure that his plan would work.
- B. He did not care what happened to the boys.
- C. He had little hope himself, but he put on a brave face to give the younger boys courage.
- D. He was too frightened to make a plan.
- E. He wanted the boys to stay behind.

Q18. 'the white waves that lashed the reef and boiled against the rocks as if in fury' (lines 41-42)

What impression of the sea do these words give?

- A. that it was warm and bubbling
- B. that it was violent and angry, as if it wanted to destroy anything in its way
- C. that it was calm inside the reef
- D. that it was beautiful and gentle
- E. that it was slowly going down

Q19. 'there was but a step between us and death' (line 43)

What does 'but' mean here?

- A. however
- B. except
- C. without
- D. never
- E. only

Q20. 'had barely reached it when the wave fell on the deck'
(line 47)

What type of word is 'barely'?

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

Q21. 'he missed the cordage and struck the axe deep into the oar' (lines 52-53)

What does 'cordage' mean?

- A. the wooden deck
- B. the ship's wheel
- C. the sail
- D. the ropes
- E. the anchor chain

Q22. 'Another wave, however, washed it clear of the wreck.'
(line 53)

How many nouns are there in this sentence?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4
- E. 5

Q23. Who was looking after Ralph when he woke up?

- A. Jack
- B. the captain
- C. the steersman
- D. one of the sailors
- E. Peterkin

Q24. 'tenderly bathing my temples with water' (line 60)

What are 'temples' here?

- A. places of worship
- B. cuts and bruises
- C. the sides of the head, beside the forehead
- D. the eyelids
- E. the lips

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.

The lake looked peacefull in the early morning light.

A

B

C

D

- A. The lake
- B. looked peacefull
- C. in the early
- D. morning light.
- E. No mistake

Q26.

The photographer asked us all to keep smileing.

A

B

C

D

- A. The photographer
- B. asked us all
- C. to keep
- D. smileing.
- E. No mistake

Q27.

The knight's sord flashed in the sunlight as he rode.

A

B

C

D

- A. The knight's sord
- B. flashed in
- C. the sunlight
- D. as he rode.
- E. No mistake

Q28.

The main villain is the best character in the film.

A

B

C

D

- A. The main
- B. villain is
- C. the best character
- D. in the film.
- E. No mistake

Q29.

Can you gess how many sweets are in the jar?

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

- A. Can you
- B. gess how many
- C. sweets are
- D. in the jar?
- E. No mistake

Q30.

Losing the map would have been a catastrophe.

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

- A. Losing the
- B. map would
- C. have been
- D. a catastrophe.
- E. No mistake

Q31.

The appearence of a fox scattered the hens in the yard.

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

- A. The appearence
- B. of a fox
- C. scattered the
- D. hens in the yard.
- E. No mistake

Q32.

There was a faint and sutle smell of smoke.

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

- A. There was a
- B. faint and
- C. sutle smell
- D. of smoke.
- E. No mistake

Q33.

The sailors skilfully navigated the treacherous currents.

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

- A. The sailors
- B. skilfully navigated
- C. the treacherous
- D. currents.
- E. No mistake

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The Great Barrier Reef

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.

The Great Barrier Reef lies off the coast of australia.

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

- A. The Great
- B. Barrier Reef lies
- C. off the coast
- D. of australia.
- E. No mistake

Q35.

It is home to a amazing variety of fish, turtles and sharks.

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

- A. It is home to
- B. a amazing variety
- C. of fish, turtles
- D. and sharks.
- E. No mistake

Q36.

A huge amount of divers come every year to explore it.

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

- A. A huge amount
- B. of divers come
- C. every year to
- D. explore it.
- E. No mistake

Q37.

Coral is built by tiny polyps, animals who's skeletons pile up.

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

- A. Coral is built
- B. by tiny polyps,
- C. animals who's
- D. skeletons pile up.
- E. No mistake

Q38.

Neither storms nor warm seas has destroyed the reef so far.

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

- A. Neither storms
- B. nor warm seas
- C. has destroyed
- D. the reef so far.
- E. No mistake

Q39.

Warmer seas are a real danger; they can turn coral white.

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

- A. Warmer seas are
- B. a real danger;
- C. they can turn
- D. coral white.
- E. No mistake

Q40.

Last summer, my family visits the reef on a glass-bottomed boat.

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

- A. Last summer, my
- B. family visits the
- C. reef on a
- D. glass-bottomed boat.
- E. No mistake

Q41.

To look closer, we borrowed two of the other passengers snorkels.

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

- A. To look closer,
- B. we borrowed two
- C. of the other
- D. passengers snorkels.
- E. No mistake

Q42.

Me and my sister spotted a turtle gliding beneath the boat.

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

- A. Me and my sister
- B. spotted a turtle
- C. gliding beneath
- D. the boat.
- E. No mistake

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The Lost Library Book

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. I was horrified to discover that my library book was three weeks _____.

- A. overdone
- B. overcome
- C. overtake
- D. overdue
- E. overjoyed

Q44. I searched _____ my whole bedroom, but it was nowhere to be found.

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

Q45. Mum asked me where I had last _____ it.

- A. seen
- B. saw
- C. see
- D. seeing
- E. sawn

Q46. I was sure I had _____ it on the kitchen table after tea.

- A. lain
- B. lay
- C. lied
- D. lying
- E. laid

Q47. My little brother looked _____ guilty when I asked him about it.

- A. suspicious
- B. suspicion
- C. suspiciously
- D. suspect
- E. suspecting

Q48. At last he admitted he had _____ it under his bed to build a den.

- A. hid
- B. hidden
- C. hide
- D. hided
- E. hiding

Q49. The librarian, _____ I had been dreading telling, simply laughed.

- A. whom
- B. whose
- C. which
- D. what
- E. where

Q50. She said the book was old anyway, and there was no use crying over spilt _____.

- A. water
- B. tea
- C. juice
- D. milk
- E. ink

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