

English Mock Test 15

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 Wrong Chimney

by Charles Kingsley

This extract comes from The Water-Babies, first published in 1863. Tom is a young chimney sweep who works for a harsh master, Mr Grimes, and has hardly ever washed in his life. Today they have come to sweep the chimneys of Harthover Place, a grand country house, where the old chimneys are so large and crooked that they run into one another. The extract has been shortened.

1 So Tom fairly lost his way in them; not that he cared much for that, though he was in pitchy darkness, for he was as much at home in a chimney as a mole is underground; but at last, coming down as he thought the right chimney, he came down the wrong one, and found
5 himself standing on the hearthrug in a room the like of which he had never seen before.

Tom had never seen the like. He had never been in gentlefolks' rooms but when the carpets were all up, and the curtains down, and the furniture huddled together under a cloth, and the pictures covered
10 with aprons and dusters; and he had often enough wondered what the rooms were like when they were all ready for the quality to sit in. And now he saw, and he thought the sight very pretty.

The room was all dressed in white—white window-curtains, white bed-curtains, white furniture, and white walls, with just a few
15 lines of pink here and there. The carpet was all over gay little flowers; and the walls were hung with pictures in gilt frames, which amused Tom very much. There were pictures of ladies and gentlemen, and pictures of horses and dogs. The horses he liked; but the dogs he did not care for much, for there were no bull-dogs among them,
20 not even a terrier.

The next thing he saw, and that too puzzled him, was a washing-stand, with ewers and basins, and soap and brushes, and towels, and a large bath full of clean water—what a heap of things all for washing! “She must be a very dirty lady,” thought Tom, “by
25 my master’s rule, to want as much scrubbing as all that. But she must be very cunning to put the dirt out of the way so well afterwards, for I don’t see a speck about the room, not even on the very towels.”

And then, looking toward the bed, he saw that dirty lady, and held
30 his breath with astonishment.

Under the snow-white coverlet, upon the snow-white pillow, lay the most beautiful little girl that Tom had ever seen. Her cheeks were almost as white as the pillow, and her hair was like threads of gold spread all about over the bed. She might have been as old as Tom, or
35 maybe a year or two older; but Tom did not think of that. He thought only of her delicate skin and golden hair, and wondered whether she was a real live person, or one of the wax dolls he had seen in the shops. But when he saw her breathe, he made up his mind that she was alive, and stood staring at her, as if she had been an angel out of
40 heaven.

No. She cannot be dirty. She never could have been dirty, thought Tom to himself. And then he thought, “And are all people like that when they are washed?” And he looked at his own wrist, and tried to rub the soot off, and wondered whether it ever would come off.
45 “Certainly I should look much prettier then, if I grew at all like her.”

And looking round, he suddenly saw, standing close to him, a little ugly, black, ragged figure, with bleared eyes and grinning white teeth. He turned on it angrily. And behold, it was himself,
50 reflected in a great mirror, the like of which Tom had never seen before.

And Tom, for the first time in his life, found out that he was dirty; and burst into tears with shame and anger; and turned to sneak up the chimney again and hide; and upset the fender and threw
55 the fire-irons down, with a noise as of ten thousand tin kettles tied to ten thousand mad dogs’ tails.

Up jumped the little white lady in her bed, and, seeing Tom, screamed as shrill as any peacock. In rushed a stout old nurse from the next room, and seeing Tom likewise, made up her mind that he had
60 come to rob, plunder, destroy, and burn; and dashed at him, as he

lay over the fender, so fast that she caught him by the jacket.

But she did not hold him. Tom had been in a policeman's hands many a time, and out of them too, what is more; and he would have been ashamed to face his friends for ever if he had been stupid enough to
65 be caught by an old woman; so he doubled under the good lady's arm, across the room, and out of the window in a moment.

But all under the window spread a tree, with great leaves and sweet white flowers, almost as big as his head. It was magnolia, I suppose; but Tom knew nothing about that, and cared less; for down
70 the tree he went, like a cat, and across the garden lawn, and over the iron railings and up the park towards the wood, leaving the old nurse to scream murder and fire at the window.

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

Q1. 'he was as much at home in a chimney as a mole is underground' (lines 2-3)

What does this comparison tell us about Tom?

- A. He liked to dig tunnels.
- B. He lived in a chimney.
- C. He felt completely comfortable in dark, narrow places.
- D. He could not see well.
- E. He was frightened of the dark.

Q2. Where did Tom find himself when he came down the wrong chimney?

- A. on the hearthrug of a room he had never seen before
- B. on the roof of the house
- C. in the kitchen
- D. in his master's cart
- E. in the garden

Q3. 'He had never been in gentlefolks' rooms but when the carpets were all up' (lines 7-8)

Why had Tom only ever seen such rooms with the carpets up and everything covered?

- A. The families were always moving house.
- B. The rooms were being painted.
- C. The rich people hid their things from thieves.
- D. The rooms were always covered up to protect them from soot whenever the sweep came.
- E. Tom only visited houses that were empty.

Q4. 'ready for the quality to sit in' (line 11)

Who are 'the quality'?

- A. the servants
- B. wealthy, upper-class people
- C. the best chairs
- D. the chimney sweeps
- E. the visitors' children

Q5. 'pictures in gilt frames' (line 16)

What does 'gilt' mean?

- A. made of glass
- B. broken
- C. carved from wood
- D. dusty
- E. covered with a thin layer of gold

Q6. Why did Tom not care much for the pictures of dogs?

- A. None of them showed a bull-dog or a terrier.
- B. He was afraid of dogs.
- C. The dogs were drawn badly.
- D. He preferred pictures of ladies.
- E. The pictures were too small.

Q7. 'by my master's rule, to want as much scrubbing as all that' (lines 24-25)

Why does Tom think the lady must be very dirty?

- A. He could see dirt all over the room.
- B. The water in the bath was dirty.
- C. By his master's way of thinking, only a very dirty person would need so many things for washing.
- D. His master had told him the lady was dirty.
- E. The towels were black with soot.

Q8. 'must be very cunning to put the dirt out of the way' (line 26)

What does 'cunning' mean here?

- A. cruel
- B. clumsy
- C. careless
- D. clever at doing things without being found out
- E. rich

Q9. What does the author compare the girl's cheeks to?

- A. threads of gold
- B. the pillow
- C. a wax doll
- D. snow
- E. a peacock

Q10. Why did Tom wonder whether the girl was one of the wax dolls he had seen in the shops?

- A. She was wearing a doll's dress.
- B. She was sitting on a shelf.
- C. Her hair was made of real gold threads.
- D. She was very small, like a toy.
- E. She was so pale, still and perfect that she hardly looked real.

Q11. What made Tom decide that the girl was alive?

- A. He saw her breathe.
- B. She spoke to him.
- C. She opened her eyes.
- D. She turned over in bed.
- E. She screamed.

Q12. 'as if she had been an angel out of heaven' (lines 39-40)

What does this tell us about how Tom sees the girl?

- A. He thinks she has died.
- B. He thinks she is about to fly away.
- C. She seems so pure and beautiful to him that she is like a being from another world.
- D. He is afraid she will punish him.
- E. He thinks she is wearing a costume.

Q13. 'She never could have been dirty' (line 41)

Why has Tom changed his mind about the 'dirty lady'?

- A. He has found the dirt hidden under the bed.
- B. Seeing how clean and beautiful she is, he realises that all the washing things are not because she is dirty.
- C. The nurse has told him she washes every day.
- D. He has seen that the bath water is still clean.
- E. She has told him she is clean.

Q14. What did Tom try to do to his wrist?

- A. wash it in the bath
- B. wrap it in a towel
- C. hide it in his pocket
- D. rub the soot off it
- E. bandage it

Q15. 'Certainly I should look much prettier then, if I grew at all like her.' (lines 45-46)

What does this show about Tom?

- A. He wants to grow long golden hair.
- B. He thinks he is already very handsome.
- C. He is jealous of the girl's bedroom.
- D. He is planning to steal her things.
- E. He is beginning to wish that he could be clean.

Q16. 'with bleared eyes and grinning white teeth' (lines 48-49)

What does 'bleared' mean?

- A. red, sore and blurry
- B. bright and shining
- C. wide open with fear
- D. closed tight
- E. very large

Q17. Why did Tom turn on the figure angrily?

- A. It had stolen his brushes.
- B. It was laughing at him.
- C. It was about to wake the girl.
- D. He thought it was an ugly stranger who had no business in the lady's room, not knowing it was his own reflection.
- E. He knew it was the old nurse in disguise.

Q18. 'for the first time in his life, found out that he was dirty' (lines 52-53)

Why had Tom never realised this before?

- A. He had always been clean until that day.
- B. He had never before seen himself so clearly, or seen anyone so clean to compare himself with.
- C. Nobody had ever let him look in a window.
- D. The soot had only just fallen on him.
- E. His master had told him he was clean.

Q19. 'with a noise as of ten thousand tin kettles tied to ten thousand mad dogs' tails' (lines 55-56)

Why does the author describe the noise like this?

- A. There really were kettles in the room.
- B. Tom had tied kettles to a dog's tail.
- C. The wild exaggeration makes the crash sound as loud and clattering as possible, in a comic way.
- D. The dogs in the pictures began barking.
- E. To show that the noise was quiet and far away.

Q20. 'screamed as shrill as any peacock' (line 58)

What does 'shrill' mean?

- A. low and deep
- B. soft and gentle
- C. short and quiet
- D. colourful
- E. high-pitched and piercing

Q21. 'made up her mind that he had come to rob, plunder, destroy, and burn' (lines 59-60)

What does this list suggest about the nurse?

- A. She leapt straight to the worst possible idea, imagining far more than a small boy could ever do.
- B. She had seen Tom steal something.
- C. She knew exactly why Tom was there.
- D. She thought Tom had come to sweep the chimney.
- E. She was too frightened to move.

Q22. 'ashamed to face his friends for ever if he had been stupid enough to be caught by an old woman' (lines 64-65)

What does this tell us about Tom?

- A. He has no friends.
- B. He is kind to old women.
- C. He wants to be caught.
- D. He is proud of being quick and hard to catch.
- E. He is ashamed of being a sweep.

Q23. 'he doubled under the good lady's arm' (line 65)

What does 'doubled' mean here?

- A. made twice as big
- B. bent low and darted
- C. copied
- D. folded in half and fell
- E. pushed hard

Q24. 'Tom knew nothing about that, and cared less' (line 69)

What does 'cared less' tell us?

- A. He cared a little about trees.
- B. He wanted to learn the tree's name later.
- C. He was worried about damaging the tree.
- D. He cared less about the nurse than the tree.
- E. He did not care at all what the tree was called, because escaping was all that mattered.

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.

Two ponys trotted round the field in the sunshine.

└───┘ └──────────┘ └───┘ └──────────┘

A

B

C

D

- A. Two ponys
- B. trotted round
- C. the field
- D. in the sunshine.
- E. No mistake

Q26.

Dad goes joging round the park after work.

└───┘ └──────────┘ └───┘ └──────────┘

A

B

C

D

- A. Dad goes
- B. joging round
- C. the park
- D. after work.
- E. No mistake

Q27.

The children told spooky gost stories around the campfire.

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

A

B

C

D

- A. The children
- B. told spooky
- C. gost stories
- D. around the campfire.
- E. No mistake

Q28.

The pipe was leaking, so we called a plumber.

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

A

B

C

D

- A. The pipe was
- B. leaking, so
- C. we called
- D. a plumber.
- E. No mistake

Q29.

Mum was far too bizzzy to play with us.

A

B

C

D

- A. Mum was
- B. far too
- C. bizzzy to
- D. play with us.
- E. No mistake

Q30.

Every Sunday, Grandad sings in the church quoir.

A

B

C

D

- A. Every Sunday,
- B. Grandad sings
- C. in the church
- D. quoir.
- E. No mistake

Q31.

The anonymous letter was signed only with a star.

A

B

C

D

- A. The anonymous
- B. letter was
- C. signed only
- D. with a star.
- E. No mistake

Q32.

The cyclists wore flourescent jackets on the dark country lanes.

A

B

C

D

- A. The cyclists wore
- B. flourescent jackets
- C. on the dark
- D. country lanes.
- E. No mistake

Q33.

The chauffeur politely opened the limousine door.

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

- A. The chauffeur
- B. politely opened
- C. the limousine
- D. door.
- E. No mistake

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The Climbing Boys

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 victorian times, young children swept chimneys.

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

- A. In victorian
- B. times, young
- C. children swept
- D. chimneys.
- E. No mistake

Q35.

Sweeps chose boys who were small thin and light.

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

- A. Sweeps chose
- B. boys who were
- C. small thin and
- D. light.
- E. No mistake

Q36.

Many of them had no shoes and didnt own any warm clothes.

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

- A. Many of them
- B. had no shoes and
- C. didnt own any
- D. warm clothes.
- E. No mistake

Q37.

Each of these boys were given only a brush and a sack.

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

- A. Each of these
- B. boys were given
- C. only a brush
- D. and a sack.
- E. No mistake

Q38.

The chimneys were narrow, dark and real dangerous.

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

- A. The chimneys
- B. were narrow,
- C. dark and
- D. real dangerous.
- E. No mistake

Q39.

Some boys (as young as five) worked for chimney sweeps.

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

- A. Some boys (as
- B. young as five)
- C. worked for
- D. chimney sweeps.
- E. No mistake

Q40.

Charles Kingsley, which wrote a story about a sweep, shocked readers.

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

- A. Charles Kingsley, which
- B. wrote a story
- C. about a sweep,
- D. shocked readers.
- E. No mistake

Q41.

The problem was soon bought to the attention of Parliament.

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

- A. The problem was
- B. soon bought to
- C. the attention
- D. of Parliament.
- E. No mistake

Q42.

A new law banning climbing boys was finally past in 1875.

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

- A. A new law
- B. banning climbing
- C. boys was finally
- D. past in 1875.
- E. No mistake

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The Charity Car Wash

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. On Saturday, our Scout group _____ a car wash to raise money for charity.

- A. hold
- B. holding
- C. held
- D. hole
- E. holed

Q44. We filled ten _____ with warm, soapy water.

- A. buckets
- B. bucket
- C. bucket's
- D. buckets'
- E. bucketful

Q45. The first customer drove up in a muddy tractor, which took _____ an hour to clean.

- A. near
- B. nearby
- C. nearest
- D. nearly
- E. nearer

Q46. By lunchtime, the queue of cars _____ all the way down the street.

- A. stretches
- B. stretched
- C. strutted
- D. strapped
- E. straddled

Q47. One driver gave us a ten-pound note and told us to keep the _____.

- A. chance
- B. charge
- C. chain
- D. cheque
- E. change

Q48. _____ tired we were, nobody wanted to stop.

- A. However
- B. Whatever
- C. Although
- D. Despite
- E. Even

Q49. Afterwards, Mum treated the whole group to ice cream for _____.

- A. desert
- B. deserts
- C. dessert
- D. deserted
- E. deserve

Q50. Our leader says we can hold another one next month, as long as the weather _____ fine.

- A. stay
- B. stays
- C. staying
- D. stayed
- E. stay's

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