

English Mock Test 18

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 Slide of Water

by R. D. Blackmore

This extract comes from Lorna Doone, first published in 1869 and set on Exmoor in the 1670s. John Ridd, who tells the story as a grown man, is fourteen and lives on a farm with his mother and his sister Annie; his father has died. His mother has been ill and off her food, so on a freezing February day John has waded barefoot up an unknown stream to catch loaches, small fish that he spears with a three-pronged fork tied to a pole, hoping to tempt her to eat. As night falls he is far from home, deep in a wild valley. The extract has been shortened.

1 For now the day was falling fast behind the brown of the hill-tops,
and the trees, being void of leaf and hard, seemed giants ready to
beat me. And every moment as the sky was clearing up for a white
frost, the cold of the water got worse and worse, until I was fit to
5 cry with it. And so, in a sorry plight, I came to an opening in the
bushes, where a great black pool lay in front of me, whitened with
snow (as I thought) at the sides, till I saw it was only foam-froth.

But soon I saw the reason of the stir and depth of that great pit,
as well as of the roaring sound which long had made me wonder. For
10 skirting round one side, with very little comfort, because the rocks
were high and steep, and the ledge at the foot so narrow, I came to
a sudden sight and marvel, such as I never dreamed of. For, lo! I
stood at the foot of a long pale slide of water, coming smoothly to
me, without any break or hindrance, for a hundred yards or more, and
15 fenced on either side with cliff, sheer, and straight, and shining.
The water neither ran nor fell, nor leaped with any spouting, but
made one even slope of it, as if it had been combed or planed, and
looking like a plank of deal laid down a deep black staircase.
However, there was no side-rail, nor any place to walk upon, only

20 the channel a fathom wide, and the perpendicular walls of crag
shutting out the evening.

Then says I to myself- 'John Ridd, these trees, and pools, and
lonesome rocks, and setting of the sunlight are making a gruesome
coward of thee. Shall I go back to my mother so, and be called her
25 fearless boy?'

But that which saved me from turning back was a strange inquisitive
desire, very unbecoming in a boy of little years; in a word, I would
risk a great deal to know what made the water come down like that,
and what there was at the top of it.

30 And here I had reckoned without my host, although (as I thought) so
clever; and it was much but that I went down into the great black
pool, and had never been heard of more; and this must have been the
end of me, except for my trusty loach-fork. For the green wave came
down like great bottles upon me, and my legs were gone off in a
35 moment, and I had not time to cry out with wonder, only to think of
my mother and Annie, and knock my head very sadly, which made it go
round so that brains were no good, even if I had any. But all in a
moment, before I knew aught, except that I must die out of the way,
with a roar of water upon me, my fork, praise God stuck fast in the
40 rock, and I was borne up upon it.

But to my great dismay and affright, I saw that no choice was left
me now, except that I must climb somehow up that hill of water, or
else be washed down into the pool and whirl around it till it
drowned me. Nevertheless, my terror left me, now I was face to face
45 with it, and had to meet the worst; and I set myself to do my best
with a vigour and sort of hardness which did not then surprise me,
but have done so ever since.

The water was only six inches deep, or from that to nine at the
utmost, and all the way up I could see my feet looking white in the
50 gloom of the hollow, and here and there I found resting-place, to
hold on by the cliff and pant awhile. And gradually as I went on, a
warmth of courage breathed in me, to think that perhaps no other had
dared to try that pass before me, and to wonder what mother would
say to it. And then came thought of my father also, and the pain of
55 my feet abated.

Now being in the most dreadful fright, because I was so near the
top, and hope was beating within me, I laboured hard with both legs
and arms, going like a mill and grunting. At last the rush of forked
water, where first it came over the lips of the fall, drove me into

60 the middle, and I stuck awhile with my toe-balls on the slippery
links of the pop-weed, and the world was green and gliddery, and I
durst not look behind me. Then I made up my mind to die at last; for
so my legs would ache no more, and my breath not pain my heart so;
only it did seem such a pity after fighting so long to give in, and
65 the light was coming upon me, and again I fought towards it; then
suddenly I felt fresh air, and fell into it headlong.

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

Q1. At what time of day does the passage begin?

- A. early in the morning
- B. at midday
- C. in the middle of the night
- D. in the evening, as the sun is going down
- E. in the afternoon, in bright sunshine

Q2. 'the trees, being void of leaf and hard, seemed giants ready to beat me' (lines 2-3)

What does this tell us about how John is feeling?

- A. He is enjoying an exciting game of make-believe.
- B. He is so cold, tired and nervous that the bare trees seem to threaten him.
- C. He has seen real giants in the wood.
- D. He is angry with the trees for blocking his way.
- E. He feels safe because the trees protect him.

Q3. 'And so, in a sorry plight, I came to an opening in the bushes' (lines 5-6)

What does 'in a sorry plight' mean?

- A. feeling that he should apologise
- B. in a great hurry
- C. lost in thought
- D. in a cheerful mood
- E. in a miserable and difficult state

Q4. What did John at first think was on the sides of the black pool?

- A. snow
- B. ice
- C. foam
- D. white stones
- E. fish

Q5. 'the roaring sound which long had made me wonder' (line 9)

Why does the author mention that John had heard the sound for a long time?

- A. It shows that John was going deaf from the cold.
- B. It tells us that a storm was coming.
- C. It builds up suspense, so that the reader too wants to know what is making the noise.
- D. It shows that John had been to this place before.
- E. It explains why John could not hear the birds.

Q6. 'I came to a sudden sight and marvel' (lines 11-12)

What does 'marvel' mean here?

- A. something wonderful and astonishing
- B. something frightening
- C. a small stone
- D. a mistake
- E. a warning sign

Q7. 'as if it had been combed or planed' (line 17)

What does this tell us about the water?

- A. It was full of tangled weed.
- B. It had been cut into steps by a carpenter.
- C. It was frozen solid.
- D. It was splashing wildly over rocks.
- E. It flowed in one perfectly smooth, even sheet.

Q8. 'looking like a plank of deal laid down a deep black staircase' (line 18)

This is an example of...

- A. personification
- B. a simile
- C. onomatopoeia
- D. alliteration
- E. a rhyme

Q9. 'the perpendicular walls of crag' (line 20)

What does 'perpendicular' mean?

- A. crumbling and broken
- B. sloping gently
- C. covered in moss
- D. rising straight up, like a wall
- E. very far away

Q10. 'shutting out the evening' (line 21)

What does this suggest about the place?

- A. The cliffs had a door that John could close.
- B. John had forgotten that it was evening.
- C. The cliffs were so high that they blocked out the last of the daylight, making it gloomy.
- D. It was too noisy to hear the evening birds.
- E. The evening had ended and it was already morning.

Q11. 'Shall I go back to my mother so, and be called her fearless boy?' (lines 24-25)

What is John saying to himself?

- A. He wants to hurry home before his mother worries.
- B. He would be ashamed to go home a coward when his mother believes he is brave.
- C. His mother has told him never to go near water.
- D. He thinks his mother will laugh at his fish.
- E. He is sure his mother would want him to turn back.

Q12. According to John, what really stopped him from turning back?

- A. his curiosity to know what made the water come down and what was at the top
- B. his wish to catch more fish
- C. his fear of the dark wood behind him
- D. a promise to his sister Annie
- E. the sound of someone calling from above

Q13. 'very unbecoming in a boy of little years' (line 27)
What does 'unbecoming' mean here?

- A. not growing up
- B. not good-looking
- C. not coming back
- D. not suitable or proper
- E. not very useful

Q14. 'And here I had reckoned without my host' (line 30)
What does John mean?

- A. He had forgotten to say goodbye to the person he was staying with.
- B. He had not counted his fish properly.
- C. He had lost his way and needed a guide.
- D. He had forgotten to bring any food with him.
- E. He had been too sure of himself and had not allowed for the danger he was about to meet.

Q15. What saved John from being swept down into the pool?

- A. He grabbed hold of a tree branch.
- B. He swam to the edge of the pool.
- C. His fork stuck fast in the rock and held him up.
- D. Someone pulled him out.
- E. He landed on a narrow ledge.

Q16. What type of word is 'sadly' (line 36)?

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

Q17. 'which made it go round so that brains were no good, even if I had any' (lines 36-37)

Why does John add 'even if I had any'?

- A. He had been told at school that he was stupid.
- B. He is making a joke at his own expense, even about a terrifying moment.
- C. He had truly lost his memory.
- D. He wants the reader to feel sorry for him.
- E. He is angry with himself for getting hurt.

Q18. What choice did John find he was left with once he was back on his feet?

- A. to swim across the pool or wait for help
- B. to go back the way he had come or climb the cliff
- C. to climb the cliff or shout for help
- D. to stay where he was until morning or climb
- E. to climb the slide of water or be washed into the pool and drowned

Q19. 'my terror left me, now I was face to face with it'
(lines 44-45)

Why did John's terror leave him?

- A. He saw that the water was not really dangerous.
- B. He heard his father calling to him.
- C. He had caught enough fish to go home.
- D. Once there was no way out but to face the danger, his fear turned into determination.
- E. The sun came out and warmed him up.

Q20. How deep was the water on the slide?

- A. up to his neck
- B. about three feet
- C. only six to nine inches
- D. too deep to stand in
- E. just one inch

Q21. What gave John a 'warmth of courage' as he climbed?

- A. the sun shining on his back
- B. seeing the top was only a few steps away
- C. hearing Annie cheering him on
- D. eating the bread he had brought
- E. thinking that perhaps no one had dared to try it before, and wondering what his mother would say

Q22. 'going like a mill and grunting' (line 58)

What does this tell us about the way John climbed?

- A. He climbed slowly and quietly.
- B. He worked his arms and legs hard and steadily without stopping, like a machine.
- C. He was grinding the rocks to powder.
- D. He was carrying a bag of flour.
- E. He kept going round in circles.

Q23. 'the world was green and gliddery' (line 61)

What does the word 'gliddery' suggest?

- A. glittering and bright
- B. gloomy and sad
- C. soft and warm
- D. slippery and sliding
- E. noisy and rushing

Q24. 'Then I made up my mind to die at last' (line 62)

Why did John keep fighting after all?

- A. It seemed a pity to give up after struggling so long, and the light was coming nearer.
- B. Someone reached down and pulled him up.
- C. The water suddenly stopped flowing.
- D. He remembered he had left his fish behind.
- E. His legs had stopped aching.

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.

My friends chated happily all the way home.

A

B

C

D

- A. My friends
- B. chated happily
- C. all the way
- D. home.
- E. No mistake

Q26.

For the party, Gran made two jellys and a cake.

A

B

C

D

- A. For the party,
- B. Gran made
- C. two jellys
- D. and a cake.
- E. No mistake

Q27.

A holly reath hung on our front door.

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

- A. A holly reath
- B. hung on
- C. our front
- D. door.
- E. No mistake

Q28.

Our old tortise sleeps through the cold winter months.

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

- A. Our old tortise
- B. sleeps through
- C. the cold
- D. winter months.
- E. No mistake

Q29.

On Friday we went to the sinema with Dad.

A

B

C

D

- A. On Friday
- B. we went to
- C. the sinema
- D. with Dad.
- E. No mistake

Q30.

Stick insects use clever camoflage to hide from hungry birds.

A

B

C

D

- A. Stick insects use
- B. clever camoflage
- C. to hide from
- D. hungry birds.
- E. No mistake

Q31.

The town's water comes from a huge reservior.

A

B

C

D

A. The town's water

B. comes from

C. a huge

D. reservior.

E. No mistake

Q32.

Grandad spent a week in hospital with neumonia.

A

B

C

D

A. Grandad spent

B. a week

C. in hospital

D. with neumonia.

E. No mistake

Q33.

A huge pterodactyl skeleton was the museum's star exhibit.

A

B

C

D

- A. A huge pterodactyl
- B. skeleton was
- C. the museum's
- D. star exhibit.
- E. No mistake

Angel Falls

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 venezuela, you can find the tallest waterfall on Earth.

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

A

B

C

D

- A. In venezuela,
- B. you can find
- C. the tallest
- D. waterfall on Earth.
- E. No mistake

Q35.

How high do you think the water falls.

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

A

B

C

D

- A. How high
- B. do you think
- C. the water
- D. falls.
- E. No mistake

Q36.

It is named after a pilot who's plane landed on top.

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

- A. It is named
- B. after a pilot
- C. who's plane
- D. landed on top.
- E. No mistake

Q37.

The plane's wheels sank into the mud; it could not take off.

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

- A. The plane's wheels
- B. sank into the
- C. mud; it could
- D. not take off.
- E. No mistake

Q38.

"We must walk home," said Jimmie "it will take days."

A

B

C

D

- A. "We must walk
- B. home," said
- C. Jimmie "it
- D. will take days."
- E. No mistake

Q39.

The long walk back through the jungle was more harder.

A

B

C

D

- A. The long walk
- B. back through the
- C. jungle was
- D. more harder.
- E. No mistake

Q40.

A guide, whom knew the jungle well, led them to safety.

A

B

C

D

- A. A guide, whom
- B. knew the jungle
- C. well, led them
- D. to safety.
- E. No mistake

Q41.

After eleven days, him and his wife reached a village.

A

B

C

D

- A. After eleven
- B. days, him and
- C. his wife
- D. reached a village.
- E. No mistake

Q42.

Today, the plane stood outside a busy airport.

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

- A. Today, the plane
- B. stood outside
- C. a busy
- D. airport.
- E. No mistake

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The Canoe Trip

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. Before we set off down the river, our instructor _____ us how to hold a paddle.

- A. shown
- B. show
- C. showed
- D. shows
- E. showing

Q44. A grey heron stood on one _____ at the water's edge.

- A. leg
- B. legs
- C. leg's
- D. legged
- E. league

Q45. Halfway along, the current grew stronger and our canoe began to _____.

- A. drifted
- B. drifting
- C. drifts
- D. drift
- E. adrift

Q46. _____ we had been warned about the weir, it still took us by surprise.

- A. Even so
- B. Even though
- C. Despite
- D. In spite
- E. However

Q47. Sophie _____ her paddle deep into the water and steered us towards the bank.

- A. plunder
- B. plundered
- C. plummeted
- D. plumped
- E. plunged

Q48. We reached the bank just in time, and I felt a _____ of relief.

- A. surge
- B. serge
- C. search
- D. surgeon
- E. sergeant

Q49. My arms ached, but I would not have _____ that day for anything.

- A. mist
- B. misted
- C. missing
- D. missed
- E. miss

Q50. Next term, we are hoping to try _____ kayaking along the coast.

- A. see
- B. sea
- C. seas
- D. sea's
- E. seeing

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