

English Mock Test 20

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 Passenger on the Stage Coach

by Kate Douglas Wiggin

This extract is the opening of Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, first published in 1903 and set in the state of Maine, in America. Rebecca, who is ten or eleven, is one of seven children on a poor farm. She is being sent to live with her two aunts in the town of Riverboro, and her mother has just put her on the stage coach, a horse-drawn coach that also carries the mail, asking the driver, Mr Cobb, to keep an eye on her. A sunshade and a parasol are the same thing: a small umbrella for keeping off the sun. The extract has been shortened.

1 The old stage coach was rumbling along the dusty road that runs from Maplewood to Riverboro. The day was as warm as midsummer, though it was only the middle of May, and Mr. Jeremiah Cobb was favoring the horses as much as possible, yet never losing sight of the fact that
5 he carried the mail. The hills were many, and the reins lay loosely in his hands as he lolled back in his seat and extended one foot and leg luxuriously over the dashboard.

There was one passenger in the coach,—a small dark-haired person in a glossy buff calico dress. She was so slender and so stiffly
10 starched that she slid from space to space on the leather cushions, though she braced herself against the middle seat with her feet and extended her cotton-gloved hands on each side, in order to maintain some sort of balance. Whenever the wheels sank farther than usual into a rut, or jolted suddenly over a stone, she bounded
15 involuntarily into the air, came down again, pushed back her funny little straw hat, and picked up or settled more firmly a small pink sun shade, which seemed to be her chief responsibility,—unless we except a bead purse, into which she looked whenever the condition of the roads would permit, finding great apparent satisfaction in that

20 its precious contents neither disappeared nor grew less. Mr. Cobb guessed nothing of these harassing details of travel, his business being to carry people to their destinations, not, necessarily, to make them comfortable on the way. Indeed he had forgotten the very existence of this one unnoteworthy little passenger.

25 Suddenly he heard a small voice above the rattle and rumble of the wheels and the creaking of the harness. At first he thought it was a cricket, a tree toad, or a bird, but having determined the direction from which it came, he turned his head over his shoulder and saw a small shape hanging as far out of the window as safety would allow.
30 A long black braid of hair swung with the motion of the coach; the child held her hat in one hand and with the other made ineffectual attempts to stab the driver with her microscopic sunshade.

"Please let me speak!" she called.

Mr. Cobb drew up the horses obediently.

35 "Does it cost any more to ride up there with you?" she asked. "It's so slippery and shiny down here, and the stage is so much too big for me, that I rattle round in it till I'm 'most black and blue. And the windows are so small I can only see pieces of things, and I've 'most broken my neck stretching round to find out whether my trunk
40 has fallen off the back. It's my mother's trunk, and she's very choice of it."

Mr. Cobb waited until this flow of conversation, or more properly speaking this flood of criticism, had ceased, and then said jocularly:

45 "You can come up if you want to; there ain't no extry charge to sit side o' me." Whereupon he helped her out, "boosted" her up to the front seat, and resumed his own place.

Rebecca sat down carefully, smoothing her dress under her with painstaking precision, and putting her sunshade under its extended
50 folds between the driver and herself. This done she pushed back her hat, pulled up her darned white cotton gloves, and said delightedly:

"Oh! this is better! This is like traveling! I am a real passenger now, and down there I felt like our setting hen when we shut her up in a coop. I hope we have a long, long ways to go?"

55 "Oh! we've only just started on it," Mr. Cobb responded genially; "it's more 'n two hours."

"Only two hours," she sighed, "That will be half past one; mother will be at cousin Ann's, the children at home will have had their dinner, and Hannah cleared all away. I have some lunch, because
60 mother said it would be a bad beginning to get to the brick house hungry and have aunt Mirandy have to get me something to eat the first thing.—It's a good growing day, isn't it?"

"It is, certain; too hot, most. Why don't you put up your parasol?"

She extended her dress still farther over the article in question as
65 she said, "Oh dear no! I never put it up when the sun shines; pink fades awfully, you know, and I only carry it to meetin' cloudy Sundays; sometimes the sun comes out all of a sudden, and I have a dreadful time covering it up; it's the dearest thing in life to me, but it's an awful care."

70 At this moment the thought gradually permeated Mr. Jeremiah Cobb's slow-moving mind that the bird perched by his side was a bird of very different feather from those to which he was accustomed in his daily drives.

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

Q1. In which month does the story take place?

- A. June
- B. May
- C. July
- D. August
- E. April

Q2. 'favoring the horses as much as possible, yet never losing sight of the fact that he carried the mail' (lines 3-5)

What does this tell us about Mr Cobb's driving?

- A. He let the horses stop whenever they wished.
- B. He drove as fast as he could to deliver the mail early.
- C. He was more interested in the horses than in his passengers' letters.
- D. He had forgotten that he was carrying the mail.
- E. He tried to spare the horses in the heat, but still made sure the mail would arrive on time.

Q3. 'as he lolled back in his seat' (line 6)

What does 'lolloed' mean?

- A. leaned back in a lazy, relaxed way
- B. sat up straight and alert
- C. fell asleep
- D. rocked from side to side
- E. jumped up suddenly

Q4. Why did the passenger slide about on the leather cushions?

- A. The coach had no seats.
- B. Mr Cobb was driving too fast.
- C. The cushions were wet.
- D. She was very slender and her dress was stiffly starched.
- E. She was trying to reach the window.

Q5. 'a small pink sun shade, which seemed to be her chief responsibility' (lines 16-17)

What does this suggest about the passenger?

- A. She had been put in charge of the whole coach.
- B. She was using the sunshade to keep off the rain.
- C. She took great care of the sunshade, as if looking after it were her most important duty.
- D. The sunshade belonged to Mr Cobb.
- E. She did not care what happened to the sunshade.

Q6. 'his business being to carry people to their destinations, not, necessarily, to make them comfortable on the way' (lines 21-23)

What does this tell us about Mr Cobb?

- A. He did the job of getting passengers there, but did not think about how comfortable they were.
- B. He was very worried about his passenger.
- C. He charged extra for a comfortable seat.
- D. He wanted to make the journey as pleasant as possible.
- E. He did not know where his passenger was going.

Q7. 'this one unnoteworthy little passenger' (line 24)

What does 'unnoteworthy' mean?

- A. unable to write notes
- B. very noisy
- C. rude and unpleasant
- D. not paying the fare
- E. not worth paying any attention to

Q8. What did Mr Cobb think the small voice was at first?

- A. the wind in the trees
- B. a cricket, a tree toad or a bird
- C. the creaking of the harness
- D. another coach on the road
- E. one of his horses

Q9. 'made ineffectual attempts to stab the driver with her microscopic sunshade' (lines 31-32)

What does 'ineffectual' mean?

- A. violent
- B. clever
- C. repeated
- D. unsuccessful
- E. secret

Q10. Why does the author describe the sunshade as 'microscopic' (line 32)?

- A. The sunshade could only be seen through a microscope.
- B. The sunshade was made by a scientist.
- C. The exaggeration makes the scene funny by showing how tiny the sunshade was.
- D. Mr Cobb needed glasses to see it.
- E. It was much bigger than an ordinary sunshade.

Q11. Which of these is NOT a reason Rebecca gives for wanting to ride up front?

- A. She was being bruised by rattling round inside.
- B. She was afraid of the horses.
- C. The windows were too small to see much.
- D. She was worried her trunk had fallen off.
- E. The coach was far too big for her.

Q12. 'this flow of conversation, or more properly speaking this flood of criticism' (lines 42-43)

Why does the author change 'flow of conversation' to 'flood of criticism'?

- A. Rebecca was crying so much that the coach flooded.
- B. Mr Cobb was criticising Rebecca.
- C. It had started to rain heavily.
- D. Rebecca was praising the coach.
- E. Rebecca's words were really a great rush of complaints about the coach, not a chat.

Q13. 'and then said jocularly' (lines 43-44)

How did Mr Cobb speak?

- A. in a joking, good-humoured way
- B. angrily
- C. nervously
- D. very quietly
- E. in a bored voice

Q14. What type of word is 'painstaking' (line 49)?

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

Q15. 'down there I felt like our setting hen when we shut her up in a coop' (lines 53-54)

What does this comparison show about how Rebecca felt inside the coach?

- A. warm and cosy, like a hen on her eggs
- B. hungry, as if she needed feeding
- C. shut in and cramped, unable to see or move about freely
- D. important, like the best hen on the farm
- E. sleepy, as hens are at night

Q16. Why did Rebecca sigh when she heard the journey would take 'Only two hours' (line 57)?

- A. She was tired and wanted to be there already.
- B. She was afraid of meeting her aunts.
- C. She had hoped to arrive in time for dinner.
- D. She thought the journey would be dull.
- E. She was enjoying the ride so much that two hours seemed far too short.

Q17. Why had Rebecca brought some lunch with her?

- A. Her mother said it would be a bad start to arrive hungry and make aunt Mirandy get her food.
- B. She did not like her aunts' cooking.
- C. Mr Cobb had told her to bring some.
- D. She wanted to share it with Mr Cobb.
- E. The coach stopped at a picnic place.

Q18. 'She extended her dress still farther over the article in question' (line 64)

What is 'the article in question'?

- A. her lunch
- B. her bead purse
- C. the parasol
- D. her hat
- E. her mother's trunk

Q19. Why is it funny that Rebecca never puts her parasol up when the sun shines?

- A. She has forgotten how to open it.
- B. A parasol is meant to keep off the sun, but she keeps it out of the sun so that its pink will not fade.
- C. She only uses it when it rains.
- D. It is too heavy for her to hold up.
- E. Mr Cobb has told her not to.

Q20. 'it's the dearest thing in life to me, but it's an awful care' (lines 68-69)

What does Rebecca mean?

- A. The parasol cost more money than anything she owns.
- B. She wishes she could give the parasol away.
- C. She has to look after the parasol for someone else.
- D. She treasures the parasol, but worrying about keeping it safe is a real burden.
- E. The parasol is dear because it is old and broken.

Q21. 'the thought gradually permeated Mr. Jeremiah Cobb's slow-moving mind' (lines 70-71)

What does 'permeated' mean here?

- A. quickly left
- B. was written down in
- C. was forgotten by
- D. puzzled
- E. slowly spread through

Q22. 'the bird perched by his side was a bird of very different feather from those to which he was accustomed' (lines 71-73)

What has Mr Cobb begun to realise?

- A. A bird has landed on the seat beside him.
- B. Rebecca is quite unlike the ordinary passengers he usually carries.
- C. Rebecca is wearing feathers in her hat.
- D. Rebecca is going to fly away.
- E. Rebecca is just like all his other passengers.

Q23. Which of these best describes Rebecca in this passage?

- A. lively, talkative and full of interest in everything
- B. shy and silent
- C. rude and bad-tempered
- D. bored and sleepy
- E. timid and frightened

Q24. How do Mr Cobb's feelings about his passenger change during the passage?

- A. At first he likes her, but by the end he is annoyed by her.
- B. He is worried about her all the way.
- C. At first he is frightened of her, but by the end he is calm.
- D. At first he forgets she exists, but by the end he realises she is very unusual.
- E. He never notices her at all.

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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.

The clown grined at the laughing children.

A

B

C

D

- A. The clown
- B. grined at
- C. the laughing
- D. children.
- E. No mistake

Q26.

Grandad has many unusual hobbies, including juggling.

A

B

C

D

- A. Grandad has
- B. many unusual
- C. hobbies, including
- D. juggling.
- E. No mistake

Q27.

Cauliflour cheese is my favourite dinner.

A

B

C

D

A. Cauliflour cheese

B. is my

C. favourite

D. dinner.

E. No mistake

Q28.

Dad heated the soup in a small sawcepan.

A

B

C

D

A. Dad heated

B. the soup in

C. a small

D. sawcepan.

E. No mistake

Q29.

A tamborine jingled as the band marched past.

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

- A. A tamborine
- B. jingled as
- C. the band
- D. marched past.
- E. No mistake

Q30.

The paper guillotine in the art room is very sharp.

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

- A. The paper
- B. guillotine in
- C. the art room
- D. is very sharp.
- E. No mistake

Q31.

The museum displayed an exquisite golden crown.

A

B

C

D

- A. The museum
- B. displayed an
- C. exquisite
- D. golden crown.
- E. No mistake

Q32.

I peered through a colourful kaleidoscope.

A

B

C

D

- A. I peered
- B. through a
- C. colourful
- D. kaleidoscope.
- E. No mistake

Q33.

A mountaineer bought a souvenir from the antique shop.

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

- A. A mountaineer
- B. bought a
- C. souvenir from
- D. the antique shop.
- E. No mistake

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The Pony Express

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 1860, a new mail service began in America.

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

- A. in 1860, a
- B. new mail
- C. service began
- D. in America.
- E. No mistake

Q35.

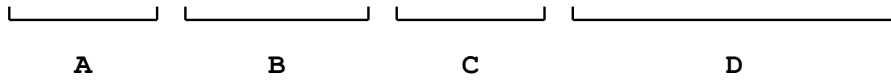
Riders carried letters across a enormous distance.

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

- A. Riders carried
- B. letters across
- C. a enormous
- D. distance.
- E. No mistake

Q36.

Along the route, over a hundred stations was built.



- A. Along the
- B. route, over
- C. a hundred
- D. stations was built.
- E. No mistake

Q37.

Station keepers learned new riders how to change horses fast.



- A. Station keepers
- B. learned new
- C. riders how to
- D. change horses fast.
- E. No mistake

Q38.

Each rider carried: a pistol, a knife and a water bag.

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

- A. Each rider
- B. carried: a
- C. pistol, a knife
- D. and a water bag.
- E. No mistake

Q39.

Of the two routes, riders always took the fastest.

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

- A. Of the two
- B. routes, riders
- C. always took
- D. the fastest.
- E. No mistake

Q40.

It was fast, however, it lost a great deal of money.

A

B

C

D

A. It was fast, however,

B. it lost

C. a great deal

D. of money.

E. No mistake

Q41.

The telegraph was neither slow or expensive, so it won.

A

B

C

D

A. The telegraph

B. was neither slow

C. or expensive,

D. so it won.

E. No mistake

Q42.

The Pony Express ended in 1861— only eighteen months after it began.

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

- A. The Pony Express
- B. ended in 1861—
- C. only eighteen months
- D. after it began.
- E. No mistake

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My First Flight

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. Last summer, I _____ on an aeroplane for the very first time.

- A. flown
- B. flied
- C. flew
- D. fly
- E. flies

Q44. My little sister held my hand _____ we walked through the busy airport.

- A. while
- B. during
- C. meanwhile
- D. throughout
- E. within

Q45. At security, we had to put our bags on a moving _____.

- A. built
- B. bolt
- C. bell
- D. bent
- E. belt

Q46. As the engines roared, I felt a mixture of excitement and _____.

- A. apprehend
- B. apprehension
- C. apprehensive
- D. apprentice
- E. approach

Q47. From the window, the fields below looked _____ a patchwork quilt.

- A. alike
- B. likely
- C. liking
- D. likes
- E. like

Q48. Carlos, the flight attendant, _____ us a choice of orange juice or water.

- A. offered
- B. suggested
- C. recommended
- D. explained
- E. proposed

Q49. I was so _____ in my book that I hardly noticed the bumpy landing.

- A. engraved
- B. enclosed
- C. encased
- D. engrossed
- E. enrolled

Q50. I really hope that we can fly somewhere _____ next year.

- A. against
- B. again
- C. gain
- D. gained
- E. agin

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