

English Mock Test 22

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 Spectacled Roadman

by John Buchan

This extract comes from The Thirty-Nine Steps, first published in 1915. Richard Hannay, who tells the story, has found out about a plot by German spies, and they are hunting him across the hills of southern Scotland. He has seen two of them before, from the window of an inn in Galloway. On a lonely moorland road he meets Alexander Turnbull, a roadman, whose job is to mend the road by breaking stones and wheeling them in a barrow. Mr Turnbull feels too unwell to work, so Hannay sends him home to bed and takes his place, borrowing his spectacles and hat. Hannay grew up in southern Africa, where he learned his outdoor skills. When he pretends to be the roadman he speaks in Scots: waur means worse, muckle means big and sax means six. The extract has been shortened.

1 Then I set to work to dress for the part. I rolled up my sleeves,
and there was a forearm which might have been a blacksmith's,
sunburnt and rough with old scars. I got my boots and trouser-legs
all white from the dust of the road, and hitched up my trousers,
5 tying them with string below the knee. Then I set to work on my
face. With a handful of dust I made a water-mark round my neck, the
place where Mr Turnbull's Sunday ablutions might be expected to
stop. I rubbed a good deal of dirt also into the sunburn of my
cheeks. A roadman's eyes would no doubt be a little inflamed, so I
10 contrived to get some dust in both of mine, and by dint of vigorous
rubbing produced a bleary effect.

The sandwiches Sir Harry had given me had gone off with my coat, but
the roadman's lunch, tied up in a red handkerchief, was at my
disposal. In the handkerchief was a local paper tied with string and
15 addressed to Mr Turnbull—obviously meant to solace his midday
leisure. I did up the bundle again, and put the paper conspicuously

beside it.

My boots did not satisfy me, but by dint of kicking among the stones I reduced them to the granite-like surface which marks a roadman's
20 footgear. Then I bit and scraped my finger-nails till the edges were all cracked and uneven. The men I was matched against would miss no detail. Still no sign of anything on the road.

I remember an old scout in Rhodesia, who had done many queer things in his day, once telling me that the secret of playing a part was to
25 think yourself into it. You could never keep it up, he said, unless you could manage to convince yourself that you were *it*. So I shut off all other thoughts and switched them on to the road-mending. I thought of the little white cottage as my home, I recalled the years I had spent herding on Leithen Water, I made my
30 mind dwell lovingly on sleep in a box-bed and a bottle of cheap whisky. Still nothing appeared on that long white road.

Now and then a sheep wandered off the heather to stare at me. A heron flopped down to a pool in the stream and started to fish, taking no more notice of me than if I had been a milestone. On I
35 went, trundling my loads of stone, with the heavy step of the professional.

Just about midday a big car stole down the hill, glided past and drew up a hundred yards beyond. Its three occupants descended as if to stretch their legs, and sauntered towards me.

40 Two of the men I had seen before from the window of the Galloway inn—one lean, sharp, and dark, the other comfortable and smiling. The third had the look of a countryman—a vet, perhaps, or a small farmer. He was dressed in ill-cut knickerbockers, and the eye in his head was as bright and wary as a hen's.

45 "Morning," said the last. "That's a fine easy job o' yours."

"There's waur jobs and there's better," I said sententiously. "I wad rather hae yours, sittin' a' day on your hinderlands on thae cushions. It's you and your muckle cawrs that wreck my roads!"

The bright-eyed man was looking at the newspaper lying beside
50 Turnbull's bundle.

"I see you get your papers in good time," he said.

I glanced at it casually. "Aye, in gude time. Seein' that that paper cam' out last Setterday I'm just sax days late."

He picked it up, glanced at the superscription, and laid it down
55 again. One of the others had been looking at my boots, and a word in
German called the speaker's attention to them.

"You've a fine taste in boots," he said. "These were never made by a
country shoemaker."

"They were not," I said readily. "They were made in London. I got
60 them frae the gentleman that was here last year for the shootin'.
What was his name now?" And I scratched a forgetful head. Again the
sleek one spoke in German. "Let us get on," he said. "This fellow is
all right."

They asked one last question.

65 "Did you see anyone pass early this morning? He might be on a
bicycle or he might be on foot."

I very nearly fell into the trap and told a story of a bicyclist
hurrying past in the grey dawn. But I had the sense to see my
danger. I pretended to consider very deeply.

70 "I wasna up very early," I said. "I opened the house door about
seven and there was naebody on the road then. Since I cam up here
there has just been the baker and the Ruchill herd, besides you
gentlemen."

They got into their car and were out of sight in three minutes.

75 My heart leaped with an enormous relief, but I went on wheeling my
stones. It was as well, for ten minutes later the car returned, one
of the occupants waving a hand to me. Those gentry left nothing to
chance.

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 Hannay use to tie up his trousers below the knee?

- A. a leather belt
- B. a red handkerchief
- C. string
- D. his bootlaces
- E. strips of his coat

Q2. 'a forearm which might have been a blacksmith's' (line 2)

What does this suggest about Hannay's arm?

- A. It looked strong and rough, like the arm of a man who does hard work.
- B. It was covered in soot from a fire.
- C. It had been burnt by a blacksmith.
- D. It was pale and thin, like a clerk's.
- E. It was hurt, so he could not lift the barrow.

Q3. 'Mr Turnbull's Sunday ablutions' (line 7)

What are 'ablutions'?

- A. church prayers
- B. best clothes
- C. a long walk
- D. a large meal
- E. washing oneself

Q4. 'With a handful of dust I made a water-mark round my neck' (line 6)

Why did Hannay do this?

- A. to hide a scar on his neck
- B. to copy the line a roadman who washed only his face and neck would leave
- C. to keep the sun off his neck
- D. to show that he had been working in the rain
- E. to make his collar fit more tightly

Q5. 'by dint of vigorous rubbing produced a bleary effect' (lines 10-11)

What does 'by dint of' mean?

- A. in spite of
- B. instead of
- C. for fear of
- D. by means of
- E. because of a lack of

Q6. What was the roadman's lunch tied up in?

- A. a local newspaper
- B. a red handkerchief
- C. a paper bag
- D. Hannay's coat
- E. a tin box

Q7. 'put the paper conspicuously beside it' (lines 16-17)

What does 'conspicuously' mean?

- A. where it would be hidden
- B. carefully folded
- C. very neatly
- D. in a hurry
- E. where it would easily be seen

Q8. 'I reduced them to the granite-like surface which marks a roadman's footgear' (lines 19-20)

Why did Hannay want his boots to look like this?

- A. Roadmen's boots are scuffed rough by stones, and his did not look worn enough.
- B. He wanted to make his boots more comfortable.
- C. He wanted the boots to grip the steep road.
- D. He was trying to clean the mud off them.
- E. He meant to swap them for the roadman's boots.

Q9. 'The men I was matched against would miss no detail.'
(lines 21-22)

What does this tell us?

- A. His enemies had poor eyesight.
- B. He was about to play a game against the men.
- C. His enemies were so sharp that every part of the disguise had to be perfect.
- D. His enemies would not bother to look at a roadman.
- E. He had already been recognised.

Q10. 'the secret of playing a part was to think yourself into it' (lines 24-25)

What did the old scout mean?

- A. You must think hard before choosing a part to play.
- B. You must learn every word of your lines by heart.
- C. Playing a part is a secret you should tell nobody.
- D. To act a part well, you must truly imagine that you are that person.
- E. You should only play parts that are like yourself.

Q11. What type of word is 'lovingly' (line 30)?

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

Q12. 'taking no more notice of me than if I had been a milestone' (line 34)

What does this suggest?

- A. Hannay fitted into the roadside so well that he seemed part of it.
- B. The heron was frightened of Hannay.
- C. Hannay was standing very still beside a milestone.
- D. Hannay had fallen asleep by the road.
- E. The heron could not see very well.

Q13. At about what time did the big car arrive?

- A. seven o'clock
- B. dawn
- C. the evening
- D. five o'clock
- E. midday

Q14. 'Its three occupants descended as if to stretch their legs' (lines 38-39)

Why does Hannay say 'as if'?

- A. The men's legs were stiff from the long drive.
- B. The men were lost and wanted directions.
- C. The men only pretended to be taking a break; really they had come to look at him.
- D. The men wanted to buy something from the baker.
- E. The men had stopped to mend the car.

Q15. 'the eye in his head was as bright and wary as a hen's' (lines 43-44)

What does this comparison suggest about the third man?

- A. He was nervous and easily frightened.
- B. He was a farmer who kept hens.
- C. He had small, beady, unfriendly eyes.
- D. He was sharp-eyed and watchful, alert to anything suspicious.
- E. He was only half awake.

Q16. 'I said sententiously' (line 46)

How did Hannay speak?

- A. in a solemn way, as if saying something wise
- B. in a nervous whisper
- C. in a loud, angry shout
- D. in a quick, careless way
- E. in a sing-song voice

Q17. 'It's you and your muckle cawrs that wreck my roads!' (line 48)

Why does Hannay grumble about the men's cars?

- A. He really does hate cars.
- B. He wants the men to give him a lift.
- C. He is trying to make the men angry so they leave.
- D. He has seen their car damage the road.
- E. A real roadman would complain like this, so it makes his act more believable.

Q18. 'I see you get your papers in good time' (line 51)

Why does the man mention the newspaper?

- A. He wants to borrow the paper to read.
- B. He is testing whether Hannay really is the local roadman the paper belongs to.
- C. He is looking for news about Hannay in it.
- D. He is praising the post office.
- E. He thinks Hannay cannot read.

Q19. 'glanced at the superscription' (line 54)

What is the 'superscription'?

- A. the main headline
- B. the date at the top
- C. the name and address written on it
- D. the price
- E. the page of pictures

Q20. 'These were never made by a country shoemaker.' (lines 57-58)

Why do the boots make the man suspicious?

- A. They are far too big for Hannay.
- B. They are covered in white dust.
- C. They are the wrong colour for a roadman.
- D. They are too well made for a country roadman to have bought.
- E. They have a broken lace.

Q21. 'And I scratched a forgetful head.' (line 61)

Why did Hannay do this?

- A. because his head was itching from the dust
- B. because he could not remember his own name
- C. to hide his face from the men
- D. to show that he did not know the answer to their question
- E. to make his story sound natural, as if he were really trying to remember the name

Q22. What story did Hannay very nearly tell the men?

- A. that a cyclist had hurried past in the grey dawn
- B. that he had seen a car go up the road
- C. that a man on foot had crossed the moor
- D. that the baker had seen a stranger
- E. that he had been asleep all morning

Q23. 'It was as well' (line 76)

Why was it lucky that Hannay went on wheeling his stones?

- A. The Road Surveyor arrived soon afterwards.
- B. He had to finish before the roadman returned.
- C. The car came back ten minutes later to check on him.
- D. The men were watching him through a telescope from the hill.
- E. It kept him warm on the cold moor.

Q24. Which of these best describes Hannay in this passage?

- A. careless and lucky
- B. careful, quick-thinking and cool under pressure
- C. frightened and clumsy
- D. boastful and rude
- E. lazy and easily bored

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 newborn calfs wobbled across the muddy field.

A

B

C

D

- A. The newborn
- B. calfs wobbled
- C. across the
- D. muddy field.
- E. No mistake

Q26.

From the top of the hill, we looked down and spyed a cottage.

A

B

C

D

- A. From the top of
- B. the hill, we
- C. looked down and
- D. spyed a cottage.
- E. No mistake

Q27.

At the zoo, we watched a young girafe eating leaves.

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

- A. At the zoo,
- B. we watched a
- C. young girafe
- D. eating leaves.
- E. No mistake

Q28.

The sherif rode into town on a black horse.

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

- A. The sherif
- B. rode into
- C. town on a
- D. black horse.
- E. No mistake

Q29.

Above the roofs, a thin crescent moon shone brightly.

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

- A. Above the roofs,
- B. a thin crescent
- C. moon shone
- D. brightly.
- E. No mistake

Q30.

The science teacher set up the apparatus for the test.

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

- A. The science
- B. teacher set up
- C. the apparatus
- D. for the test.
- E. No mistake

Q31.

After the march, fatigue made the soldiers stumble.

A

B

C

D

A. After the march,

B. fatigue made

C. the soldiers

D. stumble.

E. No mistake

Q32.

Hospital kitchens must always be kept hygeinic.

A

B

C

D

A. Hospital kitchens

B. must always

C. be kept

D. hygeinic.

E. No mistake

Q33.

A fluffy grey cygnet paddled after its mother through the reeds.

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

- A. A fluffy grey
- B. cygnet paddled
- C. after its mother
- D. through the reeds.
- E. No mistake

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The Codebreakers

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.

During the Second World War, codebreakers worked at bletchley park.

┌──────────┐	┌──────────┐	┌──────────┐	┌──────────┐
A	B	C	D

- A. During the
- B. Second World War,
- C. codebreakers worked
- D. at bletchley park.
- E. No mistake

Q35.

They tried to crack secret message's sent by the enemy.

┌──────────┐	┌──────────┐	┌──────────┐	┌──────────┐
A	B	C	D

- A. They tried to
- B. crack secret
- C. message's sent
- D. by the enemy.
- E. No mistake

Q36.

Most of them were women, they had sworn to keep it secret.

A

B

C

D

- A. Most of them
- B. were women, they
- C. had sworn to
- D. keep it secret.
- E. No mistake

Q37.

The officer asked, "Can you keep a secret"

A

B

C

D

- A. The officer
- B. asked, "Can
- C. you keep
- D. a secret"
- E. No mistake

Q38.

Their families never knew; nobody could of guessed the truth.

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

- A. Their families
- B. never knew; nobody
- C. could of guessed
- D. the truth.
- E. No mistake

Q39.

The Bombe, a machine the size of a wardrobe sped up the work.

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

- A. The Bombe,
- B. a machine the
- C. size of a
- D. wardrobe sped up the work.
- E. No mistake

Q40.

With it, they needed less hours to break a code.

A

B

C

D

- A. With it, they
- B. needed less
- C. hours to
- D. break a code.
- E. No mistake

Q41.

The codebreakers hard work saved many lives, historians say.

A

B

C

D

- A. The codebreakers
- B. hard work saved
- C. many lives,
- D. historians say.
- E. No mistake

Q42.

Their story, kept secret for thirty years, is now well known.

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

- A. Their story,
- B. kept secret for
- C. thirty years, is
- D. now well known.
- E. No mistake

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The Escape Room

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. For my birthday, six of us went to an escape room. We had exactly one hour to escape _____ a locked room full of puzzles.

- A. off
- B. from
- C. by
- D. at
- E. over

Q44. My sister Priya is _____ at puzzles than anyone else in our family.

- A. best
- B. good
- C. well
- D. better
- E. gooder

Q45. Each of us _____ a different job, such as reading maps or opening locks.

- A. were given
- B. have given
- C. giving
- D. gave
- E. was given

Q46. My little brother was more interested _____ the flashing red lights than in the puzzles.

- A. in
- B. on
- C. at
- D. by
- E. of

Q47. For the first twenty minutes, the way out was completely out of _____.

- A. site
- B. cite
- C. sight
- D. sighed
- E. side

Q48. Then we found a red key and a blue key, which opened the cupboard and the trapdoor _____.

- A. respectfully
- B. respectably
- C. respective
- D. respectively
- E. respecting

Q49. With the clock ticking down, we had to think on our _____.

- A. feet
- B. toes
- C. heads
- D. legs
- E. hands

Q50. At last the final door swung open, with just ten seconds to _____.

- A. spear
- B. sparing
- C. spare
- D. spared
- E. spire

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