

English Mock Test 23

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 Open Window

by Saki (H. H. Munro)

This is the short story The Open Window, first published in 1914. Saki was the pen name of Hector Hugh Munro. Framton Nuttel suffers from his nerves, which means he is anxious and easily upset, so he has come to stay in the countryside to rest. His sister, who once stayed nearby, has given him letters of introduction: letters asking people she knew there to welcome him. He has come to call on Mrs. Sappleton, whom he has never met. Snipe are birds that people used to shoot on marshes, a French window is a glass door opening on to a garden, and a mackintosh is a raincoat. The story has been shortened.

1 "My aunt will be down presently, Mr. Nuttel," said a very self-possessed young lady of fifteen; "in the meantime you must try and put up with me."

Framton Nuttel endeavoured to say the correct something which should
5 duly flatter the niece of the moment without unduly discounting the aunt that was to come. Privately he doubted more than ever whether these formal visits on a succession of total strangers would do much towards helping the nerve cure which he was supposed to be undergoing.

10 "Do you know many of the people round here?" asked the niece, when she judged that they had had sufficient silent communion.

"Hardly a soul," said Framton. "My sister was staying here, at the rectory, you know, some four years ago, and she gave me letters of introduction to some of the people here."

15 "Then you know practically nothing about my aunt?" pursued the

self-possessed young lady.

"Only her name and address," admitted the caller. He was wondering whether Mrs. Sappleton was in the married or widowed state. An undefinable something about the room seemed to suggest masculine
20 habitation.

"Her great tragedy happened just three years ago," said the child; "that would be since your sister's time."

"You may wonder why we keep that window wide open on an October afternoon," said the niece, indicating a large French window that
25 opened on to a lawn.

"It is quite warm for the time of the year," said Framton; "but has that window got anything to do with the tragedy?"

"Out through that window, three years ago to a day, her husband and her two young brothers went off for their day's shooting. They never
30 came back. In crossing the moor to their favourite snipe-shooting ground they were all three engulfed in a treacherous piece of bog. Their bodies were never recovered. That was the dreadful part of it." Here the child's voice lost its self-possessed note and became falteringly human. "Poor aunt always thinks that they will come back
35 some day, they and the little brown spaniel that was lost with them, and walk in at that window just as they used to do. That is why the window is kept open every evening till it is quite dusk. Poor dear aunt, she has often told me how they went out, her husband with his white waterproof coat over his arm, and Ronnie, her youngest
40 brother, singing 'Bertie, why do you bound?' as he always did to tease her, because she said it got on her nerves. Do you know, sometimes on still, quiet evenings like this, I almost get a creepy feeling that they will all walk in through that window—"

She broke off with a little shudder. It was a relief to Framton when
45 the aunt bustled into the room with a whirl of apologies for being late in making her appearance.

"I hope Vera has been amusing you?" she said.

"She has been very interesting," said Framton.

"I hope you don't mind the open window," said Mrs. Sappleton
50 briskly; "my husband and brothers will be home directly from shooting, and they always come in this way. They've been out for snipe in the marshes to-day, so they'll make a fine mess over my poor carpets. So like you men-folk, isn't it?"

She rattled on cheerfully about the shooting and the scarcity of
55 birds, and the prospects for duck in the winter. To Framton it was
all purely horrible. He made a desperate but only partially
successful effort to turn the talk on to a less ghastly topic; he
was conscious that his hostess was giving him only a fragment of her
attention, and her eyes were constantly straying past him to the
60 open window and the lawn beyond. It was certainly an unfortunate
coincidence that he should have paid his visit on this tragic
anniversary.

"Here they are at last!" she cried. "Just in time for tea, and don't
they look as if they were muddy up to the eyes!"

65 Framton shivered slightly and turned towards the niece with a look
intended to convey sympathetic comprehension. The child was staring
out through the open window with dazed horror in her eyes. In a
chill shock of nameless fear Framton swung round in his seat and
looked in the same direction.

70 In the deepening twilight three figures were walking across the lawn
towards the window; they all carried guns under their arms, and one
of them was additionally burdened with a white coat hung over his
shoulders. A tired brown spaniel kept close at their heels.
Noiselessly they neared the house, and then a hoarse young voice
75 chanted out of the dusk: "I said, Bertie, why do you bound?"

Framton grabbed wildly at his stick and hat; the hall-door, the
gravel-drive, and the front gate were dimly-noted stages in his
headlong retreat. A cyclist coming along the road had to run into
the hedge to avoid an imminent collision.

80 "Here we are, my dear," said the bearer of the white mackintosh,
coming in through the window; "fairly muddy, but most of it's dry.
Who was that who bolted out as we came up?"

"A most extraordinary man, a Mr. Nuttel," said Mrs. Sappleton;
"could only talk about his illnesses, and dashed off without a word
85 of good-bye or apology when you arrived. One would think he had seen
a ghost."

"I expect it was the spaniel," said the niece calmly; "he told me he
had a horror of dogs. He was once hunted into a cemetery somewhere
on the banks of the Ganges by a pack of pariah dogs, and had to
90 spend the night in a newly dug grave with the creatures snarling and
grinning and foaming just above him. Enough to make anyone lose
their nerve."

Romance at short notice was her speciality.

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

Q1. How old is the niece?

- A. eleven
- B. thirteen
- C. sixteen
- D. fifteen
- E. eighteen

Q2. 'a very self-possessed young lady of fifteen' (lines 1-2)

What does 'self-possessed' mean?

- A. selfish and greedy
- B. calm and sure of herself
- C. shy and awkward
- D. rich and spoilt
- E. lonely and bored

Q3. 'without unduly discounting the aunt that was to come' (lines 5-6)

What was Framton trying to do?

- A. leave before the aunt came downstairs
- B. persuade the niece to fetch her aunt more quickly
- C. work out how much money the aunt had
- D. tell the niece that he would rather talk to her aunt
- E. be polite to the niece without seeming to think less of the aunt he was about to meet

Q4. 'the nerve cure which he was supposed to be undergoing' (lines 8-9)

Why is Framton in the countryside?

- A. He has been sent there to rest and recover from his nerves.
- B. He has come to shoot snipe on the marshes.
- C. He is looking for a house to buy.
- D. He is visiting his sister at the rectory.
- E. He has come to see Mrs. Sappleton's husband on business.

Q5. 'when she judged that they had had sufficient silent communion' (lines 10-11)

What does this tell us?

- A. They had been praying together in silence.
- B. They had been talking about religion.
- C. They had sat without speaking for a while before the niece decided to start talking.
- D. The niece had been waiting for Framton to finish eating.
- E. Framton had been asleep in his chair.

Q6. 'Then you know practically nothing about my aunt?' (line 15)

Why does the niece ask this?

- A. She is worried that he has come to the wrong house.
- B. She is making sure he cannot tell that the story she is about to invent is untrue.
- C. She wants to warn him that her aunt is unfriendly.
- D. She hopes he will tell her some news of his sister.
- E. She thinks he has come to marry her aunt.

Q7. 'An undefinable something about the room seemed to suggest masculine habitation.' (lines 18-20)

Why is this detail important to the story?

- A. It shows that the room was untidy.
- B. It shows that Framton was nervous of men.
- C. It tells us that the aunt's husband has left her.
- D. It hints that men really do live in the house, so the husband is alive.
- E. It shows that the room was cold and empty.

Q8. According to the niece, how long ago did her aunt's 'great tragedy' happen?

- A. three years ago
- B. four years ago
- C. last summer
- D. a week ago
- E. ten years ago

Q9. In which month is the story set?

- A. May
- B. August
- C. December
- D. March
- E. October

Q10. 'engulfed in a treacherous piece of bog' (line 31)

What does 'treacherous' mean here?

- A. very muddy
- B. deep and cold
- C. dangerous in a hidden way
- D. far away
- E. full of birds

Q11. 'Here the child's voice lost its self-possessed note and became falteringly human.' (lines 33-34)

Once you know the ending, what does this suggest?

- A. The niece was acting upset, letting her voice shake to make the story believable.
- B. The niece was truly heartbroken about her uncles.
- C. The niece had a cold and was losing her voice.
- D. The niece was angry that Framton had asked about the window.
- E. The niece had forgotten what she was going to say.

Q12. According to the niece, why is the window kept open every evening?

- A. The room gets too hot in the evenings.
- B. The spaniel likes to go in and out.
- C. Her aunt likes to watch the birds on the lawn.
- D. Her aunt believes the men will come back through it one day.
- E. It is too stiff to shut.

Q13. 'her husband with his white waterproof coat over his arm' (lines 38-39)

Why does the niece describe details like this coat and Ronnie's song?

- A. Because her aunt had asked her to describe the men.
- B. So that Framton will recognise them when the men return, and think he is seeing ghosts.
- C. To show how fond she was of her uncles.
- D. Because Framton had asked what the men wore.
- E. To explain why the carpets would get muddy.

Q14. 'It was a relief to Framton when the aunt bustled into the room' (lines 44-45)

Why was Framton relieved?

- A. He had been waiting for hours.
- B. He wanted to meet the men of the house.
- C. He was hoping to be offered tea.
- D. The niece had been rude to him.
- E. The niece's sad and creepy story had made him uncomfortable.

Q15. 'She has been very interesting' (line 48)

What makes Framton's reply amusing?

- A. He is being rude about the niece.
- B. He was not listening to the niece at all.
- C. It is a great understatement, because her story has actually shocked him.
- D. He really found the niece dull.
- E. He means she has been talking about the weather.

Q16. 'said Mrs. Sappleton briskly' (lines 49-50)

What does 'briskly' mean?

- A. in a quick, lively way
- B. sadly and slowly
- C. in a whisper
- D. angrily
- E. nervously

Q17. 'To Framton it was all purely horrible.' (lines 55-56)

Why?

- A. He hates shooting birds.
- B. He is worried about the mess on the carpets.
- C. He is bored by talk of ducks.
- D. He believes she is talking cheerfully about men who died three years ago.
- E. He is frightened of Mrs. Sappleton.

Q18. 'It was certainly an unfortunate coincidence that he should have paid his visit on this tragic anniversary.' (lines 60-62)

Why is this sentence ironic?

- A. Framton really had chosen the anniversary on purpose.
- B. The men really had died on that day.
- C. Mrs. Sappleton had forgotten the anniversary.
- D. Framton had visited on the wrong day.
- E. There is no tragic anniversary at all; it only seems so because Framton believes the niece.

Q19. 'The child was staring out through the open window with dazed horror in her eyes.' (lines 66-67)

Why does the niece look horrified?

- A. She truly believes she is seeing ghosts.
- B. She is pretending, so that Framton will believe the men are ghosts.
- C. She is frightened of the spaniel.
- D. She sees that the men are covered in mud.
- E. She is worried that Framton is ill.

Q20. What type of word is 'Noiselessly' (line 74)?

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

Q21. 'the hall-door, the gravel-drive, and the front gate were dimly-noted stages in his headlong retreat' (lines 76-78)

What does this suggest?

- A. He ran away in such a panic that he hardly noticed the way out.
- B. He walked slowly and calmly out of the house.
- C. He could not find his way out in the dark.
- D. He stopped at each stage to look behind him.
- E. He had written notes about each part of the house.

Q22. 'to avoid an imminent collision' (line 79)

What does 'imminent' mean?

- A. very serious
- B. important
- C. painful
- D. about to happen
- E. unexpected

Q23. 'Romance at short notice was her speciality.' (line 93)

What does this mean?

- A. She liked reading love stories.
- B. She was often late for things.
- C. She hoped to marry at a young age.
- D. She was good at making people feel welcome.
- E. She was very good at making up exciting stories on the spot.

Q24. Which of these best describes the niece, Vera?

- A. a shy girl who is frightened of ghosts
- B. a quick-witted girl who enjoys inventing stories to fool people
- C. a truthful girl who tries to warn Framton
- D. a lonely girl who misses her uncles
- E. a rude girl who is cruel to her aunt

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 baby penguin waddled behind its parents.

A

B

C

D

- A. The baby
- B. penguin waddled
- C. behind its
- D. parents.
- E. No mistake

Q26.

To plant the tulip bulbs, Grandad nelt on a cushion.

A

B

C

D

- A. To plant the
- B. tulip bulbs,
- C. Grandad nelt
- D. on a cushion.
- E. No mistake

Q27.

The twins are always up to mischeif.

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

- A. The twins
- B. are always
- C. up to
- D. mischeif.
- E. No mistake

Q28.

This year, the trees should yeild a huge crop of apples.

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

- A. This year, the
- B. trees should yeild
- C. a huge crop
- D. of apples.
- E. No mistake

Q29.

The droug left the reservoir almost empty.

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

- A. The droug
- B. left the
- C. reservoir
- D. almost empty.
- E. No mistake

Q30.

Romeo and Juliet is a famous tragedy by Shakespeare.

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

- A. Romeo and
- B. Juliet is a
- C. famous tragedy
- D. by Shakespeare.
- E. No mistake

Q31.

The castle held out against the seige for weeks.

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

- A. The castle
- B. held out
- C. against the
- D. seige for weeks.
- E. No mistake

Q32.

Miscelaneous items were sold at the jumble sale.

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

- A. Miscelaneous items
- B. were sold
- C. at the
- D. jumble sale.
- E. No mistake

A diagram showing four segments labeled A, B, C, and D. Above each label is a horizontal bracket indicating the extent of the segment. Segment A is the first, followed by B, then C, and finally D. The segments are separated by small gaps.

The Man in the Peat

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 1984, two workers were cutting peat in cheshire.

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

- A. In 1984, two
- B. workers were
- C. cutting peat
- D. in cheshire.
- E. No mistake

Q35.

They spotted what looked like a foot in the peat. it was very old.

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

- A. They spotted what
- B. looked like a foot
- C. in the peat. it
- D. was very old.
- E. No mistake

Q36.

"Call the police"! shouted one of the workers.

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

- A. "Call the
- B. police"! shouted
- C. one of the
- D. workers.
- E. No mistake

Q37.

Scientists took the body to they're laboratory in London.

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

- A. Scientists took
- B. the body to
- C. they're laboratory
- D. in London.
- E. No mistake

Q38.

The peat, who had preserved him, was very acidic.

A

B

C

D

- A. The peat, who
- B. had preserved
- C. him, was
- D. very acidic.
- E. No mistake

Q39.

They studied three things his skin, his hair and his last meal.

A

B

C

D

- A. They studied
- B. three things his
- C. skin, his hair
- D. and his last meal.
- E. No mistake

Q40.

Journalists called him "Pete Marsh" (a joke on peat marsh.

A

B

C

D

A. Journalists called

B. him "Pete Marsh"

C. (a joke on

D. peat marsh.

E. No mistake

Q41.

The tests on his skin and stomach was surprising.

A

B

C

D

A. The tests on

B. his skin and

C. stomach

D. was surprising.

E. No mistake

Q42.

Today, he lies in the British Museum, where visitors can see him.

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

A

B

C

D

- A. Today, he lies
- B. in the British
- C. Museum, where
- D. visitors can see him.
- E. No mistake

myFreeSchool

The Ghost Story Competition

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. Our class held a ghost story competition. To give us ideas, our teacher let us _____ around the old churchyard.

- A. wonder
- B. wandered
- C. wander
- D. wondering
- E. wanders

Q44. Mia had _____ her whole story in a single evening.

- A. written
- B. wrote
- C. writ
- D. writing
- E. writes

Q45. Most of us prefer ghost stories _____ adventure stories.

- A. than
- B. from
- C. against
- D. to
- E. for

Q46. The bell for lunch had already _____ by the time the last story was read.

- A. rang
- B. rung
- C. ring
- D. rings
- E. ringing

Q47. At first, Tom was _____ to read his story aloud.

- A. reluctance
- B. reluctantly
- C. relevant
- D. relieved
- E. reluctant

Q48. In the end, though, he insisted _____ reading it with the lights off.

- A. on
- B. in
- C. at
- D. for
- E. to

Q49. When a door slammed, we were all certain that something dreadful was _____.

- A. eminent
- B. emanate
- C. imitate
- D. imminent
- E. immigrant

Q50. The judges' decision was _____: all three of them chose Mia and Tom as joint winners.

- A. unanimously
- B. unanimous
- C. unanimity
- D. unaware
- E. unable

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