

English Mock Test 24

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 Golden Breakfast

by Nathaniel Hawthorne

This extract comes from The Golden Touch, Nathaniel Hawthorne's retelling of the ancient Greek myth of King Midas, published in 1851 in A Wonder Book for Girls and Boys. Midas loves gold more than anything except his little daughter, Marygold. A mysterious stranger has granted his wish that everything he touches should turn to gold, and early this morning Midas has delighted in turning the roses in his garden to gold. Now he sits down to a breakfast of hot cakes, fried trout, boiled eggs, potatoes and coffee. Victuals means food. Hawthorne was American, so he spells some words the American way, such as color and parlor. The extract has been shortened.

- 1 Little Marygold had not yet made her appearance. Her father ordered her to be called, and, seating himself at table, awaited the child's coming, in order to begin his own breakfast. To do Midas justice, he really loved his daughter, and loved her so much the more this
- 5 morning, on account of the good fortune which had befallen him. It was not a great while before he heard her coming along the passageway crying bitterly. This circumstance surprised him, because Marygold was one of the cheerfullest little people whom you would see in a summer's day, and hardly shed a thimbleful of tears in a
- 10 twelvemonth. When Midas heard her sobs, he determined to put little Marygold into better spirits, by an agreeable surprise; so, leaning across the table, he touched his daughter's bowl (which was a China one, with pretty figures all around it), and transmuted it to gleaming gold.
- 15 Meanwhile, Marygold slowly and disconsolately opened the door, and showed herself with her apron at her eyes, still sobbing as if her heart would break.

"How now, my little lady!" cried Midas. "Pray what is the matter with you, this bright morning?"

20 Marygold, without taking the apron from her eyes, held out her hand, in which was one of the roses which Midas had so recently transmuted.

"Beautiful!" exclaimed her father. "And what is there in this magnificent golden rose to make you cry?"

25 "Ah, dear father!" answered the child, as well as her sobs would let her; "it is not beautiful, but the ugliest flower that ever grew! As soon as I was dressed I ran into the garden to gather some roses for you; because I know you like them, and like them the better when gathered by your little daughter. But, oh dear, dear me! What do you
30 think has happened? Such a misfortune! All the beautiful roses, that smelled so sweetly and had so many lovely blushes, are blighted and spoilt! They are grown quite yellow, as you see this one, and have no longer any fragrance! What can have been the matter with them?"

"Poh, my dear little girl,—pray don't cry about it!" said Midas, who
35 was ashamed to confess that he himself had wrought the change which so greatly afflicted her. "Sit down and eat your bread and milk! You will find it easy enough to exchange a golden rose like that (which will last hundreds of years) for an ordinary one which would wither in a day."

40 "I don't care for such roses as this!" cried Marygold, tossing it contemptuously away. "It has no smell, and the hard petals prick my nose!"

He took one of the nice little trouts on his plate, and, by way of experiment, touched its tail with his finger. To his horror, it was
45 immediately transmuted from an admirably fried brook-trout into a gold-fish, though not one of those gold-fishes which people often keep in glass globes, as ornaments for the parlor. No; but it was really a metallic fish, and looked as if it had been very cunningly made by the nicest goldsmith in the world. A very pretty piece of
50 work, as you may suppose; only King Midas, just at that moment, would much rather have had a real trout in his dish than this elaborate and valuable imitation of one.

"I don't quite see," thought he to himself, "how I am to get any breakfast."

55 "Well, this is a quandary!" thought he, leaning back in his chair,

and looking quite enviously at little Marygold, who was now eating her bread and milk with great satisfaction. "Such a costly breakfast before me, and nothing that can be eaten!"

These reflections so troubled wise King Midas, that he began to
60 doubt whether, after all, riches are the one desirable thing in the world, or even the most desirable. But this was only a passing thought. So fascinated was Midas with the glitter of the yellow metal, that he would still have refused to give up the Golden Touch for so paltry a consideration as a breakfast. Just imagine what a
65 price for one meal's victuals! It would have been the same as paying millions and millions of money (and as many millions more as would take forever to reckon up) for some fried trout, an egg, a potato, a hot cake, and a cup of coffee!

"It would be quite too dear," thought Midas.

70 Nevertheless, so great was his hunger, and the perplexity of his situation, that he again groaned aloud, and very grievously too. Our pretty Marygold could endure it no longer. She sat, a moment, gazing at her father, and trying, with all the might of her little wits, to find out what was the matter with him. Then, with a sweet and
75 sorrowful impulse to comfort him, she started from her chair, and, running to Midas, threw her arms affectionately about his knees. He bent down and kissed her. He felt that his little daughter's love was worth a thousand times more than he had gained by the Golden Touch.

80 "My precious, precious Marygold!" cried he.

But Marygold made no answer.

Alas, what had he done? How fatal was the gift which the stranger bestowed! The moment the lips of Midas touched Marygold's forehead, a change had taken place. Her sweet, rosy face, so full of affection
85 as it had been, assumed a glittering yellow color, with yellow tear-drops congealing on her cheeks. Her beautiful brown ringlets took the same tint. Her soft and tender little form grew hard and inflexible within her father's encircling arms. Oh, terrible misfortune! The victim of his insatiable desire for wealth, little
90 Marygold was a human child no longer, but a golden statue!

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

Q1. 'To do Midas justice, he really loved his daughter'
(lines 3-4)

Why does the writer begin with 'To do Midas justice'?

- A. to show that Midas was a strict judge
- B. to show that Midas had been treated unfairly by the stranger
- C. to be fair to Midas by pointing out something good about him, despite his faults
- D. to suggest that Midas did not really love his daughter
- E. to tell us that Midas was about to be punished

Q2. 'hardly shed a thimbleful of tears in a twelvemonth'
(lines 9-10)

What does this tell us about Marygold?

- A. She hardly ever cried.
- B. She cried a little every day.
- C. She kept her tears in a thimble.
- D. She had cried a great deal that year.
- E. She only cried once a year, on her birthday.

Q3. What did Midas do to cheer Marygold up before she came in?

- A. He picked her some roses.
- B. He poured her some coffee.
- C. He gave her a golden trout.
- D. He hid a present under her bowl.
- E. He turned her bowl to gold.

Q4. 'transmuted it to gleaming gold' (lines 13-14)

What does 'transmuted' mean?

- A. polished
- B. changed
- C. painted
- D. sold
- E. hid

Q5. 'slowly and disconsolately opened the door' (line 15)

What does 'disconsolately' mean?

- A. angrily
- B. secretly
- C. sleepily
- D. so unhappily that she could not be comforted
- E. carelessly

Q6. What was Marygold holding when she came in?

- A. a golden rose
- B. her bowl
- C. a bunch of red roses
- D. a handkerchief
- E. a piece of bread

Q7. Why does Marygold call the golden rose 'the ugliest flower that ever grew' (line 26)?

- A. It has been trampled on.
- B. It is covered in greenfly.
- C. It is smaller than the other roses.
- D. Her father has cut it too short.
- E. Its colour has gone yellow and it has lost its sweet smell.

Q8. Why had Marygold gone into the garden?

- A. to play before breakfast
- B. to hide from her father
- C. to pick roses for her father
- D. to look for the stranger
- E. to fetch milk for her breakfast

Q9. 'had so many lovely blushes' (line 31)

Which technique is used here?

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

Q10. 'who was ashamed to confess that he himself had wrought the change' (lines 34-35)

What does this show about Midas?

- A. He does not know what has happened to the roses.
- B. He is proud of what he has done to the roses.
- C. He thinks the stranger spoilt the roses.
- D. He knows he is to blame for spoiling the roses, but will not admit it to Marygold.
- E. He is about to tell Marygold the truth.

Q11. 'tossing it contemptuously away' (lines 40-41)

What does 'contemptuously' mean?

- A. carefully
- B. playfully
- C. with scorn, as if it were worthless
- D. by accident
- E. regretfully

Q12. 'It has no smell, and the hard petals prick my nose!' (lines 41-42)

What does Marygold's reply show that she values?

- A. the real rose's scent and softness, not how long it lasts or what it is worth
- B. how much money the rose would fetch
- C. roses that last for hundreds of years
- D. anything that her father gives her
- E. flowers made of metal rather than petals

Q13. What happened when Midas touched the trout's tail?

- A. The fish came back to life.
- B. The fish turned to gold.
- C. The fish burnt his finger.
- D. The fish turned into a goldfish in a bowl.
- E. Nothing happened to it.

Q14. 'this elaborate and valuable imitation of one' (lines 51-52)

Why is it ironic that the golden trout is valuable?

- A. It is worth less than a real trout.
- B. It was made by the finest goldsmith in the world.
- C. Midas can sell it to buy more trout.
- D. It is too heavy to lift.
- E. It is worth a fortune but is useless to Midas, who only wants something to eat.

Q15. 'Well, this is a quandary!' (line 55)

What is a 'quandary'?

- A. a large meal
- B. a lucky chance
- C. a kind of fish
- D. a difficult situation with no obvious way out
- E. a good joke

Q16. 'looking quite enviously at little Marygold' (line 56)

Why is this surprising?

- A. Marygold has more gold than the king.
- B. A king with endless gold envies a child with plain bread and milk, because she can eat it.
- C. Marygold has been given a better breakfast than Midas.
- D. Midas wishes that he were still a child.
- E. Midas wants Marygold's golden bowl.

Q17. 'But this was only a passing thought.' (lines 61-62)

What does this tell us about Midas?

- A. His doubts about riches did not last; his love of gold soon won again.
- B. He had decided to give up the Golden Touch.
- C. He was thinking about going out for a walk.
- D. He had never cared about gold.
- E. He was too hungry to think clearly.

Q18. 'so paltry a consideration as a breakfast' (line 64)

What does 'paltry' mean?

- A. delicious
- B. expensive
- C. healthy
- D. enormous
- E. small and unimportant

Q19. 'It would be quite too dear,' (line 69)

What does Midas mean by 'dear'?

- A. much loved: his breakfast was precious to him
- B. kind: the stranger had been too generous
- C. costly: giving up gold for one breakfast would be too high a price
- D. sad: he felt sorry for himself
- E. a way of speaking to Marygold

Q20. 'Our pretty Marygold could endure it no longer.' (lines 71-72)

What could she not endure?

- A. the taste of her bread and milk
- B. the smell of the golden roses
- C. sitting still at the table
- D. seeing her father so hungry and unhappy
- E. the noise of the kitchen

Q21. 'He felt that his little daughter's love was worth a thousand times more than he had gained by the Golden Touch.' (lines 77-79)

Why is this moment so tragic?

- A. He realises he has lost all his gold.
- B. Just as he realises love matters more than gold, his kiss turns her to gold.
- C. Marygold is about to leave him for ever.
- D. He has decided to give Marygold all his gold.
- E. He has forgotten to eat his breakfast.

Q22. 'yellow tear-drops congealing on her cheeks' (lines 85-86)

What does 'congealing' mean?

- A. sparkling
- B. running down
- C. drying up
- D. melting
- E. setting hard

Q23. 'his insatiable desire for wealth' (line 89)

What does 'insatiable' mean?

- A. impossible to satisfy
- B. secret
- C. sudden
- D. foolish
- E. generous

Q24. Which of these is the main message of the passage?

- A. Kings should always be generous to their children.
- B. Gold is the most valuable thing in the world.
- C. Love and simple things are worth more than riches.
- D. It is dangerous to eat breakfast in a hurry.
- E. You should never pick flowers from a garden.

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.

Saturdays are always busyer at the swimming pool.

A

B

C

D

- A. Saturdays are
- B. always busyer
- C. at the
- D. swimming pool.
- E. No mistake

Q26.

Before breakfast, Dad quickly emptyed the kitchen bins.

A

B

C

D

- A. Before breakfast,
- B. Dad quickly
- C. emptyed the
- D. kitchen bins.
- E. No mistake

Q27.

A ferocious storm battered the coast.

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

- A. A ferocious
- B. storm
- C. battered
- D. the coast.
- E. No mistake

Q28.

We ate a warm and filling, nutritious breakfast.

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

- A. We ate a
- B. warm and
- C. filling,
- D. nutritious breakfast.
- E. No mistake

Q29.

I dunked my croissant in a mug of hot chocolate.

A

B

C

D

- A. I dunked my
- B. croissant in
- C. a mug of
- D. hot chocolate.
- E. No mistake

Q30.

The story was made up wholly by the author.

A

B

C

D

- A. The story was
- B. made up
- C. wholly by
- D. the author.
- E. No mistake

Q31.

Psuedonyms hide the real names of some writers.

A

B

C

D

- A. Psuedonyms hide
- B. the real
- C. names of
- D. some writers.
- E. No mistake

Q32.

After the storm, debree lay across the road.

A

B

C

D

- A. After the
- B. storm, debree
- C. lay across
- D. the road.
- E. No mistake

Q33.

A dialogue between the two characters opens the play.

A

B

C

D

- A. A dialogue
- B. between the
- C. two characters
- D. opens the play.
- E. No mistake

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Tutankhamun's Tomb

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 1922, howard carter found a tomb in the Valley of the Kings.

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

- A. In 1922,
- B. howard carter
- C. found a tomb in
- D. the Valley of the Kings.
- E. No mistake

Q35.

Statues chariots and jewels filled the first room.

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

- A. Statues chariots
- B. and jewels
- C. filled the
- D. first room.
- E. No mistake

Q36.

For such an important king, the tomb was to small.

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

- A. For such an
- B. important king,
- C. the tomb was
- D. to small.
- E. No mistake

Q37.

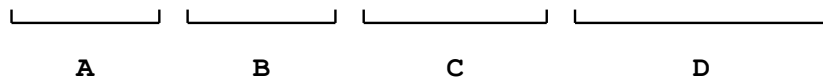
There was over five thousand objects in the tomb.

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

- A. There was
- B. over five
- C. thousand objects
- D. in the tomb.
- E. No mistake

Q38.

Ten whole years had past before the work ended.



- A. Ten whole
- B. years had
- C. past before
- D. the work ended.
- E. No mistake

Q39.

The treasures were bought to a museum in Egypt.



- A. The treasures
- B. were bought
- C. to a museum
- D. in Egypt.
- E. No mistake

Q40.

Its most famous treasure is his mask; made of gold.

A

B

C

D

A. Its most

B. famous

C. treasure is

D. his mask; made of gold.

E. No mistake

Q41.

It is a 3,000 year old treasure that still gleams.

A

B

C

D

A. It is a

B. 3,000 year old

C. treasure that

D. still gleams.

E. No mistake

Q42.

Today, visitors queue for hours to see the boy king's mask.

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

- A. Today, visitors
- B. queue for hours
- C. to see the
- D. boy king's mask.
- E. No mistake

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The Car Boot Sale

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 Sunday, Dad decided to _____ our old toys and books at a car boot sale.

- A. cell
- B. sale
- C. sold
- D. sell
- E. selling

Q44. We filled three _____ with things we no longer needed.

- A. boxes
- B. boxs
- C. boxies
- D. box
- E. boxen

Q45. Gran was sad to part _____ an old teapot that had been her mother's.

- A. from
- B. of
- C. with
- D. for
- E. to

Q46. "If it starts to rain," Dad said, "we _____ have to pack up early."

- A. would
- B. had
- C. were
- D. did
- E. will

Q47. By noon, there was hardly _____ left on our table.

- A. nothing
- B. anything
- C. something
- D. everything
- E. none

Q48. A man wanted our old brass lamp, but Mum drove a hard _____.

- A. barge
- B. burden
- C. bargain
- D. bargaining
- E. bargained

Q49. When we asked what the lamp was really worth, the man became strangely _____.

- A. evasive
- B. evasion
- C. evade
- D. invasive
- E. evading

Q50. Now we are all _____ to find out whether it was a treasure after all.

- A. dyeing
- B. dead
- C. died
- D. dying
- E. death

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