English Mock Test 29 Answers

Q#	Answer	Explanation
1	B	The stream is **spanned by a narrow bridge made of a log of wood**. That is why there is only room for one man to cross at a time.
2	C	The adjectives are **broad** and **pebbly**, which describe the stream, and **narrow**, which describes the bridge. **Spanned** tells us what the bridge does to the stream, and stream and bridge are nouns.
3	A	**Nigh** is an old word for near, and to **draw near** is to come closer. Robin has not crossed yet, as he and the stranger are both still hurrying to reach it.
4	C	To **prate** is to chatter on foolishly, and an ass is an animal thought of as stupid. Robin is insulting what the stranger has just said, not the way he looks.
5	D	A bow can kill from a distance, while a staff is only useful close up. The stranger's point is that the fight would be unfair, and it takes no courage to win one like that. Robin's men have not yet arrived.
6	C	Robin says that he has **never** had **a coward's name** before, and it stings. Putting his bow down to fight with a stick like the stranger's proves that he is brave. They are certainly not friends yet.
7	D	To do something **furtively** is to do it secretly, hoping not to be noticed. Robin is looking **from out the corner of his eye**, so that the stranger will not see him sizing him up.
8	B	The passage says plainly that **he was seven feet in height**. That also explains the joke about his name at the end. A head is how much taller he is than Robin, not his full height.
9	A	The same pattern is used twice: **Tall was Robin, but taller was the stranger**, then broad and broader. Since Robin is already a big man, the stranger must be huge. This builds up the challenge that Robin is facing.

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10	E	A **feint** is a move that pretends to attack in one place, so that the real blow can come in another. Here the real blow, at the stranger's head, follows straight after. It sounds like **faint** but has nothing to do with falling.
11	B	They stood without moving back **for one good hour**, trading blows, before the fight turned.
12	A	This is a **simile**. Wet thatch steams when the sun warms it, so the writer is picturing dust and steam flying from the jacket. Nothing is really alight, and the next sentence shows how hard the blow was.
13	C	A hair is extremely thin, so missing something by a **hair's-breadth** means only just missing it. The stranger stayed on the bridge, as he **regained himself right quickly**.
14	A	**Dexterous** describes the noun **blow**, so it is an **adjective**. It means skilful and quick with the hands.
15	E	To **forbear** is to hold back, so Robin cannot stop himself laughing at how he looks in the water. A **sorry plight** is a bad situation, and he knows he has lost. He then offers his hand, which shows that there is no trick.
16	B	A **simile** compares his head to a noisy beehive. He has just had a **crack on the crown**, and the buzzing is the after-effect. No real bees appear in the story.
17	D	Robin **clapped his horn to his lips and winded a blast**, and the sound went off down the forest paths. Soon afterwards his men came running.
18	C	Robin offers him clothes, pay and the place of **right-hand man**, because he has never seen anyone fight so well. He has already stopped his men from hurting him, so fear is not the reason.
19	E	Someone **surly** is rude and bad-tempered, and the passage explains why: he has just been knocked about by Will and the yeomen. He is not shy, since he goes on to insult their skill with weapons.
20	D	A **score** is an old word for twenty, so **fourscore** is four twenties, which is eighty. Four yards would be no test at all for an archer.

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21	A	To **mend** is to improve and to **mar** is to spoil. The stranger has hit the very centre, so nothing can beat it, yet Robin goes on to split that very arrow. It is a neat way of boasting modestly.
22	E	Robin's arrow **lit fairly upon the stranger's shaft and split it into splinters**. A shaft is an arrow, so the arrow already in the centre of the mark was broken by his own.
23	B	His name was John Little, so Will Stutely simply swaps the two words round. It is funny because he is anything but little, and **small of bone and sinew** is said to tease him. Calling him a **fair infant** carries on the joke.
24	D	He quarrels over who crosses a bridge first and cannot bear to be called a coward. Yet after losing he laughs, shakes hands, stops his men and offers the stranger the best place in his band. Nothing he does is cruel or cowardly.
25	D	'brige' should be spelled 'bridge'. After a short vowel, the j sound is spelled dge, as in ridge and hedge. The mistake is in group D.
26	B	'arow' should be spelled 'arrow'. It has a double r, as narrow and barrow do. The mistake is in group B.
27	A	'dangerus' should be spelled 'dangerous'. The ending is -ous, as in famous, and danger keeps all its letters. The mistake is in group A.
28	C	'thowsand' should be spelled 'thousand'. The ow sound is spelled ou, as in house and mouse. The mistake is in group C.
29	D	'tresure' should be spelled 'treasure'. The short e sound is spelled ea, as in measure. The mistake is in group D.
30	A	'Medeival' should be spelled 'medieval'. It is built from medi, meaning middle, and -eval, so the i comes before the e. The mistake is in group A.
31	C	'acellerate' should be spelled 'accelerate'. It has a double c and a single l. The mistake is in group C.
32	E	There is no mistake. Bachelor has no t before the ch and ends in -or; uncle ends in -le; and castle has a silent t. So the answer is E.

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33	B	‘extravagent’ should be spelled ‘extravagant’. It ends in -ant, and there is no rule to help, so it has to be learned. The mistake is in group B.
34	A	‘In july 1545, a’ should be In July 1545, a. The names of months always take a capital letter. The mistake is in group A.
35	C	‘sailors soldiers and’ should be sailors, soldiers and. Items in a list are separated by commas. The mistake is in group C.
36	B	‘heeled over, water’ should be heeled over. Water. These are two complete sentences, and a comma alone cannot join them. The mistake is in group B.
37	A	‘Watching from the shore King’ should be Watching from the shore, King. The opening phrase needs a comma to separate it from the rest of the sentence. The mistake is in group A.
38	D	‘it’s timbers slowly rotted.’ should be its timbers slowly rotted. It’s means it is, and here we need its, meaning belonging to it. The mistake is in group D.
39	B	‘had went down’ should be had gone down. After had we need gone, not went. The mistake is in group B.
40	C	‘raised on TV’ should be raised on TV, because the extra detail which millions saw raised on TV opens with a comma and must close with one too. The mistake is in group C.
41	E	There is no mistake. The semicolon correctly joins two closely linked sentences; longbows is a plain plural with no apostrophe; and the line ends with a full stop. So the answer is E.
42	D	‘them ancient bows.’ should be those ancient bows. Them cannot be used in front of a noun in this way; those can. The mistake is in group D.
43	C	The story is in the past, so the past tense **signed** is needed. Sign and signs are the present, signing needs a helper such as was, and sing is a different word.
44	A	He is teaching the way to do it, so **how** fits. We do not say showed us what, which, who or why to hold a bow when the bow has already been named.

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45	E	The saying is **not to take your eyes off** something, meaning to keep watching it. We do not lift, pull, drop or set our eyes off anything.
46	B	The phrase is **nowhere near**, meaning a long way from. Nowhere next, by, beside and along are not phrases we use.
47	D	The saying is **practice makes perfect**: doing something often makes you better at it. The other verbs do not make the saying.
48	A	A noun is needed after the, and the sense is a wish to do something we should not. **Temptation** is that noun. Tempting and tempted are not nouns; an attempt to give up would not need resisting, and contempt means scorn.
49	C	**Out of the blue** is a saying meaning quite unexpectedly, as a bolt of lightning might come from a clear blue sky. The other colours do not make the saying.
50	B	An **intention** is a plan to do something, so to have no intention of giving up is to have no plan to stop. Attention, invention and mention make no sense here, and we do not say no intent of.

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