English Mock Test 29

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 Better Man

by Howard Pyle

This extract comes from The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood by the American writer Howard Pyle, first published in 1883. Robin Hood is an outlaw who lives in Sherwood Forest with his band of merry men, who are yeomen, or free countrymen. Robin has gone out alone to look for adventure, carrying his bow and arrows and a horn to call his men. The story is told in old-fashioned English: thou and thee mean you, thy means your, quoth means said, and marry means indeed. A shaft is an arrow, and a staff, a cudgel and a quarterstaff are all long, stout sticks used for fighting. The extract has been shortened.

At last he took a road by the forest skirts, a bypath that dipped toward a broad, pebbly stream spanned by a narrow bridge made of a log of wood. As he drew nigh this bridge he saw a tall stranger coming from the other side. Thereupon Robin quickened his pace, as did the stranger likewise, each thinking to cross first.

"Now stand thou back," quoth Robin, "and let the better man cross first."

"Nay," answered the stranger, "then stand back thine own self, for the better man, I wot, am I."

"Thou pratest like an ass," said Robin, "for I could send this shaft clean through thy proud heart before a curtal friar could say grace over a roast goose at Michaelmastide."

"And thou pratest like a coward," answered the stranger, "for thou standest there with a good yew bow to shoot at my heart, while I have nought in my hand but a plain blackthorn staff wherewith to

meet thee."

"Now," quoth Robin, "by the faith of my heart, never have I had a coward's name in all my life before. I will lay by my trusty bow and eke my arrows, and if thou darest abide my coming, I will go and cut a cudgel to test thy manhood withal."

"Ay, marry, that will I abide thy coming, and joyously, too," quoth the stranger; whereupon he leaned sturdily upon his staff to await Robin.

Robin observed him furtively as he trimmed his staff, measuring him from top to toe from out the corner of his eye, and thought that he had never seen a lustier or a stouter man. Tall was Robin, but taller was the stranger by a head and a neck, for he was seven feet in height. Broad was Robin across the shoulders, but broader was the stranger by twice the breadth of a palm, while he measured at least an ell around the waist.

Never did the Knights of Arthur's Round Table meet in a stouter fight than did these two. In a moment Robin stepped quickly upon the bridge where the stranger stood; first he made a feint, and then delivered a blow at the stranger's head that, had it met its mark, would have tumbled him speedily into the water. But the stranger turned the blow right deftly and in return gave one as stout, which Robin also turned as the stranger had done. So they stood, each in his place, neither moving a finger's-breadth back, for one good hour, and many blows were given and received by each in that time, till here and there were sore bones and bumps, yet neither thought of crying "Enough," nor seemed likely to fall from off the bridge. Now and then they stopped to rest, and each thought that he never had seen in all his life before such a hand at quarterstaff. At last Robin gave the stranger a blow upon the ribs that made his jacket smoke like a damp straw thatch in the sun. So shrewd was the stroke that the stranger came within a hair's-breadth of falling off the bridge, but he regained himself right quickly and, by a dexterous blow, gave Robin a crack on the crown that caused the blood to flow. Then Robin grew mad with anger and smote with all his might at the other. But the stranger warded the blow and once again thwacked Robin, and this time so fairly that he fell heels over head into the water, as the queen pin falls in a game of bowls.

"And where art thou now, my good lad?" shouted the stranger, roaring with laughter.

"Oh, in the flood and floating adown with the tide," cried Robin, nor could he forbear laughing himself at his sorry plight. Then,

gaining his feet, he waded to the bank, the little fish speeding hither and thither, all frightened at his splashing.

"Give me thy hand," cried he, when he had reached the bank. "I must needs own thou art a brave and a sturdy soul and, withal, a good stout stroke with the cudgels. By this and by that, my head hummeth like to a hive of bees on a hot June day."

Then he clapped his horn to his lips and winded a blast that went echoing sweetly down the forest paths.

But now the distant twigs and branches rustled with the coming of men, and suddenly a score or two of good stout yeomen, all clad in Lincoln green, burst from out the covert, with merry Will Stutely at their head.

"Good master," cried Will, "how is this? Truly thou art all wet from head to foot, and that to the very skin."

"Why, marry," answered jolly Robin, "yon stout fellow hath tumbled me neck and crop into the water and hath given me a drubbing beside."

"Then shall he not go without a ducking and eke a drubbing himself!" cried Will Stutely. "Have at him, lads!"

Then Will and a score of yeomen leaped upon the stranger, but though they sprang quickly they found him ready and felt him strike right and left with his stout staff, so that, though he went down with press of numbers, some of them rubbed cracked crowns before he was overcome.

"Nay, forbear!" cried Robin, laughing until his sore sides ached again. "He is a right good man and true, and no harm shall befall him. Now hark ye, good youth, wilt thou stay with me and be one of my band? Three suits of Lincoln green shalt thou have each year, beside forty marks in fee, and share with us whatsoever good shall befall us. Thou shalt eat sweet venison and quaff the stoutest ale, and mine own good right-hand man shalt thou be, for never did I see such a cudgel player in all my life before. Speak! Wilt thou be one of my good merry men?"

"That know I not," quoth the stranger surlily, for he was angry at being so tumbled about. "If ye handle yew bow and apple shaft no better than ye do oaken cudgel, I wot ye are not fit to be called yeomen in my country; but if there be any man here that can shoot a better shaft than I, then will I bethink me of joining with you."

"Now by my faith," said Robin, "thou art a right saucy varlet, sirrah; yet I will stoop to thee as I never stooped to man before. Good Stutely, cut thou a fair white piece of bark four fingers in breadth, and set it fourscore yards distant on yonder oak. Now, stranger, hit that fairly with a gray goose shaft and call thyself an archer."

Then he chose the stoutest bow among them all, next to Robin's own, and a straight gray goose shaft, well-feathered and smooth, and stepping to the mark—while all the band, sitting or lying upon the greensward, watched to see him shoot—he drew the arrow to his cheek and loosed the shaft right deftly, sending it so straight down the path that it clove the mark in the very center. "Aha!" cried he, "mend thou that if thou canst"; while even the yeomen clapped their hands at so fair a shot.

"That is a keen shot indeed," quoth Robin. "Mend it I cannot, but mar it I may, perhaps."

Then taking up his own good stout bow and nocking an arrow with care, he shot with his very greatest skill. Straight flew the arrow, and so true that it lit fairly upon the stranger's shaft and split it into splinters. Then all the yeomen leaped to their feet and shouted for joy that their master had shot so well.

"Now by the lusty yew bow of good Saint Withold," cried the stranger, "that is a shot indeed, and never saw I the like in all my life before! Now truly will I be thy man henceforth and for aye."

"Then have I gained a right good man this day," quoth jolly Robin. "What name goest thou by, good fellow?"

"Men call me John Little whence I came," answered the stranger.

Then Will Stutely, who loved a good jest, spoke up. "Nay, fair little stranger," said he, "I like not thy name and fain would I have it otherwise. Little art thou indeed, and small of bone and sinew, therefore shalt thou be christened Little John, and I will be thy godfather."

Then Robin Hood and all his band laughed aloud until the stranger began to grow angry.

"Nay, good friend," said Robin Hood, "bottle thine anger, for the name fitteth thee well. Little John shall thou be called henceforth, and Little John shall it be. So come, my merry men, we will prepare

a christening feast for this fair infant."

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 was the bridge made of?

A. smooth stones

B. a log of wood

C. planks and rope

D. a fallen oak branch

E. iron bars

Q2. 'a broad, pebbly stream spanned by a narrow bridge' (line 2)

How many adjectives are there in this phrase?

A. 1

B. 2

C. 3

D. 4

E. 5

Q3. 'As he drew nigh this bridge' (line 3)

What does 'drew nigh' mean?

A. came near to

B. drew a picture of

C. turned away from

D. walked over

E. looked down at

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Q4. '"Thou pratest like an ass,"' (line 10)

What is Robin saying about the stranger?

A. He looks like a donkey.

B. He is very stubborn.

C. He talks foolishly.

D. He walks too slowly.

E. He carries too much.

Q5. 'for thou standest there with a good yew bow to shoot at my heart, while I have nought in my hand but a plain blackthorn staff' (lines 13–15)

Why does this make the stranger call Robin a coward?

A. Robin has run away from the bridge.

B. Robin is afraid of the water.

C. Robin has refused to give his name.

D. Robin is threatening to shoot someone who has no weapon that can reach him.

E. Robin has brought his men with him.

Q6. 'I will lay by my trusty bow and eke my arrows' (lines 18–19)

Why does Robin decide to do this?

A. His bowstring has broken.

B. He has run out of arrows.

C. He wants to show that he is no coward by fighting fairly.

D. He has decided to make friends with the stranger.

E. He knows that the stranger is a better archer.

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Q7. ‘Robin observed him furtively’ (line 24)

What does ‘furtively’ mean?

A. for a long time

B. in an angry way

C. with great delight

D. in a secret way

E. with a loud laugh

Q8. How tall was the stranger?

A. six feet

B. seven feet

C. a head

D. an ell

E. twice as tall as Robin

Q9. ‘Broad was Robin across the shoulders, but broader was the stranger’ (lines 28–29)

What is the effect of describing the two men in this way?

A. It admits that Robin is big, then makes the stranger seem bigger still.

B. It shows that Robin is an unusually small man.

C. It makes us think that Robin is sure to win.

D. It shows that the two men look exactly alike.

E. It tells us that the stranger is overweight.

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Q10. ‘first he made a feint’ (line 33)

What is a ‘feint’?

A. a loud shout

B. a promise to fight fairly

C. a sudden loss of balance

D. a step backwards

E. a pretended blow, to trick an opponent

Q11. How long did the two men fight before either began to lose?

A. a few minutes

B. one hour

C. half an hour

D. four hours

E. the whole day

Q12. ‘a blow upon the ribs that made his jacket smoke like a damp straw thatch in the sun’ (lines 44–45)

What does this comparison tell us?

A. The blow was so hard that it seemed to beat steam out of the jacket.

B. The stranger’s jacket has caught fire.

C. The stranger had a jacket made of straw.

D. The sun had come out during the fight.

E. Robin’s staff was burning hot.

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Q13. ‘came within a hair’s-breadth of falling off’ (line 46)

What does this mean?

A. He pulled out some of his hair.

B. He fell straight into the stream.

C. He very nearly fell.

D. He moved a long way along the bridge.

E. He was too far from the edge to fall.

Q14. ‘by a dexterous blow’ (lines 47–48)

What type of word is ‘dexterous’?

A. an adjective

B. a verb

C. an adverb

D. a noun

E. a preposition

Q15. ‘nor could he forbear laughing himself at his sorry plight’ (line 56)

What does this show about Robin?

A. He has not noticed that he has lost.

B. He is pretending to laugh in order to trick the stranger.

C. He has hit his head and does not know what he is doing.

D. He thinks that the stranger looks silly.

E. He can take a joke against himself, even in defeat.

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Q16. ‘my head hummeth like to a hive of bees on a hot June day’ (lines 61–62)

What does Robin mean by this?

A. He can hear bees close by in the forest.

B. His head is ringing from the blow it took.

C. He is too hot after the fight.

D. He is humming a tune to cheer himself up.

E. He has been stung while he was in the water.

Q17. How did Robin call his men to him?

A. He shouted for them.

B. He sent the stranger to fetch them.

C. He shot an arrow into the air.

D. He blew on his horn.

E. He whistled through his fingers.

Q18. ‘for never did I see such a cudgel player in all my life before’ (lines 87–88)

Why does Robin want the stranger to join his band?

A. He is afraid of having him as an enemy.

B. He needs someone to carry his bow.

C. He admires the man’s skill, even though it has just beaten him.

D. His men have told him that he must.

E. He wants to punish him by making him work.

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Q19. ‘quoth the stranger surlily, for he was angry at being so tumbled about’ (lines 90–91)

How does the stranger speak?

A. sadly

B. shyly

C. in a cheerful way

D. very quietly

E. in a bad-tempered way

Q20. ‘set it fourscore yards distant on yonder oak’ (line 98)

How far away was the target?

A. four yards

B. twenty-four yards

C. forty yards

D. eighty yards

E. four hundred yards

Q21. ‘“Mend it I cannot, but mar it I may, perhaps.”’ (lines 109–110)

What does Robin mean?

A. He cannot improve on the shot, but he might be able to spoil it.

B. He cannot beat the stranger’s shot, so he will give up.

C. He cannot repair the broken bow, but he will try.

D. He is too badly hurt to shoot at all.

E. The stranger’s arrow has missed, so he will not bother to shoot.

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Q22. What did Robin's arrow do?

A. It missed the mark altogether.

B. It stuck in the oak beside the mark.

C. It went through the stranger's jacket.

D. It knocked the bark off the tree.

E. It split the stranger's arrow.

Q23. 'therefore shalt thou be christened Little John' (line 125)

Why is this name a joke?

A. The stranger's real name is not John.

B. The stranger is a huge man of seven feet.

C. The stranger is the youngest man in the band.

D. Will Stutely is much smaller than he is.

E. Little John is a name usually given to babies.

Q24. Which of these best sums up Robin's character in the whole passage?

A. lazy and happy to leave the fighting to others

B. cruel and determined to have his revenge

C. shy and unwilling to speak to strangers

D. proud and quick to fight, but generous to a man who beats him

E. cowardly, but clever at hiding it

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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.

We walked across the old stone brige slowly.

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

A. We walked

B. across the

C. old stone

D. brige slowly.

E. No mistake

Q26.

The final arow hit the centre of the target.

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

A. The final

B. arow hit

C. the centre of

D. the target.

E. No mistake

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Q27.

These dangerus rocks are hidden under the waves at high tide.

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

A. These dangerus

B. rocks are hidden

C. under the waves

D. at high tide.

E. No mistake

Q28.

Over one hundred thowsand people watched the game.

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

A. Over one

B. hundred

C. thowsand people

D. watched the game.

E. No mistake

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Q29.

The pirates buried their gold and other precious tresure.

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

A. The pirates

B. buried their

C. gold and other

D. precious tresure.

E. No mistake

Q30.

Medeival knights wore heavy armour into battle.

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

A. Medeival knights

B. wore heavy

C. armour into

D. battle.

E. No mistake

myfreeschool

Q31.

As the car began to acellerate, we all held on tight.

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

A. As the car

B. began to

C. acellerate, we

D. all held on tight.

E. No mistake

Q32.

My bachelor uncle took us to the castle museum.

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

A. My bachelor

B. uncle took

C. us to the

D. castle museum.

E. No mistake

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Q33.

It was rather extravagent to buy such an expensive present.

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

A. It was rather

B. extravagent to

C. buy such an

D. expensive present.

E. No mistake

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The Mary Rose

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 july 1545,	a great warship named	the Mary Rose	left Portsmouth.
A	**B**	**C**	**D**

A. In july 1545, a

B. great warship named

C. the Mary Rose

D. left Portsmouth.

E. No mistake

Q35.

On board	the ship were	sailors soldiers and	hundreds of archers.
A	**B**	**C**	**D**

A. On board

B. the ship were

C. sailors soldiers and

D. hundreds of archers.

E. No mistake

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Q36.

Within minutes, the ship heeled over, water poured through her gunports.

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

A. Within minutes, the ship

B. heeled over, water

C. poured through

D. her gunports.

E. No mistake

Q37.

Watching from the shore King Henry could do nothing to save her.

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

A. Watching from the shore King

B. Henry could

C. do nothing

D. to save her.

E. No mistake

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Q38.

For 400 years, the wreck lay in the mud, and it’s timbers slowly rotted.

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

A. For 400 years,

B. the wreck lay

C. in the mud, and

D. it’s timbers slowly rotted.

E. No mistake

Q39.

By 1982, divers had went down thousands of times to explore her.

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

A. By 1982, divers

B. had went down

C. thousands of times

D. to explore her.

E. No mistake

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Q40.

Her hull, which millions saw raised on TV now stands in a museum.

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

A. Her hull, which

B. millions saw

C. raised on TV

D. now stands in a museum.

E. No mistake

Q41.

Divers found more than 130 longbows; many were still in good condition.

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

A. Divers found

B. more than 130 longbows;

C. many were still

D. in good condition.

E. No mistake

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Q42.

In the museum, visitors can still see them ancient bows.

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

A. In the museum,

B. visitors can

C. still see

D. them ancient bows.

E. No mistake

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My First Archery Lesson

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. I had always wanted to try archery, so Mum _____ me up for a lesson.

A. signs

B. sign

C. signed

D. signing

E. sing

Q44. When I arrived, the instructor showed us _____ to hold a bow.

A. how

B. what

C. which

D. who

E. why

Q45. He told me not to _____ my eyes off the target for a second.

A. set

B. lift

C. pull

D. drop

E. take

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Q46. Even so, my first three arrows landed nowhere _____ it.

A. next

B. near

C. by

D. beside

E. along

Q47. “Never mind,” he said kindly. “Practice _____ perfect.”

A. gives

B. does

C. takes

D. makes

E. builds

Q48. My arm ached, and the _____ to give up was almost too strong to resist.

A. temptation

B. tempting

C. tempted

D. attempt

E. contempt

Q49. Then, right out of the _____, my very next arrow hit the gold.

A. black

B. grey

C. blue

D. red

E. white

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Q50. Everyone called it beginner’s luck, but I now have no _____ of giving up.

A. attention

B. intention

C. invention

D. mention

E. intent

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