English Mock Test 30

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 Cow in Grey Flannel

by Elizabeth Gaskell

This extract comes from the opening of Cranford by Elizabeth Gaskell, first published in the 1850s. The narrator, a young woman who once lived in the small English town of Cranford, describes the elderly ladies who run it. A call is a short, polite visit to someone's home. The Manx laws are the laws of the Isle of Man, read out each year at a grand ceremony on Tinwald Mount. The Spartans were an ancient Greek people, famous for bearing pain without complaint. Drumble is a nearby city full of factories. A half-pay captain is an officer who has left the army. Lime burns the skin, flannel is a warm woollen cloth and drawers are underpants. The extract has been shortened.

In the first place, Cranford is in possession of the Amazons; all the holders of houses above a certain rent are women. If a married couple come to settle in the town, somehow the gentleman disappears; he is either fairly frightened to death by being the only man in the Cranford evening parties, or he is accounted for by being with his regiment, his ship, or closely engaged in business all the week in the great neighbouring commercial town of Drumble, distant only twenty miles on a railroad. In short, whatever does become of the gentlemen, they are not at Cranford. What could they do if they were there? The surgeon has his round of thirty miles, and sleeps at Cranford; but every man cannot be a surgeon. For keeping the trim gardens full of choice flowers without a weed to speck them; for frightening away little boys who look wistfully at the said flowers through the railings; for rushing out at the geese that occasionally venture in to the gardens if the gates are left open; for deciding all questions of literature and politics without troubling themselves with unnecessary reasons or arguments; for obtaining clear and correct knowledge of everybody's affairs in the parish;

for keeping their neat maid-servants in admirable order; for kindness (somewhat dictatorial) to the poor, and real tender good offices to each other whenever they are in distress, the ladies of Cranford are quite sufficient. "A man," as one of them observed to me once, "is *so* in the way in the house!"

The Cranford ladies have only an occasional little quarrel, spirited out in a few peppery words and angry jerks of the head; just enough to prevent the even tenor of their lives from becoming too flat. Their dress is very independent of fashion; as they observe, "What does it signify how we dress here at Cranford, where everybody knows us?" And if they go from home, their reason is equally cogent, "What does it signify how we dress here, where nobody knows us?"

Then there were rules and regulations for visiting and calls; and they were announced to any young people who might be staying in the town, with all the solemnity with which the old Manx laws were read once a year on the Tinwald Mount.

"Our friends have sent to inquire how you are after your journey to-night, my dear" (fifteen miles in a gentleman's carriage); "they will give you some rest to-morrow, but the next day, I have no doubt, they will call; so be at liberty after twelve—from twelve to three are our calling hours."

Then, after they had called—

"It is the third day; I dare say your mamma has told you, my dear, never to let more than three days elapse between receiving a call and returning it; and also, that you are never to stay longer than a quarter of an hour."

"But am I to look at my watch? How am I to find out when a quarter of an hour has passed?"

"You must keep thinking about the time, my dear, and not allow yourself to forget it in conversation."

As everybody had this rule in their minds, whether they received or paid a call, of course no absorbing subject was ever spoken about. We kept ourselves to short sentences of small talk, and were punctual to our time.

I imagine that a few of the gentlefolks of Cranford were poor, and had some difficulty in making both ends meet; but they were like the Spartans, and concealed their smart under a smiling face. We none of us spoke of money, because that subject savoured of commerce and

trade, and though some might be poor, we were all aristocratic. When Mrs Forrester, for instance, gave a party in her baby-house of a dwelling, and the little maiden disturbed the ladies on the sofa by a request that she might get the tea-tray out from underneath, everyone took this novel proceeding as the most natural thing in the world, and talked on about household forms and ceremonies as if we all believed that our hostess had a regular servants' hall, second table, with housekeeper and steward, instead of the one little charity-school maiden, whose short ruddy arms could never have been strong enough to carry the tray upstairs, if she had not been assisted in private by her mistress, who now sat in state, pretending not to know what cakes were sent up, though she knew, and we knew, and she knew that we knew, and we knew that she knew that we knew, she had been busy all the morning making tea-bread and sponge-cakes.

I never shall forget the dismay felt when a certain Captain Brown came to live at Cranford, and openly spoke about his being poor—not in a whisper to an intimate friend, the doors and windows being previously closed, but in the public street! in a loud military voice! alleging his poverty as a reason for not taking a particular house. The ladies of Cranford were already rather moaning over the invasion of their territories by a man and a gentleman. He was a half-pay captain, and had obtained some situation on a neighbouring railroad, which had been vehemently petitioned against by the little town; and if, in addition to his masculine gender, and his connection with the obnoxious railroad, he was so brazen as to talk of being poor—why, then, indeed, he must be sent to Coventry.

If we walked to or from a party, it was because the night was *so* fine, or the air *so* refreshing, not because sedan-chairs were expensive. If we wore prints, instead of summer silks, it was because we preferred a washing material; and so on, till we blinded ourselves to the vulgar fact that we were, all of us, people of very moderate means. Of course, then, we did not know what to make of a man who could speak of poverty as if it was not a disgrace. Yet, somehow, Captain Brown made himself respected in Cranford, and was called upon, in spite of all resolutions to the contrary.

He himself went on in his course, as unaware of his popularity as he had been of the reverse; and I am sure he was startled one day when he found his advice so highly esteemed as to make some counsel which he had given in jest to be taken in sober, serious earnest.

It was on this subject: An old lady had an Alderney cow, which she looked upon as a daughter. You could not pay the short quarter of an

hour call without being told of the wonderful milk or wonderful intelligence of this animal. The whole town knew and kindly regarded Miss Betsy Barker's Alderney; therefore great was the sympathy and regret when, in an unguarded moment, the poor cow tumbled into a lime-pit. She moaned so loudly that she was soon heard and rescued; but meanwhile the poor beast had lost most of her hair, and came out looking naked, cold, and miserable, in a bare skin. Everybody pitied the animal, though a few could not restrain their smiles at her droll appearance. Miss Betsy Barker absolutely cried with sorrow and dismay; and it was said she thought of trying a bath of oil. This remedy, perhaps, was recommended by some one of the number whose advice she asked; but the proposal, if ever it was made, was knocked on the head by Captain Brown's decided "Get her a flannel waistcoat and flannel drawers, ma'am, if you wish to keep her alive. But my advice is, kill the poor creature at once."

Miss Betsy Barker dried her eyes, and thanked the Captain heartily; she set to work, and by-and-by all the town turned out to see the Alderney meekly going to her pasture, clad in dark grey flannel. I have watched her myself many a time. Do you ever see cows dressed in grey flannel in London?

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

Q1. Who lives in the better houses in Cranford?

A. soldiers

B. women

C. surgeons

D. sailors

E. little boys

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Q2. ‘Cranford is in possession of the Amazons’ (line 1)

The Amazons were warrior women in Greek legend. Why does the narrator use the word here?

A. The ladies of Cranford train as soldiers.

B. The ladies have come to Cranford from Greece.

C. The town was once captured by an army.

D. The ladies are always fighting among themselves.

E. The ladies are strong and rule the town with no need of men.

Q3. Which of these is NOT given as a reason why husbands are missing from Cranford?

A. They are frightened of the evening parties.

B. They are away with a regiment.

C. They have gone away to study at a university.

D. They are working all week in Drumble.

E. They are away on a ship.

Q4. ‘little boys who look wistfully at the said flowers’ (line 13)

What does ‘wistfully’ mean?

A. with a sad kind of longing

B. angrily

C. without any interest

D. with great care

E. in a frightened way

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Q5. ‘for deciding all questions of literature and politics without troubling themselves with unnecessary reasons or arguments’ (lines 15–17)

What is the narrator suggesting about the ladies?

A. They are too busy to think about books.

B. They are very sure of their opinions, whether or not they can explain them.

C. They ask the surgeon what they should think.

D. They refuse to talk about such things.

E. They are experts who have studied these subjects for years.

Q6. ‘“What does it signify how we dress here, where nobody knows us?”’ (lines 29–30)

The ladies also say that dress does not matter at Cranford, ‘where everybody knows us’. Why is this funny?

A. They have never been away from Cranford.

B. They cannot remember where they are.

C. Nobody in Cranford owns any fine clothes.

D. They use opposite reasons to reach the same answer.

E. Nobody can see them because they stay indoors.

Q7. ‘with all the solemnity with which the old Manx laws were read’ (line 33)

What does ‘solemnity’ mean?

A. great seriousness

B. loud laughter

C. a long delay

D. strong anger

E. great speed

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Q8. How long should a polite visit last?

A. three days

B. from twelve until three

C. until the conversation ends

D. no more than a quarter of an hour

E. exactly one hour

Q9. ‘of course no absorbing subject was ever spoken about’ (line 50)

Why was this?

A. The ladies had nothing that they wanted to say.

B. The young people were not allowed to speak.

C. They were forbidden to mention books and politics.

D. The visitors were all strangers to one another.

E. Everyone was watching the time, so nobody dared to get caught up in talk.

Q10. ‘concealed their smart under a smiling face’ (line 55)

What does ‘smart’ mean here?

A. cleverness

B. neat clothes

C. good manners

D. pain

E. wealth

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Q11. ‘she knew, and we knew, and she knew that we knew, and we knew that she knew that we knew’ (lines 68–70)

Why has the writer repeated these words so many times?

A. To show that the ladies had poor memories.

B. To show that Mrs Forrester had told everyone about the cakes.

C. To show, comically, that all of them saw through a pretence that they kept up anyway.

D. To fill the reader with suspicion of Mrs Forrester.

E. To show that the guests were being unkind.

Q12. Who had made the cakes at Mrs Forrester’s party?

A. the housekeeper

B. the little maid

C. the steward

D. Mrs Forrester herself

E. the guests

Q13. ‘I never shall forget the dismay’ (line 72)

What caused this dismay?

A. Captain Brown said openly that he was poor.

B. Captain Brown shouted at the ladies.

C. Captain Brown refused to take a house.

D. Captain Brown lost all his money.

E. Captain Brown closed the doors and windows.

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Q14. ‘in the public street! in a loud military voice!’ (lines 75–76)

Why does the narrator use exclamation marks here?

A. Captain Brown is shouting at someone.

B. To warn the reader of danger in the street.

C. To copy the ladies’ shock, as if he had done something dreadful.

D. To show how angry the narrator is even now.

E. To show that the words are being sung.

Q15. ‘which had been vehemently petitioned against’ (line 80)

What type of word is ‘vehemently’?

A. a noun

B. a conjunction

C. an adjective

D. a verb

E. an adverb

Q16. ‘he must be sent to Coventry’ (line 83)

What does it mean to be ‘sent to Coventry’?

A. to be ignored by everybody

B. to be sent away to work on the railroad

C. to be made to leave the country

D. to be sent to prison

E. to be asked to explain yourself

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Q17. ‘not because sedan-chairs were expensive’ (lines 85–86)

A sedan-chair was a seat carried by men. What does this tell us about the ladies who walked?

A. They preferred to walk for their health.

B. They were afraid of being carried.

C. They could not afford the chairs, but would not say so.

D. The chairs were too small for their dresses.

E. No sedan-chairs could be found in the town.

Q18. ‘which she looked upon as a daughter’ (lines 98–99)

What does this tell us about Miss Betsy Barker?

A. She loved her cow as if it were one of her family.

B. She had a daughter who looked like a cow.

C. She had many other cows.

D. She wanted to sell her cow.

E. She knew very little about cows.

Q19. What happened to the cow?

A. It ran away from the town.

B. It fell into a lime-pit.

C. It was stolen from the field.

D. It was struck by a railway train.

E. It fell ill after eating flannel.

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Q20. ‘looking naked, cold, and miserable, in a bare skin’ (line 106)

How many adjectives are there in this phrase?

A. 1

B. 2

C. 3

D. 4

E. 5

Q21. ‘a few could not restrain their smiles at her droll appearance’ (lines 107–108)

What does ‘droll’ mean?

A. terribly sad

B. amusingly odd

C. very dirty

D. extremely thin

E. rather frightening

Q22. From what the passage says, what did Captain Brown really mean by his advice about flannel?

A. He truly believed flannel to be the best cure.

B. He wanted to sell Miss Betsy Barker some flannel.

C. He thought that a bath of oil would be better.

D. He was angry with Miss Betsy Barker for crying.

E. He was joking, and thought that the kindest thing was to kill the cow.

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Q23. ‘Do you ever see cows dressed in grey flannel in London?’ (lines 118–119)

Why does the narrator end with this question?

A. She wants the reader to send her some news from London.

B. She shares the joke with the reader, as only Cranford could produce such a sight.

C. She is puzzled and truly does not know the answer.

D. She wants to know where to buy grey flannel.

E. She has heard that this is the fashion in London.

Q24. Which of these best describes the narrator’s attitude to the ladies of Cranford?

A. She despises them and is glad that she has left.

B. She envies them for being so rich.

C. She laughs at them, but she does so with real affection.

D. She is afraid of them and of their rules.

E. She takes them entirely seriously and admires their wisdom.

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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.

The thatched cotage stood at the end of our narrow lane.

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

A. The thatched cotage

B. stood at the

C. end of our

D. narrow lane.

E. No mistake

Q26.

The postman left a large parsel on the doorstep.

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

A. The postman

B. left a

C. large parsel

D. on the doorstep.

E. No mistake

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Q27.

Mrs Patel and her eldest daghter arrived.

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

A. Mrs Patel

B. and her

C. eldest

D. daghter arrived.

E. No mistake

Q28.

Long coats are out of fashon again, but I still like them.

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

A. Long coats

B. are out of fashon

C. again, but I

D. still like them.

E. No mistake

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Q29.

Pollite children always say please and thank you.

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

A. Pollite children

B. always say

C. please and

D. thank you.

E. No mistake

Q30.

Good table manners are part of ettiquette at a formal dinner.

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

A. Good table

B. manners are

C. part of ettiquette

D. at a formal dinner.

E. No mistake

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Q31.

The first gold sovereign was made for King Henry VII.

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

A. The first gold

B. sovereign was

C. made for

D. King Henry VII.

E. No mistake

Q32.

The two friends kept up a lively correspondance.

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

A. The two friends

B. kept up a

C. lively

D. correspondance.

E. No mistake

myfreeschool

Q33.

They took out a morgage to buy their first house.

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

A. They took out

B. a morgage to

C. buy their

D. first house.

E. No mistake

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The Penny Black

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 britain before 1840, sending a letter was very expensive.

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

A. In britain before

B. 1840, sending

C. a letter was

D. very expensive.

E. No mistake

Q35.

For poor families, the cost were more than a day's wages.

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

A. For poor families,

B. the cost were

C. more than

D. a day's wages.

E. No mistake

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Q36.

Rowland Hill had a better idea: cheap stamp’s paid in advance.

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

A. Rowland Hill had

B. a better idea:

C. cheap stamp’s

D. paid in advance.

E. No mistake

Q37.

Why should anyone pay more just to send a letter further

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

A. Why should anyone

B. pay more

C. just to send a

D. letter further

E. No mistake

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Q38.

The Penny Black, on sale from May 1840, showed Queen Victoria.

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

A. The Penny Black,

B. on sale from

C. May 1840, showed

D. Queen Victoria.

E. No mistake

Q39.

Within weeks, people were writing to there friends and family.

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

A. Within weeks,

B. people were

C. writing to there

D. friends and family.

E. No mistake

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Q40.

Hill, which had once been a teacher, was later knighted.

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

A. Hill, which had

B. once been a

C. teacher, was

D. later knighted.

E. No mistake

Q41.

The new system worked so good that letters soon doubled.

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

A. The new system

B. worked so good

C. that letters

D. soon doubled.

E. No mistake

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Q42.

Of the two stamps issued that year, the Penny Black is the best known.

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

A. Of the two stamps

B. issued that year,

C. the Penny Black is

D. the best known.

E. No mistake

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Tea with Great-Aunt Joan

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. Great-Aunt Joan has lived alone since her two _____ grew up and left home.

A. childrens

B. child

C. childs

D. children

E. children's

Q44. When we visit, she always makes us _____ our shoes at the door.

A. removes

B. remove

C. removed

D. removing

E. to remove

Q45. Her sitting room is so full of ornaments that there is hardly _____ to move.

A. corner

B. area

C. floor

D. walls

E. room

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Q46. Last Sunday I knocked over a china dog, and my face went as red as a _____.

A. beetroot

B. carrot

C. potato

D. cabbage

E. turnip

Q47. “I am so sorry,” I said. “I honestly didn’t do it on _____.”

A. reason

B. accident

C. purpose

D. mistake

E. aim

Q48. To my relief, she laughed and said that I had done her a _____.

A. fever

B. flavour

C. favourite

D. favour

E. fervour

Q49. “It was a wedding present, and I have been _____ it for fifty years.”

A. putting up with

B. putting off with

C. putting down with

D. putting out with

E. putting in with

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Q50. “No use crying over _____ milk,” she added, and went to fetch the biscuits.

A. split

B. spilt

C. spoilt

D. spelt

E. sprinkled

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