English Comprehension: Easy Practice Paper 2 Answers

Q#	Answer	Explanation
1	C	The first verse says the field 'lay bare', that it was 'a square of grass' and that 'nothing stirred but thistledown', apart from the one bent gate. Nothing in the poem suggests crops, cars or a garden.
2	B	Singing is something a living person does, and here it is given to a gate that really only creaks in the wind and the rain. Describing an object as though it were alive is personification.
3	D	He walked past it every day and summed it up as 'a patch of green, a muddy track', which is a dismissive way to describe anywhere. That makes the change in the verses which follow far more striking.
4	A	The lorries are compared to lions using the word 'like'. A comparison made with 'like' or 'as' is a simile; a metaphor would say the lorries *were* lions.
5	C	'Slowly' tells us how the headlamps passed, so it describes a verb. Words that describe verbs in this way are adverbs, and they very often end in -ly.
6	E	A word that copies the sound it describes is onomatopoeia, and 'clang' sounds like metal striking metal. It lets the reader hear the fair being built in the dark.
7	B	What appeared in the field overnight was tents, flags and booths, not flowers, so 'blossomed' is being used to mean that the fair sprang up suddenly. The poet borrows a word about flowers opening because the fair opened just as quickly.
8	D	Calling the fair a city is a metaphor. A city is crowded, noisy and full of lights, so the phrase measures how completely the bare field of the first verse has been transformed in a single night.
9	A	Lines 25 and 26 say exactly this. The extra hour comes later, in line 32, and it is begged for rather than offered.

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10	E	He ‘ran the whole way down the lane’, and the gate has been part of the field since line 4, so leaving it swinging shows how completely the fair had taken over his thoughts.
11	C	The words follow straight on from ‘I rode … the ghost train’, so it is the riders who are screaming — happily, as people do on a ride that is meant to frighten them.
12	B	Line 31 says ‘I won a goldfish in a bag’. The toffee and the painted horses belong to the fair, but they are not prizes that he wins.
13	D	He had been told he could stay till eight, and the line straight after the begging says ‘At nine they sent me home to bed’. One extra hour on top of eight makes nine, so the begging worked.
14	A	Water drains away steadily rather than all at once, and the line before describes the music as ‘thinning’. Together they picture a sound that fades gradually while the speaker drifts off to sleep.
15	E	‘The lorries had gone before the dawn’, and the flags, booths and smells listed in line 39 have gone with them. The field is ‘bare’ again, exactly as it was in line 1.
16	B	The adjectives are ‘yellow’ and ‘flattened’, which both describe the grass. ‘Rings’ and ‘lawn’ are nouns, ‘of’ is a preposition and ‘just’ is an adverb.
17	C	Grass pressed under a ride or a tent for a day and a night is left flattened, and grass kept from the light turns yellow. The rings are the last proof that the fair was ever there.
18	D	‘Stood’, ‘socks’ and ‘stared’ all begin with the same s sound. Repeating a sound at the start of nearby words is alliteration.
19	E	Look at the ends of the lines: lane and rain, back and track, deep and sleep, dawn and lawn. In every verse it is the second and fourth lines that rhyme, while the first and third do not.

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20	A	The whole poem turns on a fair that arrives overnight and vanishes just as quickly, leaving the field as bare as it began. The gate, the ghost train, the fifty pence and the lorries are all single details along the way.

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