English Comprehension: Medium Practice Paper 3 Answers

Q#	Answer	Explanation
1	B	The opening lines list brooms, dusters, ladders and a pail of whitewash, and then the price he paid for them: dust in his throat and eyes, whitewash all over his black fur, an aching back and weary arms.
2	B	Spring is in the air above and in the earth around him, and it reaches even inside his dark little house underground. To penetrate is to get into something, so here it is the feeling of spring finding its way in, not any kind of force.
3	C	Discontent means being unsatisfied with things as they are, and longing is wanting something else instead. Together they explain why the cleaning suddenly becomes unbearable: spring has reached him underground and he wants to be out in it.
4	C	Four scratchy words, and then the same four in reverse, make the digging seem to go on and on, and the sound of the words themselves is the sound of small paws in earth. Nothing in the passage says he dug twice or lost his way.
5	D	It tells us how he was working, and a word that describes the way a verb is done is an adverb. Many adverbs, like this one, are made by adding 'ly' to an adjective.
6	A	The cellarage is the underground home he has lived in for so long, cut off from the light and from other animals. Seclusion is that state of being kept apart, which is why ordinary birdsong strikes him so forcefully when he comes up.
7	B	The birdsong is compared to a shout using the word 'like', and a comparison made with 'like' or 'as' is a simile. A metaphor would have said that the singing *was* a shout.
8	B	He stops the Mole at the gap and demands sixpence for the privilege of passing by the private road. The other rabbits appear only afterwards, once the Mole has bowled him over.

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9	A	He knocks the old rabbit over without stopping, jeers at the others and is gone before they can think of an answer. It is high spirits rather than spite: he has just escaped from underground and nothing is going to hold him up.
10	A	To be contemptuous is to look down on something as not worth bothering with, which is exactly how the Mole treats the toll and the rabbit who demands it. His hurry is covered by the other word in the phrase, 'impatient'.
11	D	The three phrases are built the same way and all describe work going on: nests, buds and new leaves. They also set up the sentence that follows, in which the Mole is the only creature with nothing to do.
12	A	The birds and the flowers are the busy citizens; he is the one idler among them. The same sentence says that the conscience whispering 'whitewash!' has stopped pricking him, so his idleness has become a pleasure rather than a guilt.
13	B	Chuckling, laughing and catching playmates are all things a living creature does, and the passage has already called the river an animal. Nothing here suggests danger or anger: everything the river does, it does for fun.
14	C	Three pairs of words for light and three for sound, crowded into one sentence with nowhere to pause, make the whole surface seem to move at the same time. It is the river the words describe, not the Mole.
15	D	All three words mean held fast by something wonderful, and saying it three times over shows how completely the river has caught him. The passage says plainly that he had never in his life seen a river before.
16	C	He imagines a nice snug dwelling-place for 'an animal with few wants' (line 52): a riverside home above flood level and remote from noise and dust. Its small size is a virtue to him, not a drawback.
17	A	He rules out a star because of where it is, deep in a hole in a bank, and a glow-worm because the light is too glittering and too small. Having ruled out both, he is left with the answer that winks at him.

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18	B	The author has just compared the face to a picture growing inside its frame, and the short separate lines carry that idea on: whiskers, then a twinkling eye, then ears and hair, until there is enough of it to say who it is.
19	D	Small and neat describe the ears, and thick and silky describe the hair, which makes four adjectives in all. Ears and hair are the nouns that they describe.
20	E	Everything in the passage leads towards the river: the escape from the cleaning, the walk across the meadow, and the moment the Mole first sees the water and then the Water Rat. The cleaning and the rabbit are only steps along the way, and no boat appears.

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