

English: Choose the Best Word: Medium Practice Paper 1 Answers

Q#	Answer	Explanation
1	B	The missing word is followed by the warnings, which is a noun and not a full clause, and the contrast word that takes a noun after it is despite . Although also shows contrast but must be followed by a clause with its own verb, as in although we had been warned. However, moreover and nevertheless are joining words that begin a new sentence or follow a semicolon; they cannot sit in the middle of a sentence like this one.
2	C	By the time marks one moment in the past, and the kettle went on before that moment, so the line needs the past perfect: had put . Put on its own would make the two things happen together rather than one before the other. Has put belongs to the present, will put and would put both look forward, and the whole story is being told in the past.
3	A	Candles can be counted one by one, and the comparative for things you can count is fewer , while less is kept for amounts you measure, such as less water or less time. Fewest and least are superlatives, used for picking out the smallest of three or more, so neither can stand before than. Little is not a comparative at all.
4	D	The torch belongs to the sister, and the joining word that shows belonging is whose : my sister, whose torch had been in her pocket. Who and whom stand in for the person herself rather than for something she owns, and neither can be followed straight by a noun like torch. Which is used for things, and that cannot be used at all in a part of a sentence marked off by commas.
5	E	The opening of the line describes something the sister was doing as she swung the torch, and the form used to open a sentence in that way is the -ing form: Reaching the bottom of the stairs. Reach and Reached cannot begin a phrase like this without a subject in front of them. To reach would give a purpose, which is not the meaning here, and Having reach is simply the wrong form: it would have to be Having reached.

6	C	When speech is reported rather than quoted, the verbs step back one tense: Mum said it <i>will</i> be on becomes she told us it would be on. Will be and is stay in the present and clash with told, which is past. Has been describes something already finished, but the electricity was still off, and were does not fit a singular word like electricity.
7	B	This is a sentence about something imagined rather than certain, and the pattern for it is if plus the past simple in the first half and would in the second: if the storm got any worse, we would have to sleep downstairs. Gets and will get belong to the pattern that uses will in the second half. Would get never follows if in this way, and had got would need would have had in the second half.
8	D	Neither is always paired with nor , just as either is paired with or; the two halves of the pair have to match. Or belongs with either, and either itself cannot follow neither. And would turn the line into a positive statement, which contradicts neither, and but sets two things against each other rather than joining two negatives.
9	A	The cable did not do the repairing; the repairing was done to it, so the line needs the passive: was repaired by an engineer. The word by is the clue. Repaired and has repaired would make the cable itself the mender, were repaired is plural while cable is singular, and had repairing is not a form English uses.
10	A	Nights are a stretch of time, and the joining word used after a time is when : one of those nights when nobody wanted to go to bed. Which and that could only be used if the following words needed something to stand in for nights, as in nights that dragged, but here nobody is already the subject. What cannot join two parts of a sentence in this way, and whom is used only for people.