

English: Choose the Best Word: Hard Practice Paper 2 Answers

Q#	Answer	Explanation
1	B	Consisted is the verb that takes of after it when you are listing what something is made up of: the crossing consisted of a four-mile walk. Comprised means the same thing but never takes of, so comprised of is a well-known error. Composed would need was in front of it, as in was composed of. Constituted works the other way round, the parts constituting the whole, and contained of is not English.
2	C	No sooner is always completed by than : no sooner had he raised it than they set off. The trap is when, which belongs to the other pattern of the same kind, hardly ... when, and the two are very easily crossed over. Then is spelt almost identically to than but is an adverb of time and cannot join two clauses, while that and as have no meaning after no sooner.
3	D	A sentence that opens with a negative word such as Little must invert, putting the helping verb in front of the subject: Little did we know . We knew, we did know and we had known all keep the ordinary order, which is exactly what the opening Little forbids. Knew we swaps the wrong pair: it is the helping verb did that moves in front of the subject, not the main verb.
4	A	The two halves pull against each other, the mist being a reason to see nothing, and what follows the gap is a noun rather than a clause, so the word needed is Despite . Although shows the same contrast but must be followed by a clause with its own verb. In spite is only half the phrase and would need of. However would need a full stop after it, and Because of would make the mist the reason they could see, which is the opposite of the sense.

5	B	The that later in the line is the second half of a pair, and the half that goes in front of an adjective on its own is so : so soft that our boots sank. Such is used for the same pattern but only in front of a noun, as in such soft sand that. Very and much do not pair with that at all, and too would need to rather than that, as in too soft to walk on.
6	E	Having is always followed by the past participle, and the past participle of cross is crossed : Having crossed the channel, we stopped. The phrase shows that one action was completed before the next began. Cross and to cross are the wrong forms after having, having crossing doubles the -ing, and been crossed would make the channel the thing doing the crossing rather than the thing crossed.
7	C	With either ... or, the verb agrees with whichever subject is nearer to it, and the nearer one here is the two teachers, which is plural: were to walk. Was is the trap, because the singular guide comes first. Is is present tense in a story told in the past, has cannot be followed by to walk in this sense, and being cannot serve as the verb of the sentence.
8	A	The subject is the reason, and it needs a verb to join it to the explanation that follows, which is introduced by that: the reason was that the sea was creeping in. The past tense matches could not and was creeping elsewhere in the line, so is and is because are both out of step. Because and is because are wrong anyway: the reason already says why, so because repeats it.
9	D	The line counts people, and the word for a small number of things you can count is Few . Little and a little are used for amounts you measure rather than count, such as a little water, and a little would change the meaning to some rather than hardly any. Less is used for those same uncountable amounts, and fewer is a comparative, so it would need than later in the line.

10	C	The line looks back from a moment in the past at something that had been going on for a stretch of time before it, and the form for that is had been plus the -ing form: had been rising for nearly an hour. Rose and was rising do not reach back before the moment of arriving. Has risen belongs to the present, and had rise is simply the wrong form after had.
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