

English: Choose the Best Word: Hard Practice Paper 2

The Winter Crossing

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 ten 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.

Q1. The crossing to the island _____ of a four-mile walk over wet sand, and it could be made only at low tide.

- A. comprised
- B. consisted
- C. composed
- D. constituted
- E. contained

Q2. No sooner had the guide raised his stick _____ the whole party set off across the flats.

- A. when
- B. then
- C. than
- D. that
- E. as

Q3. Little _____ how quickly the mist would come down over the flats that afternoon.

- A. we knew
- B. we did know
- C. knew we
- D. did we know
- E. we had known

Q4. _____ the thick mist, we could just make out the ruined chapel on the far shore.

- A. Despite
- B. Although
- C. However
- D. Because of
- E. In spite

Q5. The sand was _____ soft in places that our boots sank in as far as the ankle.

- A. such
- B. so
- C. very
- D. too
- E. much

Q6. Having _____ the deepest channel, we stopped on a bank of shingle to count heads.

- A. cross
- B. crossing
- C. been crossed
- D. to cross
- E. crossed

Q7. Either the guide or the two teachers _____ to walk at the back of the line at all times.

- A. was
- B. is
- C. were
- D. has
- E. being

Q8. The reason we could not linger _____ that the sea was already creeping in behind us.

- A. was
- B. is
- C. being
- D. because
- E. is because

Q9. _____ of us had ever walked so far on wet sand, and our legs ached before the second mile.

- A. Little
- B. Fewer
- C. Less
- D. Few
- E. A little

Q10. By the time we reached the island, the tide _____ behind us for nearly an hour.

- A. rose
- B. has risen
- C. had been rising
- D. was rising
- E. had rise