

English: Choose the Best Word: Hard Practice Paper 3

The Balloon Ascent

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. It was _____ a still evening that the smoke from the chimneys of Kestrel Row rose perfectly straight.

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

Q2. A boy in the crowd asked the pilot how high the balloon _____ , and was told that nobody could say.

- A. would go
- B. would it go
- C. will it go
- D. it will go
- E. did it go

Q3. The pilot, together with his two assistants, _____ the last to climb into the wicker basket.

- A. were
- B. was
- C. have been
- D. are
- E. being

Q4. Having cast off the last rope, _____ into a sky the colour of weak tea.

- A. the ground fell away below
- B. the balloon began to climb
- C. it was too late to turn back
- D. the ropes trailed in the grass
- E. the crew rose above the rooftops

Q5. Only when the town lay far below _____ how fast they were travelling.

- A. they realised
- B. they did realise
- C. realised they
- D. did they realise
- E. had they realised

Q6. Neither of the two barometers they had brought with them _____ working properly.

- A. were
- B. was
- C. are
- D. have been
- E. being

Q7. The difficulty, the pilot explained, lay not so much in rising _____ in coming down again in one piece.

- A. than
- B. but
- C. like
- D. that
- E. as

Q8. The higher the balloon climbed, _____ the air became, until every breath was an effort.

- A. thinner
- B. the thinnest
- C. the thinner
- D. more thinner
- E. the more thinner

Q9. They succeeded in _____ the valve just in time to clear a long line of elms.

- A. opening
- B. to open
- C. open
- D. opened
- E. to opening

Q10. The prize would go to _____ stayed aloft the longest, and by sunset they knew that it was theirs.

- A. whomever
- B. whom
- C. whose
- D. whoever
- E. whomsoever