

Reading Grade 5 — Practice Paper 1 — Answers & Explanations

For a parent, tutor, or the student to mark the exam paper against.

The violin — page 2 of the magazine

1. A. It stopped him feeling homesick.

Dadu says it was the only thing that stopped him feeling homesick.

2. B. His fingers were too stiff to play.

He says, "My fingers are too stiff to play, but yours are not."

3. C. Anika's first attempts sounded terrible

The comparison describes a harsh, unpleasant noise; even the dog leaves the room.

4. D. She did not give up easily.

Twice she announced she was quitting and twice she came back to it the next day: she was determined.

5. A. Nobody had ever written it down before.

The story says the teacher helped because nobody had ever written it down before.

6. B. She saw that Dadu was crying and thought something was wrong.

She looks up, sees tears on his cheeks and almost stops; her mother's nod tells her to keep going, because they are happy tears.

7. C. Anika will now keep the song alive.

The song existed only in his memory; now Anika can play it, so it will go on after him.

Antarctica — page 3 of the magazine

8. D. It gets very little rain or snow.

The section A frozen desert says that because it gets so little rain or snow, scientists call it a desert.

9. A. all the time, for good

People stay for a winter or a summer, but no one lives there for good.

10. B. They huddle together in large groups.

The text says emperor penguins huddle together in groups of thousands; it is seals that have blubber.

11. C. only for peace and science

They agreed it would be used only for peaceful purposes and for science, and mining is not allowed.

12. Answer: 1959

The section Protecting Antarctica says twelve countries signed it in 1959.

13. D. They show what each section is about.

Each heading names the topic of the section under it: the desert, who lives there, protection.

14. A. almost twice as big as Australia

The fact box gives its size as almost twice as big as Australia.

Should homework be banned? — page 4 of the magazine

15. B. for homework to be banned

Her letter is headed Yes — let kids be kids and ends, "Let's ban homework."

16. C. His homework takes so long that it gets dark.

She says by the time he is done it is dark, and he has missed his chance.

17. D. at school, with a teacher to help

She answers the argument for homework by saying children can learn that at school, with a teacher there to help.

18. A. It helps him remember what he learned.

He says practicing his times tables at home helps him remember them in class the next day.

19. B. Homework should not be boring or too long.

Maria complains of boring sheets that take an hour; Tom agrees homework should not be boring or take too long.

20. C. regular practice is needed to do well

A team that trains only on game day would play badly; learning also needs regular practice.

Make a floating compass — page 5 of the magazine

21. D. explain how to make a compass

It lists what you need and the steps to follow to make a compass.

22. A. Lift the magnet away.

Step 1 says to lift the magnet away at the end of each stroke.

23. B. so it can float and turn freely

The cork floats on the water, and a magnet that is free to turn lines up north to south.

24. C. Metal can pull the needle the wrong way.

Step 3 and the fact box both say to keep away from metal, which can pull the needle the wrong way.

25. D. The Earth acts like a giant magnet.

The fact box says the Earth acts like a giant magnet, so a magnet free to turn lines up north to south.

When the rain came — page 6 of the magazine

26. A. There is a drought.

All summer the paddocks crack, the creek is a dusty track and there is no rain.

27. B. heavy and drooping

Lead is a very heavy metal. In the heat and dryness the leaves hang limp and still.

28. C. He was hoping to see rain clouds.

The clouds rolled in and then away again; he was waiting for rain.

29. D. overjoyed

They ran out into the cold and splashed, laughed and sang.

30. A. Dad had not smiled for a long time

It is the first smile on Dad the speaker has seen in months, which shows how worried he had been.

Meet a volcano scientist — page 7 of the magazine

31. B. so that people nearby can get to safety

Dr Park says they do it so that people living nearby can get to safety in time.

32. C. very hot

The comparison is about the heat she felt on her face.

33. D. Scientists can say an eruption is likely, but not exactly when.

She says they can say an eruption is likely soon, but not the exact day or hour.

34. A. the colour of the sky

She lists tiny earthquakes, changes in the ground and gases. The sky is not mentioned.

35. B. the questions Kai asked

Each one is a question, and Dr Park's answer follows it: the format of an interview.

Ask Dr Paws — page 8 of the magazine

36. C. dark chocolate

Dr Ahmed says dark chocolate is the most dangerous kind.

37. D. what it ate, how much and how big the dog is

The answer says to tell them what your dog ate, how much it ate and how big your dog is.

38. A. They clean themselves with their tongues.

Cats keep themselves clean with their rough tongues.

39. B. Rabbits chew everything, and could chew the cords.

Rabbits chew to wear their teeth down, so a cord in reach is likely to be chewed.

PrepNest