EXAM PAPER

Reading Grade 6 — Practice Paper 1

PREVIEW
This file has the first 16 of the 40 questions in this paper. The rest is locked: it comes with a PrepNest plan, or with the paper itself for VCE.

Total time: 50 minutes

SECTIONS IN THIS PAPER

- The Keeper of the Light
- The Truth About Sharks
- Let Us Choose What We Read
- The Day the River Rose
- Short texts

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer every question you can. Write your working in the space provided for long-answer questions. Marking guidance and full explanations are provided in the separate answer key.

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Read ***The Keeper of the Light*** and answer questions 1 to 8.

THE KEEPER OF THE LIGHT

For forty-one years, Tomas had climbed the ninety-eight steps to the lamp room every evening at dusk. He knew which step creaked, which one was worn smooth in the middle, and which one to avoid in winter when the damp came through the stone.

The letter had arrived in March. The lighthouse was to be automated. A machine would switch the lamp on at dusk and off at dawn, and it would not need a keeper, a cottage, or ninety-eight steps climbed twice a day.

Tomas did not argue. He understood the arithmetic of it. What he could not explain to the man from the department, who had been polite and had stayed exactly eleven minutes, was that the lamp was not the only thing he had been keeping.

He had kept the record book, in which every ship that passed had been noted in his small, square handwriting. He had kept the habit of watching the water at three in the morning, when the fishing boats came back in weather that should have kept them home. Twice he had kept a man alive by noticing, from ninety-eight steps up, that a light on the water was not moving the way a light on the water should.

On his last evening he climbed the steps as usual. He lit the lamp, though the machine was already installed and would have done it for him, and he sat with it until the sky went grey.

1. How long had Tomas worked at the lighthouse?

A. Eleven years

B. Twenty-one years

C. Forty-one years

D. Ninety-eight years

2. What does the detail about knowing which step creaked suggest?

A. The routine had become deeply familiar through long repetition

B. The lighthouse was badly built

C. Tomas was afraid of the stairs

D. The steps needed repairing

3. "He understood the arithmetic of it." What does this mean?

A. He had studied mathematics

B. He had counted the steps himself

C. He disagreed with the numbers in the letter

D. He accepted that the decision made financial sense

4. Why does the writer mention that the man from the department "stayed exactly eleven minutes"?

A. To show he was in a hurry to catch a train

B. To suggest the decision was impersonal and he had little interest in Tomas

C. To show how short the meeting was meant to be

D. To explain that he was rude to Tomas

5. What does the writer mean by "the lamp was not the only thing he had been keeping"?

A. He had taken things from the lighthouse

B. He had also kept records and watched over the fishing boats

C. He had kept the cottage tidy

D. He had kept the letter a secret

6. What had Tomas done twice?

A. Repaired the lamp himself

B. Written to the department

C. Refused to climb the steps

D. Noticed a light moving wrongly and saved a man’s life

7. Why does Tomas light the lamp on his last evening even though the machine would do it?

A. The act matters to him personally, as a way of saying goodbye

B. He does not trust the new machine

C. He has not been told the machine is working

D. He wants to prove the machine is unnecessary

8. Which word best describes the mood of this text?

A. Angry

B. Frightening

C. Wistful

D. Cheerful

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Read ***The Truth About Sharks*** and answer questions 9 to 16.

THE TRUTH ABOUT SHARKS

If you asked a hundred people to name the animal most likely to kill them, a great many would say shark. They would be wrong by a very large margin.

Worldwide, sharks are involved in fewer than ten fatal incidents a year. Hippopotamuses kill around five hundred people. Mosquitoes, which spread diseases such as malaria, are responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths. A person is more likely to die from a falling coconut, a vending machine, or their own bathtub than from a shark.

So why is the fear so strong? Part of the answer is that our sense of risk is built for stories, not for statistics. A shark attack is dramatic, unusual and easy to picture, and every one of them is reported. A malaria death is none of those things. When something is easy to bring to mind, we assume it must be common.

The consequences are not harmless. Fear has made it politically easy to kill sharks in large numbers, and roughly a third of shark species are now threatened with extinction. Sharks mature slowly and produce few young, so their populations recover slowly or not at all.

Meanwhile the animals themselves behave nothing like the films. Most species are smaller than an adult human and eat fish. Of the more than five hundred known species, fewer than ten have ever been involved in a fatal incident with a person.

The shark, it turns out, has far more to fear from us.

9. How many fatal shark incidents occur worldwide each year?

A. About five hundred

B. About a hundred

C. Hundreds of thousands

D. Fewer than ten

10. Which animal does the text say kills around five hundred people a year?

A. The mosquito

B. The hippopotamus

C. The shark

D. The crocodile

11. "our sense of risk is built for stories, not for statistics" — what does the writer mean?

A. People prefer reading fiction to reading numbers

B. Statistics about sharks are unreliable

C. We judge danger by how easily we can picture it rather than by the numbers

D. Stories about sharks are usually untrue

12. Why does the writer mention coconuts, vending machines and bathtubs?

A. To show how small the risk from sharks is by comparison

B. To list other dangers people should worry about

C. To suggest that homes are dangerous places

D. To make the article more amusing

13. What proportion of shark species are threatened with extinction?

A. About a third

B. About a tenth

C. About a half

D. Nearly all of them

14. Why do shark populations recover slowly?

A. They are hunted all year round

B. They live in very cold water

C. They mature slowly and produce few young

D. They have few places left to live

15. "The shark, it turns out, has far more to fear from us." Why does the writer end with this sentence?

A. To warn readers to stay out of the sea

B. To reverse the idea the article began with

C. To explain how sharks hunt

D. To suggest sharks are becoming more dangerous

16. What is the writer’s main purpose?

A. To describe how sharks hunt

B. To persuade readers to swim less often

C. To compare sharks with hippopotamuses

D. To correct a common misunderstanding about sharks

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24 questions locked, up to question 40.

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PREVIEW

That’s the end of the preview

You’ve seen the first 16 of the 40 questions in Reading Grade 6 — Practice Paper 1. The full paper is worth 40 marks.

STILL TO COME	QUESTIONS	MARKS
Let Us Choose What We Read	8	8
The Day the River Rose	8	8
Short texts	8	8

The full paper comes with

- Every question, printed exactly like the ones in this preview
- The complete answer key, with the working behind every mark
- A topic report after marking, showing what to practice next

Get the full paper at

prepnest.com.au/practice/exams/reading-grade_6-1

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