

Reading Year 7 — Practice Paper 1 — Answers & Explanations

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

The night shift — page 2 of the magazine

1. A. She asked to spend a night shift at the bakery with her father.

She calls it the strangest present her friends had heard of: going with Dad to the bakery at 2.45 am.

2. B. was very tired

Her body is given a voice pleading to stay in bed; she still says she is sure, so it shows tiredness, not a change of mind.

3. D. slept in the afternoons and missed early assemblies

She knew him as a man who napped in the afternoons, smelled of yeast and missed every assembly before lunch.

4. A. lay in a thin white layer over everything

A light fall of snow leaves a thin white covering, like the flour on every surface.

5. B. each step takes time and must be done in order

It follows his rule one, "Everything happens in order": bread-making cannot be hurried.

6. C. so strong it seemed to fill everything

Describing a smell as nearly a sound exaggerates how powerfully it filled the bakery.

7. D. He missed them because he was feeding people who start work early, not because he did not care.

Watching the early workers served, "something clicked into place": he had been at work feeding them.

8. A. to show he is proud of her effort

He keeps her first imperfect roll and writes "Not bad for a beginner": affectionate pride, a keepsake of the day.

Why do we yawn? — page 3 of the magazine

9. B. to show that yawning is common but still a mystery

It establishes how common yawning is, then says scientists still disagree about why we do it.

10. C. The oxygen theory is probably wrong.

Volunteers yawned just as often with extra oxygen or extra carbon dioxide, so yawning did not track oxygen levels.

11. D. A gulp of hot air would not cool the brain.

The text says people yawn less on very hot days, when a gulp of air would not cool them down.

12. A. The body may be trying to make the brain more alert.

Supporters say a cooler brain is a more alert brain, so the body may be trying to wake us up.

13. B. to involve the reader and show how contagious yawning is

It speaks directly to the reader and plays on the point just made: even reading about yawning can set you off.

14. C. empathy

The text says contagious yawning seems to be linked to empathy, our ability to understand others' feelings.

15. D. Nobody knows for certain, and yawning may have more than one purpose.

The final paragraph says nobody knows for certain and the yawn may do more than one job.

Balloons belong on the ground — page 4 of the magazine

16. A. Deliberate balloon releases should be stopped.

The title and closing line argue for keeping balloons on the ground, and he calls for the rest of the country to ban releases.

17. B. to set up a contrast with the harm balloons cause

He starts with the attractive image, then turns with "But what goes up must come down" to the damage.

18. C. Deflated balloons look like jellyfish, which turtles eat.

A deflated balloon with its ribbon looks remarkably like a jellyfish, a favourite turtle food.

19. D. Balloons were a small share of the plastic swallowed but the most likely to kill.

Although balloons were only a small share of what the birds swallowed, they were by far the most likely item to kill them.

20. A. to show that the claim is less reassuring than it sounds

He grants that the word sounds reassuring, then points out latex can take months or years to break down.

21. B. to answer the worry that celebrations would be dull without balloons

The paragraph begins, “None of this means our celebrations have to be dull,” then offers alternatives.

22. C. an animal that might swallow the balloon

Earlier paragraphs describe turtles and seabirds swallowing balloons; “someone” makes the animal’s suffering personal.

Nan’s garden, after — page 5 of the magazine

23. D. She has died.

The family has come to clear her house, and “she’d gone”; the last line talks of her way of staying.

24. A. the garden carries on growing as if nothing has changed

Giving the tomatoes a mind of their own shows the garden continuing, unaware of the loss.

25. B. They keep a trace of Nan, as if she had only just taken them off.

The gloves still hold the shape of her hands, a physical reminder of her presence and her work in the garden.

26. C. holds them tenderly, as something precious

The comparison to how she held her child shows care and love: the lemons have become precious because they are Nan’s.

27. D. sad but gentle

It is about loss and grief, but it is quiet and tender, and it ends with a comforting thought.

28. A. The lemons from her tree kept her memory close for a time.

Every meal that week had her lemons in it, so part of her stayed with them for a while.

How do noise-cancelling headphones work? — page 6 of the magazine

29. B. by describing an experience the reader may have had

It opens with switching the headphones on in a plane and the engine roar fading away.

30. C. squeezed together

The text says peaks are where the air is squeezed and troughs where it is spread out.

31. D. pick up the noise around you

The microphones pick up the noise around you.

32. A. a sound wave that is the exact opposite of the noise

It creates a new wave where the noise has a peak and it has a trough, so the two cancel.

33. B. two waves cancelling each other out

The sentence before it describes the two waves cancelling; the term names that effect.

34. C. They change too quickly for the chip to predict.

Steady low sounds can be predicted; sudden or high sounds change too quickly to cancel completely.

Fred Hollows: the doctor who gave sight — page 7 of the magazine

35. D. an infectious eye disease that can cause blindness

The text defines it as an infectious disease that scars the eyelids and can lead to blindness. Cataracts are the clouding of the lens.

36. A. A disease gone from most wealthy countries was common there.

Trachoma had been wiped out in most wealthy countries, yet it was common in one of the richest nations on Earth.

37. B. to take eye care to Aboriginal communities across Australia

Teams travelled to Aboriginal communities across Australia to examine and treat people.

38. C. The plastic lenses were too expensive.

The operation is short, but the plastic lenses were too expensive for poor countries.

39. D. built factories in Nepal and Eritrea to make cheap lenses

The foundation built factories in Nepal and Eritrea to make lenses for a small fraction of the price.

40. A. Hollows worked to bring eye care to people who could not otherwise get it.

Every section shows him taking eye care to those without it; the other options are single details.

Tidebreaker — page 8 of the magazine

41. B. looks beautiful but has problems

“Gorgeous to look at and frustrating to watch” sets up the praise for the visuals and the criticism of the story.

42. C. A storm has sunk the fishing fleet, and the whale is said to calm any sea.

After the storm sinks the fleet, she goes to find the legendary whale said to calm any sea.

43. D. the ocean is shown so vividly that it seems alive

The ocean changes mood from calm to towering walls of water, as if it had a personality.

44. A. The hermit crab is annoying.

Scuttle the hermit crab is praised: younger viewers will love him and he steals every scene.

45. B. predictable

Seeing something coming from a mile away means you expect it long before it happens.

How Year 7 spends its afternoons — page 9 of the magazine

46. Answer: 200

The Student Council asked 200 Year 7 students.

47. C. 34 minutes

The table gives Homework as 34 minutes.

48. C. reading for fun

Reading for fun is the smallest amount in the table, at 11 minutes, and the text says it came last.

49. D. Most students wanted more time with friends in person, not more screen time.

Screens took most time, yet the top wish was to hang out with friends in person (38%); screens were only 12%.

50. A. to argue for more lunchtime and after-school clubs

The last sentence says they will argue for more lunchtime and after-school clubs.