

QUESTION PAPER

Reading Year 9 — Practice Paper 1

YOU WILL NEED

The Reading Magazine for this paper (a separate PDF). Print it too, or open it on a screen beside you.

Total time: 65 minutes

SECTIONS IN THIS PAPER

- The keeper's daughter — page 2 of the magazine
- Why forgetting is good for you — page 3 of the magazine
- The case for handwriting — page 4 of the magazine
- Migration — page 5 of the magazine
- The wire that shrank the world — page 6 of the magazine
- Local family discovers "outside" — page 7 of the magazine
- The Glass Orchard — page 8 of the magazine
- Food waste in Westvale — page 9 of the magazine

INSTRUCTIONS

Each part of this paper tells you which text in the magazine to read and the page it is on. Read the text first, then answer its questions. You may look back at the magazine as often as you like. 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.

Read ***The keeper's daughter*** on page 2 of the magazine and answer questions 1 to 8.

1. Why was Zara alone at the museum?

A. No one else wanted the Saturday shift.

B. Mrs Hendry was sick.

C. The museum was closed to visitors.

D. She had asked to work alone.

2. What is the effect of the one-sentence paragraph "Zara read them properly."?

A. It shows Zara was a slow reader.

B. It stresses that Zara deliberately ignored the instruction.

C. It tells us the documents were easy to read.

D. It shows that Mrs Hendry was watching her.

3. What does the change in handwriting halfway through the logbook reveal?

A. The keeper had changed pens.

B. The logbook had been damaged.

C. Someone other than the keeper had begun writing the log.

D. The entries were written years later.

4. "I say if I keep the light, I keep the log." This shows that the girl

A. wanted to disobey her mother for fun

B. thought the log was more important than the light

C. did not know how to keep the light

D. believed her work gave her the right to record it

5. Why does the girl write, "I do not think her captain will ever know my name"?

A. She knows her part in saving the ship will go unrecognised.

B. She is angry that the captain did not thank her.

C. She has forgotten the captain's name.

D. She does not want the captain to find her.

6. Why are the words “He says I did well” important?

A. They show she did not believe she had done well.

B. They show how much her father’s recognition meant to her.

C. They show her father was still unwell.

D. They are the last words in the logbook.

7. The museum’s list of keepers includes only men. This detail suggests that

A. women were not allowed in lighthouses

B. the list was incomplete by accident

C. official history had left out Annie’s contribution

D. Annie never really kept the light

8. What is the main purpose of the card Zara writes at the end?

A. to correct a spelling mistake in the display

B. to thank Mrs Hendry for her help

C. to advertise the museum

D. to give Annie the recognition she had never received

Read ***Why forgetting is good for you*** on page 3 of the magazine and answer questions 9 to 15.

9. Which view of forgetting does the writer challenge in the first paragraph?

A. that forgetting is a failure

B. that forgetting only happens to older people

C. that forgetting can be cured

D. that forgetting happens during sleep

10. Why did Ebbinghaus most likely use meaningless syllables such as “dax” and “bup”?

A. because they were easier to pronounce

B. so that what he already knew could not help him remember

C. because real words were too short

D. so that he could make up a new language

11. What does the forgetting curve show?

A. Memories fade at the same rate forever.

B. People remember more after a week than after a day.

C. Much is forgotten within a day, and forgetting then slows down.

D. Nothing is forgotten if it is learned well.

12. According to the text, how does forgetting make the brain more efficient?

A. It frees up energy for exercise.

B. It stops the brain from growing too large.

C. It makes people learn faster.

D. Letting unimportant details fade keeps important things easy to find.

13. Why does the writer use the example of recognising a dog?

A. to show that forgetting details helps us see general patterns

B. to explain how animals remember

C. to show that dogs are hard to recognise

D. to suggest owning a dog improves memory

14. What does the writer mean by an “illusion of knowing”?

A. remembering something that never happened

B. feeling you have learned something because the words look familiar

C. knowing the answer but being unable to say it

D. forgetting something you know well

15. Which study habit does the text warn may be less effective than it feels?

A. testing yourself

B. spreading out study sessions

C. rereading notes

D. getting enough sleep

PrepNest

Read ***The case for handwriting*** on page 4 of the magazine and answer questions 16 to 22.

16. What is the writer's main argument?

A. Typing should be banned in schools.

B. Handwriting should replace typing.

C. Students should only take notes by hand.

D. Handwriting should still be taught alongside typing.

17. How does the writer begin her argument?

A. by setting out the other side's reasoning before disagreeing

B. by describing a student who failed an exam

C. by listing statistics about typing speed

D. by telling a joke

18. According to the study, why did students who wrote by hand understand lectures better?

A. They recorded more words.

B. They had to decide what mattered and use their own words.

C. They could read their notes more easily.

D. They sat closer to the lecturer.

19. Why does the writer call handwriting "a matter of fairness"?

A. Some students cannot afford laptops.

B. Handwriting is easier for everyone.

C. Many important exams are still sat on paper.

D. Teachers mark handwritten work more kindly.

20. Why does the writer include the paragraph that begins "None of this means we should throw away our laptops"?

A. to change her mind about handwriting

B. to argue that laptops are harmful

C. to introduce a new study

D. to acknowledge the benefits of typing and show her position is balanced

21. What does the writer propose?

A. twenty minutes of handwriting a week in the middle years

B. handwriting lessons every day until Year 12

C. no typing before Year 4

D. handwritten exams only

22. In the final paragraph, the writer challenges readers to

A. type a summary of the article

B. test her argument for themselves by writing from memory

C. write a letter to their school

D. read the study she mentioned

PrepNest

Read **Migration** on page 5 of the magazine and answer questions 23 to 28.

23. Which two journeys does the poem bring together?

A. a ship's voyage and a plane flight

B. the tide coming in and going out

C. the godwits' migration and the grandmother's migration

D. the speaker's journey to school and back

24. "A word or two of English folded in her pocket like a map she could not read" suggests that

A. she had lost her map

B. she could not read at all

C. she spoke English well but was shy

D. her little English could not yet help her find her way

25. How did the grandmother feel during her first winter?

A. very lonely

B. excited

C. angry

D. relieved

26. "The strange streets began to hold her the way the tide holds the flats, gently, and then completely." This suggests that

A. she was trapped in the city

B. she slowly came to feel she belonged

C. she moved closer to the sea

D. she lost her way in the streets

27. Why does the speaker think the grandmother is the only one who knows "exactly what they are leaving"?

A. She has studied godwits for years.

B. She has visited the place the birds fly to.

C. She has also left a home behind.

D. She is the oldest person on the shore.

28. How is the poem organised?

A. as a list of facts about godwits

B. as a conversation between two people

C. in the order the birds visit different countries

D. from the birds, to the grandmother's past, to a moment joining both

PrepNest

Read ***The wire that shrank the world*** on page 6 of the magazine and answer questions 29 to 35.

29. Before 1872, about how long did news from Britain take to reach Australia?

A. about two months

B. about two days

C. about two weeks

D. about two years

30. What happened to messages once they reached Darwin?

A. They were put on a ship to Britain.

B. An undersea cable carried them on to Java and London.

C. They were sent back to Adelaide.

D. They were printed in the local newspaper.

31. What problem did termites cause?

A. They damaged the wire.

B. They spoiled the food supplies.

C. They ate the wooden poles.

D. They attacked the workers.

32. Why were repeater stations built along the line?

A. to house the soldiers guarding the line

B. to store spare poles

C. to sell supplies to travellers

D. to boost the signal

33. Why does the writer mention Aboriginal people in this account?

A. to show the land was already known and that the line disrupted their lives

B. to explain who built the telegraph

C. to show they used the telegraph first

D. to describe the route Stuart took

34. The phrase “tyranny of distance” describes

A. the cruelty of the telegraph managers

B. Australia being cut off from the world by great distances

C. the long hours the workers laboured

D. the length of the telegraph line

35. Why is the text called “The wire that shrank the world”?

A. The wire was shorter than expected.

B. The wire was so thin it was hard to see.

C. The telegraph made the world feel much closer by making communication fast.

D. The telegraph was built around the world.

PrepNest

Read **Local family discovers “outside”** on page 7 of the magazine and answer questions 36 to 40.

36. What is the main purpose of this text?

A. to report a real scientific discovery

B. to warn families about wild animals

C. to advertise a new video game

D. to make fun of how much time people spend on screens

37. Why did Daniel open the sliding door?

A. The Wi-Fi had gone down.

B. He heard the dog barking.

C. His parents told him to.

D. He wanted to find a park.

38. Daniel says “the graphics were better than anything I’ve played”. This is funny because

A. he has never played a video game

B. he describes the real world as if it were a video game

C. the sky really looked like a video game

D. he is making fun of his sister

39. The name “Institute of Obvious Studies” tells the reader that

A. the institute is a real research centre

B. the family is very clever

C. the “expert” is stating things everyone already knows

D. the study was kept secret

40. What point does the last sentence make by saying that outside is “free to play”?

A. Parents should buy more games.

B. Parks charge an entry fee.

C. The family will stop playing games.

D. Going outside costs nothing, unlike many games.

Read ***The Glass Orchard*** on page 8 of the magazine and answer questions 41 to 45.

41. "It deserves most of it." The reviewer thinks the excitement about the novel is

A. mostly justified

B. completely unfair

C. too small

D. about the wrong book

42. Why are the orchards sealed under glass domes in the novel?

A. to keep out thieves

B. to protect them from a blight

C. to grow fruit faster

D. to keep them warm in winter

43. What makes Wren suspect that she has not been told the whole truth?

A. Tomas tells her a secret.

B. The bees come back.

C. She finds a healthy wild apple tree outside the dome.

D. The company director gives a speech.

44. Which part of the novel does the reviewer praise most?

A. the fast-moving ending

B. the villain

C. the romance between Wren and Tomas

D. the descriptions of the domes and the world of the story

45. What is the reviewer's main criticism?

A. The last third is rushed and settles for simple answers.

B. The narrator is dull.

C. The setting is unbelievable.

D. The book is too short.

Read **Food waste in Westvale** on page 9 of the magazine and answer questions 46 to 50.

46. How did the council collect its information?

A. Council workers weighed rubbish trucks for a year.

B. 500 households recorded the food they threw away for a week.

C. Shops reported what food they sold.

D. Residents answered an online poll about recycling.

47. How many kilograms of leftovers did an average household throw away each week? Write the number.

48. Why were many fruits and vegetables thrown away?

A. They were too expensive to cook.

B. They were already rotten when bought.

C. They were bought and then forgotten at the back of the fridge.

D. People did not like the taste.

49. What is the difference between a best-before date and a use-by date?

A. Best-before is about safety; use-by is about quality.

B. They mean the same thing.

C. Use-by dates are only for frozen food.

D. Best-before is about quality; use-by is about safety.

50. What is the purpose of the Buy It, Use It campaign?

A. to help households waste less food

B. to sell more fresh fruit

C. to collect food for charity

D. to fine households that waste food