QUESTION PAPER

Reading Year 9 — Practice Paper 2

PREVIEW
This file has the first 28 of the 51 questions in this paper. The rest is locked: it comes with a PrepNest plan, or with the paper itself for VCE.

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 tapes — page 2 of the magazine
- Stage fright: your body’s false alarm — page 4 of the magazine
- Sixteen is old enough — page 5 of the magazine
- What the river knows — page 6 of the magazine
- Marie Tharp: mapping the ocean floor — page 7 of the magazine
- Caught in a rip — page 8 of the magazine
- The new Harbourside Library — page 9 of the magazine
- Riverton Dam over ten summers — page 10 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.

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Read ***The tapes*** on page 2 of the magazine and answer questions 1 to 8.

1. Why had Leila stopped correcting her grandfather when he got her name wrong?

A. It only frightened him.

B. She liked being called Suzie.

C. Her mother told her not to.

D. He never heard her anyway.

2. Grandpa is sometimes polite and distant, “the way people are with strangers on trains”. This comparison shows that

A. he liked travelling by train

B. he treated Leila as if he did not know her

C. he was rude to Leila

D. he wanted to leave Greenhaven

3. What does Leila learn about her grandfather from her mother?

A. He had fixed bicycles for a living.

B. He had once been a famous singer.

C. He had grown up in Riverview.

D. He had been a radio presenter for twenty years.

4. What does the voice on the tape — “young, bright, impossibly quick” — show about Grandpa?

A. how lively and energetic he once was

B. that the tape was recorded too fast

C. that someone else presented the show

D. that he was nervous on air

5. “He had stopped turning the spoon.” Why does the writer include this short sentence?

A. to show he has fallen asleep

B. to show the first sign that the tape is reaching him

C. to show he dislikes the noise

D. to show the staff have taken the spoon

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6. Why does Leila answer “Every morning” instead of explaining she had not been born yet?

A. because she had listened to the tapes before

B. because she was confused

C. to give him a moment of happiness and connection

D. to trick him into remembering her

7. Why does Leila’s mother put her hand over her mouth?

A. She is trying not to laugh.

B. She is shocked by the old music.

C. She wants Leila to stop talking.

D. She is overcome with emotion when he recognises himself.

8. What does the final sentence suggest about the tapes?

A. They give him brief moments of knowing himself again.

B. They cure his memory loss.

C. They make him remember Leila permanently.

D. They are the only thing he enjoys.

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Read ***Stage fright: your body's false alarm*** on page 4 of the magazine and answer questions 9 to 15.

9. How does the writer open the article?

A. with a definition of adrenaline

B. by putting the reader into a familiar, stressful moment

C. with a story about a famous singer

D. by listing statistics about fear

10. What makes the heart beat faster during stage fright?

A. the audience clapping

B. a lack of sleep

C. adrenaline released by the adrenal glands

D. breathing too slowly

11. According to the text, why does your mouth go dry?

A. You breathe through your mouth.

B. You have been talking too much.

C. The room is too warm.

D. Digestion slows down.

12. Why might our brains be so sensitive to being judged by others?

A. For most of history, being rejected by your group was dangerous.

B. Speeches are harder than they used to be.

C. Classmates are more critical than strangers.

D. Adrenaline makes us care what others think.

13. According to the text, what is the main difference between fear and excitement?

A. how fast the heart beats

B. how we interpret the same physical feelings

C. whether adrenaline is released

D. whether we are alone or in a crowd

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14. What did the experiment described in the text find?

A. People who said “I am calm” gave better speeches.

B. Saying anything aloud made speeches worse.

C. People who said “I am excited” gave better speeches.

D. Neither group improved.

15. Stage fright is called “an old alarm doing its job a little too enthusiastically”. This means it is

A. a sign that something is wrong with the brain

B. an alarm that has stopped working

C. a feeling only older people have

D. a useful survival response set off when there is no real danger

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Read ***Sixteen is old enough*** on page 5 of the magazine and answer questions 16 to 22.

16. What is Harriet arguing for?

A. lowering the voting age to sixteen

B. raising the driving age

C. making voting optional

D. letting sixteen-year-olds leave school

17. Why does Harriet begin by listing what sixteen-year-olds are allowed to do?

A. to explain the law to young people

B. to show they are already trusted with adult responsibilities

C. to complain that sixteen-year-olds work too hard

D. to show that driving is dangerous

18. What is Harriet's argument about fairness?

A. Everyone should pay the same tax.

B. Older people should not be allowed to vote.

C. Young people will live longest with the results of today's decisions.

D. Voting should be free.

19. Why does Harriet mention Austria?

A. to show that Austria has a better government

B. because Austria has compulsory voting

C. to argue that the voting age should be eighteen

D. as evidence that voting early can build a lifelong habit

20. Why does Harriet think sixteen is a better age than eighteen to start voting?

A. Sixteen-year-olds are usually still at home and school, where they can be taught how to vote.

B. Sixteen-year-olds know more about politics.

C. Eighteen-year-olds are too busy to care.

D. Eighteen-year-olds cannot enrol.

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21. How does Harriet respond to the claim that sixteen-year-olds are not mature enough?

A. She agrees and changes her motion.

B. Adults take no maturity test, and studies show little difference.

C. She says maturity does not matter at all.

D. She ignores the claim.

22. “A vote is not a reward for turning eighteen.” Harriet means that

A. eighteen-year-olds should not vote

B. people should be paid to vote

C. voting is about having a voice, not a prize for reaching an age

D. birthdays are more important than elections

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Read ***What the river knows*** on page 6 of the magazine and answer questions 23 to 28.

23. What is the main idea of the poem?

A. The river is polluted by the town.

B. The bridge is about to collapse.

C. People should throw coins into rivers.

D. The river is ancient and patient, and outlasts human things.

24. “It remembers the floods the way skin remembers a scar.” This suggests that the floods

A. left lasting marks on the river and its banks

B. were forgotten quickly

C. hurt the people of the town

D. happened only once

25. What do “canoes of bark” and “the paddle-steamers’ smoke” show?

A. the river was once used for racing

B. the river has seen many different eras of people

C. the river is too shallow for boats now

D. the town is famous for its boats

26. “The drought that showed its bones” most likely describes

A. animal bones found in the river

B. the river flooding its banks

C. the riverbed and rocks exposed when the water was low

D. a very cold winter

27. The phrase “one grain at a time” emphasises

A. how small the river is

B. how much sand the river carries

C. how the river is measured

D. how slowly and patiently the river works

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28. What do the final words, “go on, go on, go on”, suggest?

A. the endless flow of the river, and a message to keep going

B. that the river wants people to leave

C. that the river is about to dry up

D. the sound of the bridge in the wind

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23 questions locked, up to question 51.

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PREVIEW

That’s the end of the preview

You’ve seen the first 28 of the 51 questions in Reading Year 9 — Practice Paper 2. The full paper is worth 51 marks.

STILL TO COME	QUESTIONS	MARKS
Marie Tharp: mapping the ocean floor — page 7 of the magazine	6	6
Caught in a rip — page 8 of the magazine	6	6
The new Harbourside Library — page 9 of the magazine	5	5
Riverton Dam over ten summers — page 10 of the magazine	6	6

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-year_9-2

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