QUESTION PAPER

Reading Year 9 — Practice Paper 3

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

- Firebreak — page 2 of the magazine
- How bats see with sound — page 3 of the magazine
- Is social media good for teenagers? — page 4 of the magazine
- Heirloom — page 5 of the magazine
- The 1967 referendum — page 6 of the magazine
- Farewell, class of 2026 — page 7 of the magazine
- Lao Ma’s Kitchen — page 8 of the magazine
- How Westbrook students get to school — 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.

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

1. Pop sniffs the wind “the way other people check a weather app”. This suggests that he

A. reads the weather from long experience

B. does not own a phone

C. is worried about his health

D. dislikes modern technology

2. What is the firebreak?

A. a wall built around the garden

B. a strip of bare earth around the house block

C. a dam for fighting fires

D. a road through the paddocks

3. Why doesn’t Josh complain about the firebreak this year?

A. Pop is paying him.

B. The job is easier this year.

C. Last summer a fire came frighteningly close.

D. His parents told him not to.

4. What is the effect of the sentence “Eleven kilometres was not very far”?

A. It shows the fire was a long way away.

B. It tells the reader how big the farm is.

C. It shows Josh is bad at judging distance.

D. It shows Josh now understands how close the danger was.

5. What do the details of the heat, the screaming cicadas and the willy-willies suggest about the day?

A. The conditions are hot, dry and windy — dangerous for fire.

B. A storm is about to break.

C. It is the middle of winter.

D. The work is nearly finished.

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6. Why does Pop rub the scar on his wrist when he talks about fires in the past?

A. His wrist is sore from the work.

B. It reminds him of the years when the fire won.

C. He is nervous about the question.

D. He wants Josh to see the scar.

7. Why has Pop changed his mind about staying to fight a fire?

A. He is too old to use a hose.

B. His house is insured.

C. Fires are hotter and faster now, and a life cannot be rebuilt.

D. The fire brigade will defend the house.

8. What does Pop’s added line, DON’T FORGET THE DOG, suggest?

A. He thinks Josh will forget everything.

B. He does not take the plan seriously.

C. He wants to stay behind with the dog.

D. He has accepted the plan and added what matters to him.

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Read ***How bats see with sound*** on page 3 of the magazine and answer questions 9 to 15.

9. What is echolocation?

A. finding things by listening to echoes

B. seeing in the dark with large eyes

C. flying by following smells

D. calling to other bats

10. Why can people usually not hear bat calls?

A. Bats call very quietly.

B. The calls are too high-pitched.

C. Bats only call in caves.

D. The calls are drowned out by insects.

11. How does a bat tell how far away an object is?

A. by how loud its own call is

B. by the colour of the object

C. by how long the echo takes to return

D. by how fast it is flying

12. How does a bat work out the direction of an object?

A. by turning its head in a circle

B. by calling from two directions

C. by feeling the air move

D. from small differences between the echoes reaching each ear

13. Why does a bat speed up its calls as it closes in on an insect?

A. to get constant updates on exactly where the prey is

B. to frighten the insect

C. to warn other bats away

D. because it is running out of breath

14. What does the heading “An arms race” suggest about bats and insects?

A. Bats and insects fight with weapons.

B. Each side keeps developing new ways to beat the other.

C. Insects always win.

D. Bats and insects work together.

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15. Which bats rely mainly on sight and smell rather than echolocation?

A. bats that hunt moths

B. bats with large ears

C. large fruit bats such as flying-foxes

D. all Australian bats

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Read ***Is social media good for teenagers?*** on page 4 of the magazine and answer questions 16 to 22.

16. What is Priya’s main point?

A. Social media should be banned for teenagers.

B. Adults use social media too much.

C. Teenagers should only use social media for school.

D. Social media connects teenagers and brings real benefits.

17. How did social media help Priya when she changed schools?

A. A group chat with old friends kept her from feeling alone.

B. She found a new school online.

C. She made money from videos.

D. She learned about her new teachers.

18. According to Priya, what is the best response to the risks of social media?

A. switching it off completely

B. teaching young people to use it wisely

C. letting parents read every message

D. using it only on weekends

19. Which change does Tom say he has noticed since deleting his apps?

A. He has more friends.

B. He earns more money.

C. He sleeps better.

D. He watches more television.

20. Why does Tom describe other people’s photos as “carefully edited”?

A. to praise their photography skills

B. to explain how to edit photos

C. to show that he misses social media

D. to show that comparing yourself with them is unfair

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21. According to Tom, why are the apps designed to keep people scrolling?

A. Their makers earn money from advertising.

B. Users ask for more content.

C. It helps people sleep.

D. Schools require it.

22. On which point do Priya and Tom agree?

A. Social media should be banned.

B. Neither thinks everyone should stop using social media.

C. Social media has no risks.

D. Teenagers should use social media more.

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

23. When did the watch stop?

A. when it was dropped

B. on the speaker’s birthday

C. in the winter the grandfather died

D. when it was put in the drawer

24. Why has “no one had the heart” to wind the watch?

A. No one knows how to wind it.

B. The watch is broken beyond repair.

C. The family plans to sell it.

D. Letting it stay stopped keeps a link to his death and his memory.

25. What does “the keys to doors we no longer own” suggest about the drawer?

A. It holds things kept for memory, not for use.

B. It is locked.

C. The family has lost its house.

D. It is full of spare keys.

26. “The gold gone soft and pale where his thumb wore it smooth” shows that

A. the watch was cheap

B. he handled the watch constantly for many years

C. the watch was damaged in a fire

D. he rarely wore the watch

27. The speaker hears the watch “anyway”, even though it has stopped. This suggests that

A. the watch has started working again

B. the speaker has very good hearing

C. the speaker’s memory of the grandfather brings the sound back

D. there is another clock nearby

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28. What does the final line, “someone who was always on time”, tell us about the grandfather?

A. He was always in a hurry.

B. He was strict about being late.

C. He worked as a watchmaker.

D. He was reliable, and the speaker remembers him with affection.

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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 3. The full paper is worth 51 marks.

STILL TO COME	QUESTIONS	MARKS
The 1967 referendum — page 6 of the magazine	7	7
Farewell, class of 2026 — page 7 of the magazine	6	6
Lao Ma’s Kitchen — page 8 of the magazine	5	5
How Westbrook students get to school — page 9 of the magazine	5	5

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_9-3

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