

Selective High School Placement Test

Reading

Explained answers for Practice Test 2

Janison.

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[Task 1]

- 1 The correct answer is **'gleaming and dazzling in the sun'**. Bombay is described as a 'white castle made of sand, or salt, blinding...', which conveys how the city appears bright and dazzling. The phrase 'the hot blue sky' refers to the sunlight.
- 2 The correct answer is **'they are enjoying being away from work.'** he villagers are in 'high spirits' and treat the trip as 'almost like a holiday', showing that they are enjoying the rare opportunity to leave their work and villages, which is why they are singing and shouting.
- 3 The correct answer is **'Adarkar'**. We are told in the previous paragraph that Adarkar is shouting occasionally, so when the older fisherman starts talking about sitting down and saving 'your breath for all the shouting you are going to do...', he is talking to Adarkar. When he calls to the men in the boat to offer Adarkar tea, he refers to Adarkar as 'our brother'.
- 4 The correct answer is **'unsure about whether he should have come.'** Hari is described as feeling 'very afraid of the journey he had undertaken, without thinking'. We are also told that he is questioning whether he made the right decision to leave Thul, indicating his uncertainty about the journey he has undertaken.
- 5 The correct answer is **'can barely register all the sights one after another.'** The long, detailed sentence structure mirrors Hari's overwhelming experience of seeing so many new things in a short time, indicating that he can barely take in all the sights as they pass by.
- 6 The correct answer is **'making fun of them.'** The policeman's exaggerated remarks about the Chief Minister waiting with tea and sweets, and the wink he gives the bus driver, show that he is mocking the villagers.
- 7 The correct answer is **'the commotion in Bombay and the quiet of Thul.'** The passage contrasts the 'terrifying traffic' and the bustling crowds of Bombay with the quiet, rural life in Thul, where traffic is rare and life is much more peaceful.
- 8 The correct answer is **'The perception of Bombay goes from perfect to hostile.'** At the beginning, Bombay is described as a dazzling, almost magical city, but by the end, Hari and his companions experience the city as chaotic and hostile, reflecting a change in perception.

[Task 2]

- 9 The correct answer is **'the mother of the family'**. The poem focuses on the mother, describing her actions, thoughts, and the things she notices as the family prepares to move, such as picking the green tomatoes and remembering when they first arrived.
- 10 The correct answer is **'show that the move has come too soon.'** The green tomatoes represent the unfinished or unripe aspects of their life in this place, showing that the move is happening before they have fully settled.
- 11 The correct answer is **'It emphasises the sudden haste following the father's decision.'** The repeated use of 'and' at the beginning of lines emphasises the sudden rush of activity that follows the father's decision to move, by conveying a sense of urgency and giving an impression of not having enough time.

12 The correct answer is **‘They move so often that they don’t have time to put everything away.’** The phrase ‘The bottling set she never unpacked’ suggests that the family moves so frequently that they don’t have time to fully settle in or use all of their belongings.

13 The correct answer is **‘She has given up trying to control where the family is headed.’** The woman doesn’t ask any questions about the move ‘this time’, indicating that although she might have asked in the past, she has resigned herself to the constant upheaval and no longer tries to influence where the family goes.

14 The correct answer is **‘feelings of optimism for the future.’** The use of the word ‘bright’ in the phrase ‘bright with berries’ symbolises an imagined happy future, while the berries are a sign of plenty, showing the woman’s initial hope and optimism when they first arrived.

[Task 3/ Q15]

Gap A The correct answer is **‘He claimed that what passed for ice-cream in Australia “was a strange, yellow, custard-like concoction”.’** This sentence fits the context as it explains Frederick Peters' dissatisfaction with the ice-cream available in Australia, which motivated him to start making his own based on his childhood memories.

Gap B The correct answer is **‘The marketing has moved on but the brand is now owned by a multinational food giant and is still a leader in the industry.’** The text mentions the outdated slogan "The health food of a nation", so this sentence about the shift in marketing logically follows.

Gap C The correct answer is **‘The range only comprised vanilla, strawberry, chocolate and neapolitan (a combination of the three).’** This sentence fits here as it describes the limited choice of ice-cream flavours available in Australia during the time Mandelson first arrived, highlighting her disappointment with the local options.

Gap D The correct answer is **‘Thus Serendipity Ice-cream was founded in the kitchen of an inner-city home.’** This sentence fits because it explains how Mandelson's small-scale ice-cream production quickly expanded into a full-fledged business, which aligns with the narrative of her success.

Gap E The correct answer is **‘The company’s repertoire has expanded to include 100 flavours: all the favourites and a range of more exotic ones, such as Japanese green tea and wattleseed.’** This sentence follows the description of Mandelson’s growing business, indicating the wide range of flavours now offered by her company, including both classic and exotic options.

Gap F The correct answer is **‘The very suggestion prompts a sniff of scorn from certain dessert purists.’** This sentence fits here because it introduces a contrast between American and Italian ice-cream traditions, particularly the Italian disdain for using cream in ice-cream, which is then elaborated on by Luigi Barosso.

[Task 4/Q16]

Which extract refers to pride in having a dual sense of belonging?

The correct answer is **D**. This extract describes the writer's pride in their dual heritage, celebrating both their Aboriginal and European backgrounds without feeling the need to choose between them.

Which extract describes an experiment measuring different perceptions of belonging?

The correct answer is **C**. This extract explains a study where participants listened to music while observing people, showing that music can enhance perceptions of social cohesion, indicating an experiment measuring different perceptions of belonging.

Which extract is critical of modifications made to the landscape the writer loves?

The correct answer is **B**. The writer expresses frustration over the changes made to the Grampians landscape, such as bulldozing and fire tracks, reflecting a critical view of the modifications made to a place they love.

Which extract refers to a commonly held belief about the best way to bring up children?

The correct answer is **D**. This extract mentions the commonly held belief that 'it takes a village to raise a child', reflecting a shared societal view on the best way to bring up children.

Which extract explains why making others feel welcome is a neglected skill?

The correct answer is **A**. The extract discusses the importance of being an 'includer', as in including other people, and how 'we can easily fail to develop' this skill. It identifies our underestimation of our own power to influence others as the cause of this failure.

Which extract says that liking the same thing helps to establish a sense of belonging?

The correct answer is **C**. This extract highlights how liking the same music as someone else can foster a sense of belonging, as people tend to feel a connection with others who share their musical tastes.

Which extract refers to a youthful experience that makes people sad to think about?

The correct answer is **A**. The image of a child standing alone in a playground evokes a sad memory for many adults, making this the youthful experience that causes sadness in the extract.

Which extract mentions an ongoing struggle to have land ownership officially recognised?

The correct answer is **D**. The writer mentions the Larrakia's long-standing struggle to have their land ownership recognised, indicating an ongoing battle for official recognition of their land rights.

Which extract proposes that a connection to home is vital for your overall wellbeing?

The correct answer is **B**. The writer emphasises the deep connection they feel to their homeland, the Grampians, and suggests through the use of language like 'in its ... embrace', 'glorious' and 'home of ...happy memories', that this connection is crucial for their overall sense of wellbeing.

Which extract suggests that a favourite pastime might not give others a sense of belonging?

The correct answer is **B**. The extract describes the writer's love for trekking in the Grampians, acknowledging that it might not be everyone's idea of a good time, suggesting that a favourite pastime might not resonate with others.