

# Year 7 English Test 3

Name:

## Reading Comprehension

### Quad bikes in Antarctica

*Posted on Sunday, January 12 by David Barringhaus*

I haven't mentioned these machines in my blog before but they form a big part of the equipment at the Davis and Casey Stations in Antarctica. Quads, sometimes called quikes, are four-wheeled motorbikes and they are often the best choice for transport away from the permanent research stations (off-station).



We use the quads for search and rescue as well as science-based expeditions out onto the sea ice. On every trip they need to carry ice-drilling tools, emergency equipment, a GPS and personal provisions.

To use quads in Antarctica, you need to attend a two-day course before you arrive. You then have to complete a survival course once you are in Antarctica. This course covers everything from how to prepare for an off-station expedition to refuelling in the field and the use of emergency equipment.

The quads handle almost everything but, like all machines, they have their limitations. With very low tyre pressure they can handle mushy snow but in really soft powdery snow they can become bogged. They need to have micro spikes embedded in the tyres to be used on sea ice. The harder glacier ice, or blue ice, up on the flat hills can be dangerous as the quads tend to slide around sideways. Because the ice is rock-hard the spikes cannot dig into the surface.

Next week I will fill you in on my most recent visit to the penguin colony at Windy Bay

### Questions

**(2 marks each)**

1. According to the text, why do quads form an essential part of Antarctic equipment?
  - They can be used for a variety of tasks.
  - Everyone knows how to use them.
  - They are very fast.
  - They are visible on the snow.
  
2. What reinforces the fact that Antarctica is a dangerous place to work?
  - the reference to using heavy machinery
  - how much training is necessary to ride quads
  - the fact that quads have to travel on sea ice
  - the existence of a permanent research station

3. Paragraph 3 summarises
  - how to perform maintenance on quads.
  - the first aid course that is given to quad riders.
  - who is eligible to ride quads.
  - the requirements for driving the quads.
  
4. Which word could best replace 'limitations' in paragraph 4?
  - expectations
  - purposes
  - specifications
  - shortcomings
  
5. According to the text, micro spikes are used on quads to
  - dig into sea ice.
  - make tyres last longer.
  - give traction in mushy snow.
  - provide stability on rocky terrain.

## **Global bath tub**

In 1992, a ship sailing from Asia to North America was caught in a storm and twelve shipping containers were washed overboard. One of these containers broke open spilling 29000 plastic bath toys into the ocean. The lightweight toys were a mix of brightly coloured ducks, beavers, turtles and frogs. Each toy was packed in cardboard and, as the sea water rotted the cardboard, the toys began to float away.

Several months after the incident, the first toys began to wash up on distant shores. Ten toys were found on the coast of Alaska by a beachcomber who was searching the beach looking for treasure and trinkets. The toys had travelled 3200 km. Scientists soon heard about this discovery and they contacted other beachcombers, local residents and coastal workers in a search for more of the toys. At least 400 bath toys were discovered on the shores of Alaska and many of those who found the toys received rewards from the scientists.

The scientists were studying global sea currents and they were interested in the path the bath toys followed so they could better understand the movement of water throughout the oceans. Usually, scientists deliberately release special bottles to monitor currents, but they only release between 500 and 1000 bottles at a time. The accidental release of so many floating objects presented the scientists with a great opportunity to collect data to work with.

Over the next fifteen years, many more of the bath toys turned up on shores in Australia, Asia and South America. Some of the toys travelled 25000 km around the Arctic to the beaches of Europe, having spent some of the journey trapped for years in the Arctic ice.

Usually, only two per cent of deliberately released objects are found. This means there are likely to be thousands of green frogs and red beavers swimming the oceans of the world for many years to come.

### Questions

(2 marks each)

1. The toys floated away because
  - The waves were very big
  - The toys were made of light plastic
  - The toys were brightly coloured
  - The salt water made them float
  
2. What happened to the packaging of each bath toy?
  - It slowly fell apart in the water.
  - It was removed by the scientists.
  - Beachcombers collected it to get a reward.
  - It was crushed by the shipping containers.
  
3. On which shores were the washed-up bath toys first seen?
  - Asian
  - Arctic
  - Alaskan
  - Australian
  
4. The scientists wanted to find the bath toys because the bath toys could
  - show them where the ship was located.
  - help them learn more about ocean currents.
  - help them find previously released bottles.
  - show them how to make long-lasting plastic.
  
5. For the scientists, what advantage did the bath toys have over the bottles?
  - The bath toys stayed afloat longer than the bottles.
  - The number of bath toys was greater than the number of bottles.
  - The colour of the bath toys made them easier to see than the bottles.
  - The bath toys were released from a place where the bottles had never been.

## Spelling

(6 marks)

Write the correct spelling of the underlined word.

1. The artist skeched the outline of the picture. \_\_\_\_\_
2. A steep footpath provided the only acess to the remote cottage.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The passangers on the bus were irritated by the loud conversation.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. The marathon runner was determind to complete the challenging race.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. There are penalties for motorists caught exeeding the speed limit.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Our old car often broke down but the new one is more relyable. \_\_\_\_\_

## Language Usage

(9 marks)

1. Which of the following completes this sentence correctly? Tick the answer.

Who \_\_\_\_\_ the bins when your brother is not there?

- put out
  - puts out
  - putting out
  - was putting out
2. Put a cross next to the sentence that is not correct.
    - The dancers we are watching are very talented.
    - They dance perfectly together on the small stage.
    - They each wears a brightly coloured costume.
    - The costumes look beautiful as the dancers move.

3. Tick the sentence that is correct.
  - The man mistaken my mother for someone he knew.
  - The wind blown the papers all over the playground.
  - Dad was training for a race and run after work every day.
  - It was very cold so we drove to the match.
  
4. Tick the sentence that contains an apostrophe of contraction.
  - We spent the day at my friend Phil's house.
  - Our neighbour's dog is in the garden.
  - The television's hard to hear with all the noise.
  - Penny's parents let her stay up late.
  
5. Tick the sentence that is punctuated correctly.
  - The sunset, glowing with reds and oranges, was spectacular.
  - The sunset glowing with reds and oranges, was, spectacular.
  - The sunset, glowing with reds and oranges was spectacular.
  - The sunset glowing with reds and oranges was, spectacular.
  
6. Tick the sentence that is punctuated correctly.
  - "Help me grab my hat." I called, "before it blows over the edge."
  - "Help me grab my hat" I called, "before it blows over the edge."
  - "Help me grab my hat," I called, "before it blows over the edge."
  - "Help me grab my hat." I called. "before it blows over the edge."
  
7. Tick the sentence that is correct.
  - I have phoned my mother and spoke to her.
  - I have understood the lesson and did the test.
  - We have made new kites and flew them.
  - We have read the poems and chosen one.
  
8. Which sentence contains an adjective? Underline the adjective.
  - The baby gurgled and laughed in the cot when he woke up.
  - He amused himself happily for half an hour.
  - Suddenly he gave a sharp cry that startled us all.
  - I hurried into the room and gently picked him up.
  
9. Which sentence contains an adverb? Underline the adverb.
  - My mother regularly visits the library to borrow books.
  - The oily paint was difficult to remove from my hands.
  - The house was at the end of a lonely road.

**Writing** (on a separate piece of paper -120 – 150 words) **(15 marks)**

**Choose:**

- Stranded on a desert Island **OR**
- Coral reef adventure

Write to persuade a reader that they should see or read what you have chosen to write about.

- Write the title. Start with an introduction. An introduction lets a reader know what you are going to write about.
- Write your opinion on the topic. Give reasons for your opinion. Explain your reasons.
- Finish with a conclusion. A conclusion sums up your reasons so that a reader is convinced of your opinion.

**Remember to:**

- plan your writing, on the back of the next page, using dot points)
- use paragraphs to organise your ideas
- write in sentences
- choose your words carefully to convince a reader of your opinion
- pay attention to your spelling and punctuation
- check and edit your writing so it is clear.

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Blank lined writing area consisting of 30 horizontal dashed lines.

Score:     /50     = \_\_\_\_\_%