

# Year 8 English Test 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Comprehension 1 (5 marks)

### Brahminy Kite

True to his name he floats, higher and higher  
Until he is a fleck in the vast blueness  
Majestically catching the tiniest breath of wind  
Gently maneuvering  
Graceful, serene, unflinching  
Eagle-eyed he scans his dominion  
Minute details noted  
The red-eyed tree frog dares not stir  
The leafhopper dares not fulfil his name  
The tiny flash of a Fairy-bluebird tests the air  
The kite's wings gesture a sudden flicker  
Reminded of his purpose  
He hovers  
Calculates  
Then tucking his wings into a streamlined dart  
P  
L  
U  
N  
G  
E  
S  
Like a lightning bolt through the vastness  
The Fairy-bluebird surrenders  
To mid-air capture  
Her fairy kingdom overthrown  
By talons of power

by Jody Cook



### Questions

1. The first five lines of the poem
  - describe the main character and set the scene.
  - contrast the Brahminy kite with his surroundings.
  - predict the events which will occur.
  - identify all the key characters.
2. According to the poem, what qualities do Brahminy kites possess?
  - protectiveness and carefulness
  - bravery and perseverance
  - clear thinking and cooperativeness
  - speed and keen eyesight

3. The way the word PLUNGES appears on the page creates a sense of the Brahminy kite's
- uneasiness.
  - surrender.
  - movement.
  - indecision.
4. The Brahminy kite's emotional state changes from feeling calm to feeling
- fearful and then contented.
  - concerned and then powerful.
  - powerful and then overwhelmed.
  - determined and then victorious.
5. In your own words, explain what the leafhopper dares not do.
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## Reading Comprehension 2

(3 marks)

Read these sentences to get a story that makes sense.

### Bear Trouble



← trail

The mountains are beautiful, but they can be dangerous.

- Jenny and Sue were afraid to stay in the mountains, so they got up and slowly walked down the trail. They held hands. They didn't say a word but kept looking around and behind them.
- The bear grabbed the rucksack with its mouth and ran into the bushes.
- Yesterday, a bear attacked Jenny while she was walking uphill on the mountain trail with her friend Sue.
- About five minutes later, a man walked up. He asked them what happened. He went to get help.
- Suddenly, they heard a strange sound. They were so afraid. Was the bear following them?
- Both women were crying. Jenny's nose and ears were bleeding.
- The bear jumped out of the bushes. Jenny screamed. Sue hit the bear with her rucksack.

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>c</b>	<b>g</b>	-----	<b>f</b>	-----	-----	<b>e</b>

## Reading Comprehension 3

(6 marks)

### Comets

The solid part of a comet, the nucleus, is a chunk of ice typically measuring a few kilometres across. The ice in a comet is mainly made up of frozen ammonia, methane and water.

Harvard University astronomer Fred L. Whipple, a pioneer in comet research, described the nucleus as a 'dirty iceberg' to reflect the fact that bits and pieces of dust and rocky material are mixed in with the ice.

There are over 3000 known comets. They travel in various orbits around the Sun, usually going deep into the far reaches of our Solar System. The orbits of some comets bring them close to the Sun after many years in darkness. When they come near the Sun, comets reflect the Sun's light and can therefore be seen in our sky. Some comets take between two and three hundred years to orbit the Sun.

The Sun's heat and light cause comets to shed material, which normally forms into the characteristic long tail. As a comet approaches the Sun, the heat makes it expand, evaporating gas and releasing dust. The gas and dust form a fuzzy head and a long tail. Comet tails always point away from the Sun, regardless of the direction of the comet's motion.

One of the most famous comets is Halley's Comet, which appears in our skies approximately every 75 years. When it last came close to the Sun, in 1986, it was not as bright as expected. Recently, a much more spectacular comet was Hale-Bopp. It shone brightly in the night skies in 1996 and 1997, and had an impressive double tail that was easy to see with the naked eye for several months.

### Questions

1. What are comets made from?
    - material from the formation of our Solar System
    - rocks broken away from the Sun
    - pieces of other solar systems
    - gases emitted by Earth
  2. 'dirty iceberg'.....This phrase is in quotation marks ( ' ' ) because it is
    - a non-scientific description.
    - an old-fashioned expression.
    - a popular saying.
    - a foreign phrase.
  3. In our Solar System, there are over 3000 known comets. It is possible that there are unknown comets. Use evidence from the text to explain why such unknown comets have not been seen.
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4. A comet's tail is formed when
  - a large icicle grows from the nucleus.
  - the comet passes through a cloud of dust.
  - the comet travels faster than the speed of light.
  - parts of the nucleus are changed by the Sun's heat.
  
5. The main purpose of the last paragraph is to provide
  - expert opinions on comets.
  - a description of a comet's tail.
  - examples of well-known comets.
  - an explanation of how comets are formed.
  
6. In this text, it is assumed that the reader already knows
  - what Hale-Bopp is.
  - who Fred L. Whipple is.
  - what is in a comet's tail.
  - what the Solar System is.

## Spelling

(11 marks)

Write the correct spelling of the underlined word.

1. Our class realy enjoyed the concert.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The crowd was astounded by the skill of the artest.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Many turtles crossed the beach to lay eggs in their nests.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. The snowboarders were delayd by a blizzard.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Paul liked working with Kira because of her positive atitude .  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. The reporter admitted that his facts were wrong.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. A fingerprint identifys a person.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Car fumes polloot the air.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. The reporter asked the actor for an opinuin on the movie.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. The family lived in tempory accommodation while their house was being built.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. You must be very cortious when walking over slippery rocks \_\_\_\_\_

## Language Usage

(10 marks)

1. Which word correctly completes this sentence?

The captain is the best player \_\_\_\_\_ the team.

- in
- by
- over
- under

2. A comma ( , ) has been left out of this sentence. Put in the missing comma.

We went hiking canoeing and climbing during the holidays.

3. Which word is not needed in this sentence?

The space shuttle descended down to Earth on schedule.

- descended
- down
- earth
- schedule

4. Which words correctly complete this sentence?

Belinda likes gold bangles, \_\_\_\_\_ are expensive, \_\_\_\_\_ she has to save for them.

- which; so
- what; why
- which; because
- what; whether

5. Which words correctly complete the second sentence?

The children went to the pool yesterday. Some of them \_\_\_\_\_ again today but it was closed.

- was planning to go
- were planning to go
- is planning on going
- are planning on going

6. Which of these has correct use of capital letters?

- "I live in the town of sigatoka," the boy said. "where do you live?"
- "I live in the town of Sigatoka," the boy said. "Where do you live?"
- "I live in the town of sigatoka," the boy said. "Where do you live?"
- "I live in the town of Sigatoka," the boy said. "where do you live?"

7. Which word or words correctly complete this sentence?

If I \_\_\_\_\_ the final, it would have been my best performance.

- win
- won
- had won
- would win

8. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- Lia’s mother told her to tidy her room.
- Lia’s mother “told her to” tidy her room.
- Lia’s mother told “her to tidy her room.”
- Lia’s “mother told her to tidy” her room.

9. Which word or words correctly complete this sentence?

On Friday Violet \_\_\_\_\_ been travelling for a month.

- has
- would
- had have
- will have

10. Which word correctly completes this sentence?

Mr. Chan, \_\_\_\_\_ car was parked beside ours, had arrived early.

- his
- who
- who’s
- whose

**Writing**

**(20 marks)**

Write an article for your school magazine to tell your friends about the benefits of sporting activities.

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Lined writing area consisting of multiple horizontal dashed lines.

Score /50