

Year 8 English Test 3

Name:

Reading Comprehension 1 (5 marks)

Across the Pacific

The Pacific Ocean covers one-third of the Earth's surface. Small islands are sprinkled across the enormous blue expanse and often isolated from each other by great areas of sea. The islands that make up Polynesia (meaning 'many islands') were settled by seafarers from places that are now called Indonesia and Malaysia. These people spread gradually across the Pacific looking for new lands to settle. Between 2000 BC and 1000 AD, they navigated incredible distances in sturdy dugout canoes, 'reading' changes in the swell of the sea, the patterns of the stars and the easterly winds.

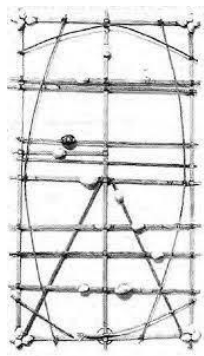
They brought with them a patterned pottery called Lapita (above left), which has become an archaeological clue to their movements. The settlers adapted to the different environments they found, from the dry atolls to the lush and fertile volcanic islands. They reached Tonga and Samoa by at least 1000 BC and developed their own customs and a society that was ruled by chiefs. By about 1000 AD, Polynesians had reached Easter Island, New Zealand and the easterly islands of Hawaii.

Did You Know?

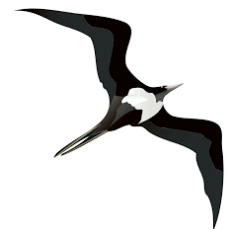
Gigantic stone statues line the coast of Easter Island. The people carved these guardians of the island from soft volcanic stone, then dragged them to platforms on the cliff edges.



Reading the Sea and the Sky



The Polynesians were expert navigators. They found islands to settle in the vast Pacific Ocean by reading the sea and watching for land-based birds such as frigates (right). They travelled to and from these islands using maps they made from palm sticks and cowrie shells (left). The sticks represented the swells and currents of the sea, while cowrie shells marked islands.



Questions Tick the right answer.

1. Where did the Polynesians first come from?
 - Tonga and Samoa
 - the easterly Hawaiian Islands
 - islands scattered throughout the Pacific Ocean
 - Indonesia and Malaysia

2. According to the text, we know how widely the Polynesians travelled and settled because
 - they left traces of their Lapita pottery.
 - they used sturdy dugout canoes.
 - they created detailed maps.
 - they built gigantic stone statues.

3. According to the text, why were the Easter Island statues made?
 - to display the people's carving skills
 - to help sailors navigate
 - to protect the island
 - to take advantage of the soft rock

4. A frigate is
 - a type of sea vessel
 - a sea bird
 - a bird that spends most of its time on land
 - a type of map

5. The main purpose of Across the Pacific is to provide information about
 - the variety of Pacific islands.
 - the artworks found on Pacific islands.
 - early Polynesian navigation techniques.
 - Polynesian settlement of the Pacific.

Reading Comprehension 2

(5 marks)

Space Exploration: Is it worth it?

Participants in an online forum were asked whether space exploration was worthwhile. Here are some of the comments they posted:

Litia: Our world is ravaged by war, famine and poverty. Billions of people struggle just to survive from day to day. Meanwhile the US space agency has US\$16 billion to play with every year. We must deal with the world's urgent problems. Space exploration is a luxury we cannot afford.

Paul: That \$16 billion spent on space is nothing compared to the \$370 billion spent on the military.

Jone: Exploring space is investing in the future. Everyone knows we're running out of resources. There's massive over-population too. The solar system has heaps of resources we can use for mining, and maybe we can colonise other planets. If we don't do it now, it might be too late.

Litia: We have to tackle problems of over-population and resource depletion here on Earth, instead of chasing science fiction dreams. Otherwise, we will just export our unsustainable lifestyle to another planet. We might consume the whole universe!!

Jone: Space explorers are so brave! They know what they are in for, and they still do it anyway. That's what I call courage! We humans have always struggled to expand our horizons. We want to know what else is out there. Who knows, maybe we'll discover the solution to all our problems out there!

Ana: Space exploration has had a huge effect on our lives. Want to talk to someone halfway around the world? Sure. Get the weather forecast? Coming right up. Check exactly where you are? Absolutely. It's all possible, thanks to satellite technology, global positioning systems, and the rest. If there was no space exploration, we'd be sitting around in the dark, not talking online!

George: Satellites are launched by private companies — for profit. Planet Earth doesn't always benefit. Exploring remote planets certainly does not contribute to life on Earth.

Questions

Tick the right answer.

1. Which aspect of space exploration does Ana mainly write about?
 - its cost to the community
 - its effect on ecological sustainability
 - its contribution to technology in everyday life
 - its capacity to encourage heroes

2. Litia writes that Space exploration is a luxury we cannot afford. She means that space exploration is
 - expensive but necessary.
 - very important but too expensive.
 - not very important but affordable.
 - expensive and unnecessary.

3. What is the most likely reason that Jone does not discuss the cost of space exploration?
 - He knows Litia is wrong about the cost of space exploration.
 - He does not know how much space exploration costs.
 - He agrees that space exploration costs too much.
 - He thinks space exploration is worthwhile, whatever the cost.

4. What is one point that Lita and Jone are most likely to agree about?
 - Earth's resources are fast disappearing.
 - Space exploration encourages creativity.
 - Living on other planets is a real possibility.
 - Spending money on war is unnecessary.

5. Why doesn't George think space exploration is worthwhile?
 - Satellite technology is too expensive
 - Satellite technology is controlled by companies who put their own interests first.
 - Life on other planets doesn't exist
 - Satellite technology doesn't help the planet

Spelling

(10 marks)

One word in each sentence has the wrong spelling. Find the word and write it correctly on the line.

1. It's been raining sinse Monday. _____
2. There are many members of the lizerd family. _____
3. I'd like to clime mountains. _____
4. I heard a different vershion of the story. _____
5. The guests at the party consummed all the food. _____
6. My brother is training to run in a marothan. _____
7. I need to do some exercise to improve my fittnes. _____
8. The boy gave a perfect descriphun of the lost dog. _____
9. He was overwhelmed by the amount of work. _____
10. The anouncment was made over the radio. _____

Language Usage

(10 marks)

Tick the word that correctly completes the sentence.

1. Venice is a city which is _____ sinking into the sea.
slow slower slowly ← slowest
2. My grandmother likes telling me stories about when she _____ young.
were was has been had been
3. The library was quiet _____ I tiptoed.
so but except in case
4. He looked at the photos _____

real close

real closely

really close

really closely

5. The bell _____ loudly.

ring

rang

rung

ringed

6. Tick the sentence that is correct.

- Sara and I are in the team.
- Me and Sara are in the team.
- Sara and myself are in the team.
- Sara and me are in the team.

7. Tick the sentence that is correct.

- They were carrying things upstairs and stack them on the floor.
- They were carried things upstairs and stacking them on the floor.
- They were carrying things upstairs and stacking them on the floor.
- They were carried things upstairs and stacked them on the floor.

8. Tick the sentence that has the correct punctuation.

- He said to be quick, so we ran.
- He said to be "quick, so we ran."
- He said "To be quick, so we ran."
- He said "to be quick, so we ran."

9. Write in the missing apostrophe (') in this sentence.

After dinner, Dads job was to wash the dishes while Mark and his sisters did their homework.

10. Write in the 2 missing commas (,) in this sentence.

Recent surveys some carried out by independent groups indicate that most people would prefer to start work early and finish early.

