

Year 9 English Test Term 1

Name: _____

Reading Comprehension 1 (5 marks)

Laughter is the best medicine

No matter our age, country or culture, we all enjoy a good laugh. It's one of the first ways we communicate with each other and we often do it without even thinking about it.

All sorts of different things can make us laugh and, once we start, it can be difficult to stop. It seems to be completely involuntary.

Sometimes, just hearing someone else laugh can be enough to get us started. But laughing is more than just a pleasurable, contagious sound. It's a whole body work-out. When we laugh, energy is used to tighten and relax muscles, not only in the mouth and face but also in the arms, legs and upper body. Laughing can really get the heart racing!



Medical research has shown that when laughter is natural and unforced, there are huge physical and mental health benefits. Physically, blood flow is improved through the cardiovascular system; the immune system, which helps us resist disease, is boosted; muscle tension is eased; and of course the very deep breaths associated with laughing give the lungs a great clean-out. In terms of our mental health, the endorphins released by the brain when we laugh make us feel happier and more positive. Laughing reduces stress and distracts us from our troubles. Perhaps most importantly, sharing laughter, even with strangers, gives us a feeling of belonging and kinship.

Hospitals around the world are recognising the benefits of laughter and are including it in their patient care. In Australia, *The Humour Foundation* is a charity that works in partnership with medical professionals in many hospitals to promote the health benefits of laughter. The charity organises for specially trained Clown Doctors to visit patients and 'treat' them with a 'dose' of humour. Laughter really is good medicine.

Questions (Tick the right answer.)

1 According to the text, laughter is a form of communication that is used

- to fill in gaps during conversation.
- to calm down angry people.
- by people of a certain age.
- all over the world.

2 What is The Humour Foundation?

- a charity
- a hospital ward
- a school for clowns
- a group of patients in hospital

3 What is the main aim of the Clown Doctors?

- to give medicine to patients
- to operate on patients
- to cheer up patients
- to organise patients

4 In the second-last paragraph, the words 'treat' and 'dose' are in quotation marks to show that

the words are names.

the words are direct speech.

the words should be emphasised when reading.

the words have a double meaning.

5 According to the text, what sort of laughter produces the most gains?

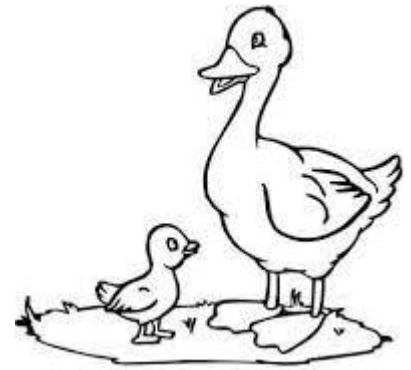
6 The purpose of the text is to show that laughing

- is involuntary
- has many benefits.
- can cure illness.
- is natural.

Reading Comprehension 2 (5 marks)

Are you my mother?

In early life, chicks and ducklings learn important lessons very quickly. What they learn in this short space of time (about the first 18 hours) stays with them for the rest of their lives and is very difficult to reverse. Scientists call this form of learning 'imprinting'.



Imprinting happens when a baby bird makes an immediate bond with its mother. The baby bird then follows the mother wherever she goes, becoming upset if she is not nearby. When a chick is upset, it will make a noise (peep). The more a chick peeps, the more upset it is. When a chick has its mother taken away from it, it will peep rapidly.

Imprinting experiments on both chicks and ducklings have shown that it is possible for these birds to bond with totally different animals, or even with objects such as balls or boxes. This can only happen if they are introduced to their 'other mother' soon after hatching. It seems that these birds are born with a desire to follow.

Experiments have shown there is no need for the object that is being followed to be its mother. Researchers have found that if a chick thinks that an object, like a ball or box, is its mother, it will also peep in distress when that object is removed. This distress is only stopped by the return of the 'other mother'.

Questions

1 In paragraph 1, the words about the first 18 hours describe

- when chicks and ducklings learn to walk.
- how long the experiment lasts for.
- how long mother birds care for their young.
- when imprinting happens.

2 A chick peeps rapidly when

- it first sees its mother.
- its mother is removed.
- its mother is returned.
- it is following its mother.

3 Which words best replace an immediate bond in paragraph 2?

- a close tie
- a clear understanding
- an instant connection
- a sudden friendship

4 In paragraph 3, the words or even suggest what is stated is

- clear to see.
- natural.
- unusual.
- uncertain

5 To measure how upset a chick is, scientists

- count the number of peeps a chick makes.
- see how close a chick stays to its mother.
- time how long it takes a chick to imprint.
- record which objects make the chick fearful.

Spelling

10 marks

The spelling of the underlined word is wrong. Write the correct spelling on the line.

1. The shop was offerring free gift-wrapping. _____

2. Solar energy is a reneweble resource. _____

3. Farmers sometimes have to improvize when machinery breaks down.

4. They cut the wood with a circuler saw. _____

5. The rain made the campers misrable . _____

6. We added water to moisen the soil around the plant. _____

7. Eggs provide protene in a diet. _____

8. The library has a rack of broshures about many subjects. _____

9. An optomist is someone who is always positive. _____

10. I knew my brothers would quarel over who should weed the garden.

Language usage

15 marks

1. Which of the following completes this sentence correctly?

The group was well known _____ alternative energy solutions.

- develop
- for developing
- to develop
- which develops

2. Which word completes this sentence correctly?

_____ mountain pygmy possum is an endangered species.

- A
- An
- The
- This

3. Which word completes this sentence correctly?

The man _____ brought the car is waiting outside.

- who
- what
- which
- whose

4. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- He closed the door, before realising, the keys were inside.
- The turtle which was caught in a net, was sent, to a sanctuary.
- A baby echidna, also called a puggle, hatches after ten days.
- The eclipse the first since 2013, promises to be, spectacular.

5. Which pair of sentences can be joined with the word *whereas*?

- The road is being fixed soon. It is full of potholes.
- Mine is a mountain bike. Hers is a racing bike.
- He wanted to use the iron. I had put it away.
- There was a flash of lightning. The thunder rumbled moments later.

6. Which word completes this sentence correctly?

_____ there were no other volunteers, the job is yours.

- When
- Unless
- Since
- Whether

7. What does the word *'each'* refer to in this sentence?

The geologists brought specimens of minerals, fossils and petrified wood to show us, and described where each had been found.

- geologists
- specimens
- minerals
- fossils

8. Which of the following completes this sentence correctly?

Who _____ the bins when your brother is not there?

- put out
- puts out
- putting out
- was putting out

9. Which sentence 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.

10. Which word completes this sentence correctly?

I might be late tomorrow but it is _____ .

- unsure
- impossible
- certain
- unlikely

11. Which of the following should be punctuated as two sentences?

- Do not tell me what to do, I like to work things out for myself.
- Although we took part in the working bee, the rain slowed us down.
- Do you think it is likely you will finish the book before the weekend?
- We thought we were ready for the hike, having trained for many months.

12. Which sentence is correct?

- It was both long and a very close tennis match.
- At the zoo we saw a bird show, some lizards and some snakes.
- My problem is that it is unfair and the speed of the decision.
- It was a time for action, not for excuses.

13. In which sentence is the word opposite used as a noun?

- We parked on the street opposite the park.
- The shop is on the opposite corner to the bank.
- Whatever he says, I believe the opposite.
- When you leave the station, the playing field will be directly opposite.

14. Which sentence is correctly completed by the word 'its'?

I think _____ going to be our most successful team ever.

Do you think _____ worthwhile booking a seat?

I can smell the cake cooking so I wonder if _____ ready.

Considering _____ potential, the car won fewer races than expected.

15. Which group of words in this sentence is an adverbial phrase of time?

He looked at the clock hanging on the wall, checked the time of his appointment and left the house after a hasty breakfast.

- at the clock
- on the wall
- of his appointment
- after a hasty breakfast

