

Year 9 English Test Term 3

Name: _____

Reading Comprehension 1 (6 marks)

Mind your reflection

When you look into a mirror, you know that your reflection isn't another person. Many scientists wonder if other animals also have this ability.

Understanding your own thoughts and feelings is described in psychology as the 'theory of mind'. Some scientists believe that if an animal recognises its reflection, it is showing signs of a theory of mind.



To use a mirror to test an animal's theory of mind, scientists put animals in front of a mirror and let them look at their reflection. The scientists then remove the mirror and put a coloured dot on the animal's body before bringing the mirror back.

The animal can only see the dot when looking in the mirror. If they touch the dot on their own body after seeing the reflection, the scientists assume that the animal identifies the image in the mirror as theirs, and not belonging to a separate animal.

Many animals, such as dogs, can pass the mirror test, as well as chimpanzees, dolphins and even magpies (black and white birds). The mirror test might sound easy, but even humans can't pass the test until they are at least 18 months old. So the next time you look in the mirror, remember that it wasn't always so easy!

Questions (Tick the right answer – except for no. 3.)

1 The scientists described in this text are trying to find out if the animal

- can see the scientist.
- can look in a mirror.
- can recognise different colours.
- can recognise its own reflection.

2 When the scientists conduct the experiment they presume that

- all animals recognise their own reflections.
- animals and humans think in the same way.
- the animal knows that it should not have a dot on it.
- animals have the intelligence of an 18-month-old child.

3 Number these statements 1 to 5 to show the order of the steps in the experiment.

- Take the mirror away.
- Bring the mirror back.
- Record what the animal does.
- Put a coloured dot on the animal.
- Put the animal in front of the mirror

4 According to the text, when the scientists tried this experiment on a magpie, the magpie tried to

- go past the mirror.
- touch the dot on the mirror.
- peck the magpie in the mirror.
- touch the coloured dot on its body.

5 Why is the first paragraph in the text in bold writing?

- to show readers that this is the most important information in the text
- to attract readers' attention so that they start to read the whole text
- to indicate that there is no need to read the whole text
- to draw readers' attention to the photograph

6 What information is given to show that it is not easy to recognize your own reflection?

- Scientists have to use a mirror several times.
- Many animals pass the mirror test.
- Humans don't pass the test until they are about eighteen months old.
- Scientists have tried this experiment on humans and other animals.

Reading Comprehension 2 (6 marks)

The Great Blondin

Niagara Falls is, in fact, three waterfalls that sit across the international border between Canada and the United States (US). The most recognisable section is the beautiful Horseshoe Falls. These are the most powerful falls in North America, with a thundering 50-metre drop into a churning pool. For most people, Niagara Falls is a natural wonder to be admired from a safe distance. Crossing or going over the Falls is now illegal, but in the past, a small number of people chose to risk their lives for fame and fortune at Niagara Falls.



Perhaps the most famous Niagara daredevil was the professional French tightrope walker known as The Great Blondin. In June 1859, he stretched an eight-centimetre-thick tightrope 335 metres across the Horseshoe Falls section of Niagara. On the Canadian side of the Falls the rope was secured to a large rock and on the American side, to a mighty oak tree. More than 25000 onlookers came to see what many believed would be a horrifying accident. Blondin then walked along the rope using only a nine-metre-long balancing pole as a 'safety' device.

After resting on the Canadian side for twenty minutes he strapped a large camera to his back and returned across the rope to America, pausing to take photos of the expectant crowd on the way. Blondin then proceeded to devise even more extraordinary crossings of the Horseshoe Falls. On one he first walked backwards to Canada and then returned pushing a wheelbarrow. On another he somersaulted, backflipped and hung from the rope by one hand. He even carried his manager, who clung to his back in terror, from Canada to the US.

In 1896, at the age of 71, Blondin made his last crossing. He died of natural causes the following year.

Questions

1 Blondin is best described as

- daring.
- greedy.
- optimistic.
- thoughtless.

2 More than 25 000 onlookers ... (paragraph 2) The writer includes this information to show

- how much the crowd would have paid to see Blondin.
- how difficult it was to get a good view of the Falls.

how large the viewing area was at the Falls.

how fascinated people were by what Blondin was doing.

3 In paragraph 2, why is the word 'safety' in quotation marks?

- to show that the word was spoken
- to highlight the word's importance
- to suggest that it's not what you would usually expect safety to be
- to indicate that the word is technical

4 According to the text, Blondin took photos of

- the oak tree.
- the pool at the base of the Falls.
- the Horseshoe Falls.
- the people watching.

5 Blondin carried his manager during one of his crossings. The manager is portrayed as being

- a reluctant partner.
- a daredevil himself.
- a lazy person.
- a cautious follower.

6 What is the purpose of the last sentence?

- to show that daredevil feats are good for your health
- to explain that Blondin lived until he was an old man
- to highlight that Blondin did not die doing something dangerous
- to provide information about the year of Blondin's death

Spelling

8 marks

There is one spelling mistake in each sentence. Write the correct word on the line.

1. The water was frozern after the frosty night. _____
2. The teams agreed that the referee for the match was always fare. _____
3. I know all the lirics of the songs. _____
4. There was polite larfter when he finished telling the joke. _____
5. The iron stopped working because it was fawlty. _____
6. The answer was a number with four didgits. _____
7. I was so tired I could not stop yorning. _____
8. The composer was a musical genious. _____

Language Usage

15 marks

1. Which words complete this sentence correctly?

Mum took the children to the playground _____ went to the library.

- Later following
- Then next
- Now and later
- First and then

2. Which word or words complete this sentence correctly?

Because of the difference in time zones, the winner _____ announced early tomorrow.

- being
- has been
- be
- is being

3. Which word completes this sentence correctly?

Without some modification it is _____ that the invention will work.

- indeed
- unlikely
- improbably
- inevitable

4. Which pair of words completes this sentence correctly?

_____ likely to call on _____ skills to help finish the puzzle.

- There your
- They're your
- There you're
- They're you're

5. Which clause completes this sentence correctly?

_____ it is still my favourite show.

- When so many events need to be explained,
- After the characters have changed so much,
- Although there are so many new characters this year,
- Whether the action becomes hard to believe,

6. In which sentence should 'well' replace 'good'?

- We all played good and won the game.
- We felt so good that we had another chance.
- It was a very good result.
- The swim definitely did me good.

7. In the second sentence of this text, what does 'They' refer to?

Some new staff members have introduced afternoon study periods for interested students on weekdays during term. They will be held in the library for an hour.

- new staff members
- afternoon study periods
- interested students
- weekdays

8. Which sentence is correct?

- A gecko will make a feast of termites whenever it can find it.
- A gecko will make a feast of termites whenever it can find them.
- A gecko will make a feast of termites whenever they can find them.
- A gecko will make a feast of termites whenever they can find it.

9. Which word from the following sentence indicates uncertainty?

The weather forecast is for possible showers later but it said that the morning will be sunny.

- possible
- later
- but
- will

10. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- When the band appeared, the crowd started cheering, whistling and clapping.
- When the band appeared the crowd started cheering, whistling, and, clapping.
- When the band appeared the crowd started, cheering, whistling and clapping.
- When the band appeared, the crowd started, cheering, whistling and clapping.

11. Which word completes this text correctly?

Her argument persuaded many people. _____ , there were still some who were unconvinced.

- Despite
- Otherwise
- Nevertheless
- Furthermore

12. Which sentence is written in the past tense?

- We should go if the weather is fine.
- The animal bones date from the 1800s.
- They were very keen to visit the new exhibition.
- Packed with photographs, it is a fascinating book.

13. Which word from this sentence is an adjective?

Staying close to each other, we stumbled towards the building guided only by the flickering light of the candle.

- Staying
- stumbled
- guided
- flickering

14. Which is a correct sentence?

- The little boy and girl you saw in the park are my neighbours.
- He and his pet dog was playing in the park yesterday.
- My friend and I am going to the movies this afternoon.
- There was four black pens and one red one in my bag.

A series of 30 horizontal dashed lines for writing.

Score /50