

End of Primary Benchmark

2012

English Reading Comprehension

Total: 30 marks

Time: 50 minutes

Reading Comprehension 1

Read carefully.

Fiona, John, Julie and Sam are looking at the school notice board. They read the poster about the National Poetry Competition for Children. All four children like to write poems and would like to take part in the competition. John and Julie are 12 years old whilst Fiona and Sam are 10 years old.

Read the poster on the opposite page before you answer the questions below.

1. Underline the correct answer. 2 marks

- (a) Julie has to write a poem which is up to (half a page, a page, a page and a half) long.
- (b) Sam has to write a poem which is up to (half a page, a page, a page and a half) long.
- (c) The winning poems will be awarded (20, 35, 50) Euro each.
- (d) Applications can be obtained from (school, the Local Council, the Malta Poetry Society centre).

2. Read the following sentences. Write a **T if the sentence is true, an **F** if it is False and an **N** if there is no information given. 3 marks**

(a) Participants in both categories have to write poems about the same topic.	
(b) Poems are to be handed in at the Malta Poetry Society centre.	
(c) Participants can write only one poem for the competition.	
(d) Only one poem will win a prize of 50 Euro.	
(e) Six poems in all will be published.	
(f) The Malta Poetry Society has a centre in Gozo too.	

3. Continue the following sentences. 1 mark

- (a) John, Julie, Fiona and Sam will have to write the poems and hand them in by

_____.

- (b) Prizes will be awarded by

_____.

POETRY IS FOR KIDS

NATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN

Organised by

THE MALTA POETRY SOCIETY

CATEGORY A:

AGE: 9 to 10-year-olds **TOPIC:** Summer

LENGTH: Up to a page long

CATEGORY B:

AGE: 11 to 12-year-olds **TOPIC:** The Village Feast

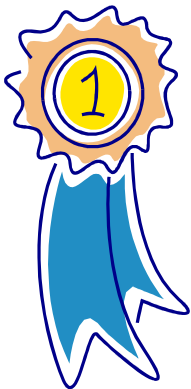
LENGTH: Up to a page and a half long

Applications can be collected from Local Councils in Malta and Gozo.

CLOSING DATE: Entries will be accepted up to **10th AUGUST 2012**

Poems are to be handed in at the Local Council where the participant lives.

Each participant may submit up to 3 poems.



The best poem in each category will win a prize of 50 Euro

The first, second and third best poems in each category will be published in the Children's Poetry Magazine. Prizes will be awarded during **A POETRY EVENING**, which will be held on the 15th September 2012, at the Malta Poetry Society centre in Valletta. The President of the Society will award the prizes.

All participants and their parents will be invited to the award-giving ceremony.

Reading Comprehension 2

Read the following passage which is divided into two sections to help you answer the questions that follow each section.

Section 1

‘When do the children come?’ asked Dr. Maud Biggin without looking up and flicking over the pages of one of the many books open before her. The study was full of tables piled with books, photographs and boxes, which spread and spilled over on to the floor. **(paragraph 1)**

Dr. Maud was a short-sighted woman who never straightened her back, but moved about at the right height for consulting other books wherever she had laid them. If not reading, her attention was on the ground as if expecting that something very interesting might catch her eye there. She had spent much of her life digging up old cities and graves in deserts and hillsides, and had got into the habit of searching the ground for fragments. She could not bear a vacuum cleaner because it left her nothing to look at. If a chimpanzee were let loose in a shop to choose its own clothes it would choose much the same as she was wearing. **(paragraph 2)**



‘Ah! The dear children!’ replied her old friend Miss Sybilla Bun. ‘They arrive at tea-time. I have made a strawberry cream sponge for them. I hope they have healthy appetites. I am looking forward to seeing them eat.’ Miss Sybilla’s only remaining passion in life was food. **(paragraph 3)**

These two ladies had rented a house in the country beside a broad, slow-flowing river. Maud Biggin had chosen this remote and ancient dwelling because she was writing a book about archaeology. When she had settled in at the house and felt how much room there was to spare, she decided to invite three disadvantaged children to spend the summer there.

(paragraph 4)

Questions on Section 1

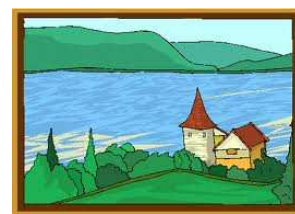
1. Were the two women sisters or friends? 1/2 mark

2. Which **word** in **paragraph 1** is the opposite of *empty*? 1/2 mark

3. What did Sybilla prepare for tea? 1 mark

4. Read the following sentences. Put a **T** if the sentence is true, an **F** if it is false and an **N** if there is no information given in Section 1. 1/2 mark each

(a) Dr. Maud Biggin spent most of her life digging her garden.	
(b) Dr. Maud was not smartly dressed.	
(c) Dr. Maud and Miss Sybilla had lived together before they rented the house.	
(d) Miss Sybilla hoped the children would be hungry.	
(e) Dr. Maud liked Sybilla's cooking.	
(f) There was a wide river near the house.	



5. Underline the best answer to complete the sentences. 1 mark each

- (a) Miss Sybilla had (several, no, two other) interests besides food.
- (b) The house Dr. Maud had rented was (big and old, big and neglected, old and neglected).

6. Why did Dr. Maud always keep her eyes focused on the ground? 1 mark

7. Why would Dr. Maud not bear to have a vacuum cleaner in her house? 1 mark

8. Quote part of a sentence which shows you that Dr. Maud was generous. 1 mark

Section 2

‘Ah, here’s the taxi! Here they are!’ cried Sybilla Bun. ‘And ready for their tea I hope. Come in, children, come in.’

They stood shyly in a row. Ida was eleven, but small for her age. Oskar looked obstinate and smart. Lastly there was slim, eight-year-old Jo.

‘I thank you for your very kind invitation,’ nine-year-old Oskar said softly.

‘Come with me children and see your room,’ said Sybilla. **(paragraph 5)**



As they wound their way upstairs after her, the children were wide-eyed with surprise. They were to share a large room at the top of the house. It had windows on three sides, out of which they could see the river as if on a map. It looked smooth, sleepy and timeless.

(paragraph 6)

‘What a lot of islands the river makes,’ said Ida, calling the others to look out of the side window. ‘We are on one, and I can see at least three others. We must go exploring and sail round them all. Perhaps we shall find one where nobody has ever set foot. Look at that island downstream. It looks beautifully wild.’ **(paragraph 7)**

‘Look at this house reflected in the water,’ said Oskar. ‘I can see us all looking out of the window, but our faces wiggle as if we were eating toffee.’ **(paragraph 8)**

The following morning after breakfast the children hurried down to the river. All three were keen to start exploring their surroundings. They climbed into a canoe that lay tugging gently on its mooring. Oskar took hold of the paddles. They drifted happily along, a twist of the paddle now and again by Oskar, being enough to keep them on a straight course. Presently the sun came out and beautifully warmed them and with the sun appeared another host of living things, butterflies, dragonflies, brightly coloured beetles and lizards. The canoe drifted to a standstill. **(paragraph 9)**

Adapted from *The River of Green Knowe* by Lucy M. Boston

Questions on Section 2

9. Quote part of a sentence that shows that Oskar was grateful. **1 mark**

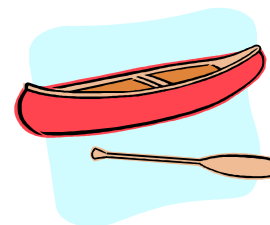
10. Which **word** found in **paragraph 9** means *stop*? **½ mark**

11. **Underline** the best answer to complete the sentence. **½ mark each**

- (a) The house and river (scared, excited, bored) the children.
- (b) The river was (smooth and wild, smooth and slow, slow and warm).
- (c) The children found it (hard, easy, impossible) to row the canoe.

12. Read the following sentences. Put a **T** if the sentence is true, an **F** if it is false, and an **N** if there is no information given in Section 2. 1/2 mark each

(a) The children each had a room at the top of the house.	
(b) The children enjoyed their tea.	
(c) Oskar and Ida were brother and sister.	
(d) There were at least four islands on the river.	
(e) Ida hoped to find a deserted island.	
(f) Oskar could see the children's reflection in the river.	



13. Write the names of **two** of the creatures the children saw. 1/2 mark each

14. Oskar says 'our faces wiggle as if we were eating toffee.' What do you think he means? 2 marks

Questions on the whole passage

15. Find a phrase, made up of **two words**, which shows that there was not enough space for Dr. Maud's belongings in her study. 1 mark

16. Which word in the list best fits the role the character has in the story? 1/2 mark each

doctor	cook	archaeologist	explorer	captain	gardener
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(a) Ida _____ (c) Maud Biggin _____

(b) Oskar _____ (d) Sybilla Bun _____

17. Write **one** sentence saying what you think happened after the canoe drifted to a standstill. 2 marks

END OF READING PAPER

DIRECTORATE FOR QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

Curriculum Management and eLearning Department

Educational Assessment Unit

End of Primary Benchmark**June 2012****English – Reading Comprehension – Marking Scheme****Reading Comprehension 1****(6 marks)****1. If more than one option is underlined, the sentence is to be marked as incorrect.**

(a) a page and a half (b) a page (c) 50 (d) the Local Council

½ mark each = 2 marks**2. (a) F (b) F (c) F (d) F (e) T (f) N****½ mark each = 3 marks****3. (a) 10th August (2012)****(b) the President of the (Malta Poetry) Society****½ mark each = 1 mark****Reading Comprehension 2****(24 marks)**

- **Do not deduct marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar errors as long as the student gives sufficient evidence of understanding.**
- **Answers do not need to be in complete sentences except for question 17.**
- **Deduct ½ the mark for any irrelevant information.**

Section 1**1. Friends****½ mark****2. Full****½ mark****3. (Sybilla Bun made) a strawberry cream sponge.****1 mark****4. (a) F (b) T (c) N (d) T (e) N (f) T****½ mark each = 3 marks****5. If more than one option is underlined, the sentence is to be marked as incorrect.****(a) no (b) big and old****1 mark each = 2 marks**

In questions 6 and 7 reward answers with the following content:

6. She was always looking for something interesting. **1 mark**
7. A vacuum cleaner would not leave any fragments for her to look at. **1 mark**
8. She decided to invite three disadvantaged children to spend the summer there. **1 mark**

Section 2

9. I thank you for your very kind invitation. **1 mark**
10. Standstill **½ mark**
11. **If more than one option is underlined, the sentence is to be marked as incorrect.**
 (a) excited (b) smooth and slow (c) easy **½ mark each = 1½ mark**
12. (a) F (b) N (c) N (d) T (e) T (f) T **½ mark each = 3 marks**
13. **Accept any two of the following:**
 butterflies dragonflies beetles lizards **½ mark each = 1 mark**
14. **Reward answers that have the following content:**
 The reflection of their faces moved slightly with the movement of the water. **2 marks**

Questions on the whole passage

15. Spilled over **1 mark**
16. (a) Ida explorer (c) Maud Biggin archaeologist
 (b) Oskar captain (d) Sybilla Bun cook
½ mark each = 2 marks
17. **Full marks to be awarded only for content that logically follows from the text.**
Accept answers such as:
 The children stopped to look at the creatures.
 The children saw something which attracted their attention. **2 marks**