

**End of Primary Benchmark
2012
Second Session**

English Reading Comprehension

Total: 30 marks

Time: 50 minutes

Reading Comprehension 1

Read carefully.

Julia, Peter and Michael are looking at the school notice board and read the poster about the Swimming, Cycling and Running Competition for Children. Peter and Michael are twins and they are 11 years old. Julia, who is 10 years old, is their friend. All three children are interested in the Training Week.

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

1. Underline the correct answer. 1/2 mark

The Training Week will be held from:

- (a) 13th to 29th July 2012
- (b) 23rd to 29th July 2012
- (c) 23rd to 1st August 2012

2. Underline the correct answer. 1 mark

How much will it cost Peter and Michael to attend the Training Week?

- (a) 100 Euro
- (b) 250 Euro
- (c) 350 Euro

3. Fill in the missing information.

Julia wishes to apply for the Training Week. What distance will she be trained to swim, cycle and run? 1 1/2 mark

Swim Cycle Run

4. 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) The Training will be held at Sandy Bay.	
(b) Peter and Michael are training to run 2 kilometres.	
(c) Peter and Michael are training to swim 100 metres.	
(d) Julia will pay 250 Euro for the Training Week.	
(e) Applications will be accepted until 29 th July 2012.	
(f) Children can also apply at the Seaside Resort.	

SWIMMING, CYCLING and RUNNING COMPETITION FOR 7 to 12-YEAR-OLDS



Swimming



Cycling



Running

A Training Week is to be held in preparation for the Competition.

Date: 23rd to 29th July 2012

Place: Seaside Resort, Sandy Bay

Cost: 250 Euro for the whole week. The second child from the same family pays 100 Euro only.

Training offered:

- 7 to 10-year-olds will be trained to swim 100 metres, cycle 5 kilometres and run 1 kilometre.
- 11 to 12-year-olds will be trained to swim 200 metres, cycle 10 kilometres and run 2 kilometres.

Applications for the Training Week will be accepted until 13th July 2012 and are to be handed in to the School Secretary.

The Competition will be held on 1st August 2012.

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

Two things should be remembered about adventures. They always happen when you are not expecting anything to happen and the beginning is usually quite unexciting and ordinary so that you seldom realize that something important has begun. An adventure always creeps up on you from behind. **(paragraph 1)**

Certainly, Ben's adventure did. It all started on a hot, windless day in late summer; the sort of day that is only comfortable if you are swimming in the sea. But Ben was nowhere near the sea. He was sitting, feeling sticky and bored, in a small flat in London, near the Zoo. His boredom had made him indulge in three cream cakes. He was wondering with half his mind if he could possibly manage another cream cake without being sick, when his father said,

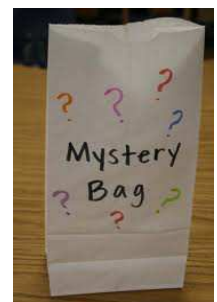
'Why don't you go and play in the garden, old chap?' **(paragraph 2)**



Though Ben had been thinking of doing just that, – with the half of his mind that wasn't wondering about the next cream cake – the fact that his father had suggested the garden turned him against it at once. He wasn't often contrary or quarrelsome but at the moment he was feeling heavy and cross. **(paragraph 3)**

'Nothing to do in the garden,' he mumbled. This wasn't true. Ben was such a resourceful person that he could find something to do even in an empty yard.

'I'm afraid you're finding London rather a dull place, aren't you? If you look in that carrier bag by the window, you might find something to cheer you up.' Ben's father said. Reluctantly, Ben peered into the bag in which there was a new, colourful ball. **(paragraph 4)**



Questions on Section 1

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

2. Where was Ben? 1/2 mark

3. What was the weather like on that day? 1/2 mark

4. Which word that describes Ben tells us that he would always find something to do? 1/2 mark

5. 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 the passage. 1/2 mark each

(a) You are always prepared for an adventure.	
(b) Ben's adventure started when he was not expecting it.	
(c) This story happened last summer.	
(d) The zoo was near the sea.	
(e) Ben was feeling uncomfortably hot.	
(f) Ben was thinking of having his fourth cream cake.	
(g) Ben's father was feeling bored too.	
(h) Ben always agreed with his father.	

6. Underline the best answer to complete the sentence. 1/2 mark each
 - (a) An adventure is (planned, unexpected, boring) when it creeps up on you from behind.
 - (b) Ben was (bored and irritated, bored and sick, bored and hungry).
7. What was Father's intention when he told Ben to look in the bag? 1 mark

Section 2

Ben stood on the steps that led down into the garden and considered what to do. He had to go to the Zoo. He had enough pocket-money left. But he didn't really enjoy the Zoo. He had been there twice already this week. He was really only interested in the lions but they didn't do anything; just lay in their cages and looked incredibly weary and bored. Ben was sorry for them. No, there was no point in going to look at lions in cages. **(paragraph 5)**

He made his way slowly down to the bottom of the garden. The wall was high, but there were enough broken or missing bricks to make it an easy climb. From the top of the wall, you could look down into the other gardens, most of which were neglected and overgrown. **(paragraph 6)**

The top of the wall was rather wide so it was easy to walk along but quite difficult to bounce a ball while walking. As he moved along, Ben's skill and confidence increased with the result that he could bounce the ball higher and higher. **(paragraph 7)**



Suddenly the ball landed on a crumbly brick and shot forwards and sideways at an awkward angle. Ben lurched to catch it, missed, lost his balance and fell forward – not off the wall, but onto it. He was badly frightened because the top of the wall just in front of him was covered with jagged spikes of broken glass. He could have fallen right on top of it and slashed his face. He noticed that the broken glass continued all round the small garden that lay in front of him. And the ball had bounced into it. It had bounced – though of course he didn't quite realize it at the time – straight into adventure. **(paragraph 8)**

Adapted from *On the Run* by Nina Bawden

Questions on Section 2

8. Write down the sentence which tells us how Ben felt about the zoo. **1 mark**

9. Write down the sentence which tells us that Ben had visited the zoo. **1 mark**

10. **Underline** the best answer. **½ mark each**

(a) (All, Only a few, Many) of the gardens were not well kept.

(b) Ben was frightened because he (might have hurt himself, might have lost the ball, might have got into trouble).

11. Why was Ben sorry for the lions? **1 mark**

12. Why was it easy to walk on the wall?

13. What **two** actions was Ben doing on the wall?

1 mark

14. 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 the passage. 1/2 mark each

(a) Ben had decided where to go as soon as he left the flat.	
(b) The zoo charged an entrance fee.	
(c) Ben found the wall easy to climb.	
(d) Ben tried hard to catch the ball.	
(e) The ball had bounced into a large, public garden.	
(f) Ben could see some people in the gardens.	

15. What led to the ball bouncing out of Ben's reach?

1 mark

Questions on the whole passage

16. Underline the sentence which **best** describes Ben's day.

1 mark

- (a) Ben was bored and thought that going to the zoo would brighten his day.
- (b) Ben was bored but then his day changed greatly when he was least expecting it.
- (c) Ben lost his new ball but fortunately he was not hurt.

17. Write **one** sentence saying what you think happened after the ball bounced into the garden.

2 marks

18. Put the actions in the order they happened. The first one has been done for you.

1/2 mark each

(a) Ben ate three cream cakes.	
(b) Ben climbed the garden wall.	
(c) Ben felt hot and bored.	1
(d) Ben took the ball.	
(e) Ben went to the garden.	
(f) Ben fell on the wall.	
(g) Ben bounced the ball.	

END OF READING EXAMINATION

DIRECTORATE FOR QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

Curriculum Management and eLearning Department

Educational Assessment Unit

End of Primary Benchmark**Second Session 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.**
- (b) 23rd to 29th July 1/2 mark
- 2. If more than one option is underlined, the sentence is to be marked as incorrect.**
- (c) 350 Euro 1 mark
3. Swim: 100m; Cycle: 5 Km; Run: 1 Km 1/2 mark each = 1 1/2 mark
4. (a) T (b) T (c) F (d) T (e) F (f) N 1/2 mark each = 3 marks

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.**
- **In questions 2, 3, 7, 11, 12 and 13 answers do not need to be in complete sentences.**
- **Deduct 1/2 mark overall for irrelevant information.**

Section 1

1. Seldom 1/2 mark
2. Ben was in a small flat in London. **OR** 1/2 mark
At home
3. It was a hot (and sticky) windless day (in late summer). 1/2 mark
4. Resourceful 1/2 mark
5. (a) F (b) T (c) N (d) F (e) T (f) T (g) N (h) F 1/2 mark each = 4 marks
6. (a) unexpected (b) bored and irritated 1/2 mark each = 1 mark
7. **Reward answers that have the following content**
Ben's father wanted to cheer him up. **OR**
Ben's father wanted to encourage him to go out and play with the new ball. 1 mark

Section 2

8. (But) he didn't really enjoy the zoo. 1 mark
9. He had been twice already this week. 1 mark
10. **If more than one option is underlined, the sentence is to be marked as incorrect.**
(a) Many (b) might have hurt himself ½ mark each

In 11, 12, 13 reward answers that have the following content:

11. Ben was sorry for the lions because they just lay in their cages and looked incredibly weary and bored. 1 mark
12. The top of the wall was wide. 1 mark
13. He was walking and bouncing the ball. 1 mark
14. (a) F (b) T (c) T (d) T (e) F (f) N ½ mark each = 3 marks
15. It hit a crumbly brick and shot forwards and sideways to an awkward angle. 1 mark

Questions on the whole passage

16. **If more than one option is underlined, the sentence is to be marked as incorrect.**
(b) Ben was bored but then his day changed greatly when he was least expecting it. 1 mark
17. **Full marks to be awarded only for content that logically follows from the text.** 2 marks

Examples:

Ben saw a small boy in the garden.

Ben got the fright of his life when he saw a strange animal in the garden.

18. (a) 2 (b) 5 (d) 3 (e) 4 (f) 7 (g) 6 ½ mark each = 3 marks