

End of Primary Benchmark

2014

Second Session

English Reading Comprehension

30 marks

50 minutes

Reading Comprehension 1

Read these instructions carefully and answer the questions on the opposite page.

How to make a cup of tea

Start with the water.

Whether you use teabags or loose tea, water is the second most important ingredient. Fill an empty kettle with 250ml fresh, cold water.

Plug in the kettle and turn it on.

If you don't have an electric kettle, you can heat a kettle on a cooker.

Bring the water to the boil.

Wait until the kettle switches off automatically or whistles to make sure that the water has boiled.

Heat the cup.

To heat the cup, rinse it out with boiling water. Then place the teabag into the cup.

Add water.

Pour water from the kettle into the cup until it is nearly full. If you wish to add some milk, leave room for it.

Wait for the teabag to release the tea flavour.

Wait for three to five minutes to let the teabag release the tea flavour. If milk is desired, add into the cup. Do not add milk until the colour of the tea is as dark as you want it.

Use a teaspoon to remove the teabag.

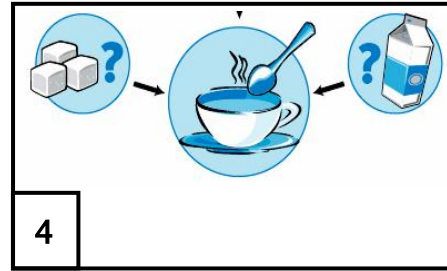
Throw the teabag away, or recycle it, as desired.

If you like your tea sweet, place a teaspoon of sugar or honey into the cup and stir well.

Drink and enjoy the goodness of the tea.

For a lovely afternoon snack, you might like to add some biscuits or a piece of cake on a plate along with your tea.

1. Look at these pictures. Then put the sentences that follow in the same order as the pictures. Number them 1 to 4.



Place the teabag in a warm cup and add boiling water.	
Boil the water.	
Stir in the sugar and milk if you like.	
Fill the kettle with water.	

2. Underline the correct answer.

1 mark

- (a) Fill the kettle with (warm, hot, cold) water.
- (b) Place the teabag in the warm cup (before, after, while) you pour the water.

3. True (T), False (F) or No Information Given (NIG).

Read the following sentences and tick (✓) the correct box.

3 marks

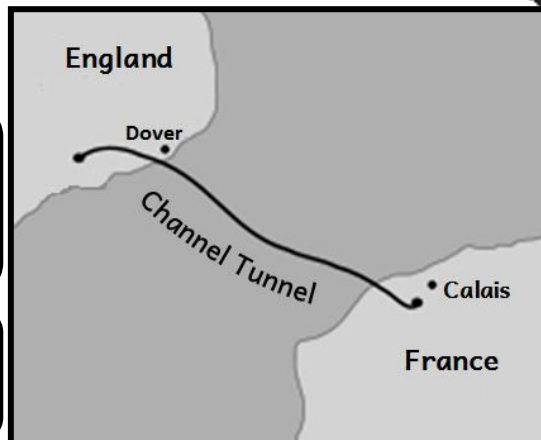
	T	F	NIG
(a) To boil water you must use an electric kettle.			
(b) You know the water has boiled when the kettle whistles.			
(c) Remove the teabag from the cup after two minutes.			
(d) A teabag can be recycled.			
(e) Many people like tea with sugar or honey.			
(f) Only cake is suitable to have with a cup of tea.			

Reading Comprehension 2

(2)

Read the text below, which is divided into two sections. Then, answer the questions that follow each section.

Section 1 The Channel Tunnel



1802 French engineer Albert Mathieu Favier suggests an underwater tunnel between France and England.

1875 The Channel Tunnel Company Limited begins digging near Dover, England.

1882 Work is stopped. The British are afraid of a foreign attack.

1974 The French and British Governments start digging again, but the British Government stops the work again.

1984 A contest to choose the best plan is held.

1986 France and England agree to continue the project.

1988 Tunnelling begins again in France and England.

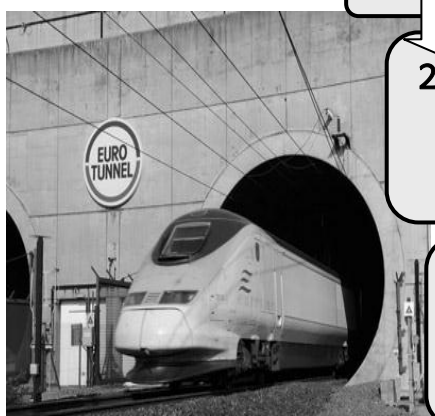
1990 The two tunnels meet midway under the Channel. The British arrive there first.

1994 The Channel Tunnel is officially opened and trains begin to use it.

1996 A fire in a lorry shuttle damages the tunnel.

2004 One of the 580-tonne drills used to excavate the tunnel is put up for sale on eBay. It is sold for £39,999.

2007 Eurostar Train Company changes its London terminus from Waterloo Rail Station to St Pancras Rail Station.



Questions on Section 1

1. Write down the year when the construction of a tunnel was first proposed.
 _____ ½ mark

2. From the first three boxes find a word which is the opposite of *started*.
 _____ ½ mark

3. True (T), False (F) or No Information Given (NIG).
 Read the following sentences and tick (✓) the correct box. 3 marks

	T	F	NIG
(a) Work on a tunnel started near Dover, England.			
(b) France tried to invade Britain in 1882.			
(c) The best plan was chosen after a competition.			
(d) People were hurt in the fire of 1996.			
(e) Each drill weighed 580 tonnes.			
(f) The London terminus has always been at St Pancras Rail Station.			

4. Continue this sentence. 1 mark
 In 1988 tunnelling began again and six years later _____

5. Underline the correct answer. 3 marks

(a) The Channel Tunnel is (above, below, over) the sea.

(b) The Channel Tunnel was damaged by a fire (before, during, after) its official opening.

(c) One of the drills used to dig the tunnel was (given away, bought online, scrapped) a few years after work on the tunnel was completed.

Section 2

For centuries, crossing the English Channel by boat or ferry had been considered a miserable experience. The bad weather and choppy water made most people seasick. (Paragraph 1)

The French engineer Albert Mathieu Favier made a plan for a tunnel to be dug under the water of the English Channel. This tunnel was to be large enough for horse-drawn carriages to travel through. The British did not like Favier's plan. They were afraid that the French wanted to invade Britain. (Paragraph 2)

Over the next two centuries, others created plans to connect Britain with France. But the plans never succeeded. Sometimes the two countries could not agree and sometimes they had no money for the project. (Paragraph 3)

In 1984 a contest was held to choose the best plan. The winning company had to do a lot of work. 13,000 workers had to be employed for this immense project. Special machines had to be designed to dig two railway tunnels. Each of the trains that would run through the tunnels would be able to hold cars and trucks. The digging of the tunnels was done by huge machines working from France and Britain until they met in the middle. (Paragraph 4)

Up to 1994 there had not been a land link between Britain and Europe for 8,000 years – since the last Ice Age. But on the 19th May of 1994, the Queen of England and the President of France opened the Channel Tunnel with a big ceremony. But not everyone celebrated. While the French saw the tunnel as a symbol of a united Europe, the British were afraid it would create problems. Some thought that animal diseases would spread quickly and others thought that terrorists would enter the country. (Paragraph 5)



The Queen of England and the President of France at the opening



Eurostar train crossing the channel

Today the Channel Tunnel is one of the busiest railway lines in the world. The tunnels are about 40 metres below the sea bed. The shuttle trains are 800 metres long, which is about the length of seven football pitches. (Paragraph 6)

Millions of passengers have used the trains. But these trains have also carried some unusual loads such as a shoal of sharks, a stretch limousine and even a helicopter. (Paragraph 7)

Adapted from *History of the Channel Tunnel* (Mary Glasgow Magazines)

Questions on Section 2

12 marks

6. Why were the British suspicious of Favier's plan?

1 mark

7. From paragraphs 1 to 4 find:

(a) two single words which mean *big*.

1 mark

(i) _____ (ii) _____

(b) a word which is the **opposite** of *losing*.

½ mark

8. When was Britain linked to Europe before 1994?

1 mark

9. Name **two problems** the British were worried about when the Channel Tunnel was opened. 1 mark

- (a) _____
- (b) _____

10. How do you know that the tunnel is popular today? 1 mark

11. True (T), False (F) or No Information Given (NIG).

Read the following sentences and tick (✓) the correct box. 2½ marks

	T	F	NIG
(a) Most people used to enjoy crossing the English Channel by boat.			
(b) It took more than a hundred years to agree on the best plan.			
(c) Over the years several plans were made for a tunnel.			
(d) The digging machines were specially made for this project.			
(e) The Queen often uses the Channel Tunnel to travel to France.			

12. Underline the correct answer. 4 marks

- (a) Two hundred years ago people could cross the English Channel (on foot, by ship or boat, by horse-drawn carriages).
- (b) The trains (sometimes, usually, rarely) carry people.
- (c) A helicopter is a (common, horrible, rare) sight on the channel trains.
- (d) This passage was taken from a (history book, magazine, story book).

Questions on the two sections

13. Continue this sentence.

1 mark

The digging of the tunnel was such a big project that _____

14. Why did the French celebrate the opening of the Channel Tunnel? 1 mark

15. Fill in the missing information. The first one has been done for you.

2 marks

(a) The year digging began near Dover	1875
(b) The year the lorry caught fire in the tunnel	
(c) The sum paid by the buyer of the drill	
(d) The date of the official opening of the Channel Tunnel	
(e) The length of the shuttle train	

END OF READING COMPREHENSION PAPER