

Reading Test Guidance

Top tips for the Reading Comprehension test.

There is 1 hour to read and answer questions about 3 different texts.

You can either:

Read all 3 texts first and then answer the questions OR

Read each text and answer the questions for that text before reading the next text.

- ❖ You should aim to read the text TWICE. Read carefully and don't rush.
- ❖ The time allowed to answer the questions about the text can be worked out by looking at the number of marks for each question. Allow 1 minute for every mark, so if there are 3 marks for a question then you need 3 minutes to answer the question.
- ❖ Read the questions carefully and remember to refer back to the text to find the answers. You may have to reread sections of the text to help you.

THIS IS NOT A MEMORY TEST; IF YOU DO NOT LOOK BACK AT THE TEXT, YOU WILL GET THE ANSWERS WRONG!

Check how many marks each question is worth:

- ❖ 1-mark questions usually mean the answer is in the words in the text; or a few words are needed to answer the question
- ❖ 2- or 3-mark questions usually mean that you have to work out what the author meant; or to give your opinion on the vocabulary or style used by the author; or to use your knowledge and experience to help you to answer the questions. ALWAYS answer these questions with evidence or examples from the text
- ❖ If a question begins 'Why do you think...?' or 'How do you know...?' you should ALWAYS back up your answer with examples from the text
- ❖ Some 3-mark questions ask you to write a part of the text EG a letter; a diary entry; a character's thoughts or feelings. You need to remember to write in the correct style here and use Grammar and Punctuation.
- ❖ If a question asks for your opinion, you must explain your opinion and support it with examples from the text.

EG. I enjoyed the poem because it was mysterious. The poet used the phrase 'and secrets in the corners' to make the reader curious.

NOT: I liked the poem because it was good.

Remember to read through your answer and make sure you have answered the question asked.

If you haven't - then you will get NO marks!

Try not to leave questions unanswered. It is better to try to answer the question rather than to avoid it.

If you find a question too tricky, leave it and come back to it later.