

Opportunity Class Placement Test

Reading

Explained answers for Practice Test 2

Janison.

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[Task 1]

1 The correct answer is **‘are not intended to hurt him.’** The passage explains that Mikey feels he is being deliberately targeted by flying objects, as we are told that he feels his is “under some sort of attack”. However, he realises the attackers are using “soft stuff” like mud and tree roots, which means they are not trying to cause harm or expecting him to fight back.

2 The correct answer is **‘deserves their respect for showing courage.’** After Mikey stops running, Zak and Tremble show a shift in attitude. Tremble acknowledges that Mikey helped save a sparrowhawk, and Zak calls him a "legend". This respect comes from Mikey's bravery in facing them and his good deed with the bird, indicating that they now admire him for his courage.

3 The correct answer is **‘what his exact form is.’** The paragraph about The Strider mentions that there are varying accounts of his appearance – some say he is a water spirit, others a ghost. This shows there is disagreement about what The Strider looks like, but everyone agrees his intention is to lure people into the river, where he lives. There is no mention of how best to fight him.

4 The correct answer is **‘She tries to reassure Mikey.’** At The Crossing, Emily sees that Mikey is nervous about the challenge – we are told that she can “sense his discomfort” – so she reassures him by saying that it is easy and offers to demonstrate how to do it. She boasts about having done it successfully before, not about having survived falling.

5 The correct answer is **‘confident that he can do it the hard way’.** Although the others suggest using the swing to cross the river, Mikey feels confident enough to propose jumping across it instead, as he assesses the distance and decides he is capable of it. We are told that many people had apparently “tried and failed to cross the river” at this spot, making his decision to jump across rather than use the swing appear to be the hard way to do it.

6 The correct answer is **‘humour to make the story seem less menacing.’** Throughout the story, the writer uses humorous dialogue and character interactions to lighten the mood and make the situation feel less threatening. For example, Zak’s exaggerated warning about the river and the friendly banter between the characters add humour, making the story less menacing despite the haunted river setting.

[Task 2]

7 The correct answer is **‘how careful he is in his observations.’** In the first four lines, the poet repeats the words ‘very small’ and the concept of ‘concentrating’ or ‘focusing’ to emphasize the precision and care he takes in his observations. This repetition highlights how he gives his attention to minute details in order to be thorough.

8 The correct answer is **‘a crack’**. In line 9, the ‘it’ refers back to the crack in the sandstone mentioned earlier in line 5. By focusing closely on the small world within the crack, the poet imagines it as an entire forest filled with life.

9 The correct answer is **‘to provide a climax to the poem.’** The poet uses the rhyming words ‘introspection’ and ‘direction’ to create a sense of culmination at the end of the poem. This rhyme gives a sense of finality, as it is the only place in the poem where straight rhyme, as opposed to near rhyme, is used.

10 The correct answer is **‘describing the impression another person may have of him.’** In lines 14 to 19, the poet describes how someone might perceive him as ‘vague, abstracted, lost in introspection’ when they see him staring fixedly at something. This description is about how others might interpret his actions, not about his own feelings or complaints.

11 The correct answer is **‘into his imagination’**. In line 21, when the poet says he is ‘just looking in a different direction’, he is absorbed in the tiny world within the crack, which he has transformed in his mind into a whole forest, rather than observing the broader, real-world landscape around him.

[Task 3/ Q12]

Gap A The correct answer is **‘Not that we blame anyone for making that mistake.’** The paragraph describes the tawny frogmouth’s owl-like characteristics. This sentence refers to the tawny frogmouth’s owl-like characteristics described in the previous paragraph as well as in the subsequent sentences, explaining why people might confuse the two birds.

Gap B The correct answer is **‘The key difference between these birds and true owls is that frogmouths feed on insects.’** The first sentence in this paragraph explains that the tawny frogmouth is not an owl but a type of nightjar. The sentence which fits the gap follows logically, highlighting the key difference between frogmouths and true owls, which is that frogmouths primarily feed on insects.

Gap C The correct answer is **‘In any sizeable garden, there are almost certainly frogmouths around.’** This paragraph discusses how well the tawny frogmouth blends into its surroundings during the day. The sentence which fits the gap indicates how common these birds are, while the sentence immediately following it, ‘You just never see them’, emphasises how invisible these birds are due to their camouflage.

Gap D The correct answer is **‘That’s unusually extensive for a single bird species, so they have special adaptations for fast panting, and use their wide mouths as radiators.’** The paragraph describes how the tawny frogmouth has adapted to various temperature extremes. This sentence elaborates on this by explaining that the bird has

special adaptations like panting and using its wide mouth as a radiator to handle the temperature variations mentioned in the previous sentence.

Gap E The correct answer is **‘For comparison, if this ever happened to you, you would enter severe hypothermia, lose consciousness, and unless rescued by other humans, you would probably be in serious trouble.’** The passage discusses how the tawny frogmouth can enter a state called ‘torpor’ to conserve energy in cold conditions. The sentence connects directly to this, comparing the bird’s ability to lower its body temperature with the severe consequences humans would face if they experienced a similar temperature drop.

Gap F The correct answer is **‘Looking more like a cartoon character than a real animal, it has yellow eyes like ping pong balls and a ridiculously oversized mouth.’** The paragraph introduces the tawny frogmouth’s South American relative, the potoo. This sentence fits here because the ‘it’ refers to the potoo, describing its distinctive features, which have made it famous on the internet.

[Task 4 /Q13]

In which extract does the writer talk extensively about a substance that is added to water?

The correct answer is **D**. This extract discusses the use of chlorine, a substance added to water in swimming pools to disinfect it. The writer explains how this process is necessary for safety but also mentions some of the side effects of using chlorine-based products.

In which extract does the writer mention the cost of water being less than some people realise?

The correct answer is **A**. The writer in Extract A mentions that people often overestimate the price of tap water. The comparison between this overestimation and the knowledge people have about the price of petrol is used to show that water is actually less expensive than many people think.

In which extract does the writer describe water in figurative language?

The correct answer is **B**. In this extract, the writer uses figurative language to describe the waves in the ocean. The waves are compared to the ‘back of a giant cobra’ creating a vivid image of the water’s movement.

In which extract does the writer talk about people taking water for granted?

The correct answer is **A**. The writer in Extract A discusses how people in developed countries often used water without thinking about it because it is so easily accessible. The extract highlights the various uses of water, emphasising its importance, while describing people as ‘out of touch’ with this.

In which extract does the writer explain a regulation concerning water?

The correct answer is **D**. This extract explains the regulation requiring the disinfection of swimming pool water. The writer describes how chlorination is used to meet this safety standard and discusses the implications of this process.

In which extract does the writer refer to people keeping a record of where water is?

The correct answer is **C**. The writer in Extract C refers to traditional Aboriginal practices of mapping and marking water sources. These methods were traditionally used by Aboriginal people to record and locate water.

In which extract does the writer refer to water as providing relief for someone?

The correct answer is **B**. In this extract, the writer describes how a character (Emma) finds relief from the heat by diving into the cool water. The contrast between the hot air and the refreshing ocean emphasises the comfort provided by the water.

In which extract does the writer mention how a particular group of people can benefit from being in water?

The correct answer is **D**. This extract mentions that swimming is often recommended for asthmatic children because the moist air is less likely to trigger asthma. The writer discusses how this group benefits from being in water.