ENGLISH LANGUAGE – MOCK TEST

READING COMPREHENSION

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| History remembers winners. Only rarely do we commemorate those who came second. The story of Robert Falcon Scott is one of those rare exceptions.  In January 1912, Scott and four others reached what is possibly the most remote place on Earth: the South Pole. It was not Scott’s first voyage to the Antarctic; he led a successful mapping expedition there between 1901 and 1904. In fact, it was the results of that expedition that enabled Ernest Shackleton to attempt but narrowly fail to reach the Pole in 1909. To his credit, Shackleton did succeed in returning all his men safely. Scott made it his mission in life to surpass Shackleton’s achievement. Scott knew about a number of other expeditions being prepared at the same time as his. The most important one was in Norway, by the veteran explorer Roald Amundsen, but Scott insisted that he would not sacrifice their scientific goals to win a race to the Pole. He even wrote in his diary that if Amundsen got through first, he would deserve his luck.  Scott selected 65 men out of over 8,000 applicants for the expedition – including several members of his own mapping trip and Shackleton’s aborted expedition. Scott’s team left Britain in June 1910, on board the sailing ship *Terra Nova*. Reaching the Pole was only one of the expedition’s stated goals; Scott also wanted to carry out geological explorations of the regions called King Edward VII Land and Victoria Land. In fact, while completing this assignment in early February 1911, some of Scott’s men ran into Amundsen’s team camping in a small bay east of Scott’s base. When Scott was told this, he decided that they should proceed exactly as though this had not happened’. In the Antarctic summer of 1911, Scott and his men set up a series of campsites with food and other provisions along the planned route to the Pole. The campsite nearest to their destination was the One Ton Depot.  In October 1911, a team of 16 left the base, and headed for the Pole. At the beginning, they moved more slowly than they had anticipated, but by late December they had made up for the lost time. They had been stopping and resting at the previously established campsites, and leaving behind some members of the team to start resupplying the camps for the return journey. When the small final team of five explorers reached the South Pole on 17 January 1912, they thought they had won the race. A day later, they came across Amundsen’s tent nearby, with a letter the Norwegian had kindly asked Scott to deliver to the King of Norway. The Norwegians only beat the British by four weeks, arriving at the Pole on 15 December 1911.  Scott’s party set out on their journey home across the ice. One of them died shortly afterwards as a result of multiple hand and head injuries. The remaining survivors came up against extreme weather conditions. They were unable to walk more than eight kilometres a day, and their supplies were fast running out. In March, a fierce snowstorm stopped them completely, only 18 kilometres from One Ton Depot. Scott made the final note in his diary on 29 March 1912: ‘I do not think we can hope for any better things now. We shall stick it out to the end, but we are getting weaker, of course, and the end cannot be far. It seems a pity but I do not think I can write more. R. Scott.’  A rescue expedition found their tent and the explorers’ frozen bodies on 12 November 1912. A large memorial was erected near their base in January 1913, with a quotation from Tennyson’s poem ‘Ulysses’: ‘To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield’. |
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**1 Read a magazine article about a famous explorer. Which of these would be a good title?**

a A destination that was never reached

b Lessons of a failed expedition

c The sacrifice of a true leader

d A tragically near miss

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| 2 points for the correct answer |  | 2 |

**2 Read the article again. Are the following statements true (T), false (F), or not stated (NS)?**

1 Scott didn’t know about other planned expeditions to reach the South Pole. c\_\_\_

2 All members of the 1909 Shackleton expedition survived the journey. c\_\_\_

3 The One Ton Depot was the campsite closest to the expedition’s main base. c\_\_\_

4 Scott wanted to speak to Amundsen when they met at the Norwegian camp in the Antarctic. c\_\_\_

5 The first thing the British team saw when they reached the Pole, was the Norwegian camp. c\_\_\_

6 By the end of 1911, Scott’s team was several weeks behind its plans. c\_\_\_

7 A group of five explorers made it all the way to the Pole. c\_\_\_

8 All the members of the final polar team died only 18 kilometres from One Ton Depot. c\_\_\_

9 The explorers were found nearly eight months after they died. c\_\_\_

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| 2 points for each correct answer |  | 18 |

**3 There are ten underlined phrasal verbs in the text. Match five of them to their definitions. The definitions are in their dictionary form.**

1 get started \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2 become depleted \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3 gain back \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4 find unexpectedly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5 conduct \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets. There may be more than one possible answer.

1   Listen to the thunder! We ’re going to have (have) a storm.

2   This line is very bad. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (call) you back in a minute.

3   I think people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (have) holidays on the moon in the future.

4   The next race \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (start) in half an hour.

5   Helen left you a message. She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) late home this evening.

6   It’s very hot in here. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (open) a window?

7   Please don’t call me between 10.00 and 12.00 because I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (interview) people.

8   We’ll be able to go out at the weekend because I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (do) all my work by then.

Complete the sentences with the correct form of *take* or *put.*

1   People often take their health for granted.

2   You always \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your work first! Why don’t you pay attention to me for a change?

3 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ no notice of her. She doesn’t know what she’s talking about.

4 She’s got a lot of good plans, but rarely has time to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them into practice.

5   How many countries are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ part in the Olympic Games this year?

6   Why does she always \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ages to get dressed in the morning?

7   They’re \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a lot of pressure on us to reach our sales targets this year.

8   She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ offence when he said he didn’t like the food she’d made.

9   Where’s the meeting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ place?

10   He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my advice and bought a new pair of shoes.

11   He’s been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in charge of buying tickets for the match.

Complete the sentences with an appropriate preposition.

1   Could you please put that cigarette out ? You know I can’t stand the smell of cigarette smoke.

2   I’ve put \_\_\_\_\_\_ a new dress for the party. What do you think?

3   Sales of the new book started slowly, but took \_\_\_\_\_\_ towards the end of the month.

4   Do you know if the company is likely to be taking \_\_\_\_\_\_ any new staff this year?

5   The food is actually very good at this restaurant. Don’t let one bad experience put you \_\_\_\_\_\_ .

6   If you don’t take \_\_\_\_\_\_ what you just said, I’ll never speak to you again!

7   Make sure you read the instructions twice. It can be hard to take all the information \_\_\_\_\_\_ first time.

8   It’s time to put your books \_\_\_\_\_\_ , children.

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in brackets.

1   My sister is completely unambitious (ambition). She has no idea what kind of career she wants to have.

2   Please ring the bell if you require further \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (assist).

3   I think you could describe his interest in computer games as an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (obsess).

4   I’m afraid I’ve \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (burn) the supper. We’ll have to get a takeaway tonight.

5   Who do you think the most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (influence) business person was this year?

6   His parents are incredibly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (pride) of his achievements, which is not surprising.

7   That was quite an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (inspire) speech, wasn’t it? I feel quite motivated now!

8   The instructions for this camera are quite \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (complicate). I don’t really understand what to do.

9   It’s unlikely that workers will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (automatic) receive a pay rise in line with inflation this year.

Circle the correct phrase.

1   *Quite a lot of us / Nobody / Almost all* was able to answer the teacher’s question.

2   He has put on more than *a few / none / any* pounds recently.

3   We didn’t stop arguing *hardly any / the whole / very few* of the time.

4   *A great deal / Numerous / A little* people have told me to stop smoking.

5   I can’t offer you the job because you have *a little / none / little* experience.

6 She can’t come out tonight because she has no time and *a little / few / not much* money.

7 Don’t buy any more cheese. We have *little / a little / much* left.

8 I dropped a box of cups and glasses. *All / Most / Everything* in it is broken!

9 I can’t believe you’ve never been overseas your *all / whole / most* life!

10 *Fewer / Lesser / Less* people have big families these days.

11 *Everybody / Hardly anybody / None of us* want to go away this weekend – we’re too tired.

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of a word from the box.

import export decrease protest increase transport progress refund

1 I took back the broken TV and asked the shop to refund the money.

2   This is a new scheme to help companies grow their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ markets.

3   What did the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ minister say about the railways in his TV interview last night?

4   The company has suffered a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in sales.

5   Students are holding a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ outside the Student Union building at 2 p.m.

6   I can’t afford the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in prices.

7   The children are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ well at their new school.

8   This wine was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to England from Spain.

Translate the sentences.

1   Having a Saturday job is a good way of earning a bit of pocket money, isn’t it?

2   My employer expected me to have quite a bit of work experience, as well as the relevant academic qualifications.

3   Nearly everybody we know takes more than two weeks holiday over the summer.

4   There has been very little rainfall this year, and this means that the crops are likely to fail.

5   Is it true that less people are going to the cinema these days? I thought the film industry was booming.

6   ‘We’re going clothes shopping tomorrow. Do you want to come?’ ‘No, I’ve got loads of clothes, and so have you.’

7  ‘How much time do you spend using a computer, phone or tablet per day?’ ‘I honestly don’t know. Two or three hours per day?’

8   It’s been estimated that the majority of people are exposed to anything up to 3,000 different advertisements every day.

9   Japanese exports continue to recover, rising for a fourth month in a row, boosted by a weak yen and increased demand from Europe.

10   Would you mind if I read that number back to you so I can check that I’ve written it down correctly?