

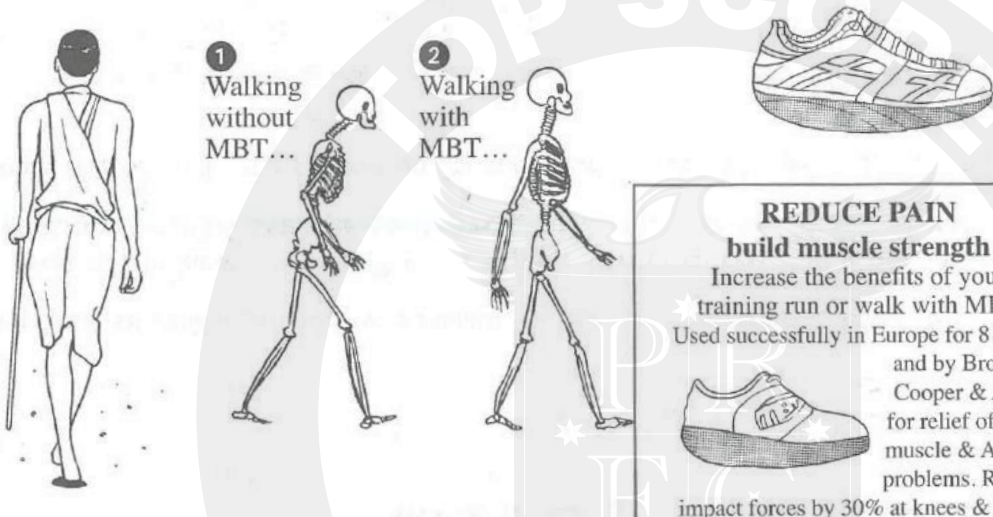
★ SET 43

CLASSWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Study the advertisement below and, using complete sentences, answer the questions that follow.

Masai Barefoot Technology [MBT]



1 Walking without MBT...

2 Walking with MBT...

REDUCE PAIN
build muscle strength
 Increase the benefits of your training run or walk with MBT
 Used successfully in Europe for 8 years and by Bronwyn Cooper & Assoc for relief of joint / muscle & Achilles problems. Reduces impact forces by 30% at knees & hips.

- NO drugs • NO injections
- NO continual therapy

MBT's unique curved sole is clinically proven

The Masai people live in the vast open spaces of the East African Rift Valley. They are cattle herders and lead a nomadic way of life. They move with their herds to find water and pasture so that the grass in the original area has a chance to re-grow. Pastoral migration requires them to walk long distances with their herds.

Masais are exceptionally lean and muscular with an envious posture developed through daily long-distance walking. Their upright gait and graceful springy strides are responsible for their pain-free joints.

With their springy curved soles, MBT shoes are created from an understanding of the Masais' gait, which puts no pressure on your joints but instead exercises your muscles.

Wearing it creates good posture and keeps your joints healthy and pain-free!!!
Buy a pair of MBT today!!!

1. What is the main purpose of the advertisement?
 - (a) To inform the public about shoes that exercise muscles and maintain joint health.
 - (b) To educate and give hope to people who suffer from knee and joint, muscle and Achilles problems.

(c) To promote the sale of the product.

(d) All of the above.

2. What effect do you think the sentence "MBT's unique curved sole is scientifically proven." is likely to have on the readers of this advertisement? (Choose the letter that has the two correct answers.)

i) The statement is likely to position the reader to feel that the advertisement is genuine.

ii) The statement is likely to position the reader to feel that the advertisement is a gimmick.

iii) The statement is likely to position the reader to have confidence in the product.

iv) The statement is likely to position the reader to feel compelled to buy the product.

(a) i) and ii)

(b) ii) and iii)

(c) i) and iii)

(d) i) and iv)

3. From the two illustrations of the skeletons, identify the most significant characteristic in the gait or manner of walking that would give an MBT user relief from joint pain.

(a) upright posture

(b) even strides

(c) long strides

(d) springy strides

4. What do you think caused the inventor of MBT to design shoes with curved soles?

(a) The Masais' upright posture reducing pressure on the joints - a consequence of their springy strides.

(b) The Masais' gait reducing pressure on the joints - a consequence of their springy strides.

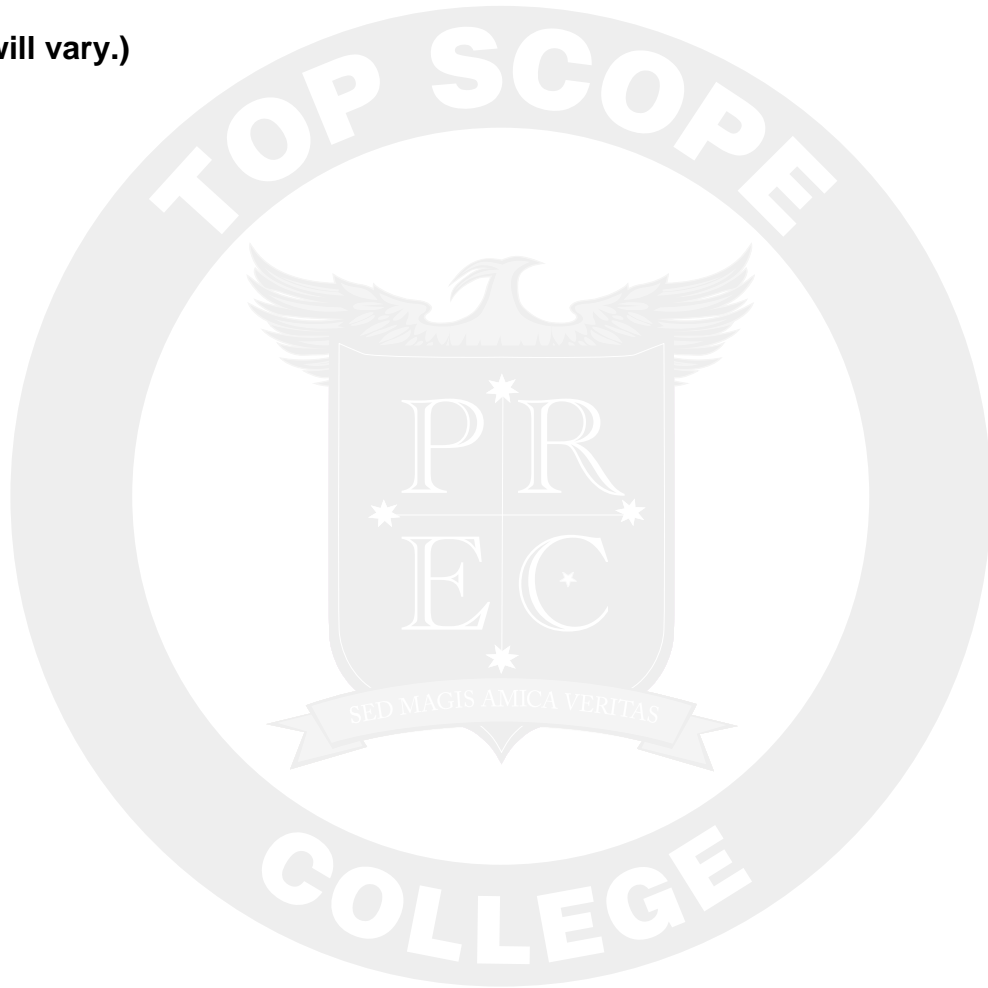
(c) The Masais' upright posture reducing pressure on the joints - a consequence of daily long-distance walking.

(d) None of the above.

5. Write, in one sentence, why the advertisement might appeal to potential buyers of the product.

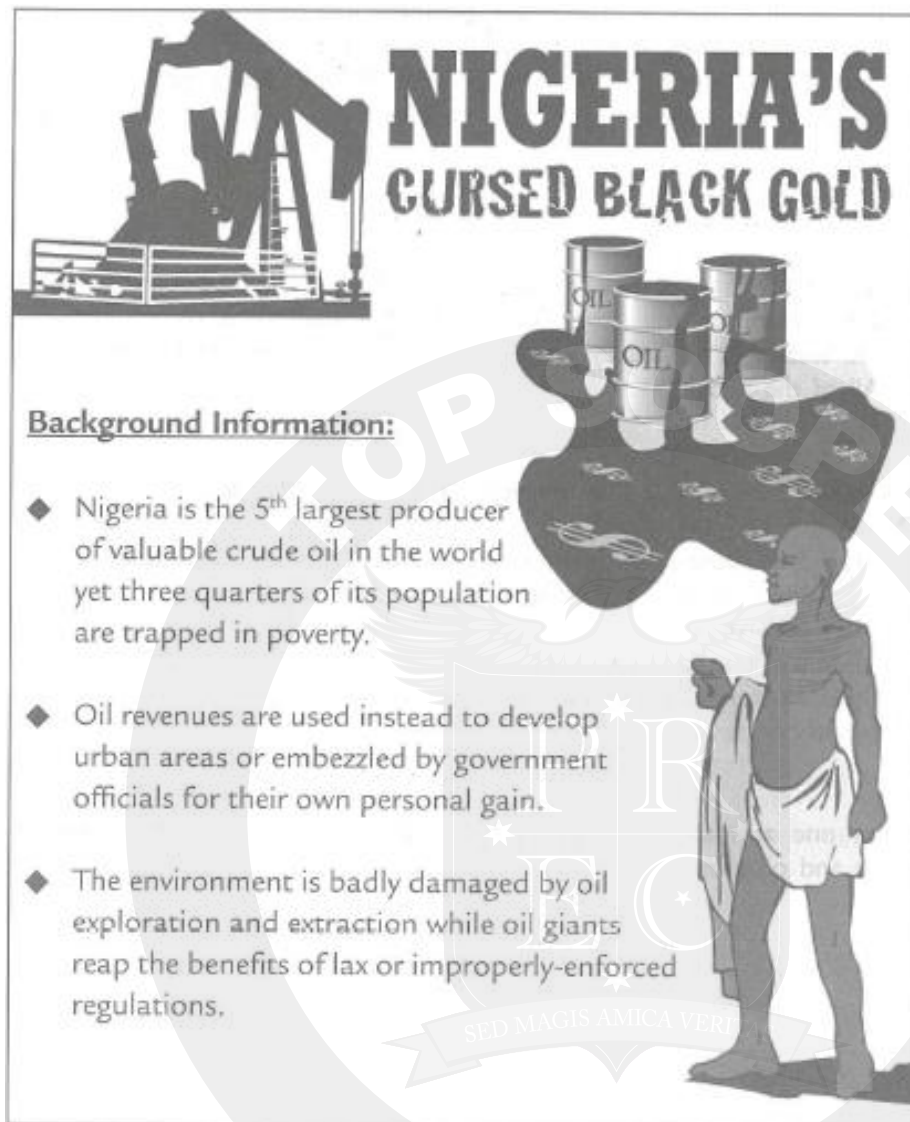
The advertisement gives convincing scientific information as well as a clear explanation about a range of benefits that come with the use of the shoes (such as the curved sole that is likely to assist with maintaining a straight posture).

(Answers will vary.)



Study the poster below and answer the questions that follow.

Poster



- What is the main objective of the poster?
 - To prompt an investigation into the corruption associated with the oil industry.**
 - To show the world that Nigeria is rich in oil resources.
 - To encourage citizens to fight for a share in the oil wealth.
 - All of the above.
- Why do you think oil is referred to as black gold?
 - Crude oil is black in colour, but glimmers like gold.
 - Crude oil is black in colour and, like gold, is valuable.**
 - Crude oil is black and, when it solidifies, looks like a gold nugget.
 - None of the above.

3. Why is crude oil cursed?

- (a) Oil brings wealth to the nation, but the majority of the people remain poor.
- (b) Oil exploration and extraction damage the environment.
- (c) Oil wealth is robbed by government officials for personal gain.

(d) All of the above.

4. What is the intended effect of this poster on the poor citizens of Nigeria?

- (a) The poor citizens feel blessed that their country produces oil which is highly demanded by countries all over the world.

(b) The poor citizens feel bitter and bear a strong resentment for their leaders.

- (c) The poor citizens feel that environmental groups should do more to solve their environmental problems.
- (d) None of the above.

5. Suggest one adjective that appropriately describes the attitude of government officials and oil giants.

greedy / avaricious/ corrupt

Verbal Reasoning

1. Underline the two words which are the odd ones out in the following groups of words.

Example: black king purple green house

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| a) bounce | spring | <u>autumn</u> | leap | <u>weather</u> |
| b) sponsor | <u>form</u> | back | <u>run</u> | finance |
| c) fork | <u>plate</u> | <u>glass</u> | spoon | knife |
| d) <u>disperse</u> | appear | show | <u>vanish</u> | emerge |
| e) area | <u>perimeter</u> | <u>edge</u> | district | region |

2. Underline the pair of words most similar in meaning.

Example: come, go roam, wander fear, fare

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| a) <u>desert, abandon</u> | fierce, fiend | pay, take |
| b) raw, cooked | realise, reassure | <u>swell, bulge</u> |
| c) doubtful, acceptable | <u>means, resources</u> | meek, arrogant |

d) agree, upset

brief, long

allow, permit

e) admire, despise

underline, emphasise

calm, confused

Category

Arrange each of these words in their correct categories. They must be placed in alphabetical order from left to right.

| | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|---------|------------|
| barometer | grape | alligator | wallaby | avocado | microscope |
| dingo | theodolite | ammeter | pomegranate | kudu | cantaloupe |

1. Animals alligator dingo kudu wallaby
2. Fruit avocado cantaloupe grape pomegranate
3. Tools or instruments ammeter barometer microscope theodolite

Thinking Skills

1. The lowest of politicians is that man who seeks to gratify his selfish desire for power by pretending to seek the public good. For a profitable popularity he accommodates himself to all opinions, to all dispositions, to every side and to every prejudice. He is a mirror with no face of its own but a smooth surface from which each person of ten thousand may: _____.
(a) vote for him (b) see themselves reflected (c) trust him (d) shine brightly
2. An avocado is grown from a seed that will take seven years before it bears fruit. To grow avocados like this you must have: _____.
(a) luck (b) fruit (c) a farm (d) patience
3. Fifty is an in-between age. It is neither very young nor very old. It truly is a middle age. Some people recognise this and say fifty is: _____.
(a) the old age of elderliness (b) the middle age of our youth
(c) the youth of old age and the old age of youth (d) extreme elderliness

SET 43 HOMEWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Read the cartoons and answer the questions.

Cartoon 1



Cartoon 2



1. Tick the comments below that you think the cartoonist is making in Cartoon One. (You may choose more than one.)

- a) _____ People should not take mobile phones on bushwalks.
- b) ✓ Using new technology can become a substitute for experiencing the real world.
- c) _____ Text messaging takes far too long to do.
- d) ✓ People these days want to be in contact with others all the time.
- e) ✓ People are allowing technology to take over their lives.
- f) _____ Men don't know how to communicate with women these days.

There is no single right answer here because cartoons are subjective – that is, one person may interpret a cartoon quite differently from another person. However, it seems likely that in Cartoon 1 the cartoonist is mainly making the following comments: b, d and e.

2. Cartoonists have to convey their meaning in a few simple panels. In the first four panels of Cartoon One, what does the man's behaviour and the words 'tap, tap' tell the reader?

The young man has been on the bushwalk for a long time (as the changing scenery would indicate) and yet his attention is given to obsessive texting, indicated by the words 'tap, tap' on his mobile phone.

3. In Cartoon One, four panels are used to show the young man sending the text message. One panel is used to show his girlfriend receiving it. What does this last panel reveal about the irony of the young man's situation?

The fourth panel explains what the boyfriend is texting so that the reader can grasp the irony of his exclaiming about beautiful views when he is not looking up to see them.

(Answers will vary.)

4. How does the cartoonist show the audience that the young man is missing out on the experience of his surroundings?

The cartoonist depicts different background scenery in each panel and the combined with the young man looking down at his phone, the message is conveyed that he is missing out on the beautiful natural views.

5. In Cartoon One, the young man's eyes are looking downwards and his mouth is fixed in a grin. What does this tell us about the young man?

The young man fails to find enjoyment of his surroundings. Instead, his only enjoyment is gained by an obsessive the use of his mobile phone.

6. Tick the comments that you think the cartoonist is making in Cartoon Two. (You may choose more than one.)

- a) ☒ Vending machines are increasing.
b) ☐ Gun use is increasing.
c) ☒ The world is more and more accepting of violence.
d) ☒ Society is becoming more violent.
e) ☐ Adults are feeling upset by some changes in their world.
f) ☒ It is easy to buy guns in our society.

There is no single correct answer because cartoons are subjective. That is, one person may interpret a cartoon quite differently from another person. However, it seems likely that in Cartoon Two the cartoonist is mainly making the following comments: a, c, d and f.

7. In Cartoon Two, how does the cartoonist draw the man and the boy to convey that getting a gun from a vending machine is seen by some people as a normal everyday activity?

The adult male, hands in his pockets, maintains the same casual, careless posture in every panel, while the young boy has one hand in his pocket, too, suggesting he sees purchasing a gun as a normal activity.

8. In Cartoon Two, what does the first speech bubble suggest the subject of the cartoon might be?

The speech bubble suggests the subject is the proliferation of vending machines.

9. The third panel has no speech bubble. What effect does this have?

The lack of a speech bubble makes the reader focus on the action. It creates a short suspenseful pause before the final panels reveal the cartoon's joke.

10. Cartoonists often draw characters with exaggerated features. This sometimes leads to stereotypical images* of different social groups – sometimes harmful or insulting to these groups, and sometimes not. Are there any stereotypes in these cartoons?

- The youth in each cartoon could be said to be stereotypes; each one

has his cap on backwards, signifying a young, 'cool' person.

- The older people in the gun cartoon are stereotypically middle-aged, dressed conservatively and wearing glasses.
-

The young women in the café are stereotypically young urban adults, drinking coffee and constantly using their mobile phones.

* A **stereotypical image** or a **stereotype** is a fixed set of characteristics for a particular type of person or thing – characteristics which are wrongly believed to be shared by all these people or things.

Verbal Reasoning

1. Find the three-letter word which can be added to the letters in capitals to make a new word. The new word will complete the sentence sensibly.

Example The cat sprang onto the MO. USE

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| a) Kate loves to play on the SES at the playground. | <u>LID (SLIDES)</u> |
| b) My mum's started a language CSE to learn new skills. | <u>OUR (COURSE)</u> |
| c) She always keeps her purse in her HBAG. | <u>AND (HANDBAG)</u> |
| d) Nina was caught in the rain and got SED. | <u>OAK (SOAKED)</u> |
| e) TH the ball to me! | <u>ROW (THROW)</u> |

2. Underline one word in the brackets which is most opposite in meaning to the word in capitals.

Example: WIDE (broad vague long narrow motorway)

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| a) STRONG | (powerful healthy <u>weak</u> athletic determined) |
| b) LOST | (find <u>found</u> finding finds founded) |
| c) HEIGHTEN | (increase improve ceiling prefer <u>diminish</u>) |
| d) UNITE | (team combine marriage <u>separate</u> agreement) |
| e) CUT | (chop hair <u>increase</u> shorten share) |

Category

Arrange each of these words in their correct categories. They must be placed in alphabetical order from left to right.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| mahogany phlox | geranium uranium | dahlia palm | aluminium eucalypt | bronze gladioli | hickory platinum |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|

- Flowers dahlia geranium gladioli phlox
- Minerals aluminium bronze platinum uranium
- Trees eucalypt hickory mahogany palm

Thinking Skills

- If you have achieved works of merit you will always come across people who begrudge you your success. When did any person ever rise to great heights without presenting a mark for the envious to aim their arrows. Mediocrity seeks revenge through: _____.
 (a) disbelief **(b) detraction** (c) hypothermia (d) poverty
- It is easier to be wise on behalf of others: _____.
 (a) because others are not as clever as we are (b) and ourselves
 (c) to avoid accidents **(d) than to be so for ourselves**
- Plato, the famous thinker of Ancient Greece wrote: You know that the beginning is the most important part of any work, especially in the case of a young and tender thing; for that is the time at which the character is being formed and the desired impression is more readily taken. Shall we just carelessly allow children to hear any casual tales which may be devised by casual persons, and to receive into their minds ideas for the most part the very opposite of those which we should wish them to have when they are grown up? He was writing about: _____.
 (a) how learning to read involves the learning of sounds
(b) the importance for children to be exposed to quality literature that sets high ideals
 (c) how all stories are enriching to their readers
 (d) how little effect what we read has to do with our development as compassionate human beings

★ SET 44

CLASSWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Read the explanation about poetry as well as the poem and, in complete sentences, answer the questions that follow.

Poetry is a highly creative and imaginative form of writing. It is also a more concise type of writing than prose. There is a vast array of types of poems. At its most basic, poetry can entertain and amuse us. However, serious poetry expresses the poet's deeper feelings and ideas. The reader usually needs to put effort into uncovering a poem's layers of meaning. The reward is a deeper insight into life, often a stirring of the reader's emotions and, in addition, the inspiration of reading language at its most powerful and beautiful.

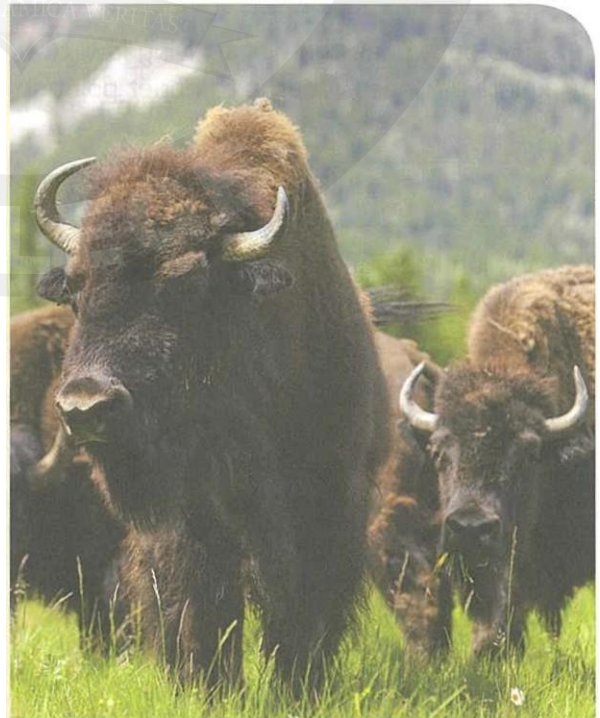
When studying a poem, ask yourself the following questions.

- What is the main idea?
- What is the main emotion or mood?
- Does the mood change during the poem?
- What emotions or feelings does the poet seek to arouse in the reader?
- What poetic techniques are used to communicate the poet's ideas and feelings?

The flower-fed buffaloes

In the days of long ago,
 Ranged where the locomotives sing
 And the prairie flowers lie low:-
 The tossing, blooming, perfumed grass
 Is swept away by the wheat,
 Wheels and wheels and wheels spin by
 In the spring that still is sweet.
 But the flower-fed buffaloes of the spring
 Left us, long ago.
 They gore no more, they bellow no more,
 They trundle around the hills no more:-
 With the Blackfeet, lying low,
 With the Pawnees, lying low,
 Lying low.

Vachel Lindsay



RESPONDING TO THE POEM

1. Which words suggest that the buffaloes were carefree creatures and part of the natural world?

The words that suggest the buffaloes were carefree and part of the natural world are: *ranged* and *flower-fed*.

(Answers will vary.)

2. What two major environmental changes has the prairie suffered?

The two major environmental changes to the prairie are the arrival of locomotive trains and the displacing of wild grasses with the cultivation of wheat.

3. What does the poet's repetition of the word *wheels* emphasise?

The noise, speed and constant intrusion of the trains in the prairie is emphasised by the repetition of the word *wheels*.

4. Which season of the year is the poet describing in the poem?

The season is spring.

5. What has happened to the buffalo and when?

The buffalo have been exterminated 'long ago'.

6. Why does the poet repeat the phrase 'no more' three times?

The repetition of the phrase *no more* stresses the tragedy that the buffalo are gone forever.

7. Explain why the poet uses the words *lying low* to describe the Blackfeet and Pawnee American Native tribes.

The words *lying low* are used to describe the death of the people in these tribes.

8. Explain the effect the poet is trying to achieve with the repetition of the phrase, *lying low*.

The repetition of the phrase *lying low* creates an image of the many dead Indian tribes people buried in the ground. It also gives focus to the poet's lament.

(Answers will vary.)

9. Find examples of the following poetic techniques.

- a) rhyme ago/low (lines 1 and 3); wheat/sweet (lines 5 and 7).
- b) personification locomotives sing.
- c) onomatopoeia bellow
- d) alliteration flower-fed; Left us, long ago.
- e) assonance They gore no more, they bellow no more.

(Answers will vary.)

10. This poem is an elegy - a lament for the dead. In one word, describe the mood of the poem?

Any of the following words: grief-stricken; mournful; desolate; sorrowful; melancholy.

(Answers will vary.)

Verbal Reasoning

1. Find two letters which will end the first word and start the second word.

Example: rea (c h) air

- f) ext (r a) bbit
- g) mou (s e) nse
- h) dep (t h) irty
- i) kenn (e l) astic
- j) cru (s t) uff
- f) compe (t e) rrible

2. Underline two words, one from each group, that go together to form a new word. The word in the first group always comes first.

Example: (hand, green, for) (light, house, sure)

- a) (peel, tall, grape) (tree, skin, fruit)
- b) (down, fast, loose) (under, load, ten)
- c) (bat, ball, show) (wide, he, win)
- d) (fur, draw, as) (set, chart, nice)
- e) (foot, neck, ear) (pierce, pain, ring)

Rhyming Words

Test your reading by finding the one word that does not rhyme with the other three. Write this odd word in the space to the right.

| | | | | |
|-----------|--------|-------|--------|----------------------|
| 1. brooch | poach | Dutch | broach | <u>Dutch</u> |
| 2. hearth | dearth | worth | girth | <u>hearth</u> |
| 3. stewed | feud | lewd | suede | <u>suede</u> |
| 4. bass | plaice | mass | trace | <u>mass</u> |
| 5. marry | jury | ferry | bury | <u>jury</u> |
| 6. large | beige | gauge | wage | <u>large</u> |

Thinking Skills

1. There are a number of stories that attempt to explain the origin of the term 'try' for a touchdown in rugby football. One is that in the early days of the game a touchdown across the opponent's line did not score any points. It did, however, allow the attackers to attempt to kick the ball over the goalposts to get some points. They were given the opportunity to: _____.

(a) run with the ball

(b) try to convert the touchdown to points

(c) score a touchdown

(d) kick and pass

2. George Washington, USA's first president was a man of high standards. He was general of the troops during the American War of Independence. On 1 July 1776 he issued this order to his troops:

The General is sorry to be informed that the foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing, a vice heretofore little known in an American army, is growing into fashion. He hopes the officers will, by example as well as influence, endeavour to check it, and that both they and the men will reflect that we can have little hope of the blessing of Heaven on our arms, if we insult it by our impiety and folly. Added to this, it is a vice so mean and low, without any temptation, that every man of sense and character despises it.

General Washington felt: _____.

(a) swearing under pressure was acceptable

(b) people who swear do not go to Heaven

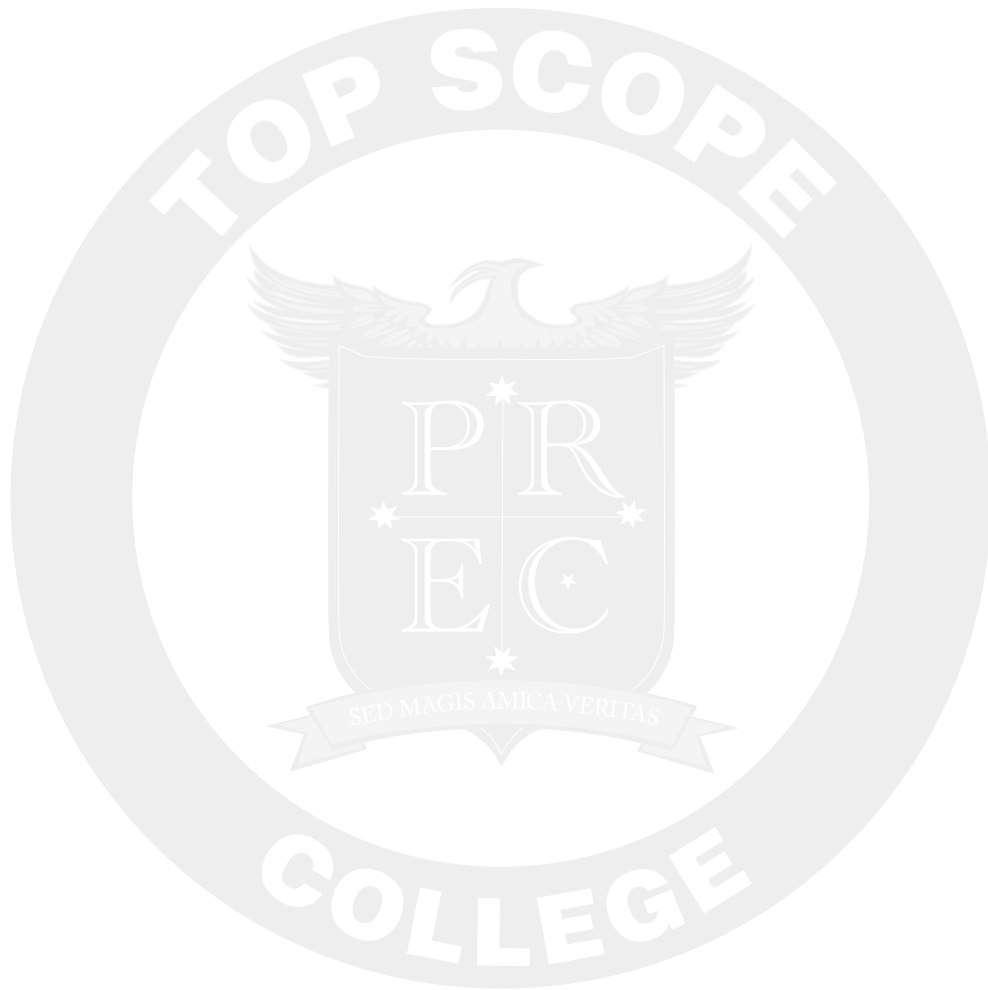
(c) sometimes it is good to swear a little

(d) there is nothing to be gained from nor any reason for swearing

3. Commenting on the practice of banks to mainly lend money to people who were well off, comedian Bob Hope said, 'A bank is a place that will send you money: _____.'

(a) if you prove that you don't need it

- (b) if you are poor
- (c) because they like you
- (d) because they want to improve your life



HOMework

Read the following poem and answer the questions.

My country

The love of field and coppice,
Of green and shaded lanes,
Of ordered woods and gardens,
Is running in your veins.
Strong love of grey-blue distance,
Brown streams and soft, dim skies -
I know, but cannot share it.
My love is otherwise.

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel sea,
Her beauty and her terror-
The wide brown land for me!

The stark, white ring-barked forests,
All tragic to the moon,
The sapphire-misted mountains,
The hot gold hush of noon.

Green tangle of the brushes,
Where lithe lianas coil,
Where orchids deck the tree-tops,
And ferns the warm dark soil.

Core of my heart my country!
Her pitiless blue sky,
When, sick at heart, around us
We see the cattle die-
But then the grey clouds gather,
And we can bless again
The drumming of an army,
The steady soaking rain.

An opal-hearted country,
A wilful, lavish land-
All you that have not loved her,
You will not understand-
Though Earth holds many splendours,
Wherever I may die,
I know to what brown Country
My homing thoughts will fly.

Dorothea Mackellar

1. In the first stanza the poet is telling of the love some people have for:_____.

- (a) England (b) Australia (c) Indonesia (d) Alaska

2. In the second stanza the poet is telling of her love for:_____.

- (a) England. (b) Australia (c) Indonesia (d) Alaska

3. In the poem why are the trees stark and white? _____.

- (a) They are ghost gums
(b) It is a full moon
(c) The artist has painted them that way
(d) They have been killed and have lost their leaves and bark

4. Why are the people sick at heart? _____.
 (a) The cattle are dying
 (b) The sky is cloudless
 (c) The farmers have no pity
(d) There is a drought
5. Why do you think the poet describes Australia as 'opal-hearted'? _____.
 (a) Australians are kind and considerate.
(b) Like the opal, which is a stone, the Australian land and its peoples are tough, but colourful.
 (c) There are many precious stones in Australia
 (d) You have to be physically strong to survive in the Australian outback
6. Which "terror" does the poet describe in detail in one stanza of the poem? _____.
 (a) Bushfire. **(b) Drought and flood.** (c) Sunburn. (d) Forest clearance

Verbal Reasoning

1. Find a word that can be put after each of the following words to make new, compound words.

- Example:** CAST FALL WARD POUR **DOWN**
- a) FLY CUP FINGERS MILK **BUTTER**
- b) BIN MAN PAN CART **DUST**
- c) HEAD STRIPE POINT PRICK **PIN**
- d) LAND LOUSE WORK PILE **WOOD**
- e) SHINE RISE STROKE LIGHT **SUN**

2. Move one letter from the first word and add it to the second word to make two new words.

- Example:** hunt sip hut snip
- a) belt ink **bet** **link**

- b) scale pith **sale** **pitch**
 c) dune doe **due** **done**
 d) limp lie **lip** **lime**
 e) score mat **core** **mats**

Rhyming Words

Test your reading by finding the one word that does not rhyme with the other three.

Write this odd word in the space to the right.

1. soup troup loop grope **grobe**
 2. sward board word fraud **word**
 3. four sore awe draw **sour**
 4. brake ache tweak break **tweak**
 5. chord bored ward card **card**
 6. fly bye ski pie **ski**

Thinking Skills

1. Latin was the language spoken in ancient Rome. Many words in our language come from Latin. The Latin word *hibernare* meant to spend the winter. From it we get the word hibernate. Animals which hibernate are not active during winter. They find a shelter and spend the winter: _____.

(a) **in a sleep-like state**

(b) hunting from this shelter

(c) day

(d) waiting for the sun to come back

2. George had spent hundreds of hours restoring the old car to its former glory. Now he was actually driving it on the road. He felt happy when he noticed people looking at it with cheerful: _____.

(a) contempt

(b) joy

(c) anger

(d) **admiration**

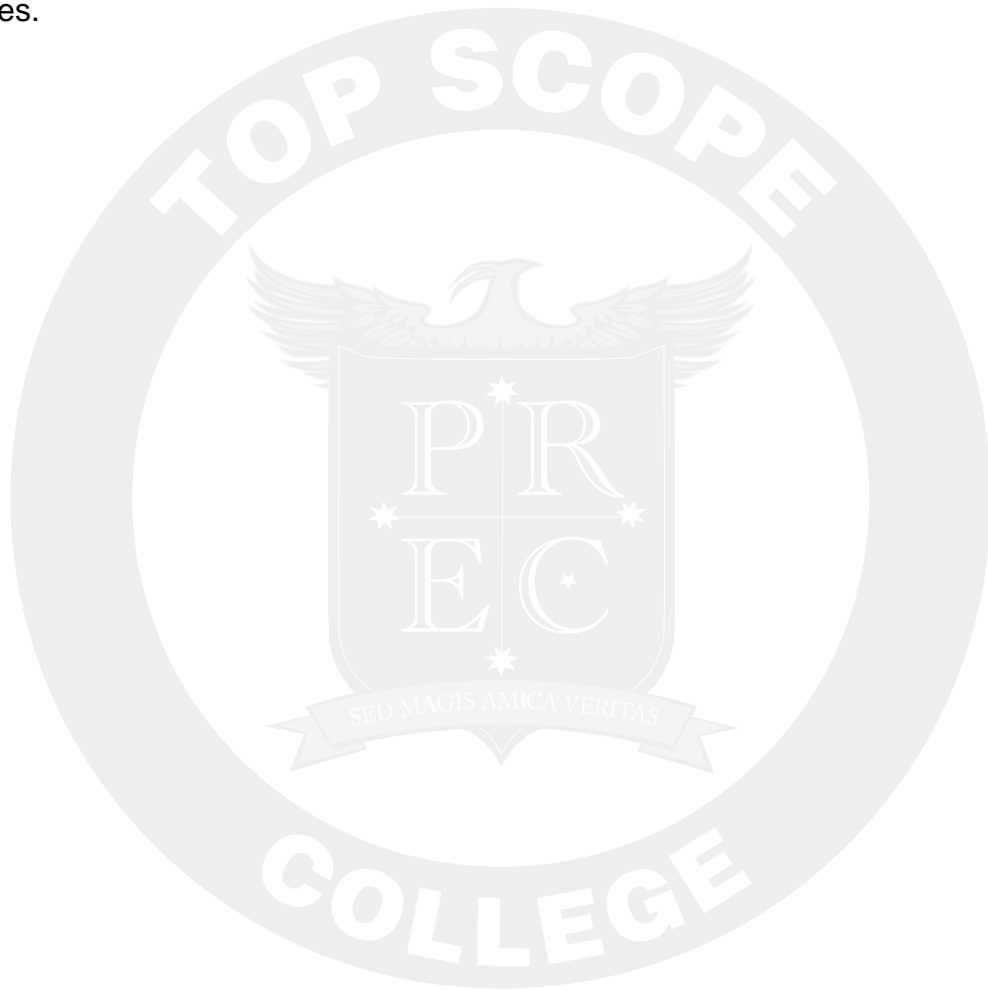
3. Biological control uses animals to hunt and control the numbers of pest species. An example might be releasing large numbers of the beetles known as ladybirds in an orchard that had problems with: _____.

(a) teenagers.

(b) the sap sucking insects called aphids.

(c) branches.

(d) themselves.



★ SET 45

CLASSWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Read the passage below and, in complete sentences, answer the questions that follow.

Sophia is currently a volunteer at an old folk's home. Her interest in volunteer work arose when her grandmother passed away two years ago. Until her death, Sophia had been her grandmother's constant companion. This meant many visits to her grandmother's nursing home and many sleepless nights during the last few days of her grandmother's battle with stomach cancer. Sophia knew that her presence gave her grandmother the will to live a little longer. Her weak and frail body held on just for the glimpse of Sophia every day. Her tired eyes would only open for a few minutes before they shut again and it was only Sophia's voice which the old lady heard, reminding her that someone still cared.

After her grandmother's death, Sophia enthusiastically started visiting the home as a volunteer. She began by treating everyone as if they were her grandmother. Her own job makes frequent visits to the home difficult; often she can only volunteer on weekends. However, her bubbly nature never fails to liven up the **dull and quiet** atmosphere at the home. Many residents look forward to seeing her during the weekends. Some look upon her as the grandchild they never had, telling her stories about their past. Although Sophia is well-versed in some Chinese dialects like Cantonese and Hokkien, she cannot understand the other languages like Tamil and Malay. However, she knows that most of the elderly residents simply need a listening ear. Her patience seems boundless as she sits for hours listening with interest to their stories.

Although volunteering does not add to her income, Sophia sees it as giving balance to her life and a break from her usual work. Being with the elderly brings a smile to her face and **reduces** her stress level. She always departs from the home **refreshed** and ready to start work the next week. For hours each weekend, she brings herself into the world of the elderly where she is transported to a bygone era that she has never had the chance to experience first-hand. She listens to a variety of stories. Some of them **amuse** her, whereas some **poignant** ones bring tears to her eyes. She feels **privileged** to be able to learn about the past from these people.

In fact, Sophia has become so attached to the old folks that she even visits their other family members to update them on the well being of their grandparents or parents who are staying at the home. However, as many of them are already past eighty years of age, they do not have very long to live. Some of them are also suffering from life-threatening illnesses and are simply biding their time in the home. Over the years, Sophia has learnt to care for them, yet she maintains a certain detachment so that their deaths will not distress her too severely. When a lady she had first spoken to died after a few months, Sophia was devastated. She became depressed, seeing this lady's death as a repeat of her grandmother's. As she learnt to accept that many in the home were already nearing death, she began to change her way of thinking. Her wish now is not for them to live forever, but to live their remaining days as happily as they possibly can.

1. How did Sophia help her grandmother when she was alive?

Sophia visited her grandmother at the home many times; being able to see Sophia and hear her voice gave her grandmother the strength to live, reminding her that someone still cared for her.

2. What did Sophia's grandmother die from?

Sophia's grandmother died from stomach cancer. The reader is told this in the first paragraph where it describes Sophia spending 'sleepless nights' watching over her grandmother as she died.

3. To what does 'this' (line 10) in the second sentence of paragraph two refer to?

'This' refers to Sophia's enthusiasm for her volunteer work.

4. What does Sophia usually do with the elderly in the home?

Sophia listens to the elderly telling stories about their past.

5. Which word is opposite in meaning to 'dull and quiet' (line 12)?

The word is 'bubbly'.

6. What is Sophia proficient in?

Sophia is proficient in some Chinese dialects like Cantonese and Hokkein.

7. Why does lack of financial reward for her volunteer work not bother Sophia?

Although Sophia is not paid for her volunteer work, it gives balance to her life and a break from her usual work.

8. Why is learning about the past interesting for Sophia?

Sophia can learn about a past era that she has not experienced herself.

9. What evidence shows that Sophia treats the elderly like her own family?

Sophia does more than what a volunteer does and visits the family members of the elderly to update them about their parents or grandparents who are staying in the home.

10. Why do many of the elderly at the home pass away?

Many residents die from old age, while some are suffering from

life-threatening illnesses that they will soon succumb to.

LANGUAGE and GRAMMAR SKILLS

Vocabulary

For each question, choose the word closest in meaning to the bolded words. Write the correct answer in the brackets provided. *From paragraph 3.*

1. **reduces** (d)

- a. removes b. weakens c. degrades d. minimises

2. **refreshed** (d)

- a. cleansed b. encouraged c. youthful d. exhilarated

3. **amuse** (b)

- a. educate b. delight c. fascinate d. satisfy

4. **poignant** (c)

- a. depressing b. disturbing c. touching d. distasteful

5. **privileged** (a)

- a. honoured b. affluent c. powerful d. spoilt

Verbal Reasoning

1. Underline the one word in the brackets that will go equally well with both pairs of words outside the brackets.

Example: rush, attack cost, fee (price, hasten, charge, money)

a) ruin, damage overprotect, pamper (ignore, indulge, baby, spoil, destroy)

b) quite, rather honestly, legally (really, fully, fairly, justly, properly)

c) farmland, rural nation, state (kingdom, people, landscape, outdoors, country)

d) puzzle, think marvel, miracle (question, excellent, wonder, wonderful, speculate)

e) give, hand succeed, qualify (transfer, allow, past, pass, graduate)

Example: The (children, books, foxes) carried the (houses, books, steps) home from the (greengrocer, library, factory).

b) I've (drawn, **decorated**, written) the house with (shells, daisies, **holly**) ready for (Easter, Halloween, **Christmas**).

d) I'll (pay, sell, buy) you for the (tickets, children, friends) when I (ignore, hear, see) you.

e) Coffee (**tastes**, sounds, touches) too (hot, dark, **sweet**) if you add lots of (milk, powder, **sugar**).

The words in the box do not follow a normal phonetic pattern. Can you read them correctly? Use them as answers in the blank spaces.

| | | | | |
|----------|-------|--------------|-------|------------|
| grandeur | fjord | annihilate ✨ | beige | camouflage |
|----------|-------|--------------|-------|------------|

4. To completely destroy or defeat is to **annihilate**.
5. **Beige** is a light brownish-yellow colour.
6. To **camouflage** is to disguise or make blend in with surroundings.
7. Greatness or magnificence is also known as **grandeur**.
8. A long, deep, narrow inlet of the sea in Norway is called a **fjord**.

1. Emma turns twenty in four year's time. Her grandfather is four times as old as she is now. He is: _____.

- (a) eighty years old (b) forty years old
(c) **sixty-four years old** (d) twenty-four years old

2. The sun is an average sized star, but it appears to be bigger than other stars because:

_____.

(a) other stars are closer to us

(b) it is closer to us than other stars

(c) it shines during the daytime only, so we cannot see other, bigger stars

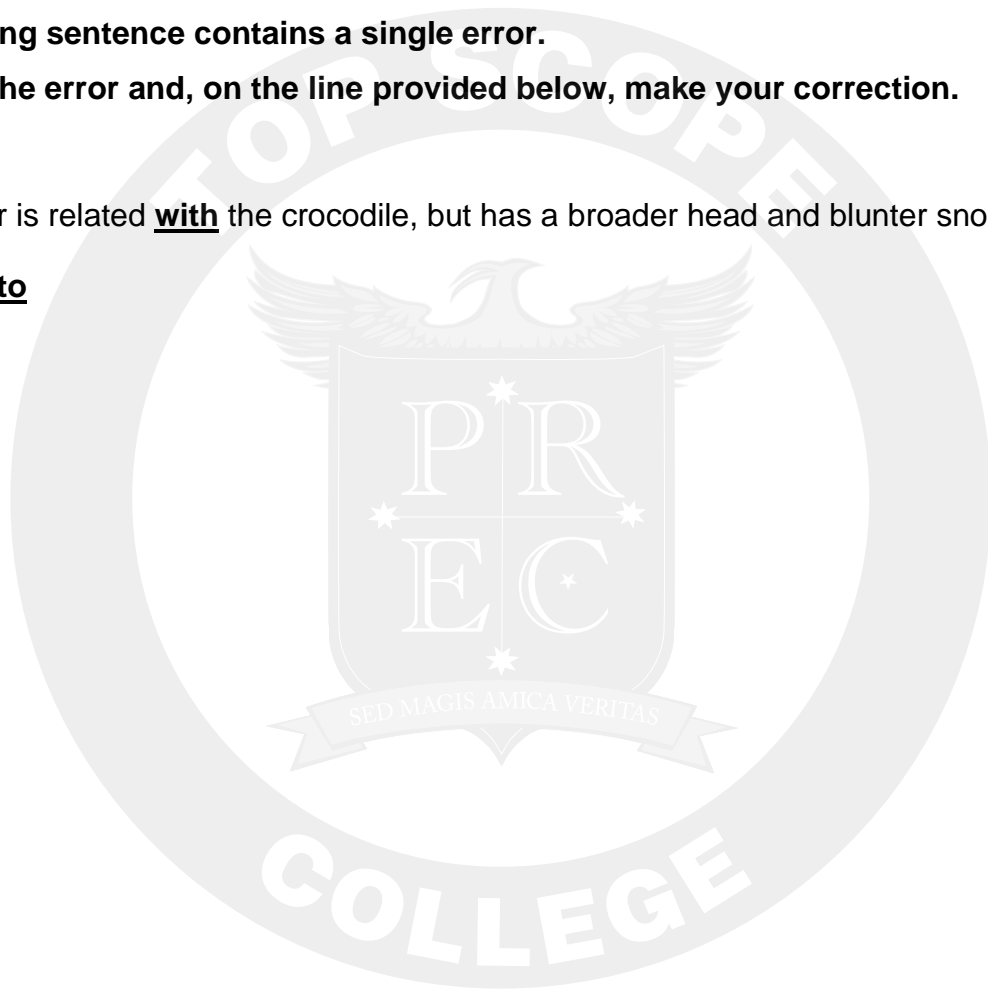
(d) it is made of different materials, so it appears bigger

3. The following sentence contains a single error.

Underline the error and, on the line provided below, make your correction.

The alligator is related with the crocodile, but has a broader head and blunter snout.

Correction: to



SET 45 HOMEWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Pyramids were a feature of the ancient Aztec, Mayan and Egyptian civilisations. However, it is the ancient Egyptian pyramids (usually built for the pharaohs and their queens) with their four triangular sides and square bases that are the most well known.

There are many pyramids in Egypt. It was a **colossal task** building these tombs of the pharaohs. Considering that the pyramids were built over four thousand years ago, it is remarkable that the Egyptians had the technology to lift huge blocks of stones and carry them for long distances to the building sites. It is believed that the windlass was used to transport the stones. This contraption, which made use of a wheel and axle, allowed less force to be used to push the stones. Thousands of labourers took decades to construct a pyramid, which started as soon as a pharaoh ascended the throne.

The Step Pyramid is the first known monumental structure made of stone in the world. It was built for King Djoser. The Step Pyramid started off as a mastaba - a flat-roofed structure with sloping sides. (Mastabas were the original type of pyramid.) The Step Pyramid is made of six steps of stone that decrease in size as they ascend. The Step Pyramid is a series of mastabas that are stacked on top one another, reaching a height of sixty metres.

These tombs are a crucial part of Egyptian history. The Egyptians believed in life after death, so many of their possessions were buried with them for use in the other world. When archaeologists discovered the tombs, in addition to finding the mummified or preserved body of a pharaoh or his queen, they sometimes found food, clothing and jewellery, oils and ointments, weapons, and even boats and chariots.

Over the centuries, many robbers have been **daring** enough to **pillage** the tombs and steal the valuables from them. It is a **waste**, as museums are unable to display some of the items used by the different pharaohs because they have been stolen. Many displays are incomplete, as only some items are recovered from each tomb. Nevertheless, whatever museums manage to display is always well received.

Thanks to archaeologists, the **mystery** surrounding the Egyptians and the pyramids has gradually been **unravelling**. One exciting discovery was the tomb of a famous Egyptian pharaoh, Tutankhamen, which was untouched by robbers. His tomb is small compared to those of other kings. Tutankhamen was a young king of Egypt. He was only nine years old when he ascended the throne. After his death, Egypt's most powerful dynasty came to an end and a period of uncertainty began. Many had never heard of Tutankhamen until the discovery of his tomb, which contained 32000 objects. Even pots of perfume, which had been sealed in the tomb, were still fragrant when opened. Today, the tomb's contents are displayed to many people all over the world.

1. What does an Egyptian pyramid look like?

An Egyptian pyramid is made of stone and has four triangular sides and a square base.

2. What is a windlass?

A windlass is a contraption that makes use of a wheel and axle to transport stones.

3. Why might building a pyramid be considered a 'colossal task' (line 4)?

Building a pyramid took thousands of labourers decades to construct.

4. Why is the Step Pyramid a significant structure?

The Step Pyramid is the first known monumental structure made of stone.

5. What is the connection between a mastaba and a step pyramid?

A Step Pyramid consists of a series of mastabas that are stacked on one another.

6. Why were tombs important for the Egyptians?

The Egyptians believed in life after death, so the tombs were necessary for the preservation of bodies and the burial of the possessions that belonged to the dead people.

7. What has happened to most of the Egyptian pyramids?

Robbers have found their way into the tombs to steal the valuables from them.

8. How are people able to learn more about the Pharaohs?

People can learn more about the pharaohs by visiting museums where items that belonged to them are on display.

9. How old was Tutankhamen when he ascended the throne?

Tutankhamen was nine years old.

10. What does the discovery of perfume tell you about the Egyptian preservation techniques?

The Egyptians had amazing preservation techniques because the pots of perfume that had been sealed in Tutankhamen's tomb were still fragrant many years later when the tomb was uncovered by archaeologists.

LANGUAGE and GRAMMAR SKILLS

Vocabulary

For each question, choose the word closest in meaning to the bolded words. Write the correct answer in the brackets provided. *From paragraph 5 and 6.*

1. **daring** (**b**)

a. brave

b. bold

c. heroic

d. valiant

2. **pillage** (**a**)

a. plunder

b. snatch

c. embezzle

d. pinch

3. **waste** (**b**)

a. cost

b. loss

c. neglect

d. failure

4. **mystery** (**d**)

a. anonymity

b. vagueness

c. darkness

d. secrecy

5. **unravelled** (**c**)

a. untied

b. resolved

c. solved

d. removed

Verbal Reasoning

1. Complete the following expressions by filling in the missing word.

Example: Pen is to ink as brush is to paint.

a) Interior is to inside as exterior is to outside.

b) Wrist is to cuff as neck is to collar.

c) Thermometer is to temperature as clock is to time.

d) Petals are to flower as spokes are to wheel.

e) Orange is to peel as egg is to shell.

f) Who is to person as where is to **place**.

2. **Underline the two words, one from each group, which are the most opposite in meaning.**

- Example:** (dawn, early, wake) (late, stop, sunrise)
a) (official, offensive, often) (generally, pleasant, plead)
b) (sprint, abandon, maintain) (run, certain, neglect)
c) (endanger, guard, assure) (enclose, protect, promise)
d) (deteriorate, condition, declaration) (deviate, reject, improve)
e) (speed, swift, street) (slow, rapid, lane)

Irregular Words

The words in the box do not follow a normal phonetic pattern. Can you read them correctly? Use them as answers in the blank spaces.

| | | | |
|--------|------|-------|------------|
| cougar | czar | galah | leprechaun |
|--------|------|-------|------------|

1. An old emperor or king of Russia was known as a **czar**.
2. A **cougar** is a large, slender member of the cat family.
3. A **leprechaun** is a mythical elfin cobbler from Ireland.
4. The **galah** is a pink and grey parrot from Australia.

Thinking Skills

1. To grow plants successfully in our gardens they need to have soil, water, air, sunlight and fertilizer. It is also best if weeds are removed because they will take away nourishment meant for our crop plants. Weeds are our plants': _____.

(a) friends (b) **competitors** (c) neighbours (d) agriculture

2. Angry children are like men standing on their heads because: _____.

(a) **they see all things the wrong way**

- (b) they cannot listen like this
(c) they cannot be helped
(d) you cannot see them

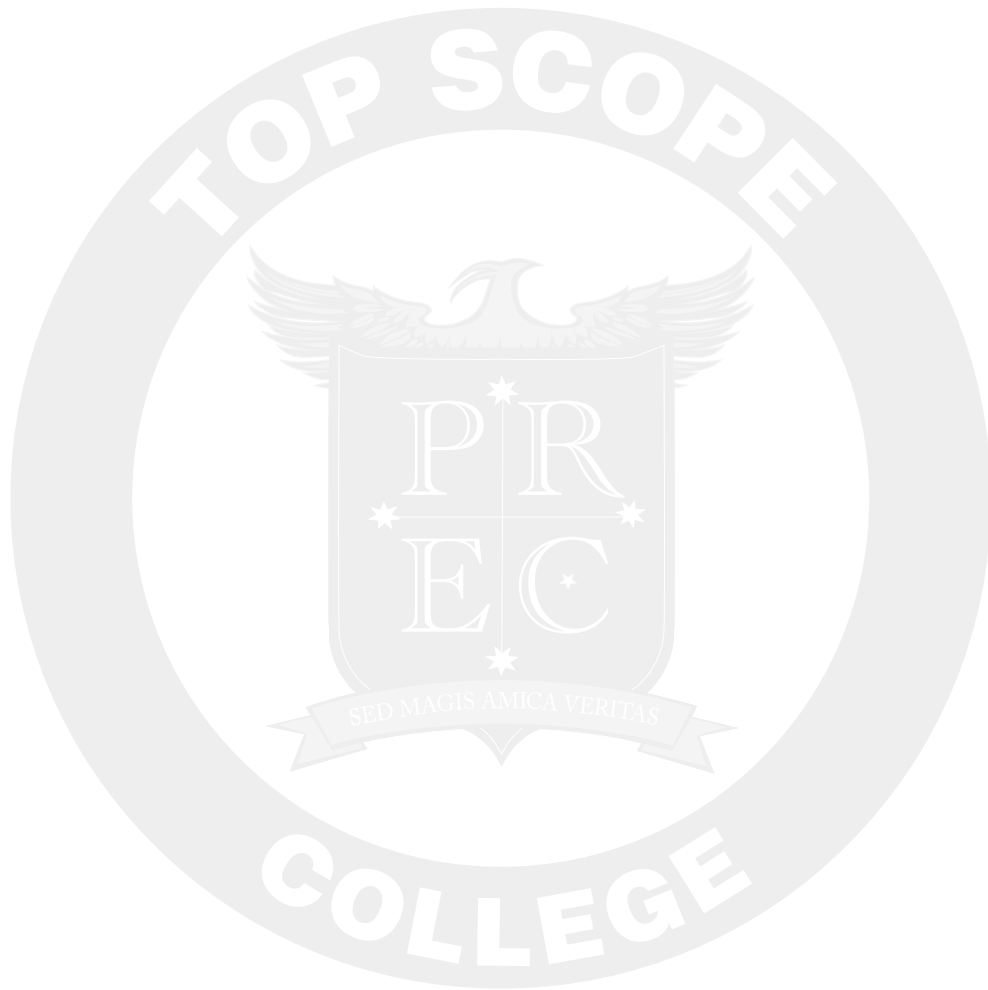
3. Our houses are a little bit like a war zone. We spend time and money battling to keep cockroaches away from our kitchens, flies off our food and termites from eating the timber. These are all: _____.

(a) really quite harmless

(b) unwelcome visitors in our homes

(c) sent to annoy us

(d) working together to bring about our downfall



★ SET 46

CLASSWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Read the passage below and, using complete sentences, answer the questions that follow.

She shuddered as she saw another streak of lightning across the sky. She knew that the bright light would soon be followed by thunder so loud that she would have to cover her ears. She pressed her tiny hands against her ears and crouched as low as she could below the window. Still, the clap of thunder echoed throughout the house. She shivered, partly in fear, partly from the cold wind that was blowing violently outside the window.

Gertrude hated this time of the year when the monsoon season arrived. The heavy rains were a contrast to the usual hot weather to which she was accustomed during the rest of the year. There was no one cycling along the paths, no one peddling his wares along the streets. The colourful banners lining the streets and the shouts of hawkers as they tried to outbid each other were replaced with nothing but the dull pattering of raindrops and the sight of an occasional passer-by who was desperate enough to venture out into the storm.

A flurry of activity always preceded the season. Everyone would be busy stocking up on groceries. Prices would be higher than usual, as shopkeepers knew that this was an opportune time to increase their income. Despite the large number of supermarkets and smaller shops, everyone seemed to be in cahoots to raise prices during this period. Gertrude often accompanied her mother on such shopping trips before the rains began. It was her favourite time because she was allowed to buy anything she wanted. Often the trolley and baskets would be filled with necessities like butter, rice, flour and sugar as well as her favourite sweets and biscuits. They would buy all that they needed for the season.

Everyone put extra locks on their doors and windows during the monsoon season, as though these would help to keep out the storms. Gertrude knew a family who had locked all their doors and windows with new heavy duty locks, but had paid little attention to the condition of their deteriorating roof. It took only half way through the season for the house as well as the family to be washed away by an exceptionally big typhoon. Then there were the Rogers who had neglected the miniscule hole in one of their rafters. Consequently, the entire house collapsed.

Gertrude's whole house felt hot and stuffy. Darkness was approaching and her mother would be lighting the candles soon, but the place would still be dim. For the past three years, the mayor had ordered that the electricity be turned off during this period for fear of people being electrocuted. Without the television and the radio, many resorted to reading. Books were taken down from dusty shelves and read once again. With the closure of many offices during this period, families would begin to communicate with one another. It seemed strange that a natural disaster could bring a family closer than any other festival in the year could.

Nevertheless, Gertrude wished the season would end soon so that life would be lively and the house filled with bright lights again. The little girl covered her ears once again as the thunderclaps reverberated throughout the house.

11. Why did Gertrude crouch below the window?

Gertrude was afraid of the sound that the coming thunder would make.

12. Which two types of people were frequently seen outside in hot weather?

The two types of people were hawkers and cyclists.

13. Which phrase tells you that Gertrude found the rain boring?

The phrase is 'dull pattering of raindrops'.

14. There was always a 'flurry of activity' (line 12). What was this activity?

The activity refers to large numbers of people rushing to supermarkets and other smaller shops to stock up on groceries.

15. Why were prices raised before the monsoon season?

Due to the oncoming monsoon season when people would need to be indoors, they would want to stock up on groceries no matter what the prices were, so shopkeepers would take the opportunity to raise prices.

16. Was having extra locks effective during the monsoon season? Why?

Having extra locks was not effective. Houses could still be washed away if the roofs were in poor condition.

17. Why might the Rogers have overlooked the problem in one of the rafters?

The hole in the Roger's rafter was very small.

18. Which three words would describe the house at night during the monsoon season?

The words are 'hot', 'stuffy' and 'dim'.

19. Which phrase tells you that the books were seldom read?

The phrase is 'dusty shelves'.

20. Why did Gertrude find the natural disaster 'strange' (line 32)?

The natural disaster should make everyone miserable; instead, it led to making a family closer.

LANGUAGE and GRAMMAR SKILLS

Vocabulary

For each question, choose the word closest in meaning to the bolded words. Write the correct answer in the brackets provided. *From paragraph 3.*

1. **flurry** (a)

- a. whirl b. variety c. boom d. type

2. **stocking up** (c)

- a. purchasing b. hoarding c. storing d. collecting

3. **opportune** (a)

- a. convenient b. suitable c. early d. helpful

4. **in cahoots** (b)

- a. in discussion b. in partnership c. in trouble d. in friendship

5. **necessities** (c :)

- a. supplies b. treats c. essentials d. favourites

Verbal Reasoning

1. Rearrange the muddled letters in capitals to make a proper word. The answer will complete the sentence sensibly.

Example: A BEZAR is an animal with stripes.

_____ ZEBRA _____

a) Please read the important IOCNTTE below.

NOTICE

b) I have known my best NRIFED since nursery.

FRIEND

c) Can I blow out the LADCNE now?

CANDLE

d) Schools should provide healthy ELMAS for pupils.

MEALS

e) I don't mind RHISNAG with you.

SHARING

2. Look at the first group of three words. The word in the middle has been made from the two words on each side.

Identify the letter pattern for each of the following sets of three words, and then complete the adjacent group of three words by creating a new word in the middle.

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Example: | PAIN | INTO | TOOK | ALSO | SOON | ONLY |
| a) DALE | LIME | MICE | COPE | PULP | LUMP | |
| b) MUSE | TERM | DIRT | TYRE | BEAT | DRAB | |
| c) GIFT | GRIT | GIRL | EASY | CLAY | CALL | |
| d) TOPIC | COLT | WORLD | MUNCH | HELM | MEALS | |
| e) PLUM | MELT | TIRE | CLIP | PELT | TALE | |
| f) RAISE | SLIDE | DEALS | START | ENACT | CLONE | |

Thinking of a Word

In each of the following sentences, one word needs to be completed. The prefix *pre* (meaning *before*) at the start of this word is given to help you.

1. To say something in advance that will happen is to predict.
2. The doctor prescribed some medicine for my bad cough.
3. The first public performance of a film or play is called the premiere.
4. To assume to be true in the absence of proof is to presume.
5. To form a negative opinion without reason or knowledge of a group of people is prejudice.

Thinking Skills

1. Soup has been a popular food for thousands of years. The earliest soups were made by dropping hot stones into the liquid. This was done before vessels able to withstand the direct heat of the fire were developed. This changed when people learnt:

_____.

(a) how to cook

(b) how to make fire

(c) how to make things out of metal

(d) how to cook soup

2. Because he was of Mexican background and a champion golfer, Lee Trevino was given the nickname of: _____.

(a) Supermex

(b) Slamming Sam

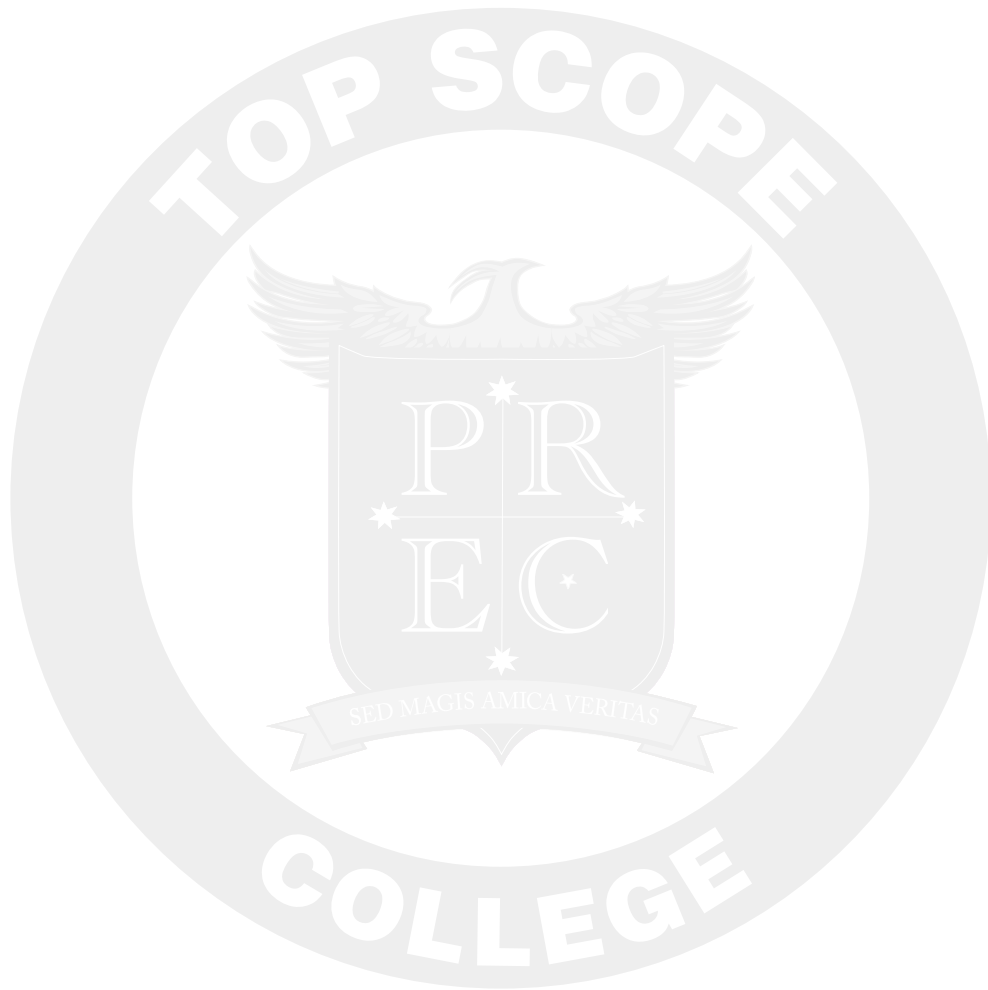
(c) The Great White Shark

(d) Tiger

3. A sulky is a light horse drawn vehicle for one person. It was invented by an English doctor and was given this name because of the driver's sulkiness in wanting:

_____.

- (a) to cure people (b) a horse drawn cart **(c) to sit alone** (d) to drive



SET 46 HOMEWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Read the passage below and, using complete sentences, answer the questions that follow.

We arrived at Moshi where John and I checked in at a hotel. It was not a five-star hotel, but it was comfortable and cosy. I wanted to explore the place, but decided against it and chose to rest instead. I needed to store up all the energy I had for the climb ahead.

I lay on the bed, going through our itinerary once again. A picture of Mount Kilimanjaro stood out in the background, its snow-capped mountain rising majestically from among the plains. This was the highest mountain in Africa and a must for every mountaineer in the world. I shut my eyes and willed myself to fall asleep, trying hard to quell my mounting excitement.

The next day, John and I passed our bags to the porter and we headed out to Kilimanjaro National Park. There were four tourists in the group, including ourselves. There were also two guides and a game ranger. I had always been afraid of coming face to face with wild animals; the need for a game ranger confirmed my fears. However, I was determined not to let these ruin my enthusiasm about the climb.

We started our climb, which lasted for about four hours. The track began to narrow as we moved uphill through the tropical rainforest. It was not a long day. We pitched our tents in the forest and settled down for the night. The sounds from the forest were almost deafening. I guessed that there must have been more than a dozen different insects outside my tent. I dozed off, dreaming of elephants, lions and snow-capped mountains.

After breakfast, we continued on our journey. Each step I took opened my eyes to the wonders of nature. However, the trip was not an effortless one. We left the rainforest behind a few hours later. I remember grabbing John's hands as it became more and more difficult for me to walk as fast as I wanted to. My breathing was laboured and I guessed we must have been gaining altitude. There were even moments, albeit short ones, when I questioned my decision to do this climb. The pace of the group had slowed considerably. When I felt better, I took the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful scenery around us. What I saw could never be reproduced in a book and we were not even there yet. According to the guide, it had taken us a little more than five hours to reach Shira.

There were not many clouds in the sky as we had our first view of Kibo - the summit of Kilimanjaro. I wondered how long it would take us to reach there. We camped at Shira, which gave us a chance to adjust to the altitude. The guide told us that it was the last of the 'easy days' and that the climb would get more challenging in the next few days. Fatigue was already setting in and we were not even half way there. I decided to take each day as it came and not to think of the journey that lay ahead. At the time, we had settled into a spectacular campsite. We were staying along the banks of a mountain stream, right at the foot of Kibo Peak, with glaciers looming above us. I decided to sit back and enjoy the breathtaking scenery.

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

1. Where did the writer rest after she arrived at Moshi?

The writer rested in a hotel.

2. Where was the writer's final destination?

The writer's final destination was the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro

3. Which word tells you that the writer had to force herself to sleep?

The word is 'willed'.

4. How many people were there in the group?

There were seven people in the group.

5. Why was there a game ranger in the group?

The game ranger was part of the group to protect them from wild animals.

6. Which word tells you that the sounds were very loud?

The word is 'deafening'.

7. What happened to people at high altitudes?

People at high altitudes would not be able to walk as fast and might also suffer from breathing difficulties.

8. Why was the group able to see Kibo when they were at Shira?

The group was able to see Kibo because it was a clear day and there were not many clouds in the sky.

9. What does 'easy days' (paragraph 6) refer to?

The guide uses the term 'easy days' in reference to the start of the climb up to the point where the group reached Shira.

10. Which phrase tells you that the campsite at Shira was near water?

The phrase is 'along the banks of a mountain stream'.

LANGUAGE and GRAMMAR SKILLS

Vocabulary

For each question, choose the word closest in meaning to the bolded words. Write the correct answer in the brackets provided. *From paragraph 5.*

1. wonders (b)

a. elegance

b. splendour

c. uncertainty

d. accomplishment

2. effortless (a)

a. simple

b. moving

c. refreshing

d. lazy

3. laboured (a)

a. difficult

b. distrusted

c. doubted

d. suspected

4. albeit (d)

a. suddenly

b. despite

c. being

d. although

5. reproduced (b)

a. mimicked

b. replicated

c. imitated

d. shown

Verbal Reasoning

1. Fill in the crossword so that all the given words are included. You have been given one letter as a clue.

sanded, confer, docile, seesaw,
disuse, leeway

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | O | C | I | L | E |
| I | | O | | E | |
| S | A | N | D | E | D |
| U | | F | | W | |
| S | E | E | S | A | W |
| E | | R | | Y | |

2. Figure out the codes for the following activity. The alphabet has been written out to help you.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

a) If the code for NOTICE is JMRAXC, what is the code for ONCE? **MJXC**

- b) If the code for ANGLE is PBVKH, what does KHPB stand for? **LEAN**
- c) If the code for MILK is NHMJ, what is the code for DRINK? **EQJML**
- d) If the code for DAY is WZB, what does ILLU stand for? **ROOF**

Thinking of a Word

In each of the following sentences, one word needs to be completed. The prefix **trans** (meaning **across**) at the start of this word is given to help you.

1. To move a tree from one part of the garden to another is to transplant it.
2. To express the meaning of something in another language is to translate.
3. The act of moving money from one account to another is called a transfer.
4. An object that allows light to pass through it clearly is translucent.
5. Any vehicle used for carrying passengers or goods is known as transport.

Thinking Skills

1. All living things need me. I am a good mixer, but I run away if I am not trapped. I am found on land, in the air and far out to sea. I am: _____.
(a) water (b) a seagull (c) with a bigger train (d) head on
2. The careless smoker threw a lighted cigarette butt from the car. This resulted in a great: _____.
(a) conflagration (b) conviction (c) construction (d) incendiary
3. Justin has more stamps than Lester, but fewer than Frank. Who has the fewest stamps? : _____.
(a) It is not possible to tell because more information is required
(b) Lester
(c) Frank
(d) Justin