

★ SET 41

CLASSWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

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

He wondered if his decision was correct, but he did not have much time or choice. He could hear the sound of the water splashing against the rocks. He felt a little more secure inside, knowing that at least he was on dry land.

He felt his way along, his fingers brushing against the rough walls. He walked for what seemed like hours. Here and there, something soft and wet seemed to press against him. Holding back a scream, he would place his hands by his side and run forward as fast as he could. He did this a few times, each time running faster and further than the last. Still, he did not see the light at the end. He knew that the way out was to look for the light at the end of the tunnel. He had to blink a few times to remind himself that his eyes were not closed.

Then he hit a wall! It could not be the end! There had to be another entrance. He felt along the walls. Slowly, he realised that there was a slight turn to the right. Hope began to rise again. Maybe the light would appear after this turning. But he just kept going on and on. He had no idea how long he had been down there. The sound of the waves had faded gradually and now the whole place was so silent Koshin could hear the beating of his own heart.

He wanted to scream. He wanted to cry. His heart ached for his mother. He could picture her now, searching desperately for him. By now, the picnic would have been over. Did she get help from the others or was she on her own?

But despite the fear that was engulfing him, Koshin did not really feel a sense of regret. Deep inside, he knew that any form of remorse he felt was probably because he was feeling frightened and he needed to look for familiar ground. Once he was free, he knew he would leave, just like he said. He would not stay under the same roof with such a domineering man. He wanted his freedom and he would get it at all cost.

Suddenly, Koshin thought he saw a light. Yes! It was a light! Faint, but there was a light. He regained his confidence and began to run towards it. He stumbled as he ran, but there was no stopping him from reaching his goal. The light got bigger and brighter as he got nearer.

Then he heard voices. They were coming from where the light was. A multitude of voices were shouting his name.

"No! It can't be!" They were just outside. If he went any nearer, they would see him. Without warning, a hand reached into the empty space, moving about as it tried to feel for something. Koshin knew there was no escape, at least for the moment. Turning back would mean taking the other route he had chosen to forfeit. Going forward would mean being caught, going back to the life he was trying to escape from.

Koshin sat down, digging his fingers into the ground till he could feel them bleed. There was nothing he could do. Frustration turned to anger. Suddenly, he could feel the hairs at the back of his neck standing. There was someone else there. Then, a cold wet hand touched his arm. Koshin screamed and jumped up. The grip on his arm tightened.

"You can't escape. No son runs away from his own father!" came the familiar autocratic voice. Koshin sank to the ground. All his efforts had been in vain. There was nothing he could do now.

ALL ANSWERS MUST BE IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. 'He wondered if his decision was correct'. (line 1) What decision did Koshin make?

Koshin made the decision to stay on dry land and go through the tunnel rather than risk the dangers of water and rocks.

2. Why was Koshin looking for a light?

A light would mean that Koshin had reached the other end of the tunnel.

3. How did Koshin make his way through the dark tunnel?

Koshin had to feel his way along the walls, occasionally running forward fast, hands by his side, when something soft and wet seemed to press against him.

4. Why did Koshin have to remind himself that his eyes were not closed?

It was pitch black in the tunnel.

5. Describe Koshin's feelings when he was in the tunnel.

Koshin's heart was aching for his mother and he was afraid. However, he did not feel regret or remorse. He was determined to gain his freedom.

6. What was Koshin doing before he ran away?

Koshin was having a picnic with his mother and others.

7. Why did Koshin run away?

Koshin did not want to live with his domineering father anymore.

8. What stopped Koshin from going towards the light?

Koshin heard 'a multitude of voices' who 'were shouting his name'.

9. From the passage, did Koshin manage to escape? Why?

Koshin did not escape. His father had found him. Koshin feels there is nothing he can do.

10. What does the phrase 'under the same roof' mean?

It means 'to live in the same house'.

LANGUAGE and GRAMMAR SKILLS

Vocabulary

For each question, choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined word or phrase. Write the correct answer in the brackets provided. *From paragraph 2.*

1. rough (d)

- a. fuzzy b. tangled c. sharp d. uneven

2. wet (a)

- a. damp b. soggy c. soak d. slimy

3. press (b)

- a. move b. push c. squeeze d. crush

4. holding back (d)

- a. halting b. trampling c. overcoming d. suppressing

5. blink (b)

- a. rub b. flutter c. stare d. squint

Verbal Reasoning

1. Which one letter can be added to the beginning of all these words to make new words?

Example care cat crate call

1) _r_ each _r_ eact _r_ ead _r_ ear r_ eign

2) _s_ ack _s_ alt _s_ eed _s_ uit s_ igh

3) _p_ rim _p_ art _p_ uff _p_ ark _p_ ick

4) _h_ eat _h_ ush _h_ aul _h_ ack _h_ and

5) _b_ ury _b_ ulky _b_ oom _b_ est _b_ ank

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

engine, ravage, morsel, rivals,
island, margin

M	O	R	S	E	L
A		I		N	
R	A	V	A	G	E
G		A		I	
I	S	L	A	N	D
N		S		E	

Making Words

Using some of the letters from each word written in capital letters, make a new word that fits the blank space in the sentence. The words in capitals are from an examiner's special list and are commonly misspelt.

- My father has several dark s uits that he wears to the office. BISCUITS
- There are several b reeds of dogs that are used for hunting. DESCRIBE
- How h igh did Shane jump at the last sports carnival? EIGHTH
- The car broke down because a p iston in the engine blew up. DISAPPOINT
- A narrow piece of wood or metal used to join pieces in furniture making is a d owel. ALLOWED

Thinking Skills

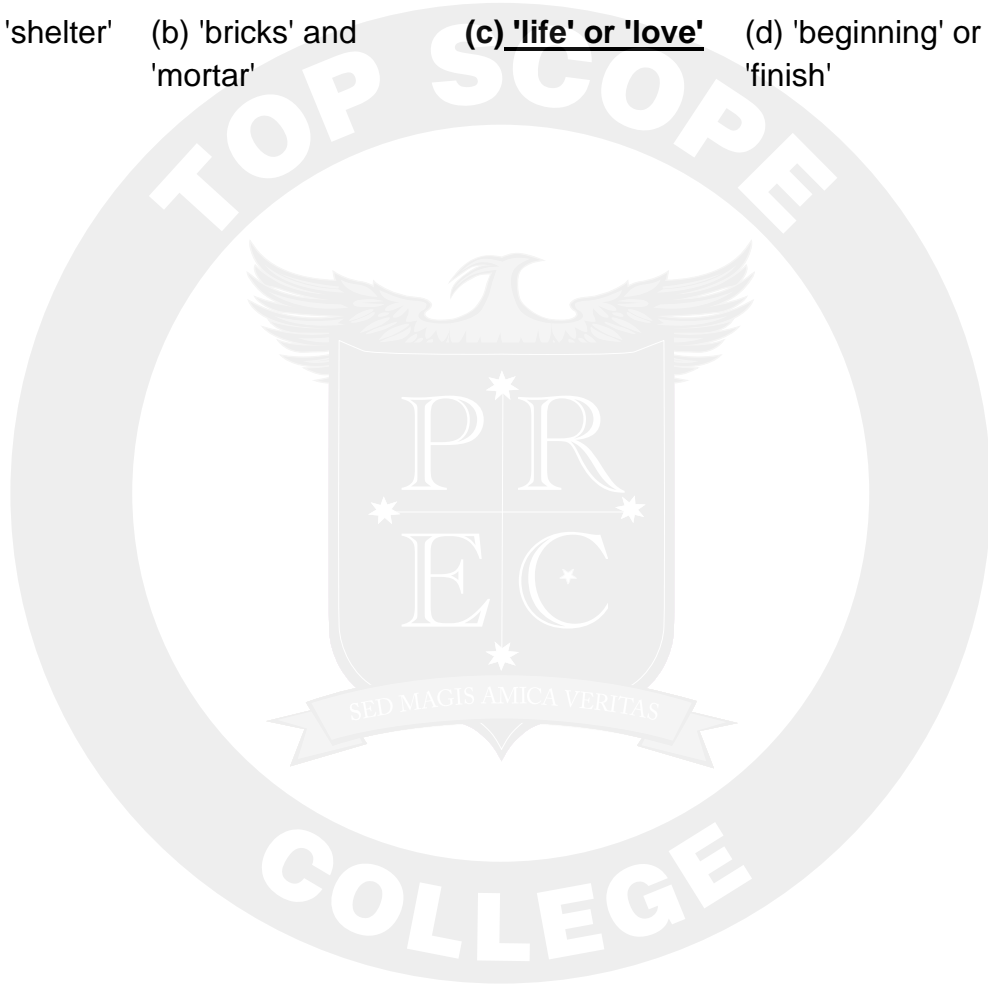
- Brazil is the world's largest producer of coffee, sugar cane and orange juice. It is the second largest producer of soybeans and cocoa and the third largest producer of corn. The economy of Brazil owes a lot to: _____.
 (a) fishermen (b) its currency, which is called the real
 (c) the tropics (d) its primary producers

2. After many hours of research the scientist finally came up with a formula for an acid that would eat everything. He decided against making it because there was a major problem. The problem was: _____.

- (a) it was patented (b) **no container could hold it**
 (c) it was costly (d) it was an alkali

3. 'E' is an unfortunate letter. It is never in 'luck'. Perhaps that is why it is always out of 'cash' and always in 'trouble'. On the other hand, without it we would have no: _____.

- (a) 'food' or 'shelter' (b) 'bricks' and 'mortar' (c) **'life' or 'love'** (d) 'beginning' or 'finish'



SET 41 HOMEWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Patricia had been sitting on the rickety train for a few hours now. She wished she had taken her mother's advice and travelled by car instead. The trip from the north to the south of the country was taking longer than expected and the stench of sweat in the air was overpowering.

Suddenly, the monotonous sound of the train as it moved along the tracks was interrupted by a screech. Then, a sudden jerk caused the passengers to be hurled forwards. Patricia grabbed onto the sides of the seat, screaming at the top of her voice as she then felt herself falling sideways. She closed her eyes, afraid that if she looked out the window she would see what was happening. Then, the train suddenly stopped moving. There was an eerie silence as everyone slowly looked up from where they were. Many of them had fallen on the floor in a heap. Those who had not were like Susan, lying on the seats, their bodies pressed sideways as if an invisible force were exerting itself on them.

Some of the passengers attempted to get up and, when they did, the train lunged to the side. By now, many people had guessed what had happened. The train had derailed while it was travelling down the mountain. Now, it was hanging precariously over the edge of the mountain with half of the first carriage already dangling in mid-air. Shouts began to come from the front of the train, telling everyone not to move. Patricia tried in vain to reach for her mobile phone. If no contact was made with the train station, no one would know of the accident until the train failed to arrive at the station at the designated time, which would be more than an hour from then.

By a stroke of luck, some backpackers hiking in the countryside saw the train and called for help. Within minutes, help had arrived. However, rescue workers were stranded at the bottom of the steep mountain. The area had previously been impassable except by train. Carrying whatever equipment they needed and with the help of ropes, the workers started to scale the mountain. Saving the people trapped in the train was a slow and tedious process. Only five rescuers could climb the mountain at a time; a rescuer could save only one victim at a time, climbing up and down the mountain for each. Fatigue set in after a few hours and a different group of workers took over the rescue operations.

It was already nightfall by the time everyone was rescued from the train. Soon after, the whole train fell off the mountain and into the valley below.

All answers must be in complete sentences.

1. Why did Patricia regret taking the train?

The trip on the 'rickety' train was taking a longer time than Patricia had expected and the smell of sweat in the air was very strong.

2. What was Patricia afraid to see when the train fell sideways?

She was afraid to see what was happening to the train.

3. What happened to the people in the train when it derailed?

The passengers had either fallen on the floor or were lying sideways on their seats.

4. Which part of the train had fallen off the mountain?

Half of the first carriage had fallen off the mountain.

5. What might have happened if the people in the train had moved?

The whole train might have fallen off the mountain.

6. Why did Patricia want her mobile phone?

She wanted to use her phone to notify the authorities at the train station about the train accident.

7. Which phrase tells you that no one expected the backpackers to be near the mountain?

The phrase is 'a stroke of luck'.

8. Why was the rescue process a slow one?

Only five rescue workers could scale the mountain; each worker could rescue only one person at a time, climbing up and back for each victim.

9. Which word in the passage tells you that the rescue workers were tired?

The word is 'fatigue'.

10. By the time the whole train fell off the mountain, what had happened to the passengers?

The passengers had been rescued.

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 2.*

1. **monotonous** (a)

a. **tedious**

b. constant

c. flat

d. thunderous

2. **jerk** (c)

a. twitch

b. shake

c. jolt

d. break

3. **erie** (**d**)

- a. light b. terrible c. quiet d. uncanny

4. **heap** (**d**)

- a. row b. collection c. bundle d. mound

5. **exerting** (**a**)

- a. forcing b. dropping c. wrapping d. tightening

Verbal Reasoning

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

pander, sweets, trains, marrow,
wrists, advise

	P		T		S
M	A	R	R	O	W
	N		A		E
A	D	V	I	S	E
	E		N		T
W	R	I	S	T	S

2. Give the two missing pairs of letters in the following sequences. 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

Example CQ DQ EP FP GO HO

- a) PX QW **RV** SU TT **_US_**
 b) DH EI GK JN **_NR_** **_SW_**
 c) AC TB BA SZ **_CY_** **_RX_**
 d) **_UE_** SG QI OK MM **_KO_**
 e) EF HI KL NO **_QR_** **_TU_**

Making Words

Using some of the letters from each word written in capital letters, make a new word that fits the blank space in the sentence. The words in capitals are from an examiner's special list and are commonly misspelt.

★ SET 42

CLASSWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

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

The role of women has changed tremendously over the years. During my grandmother's time and even my mother's time, women were stereotyped as the ones fit for domestic roles, while men took on social and economic roles. However, today there are many women who play all three roles in society. Nowadays, to relegate the female sex to rigid roles is frowned-upon.

I am currently working in an advertising agency. Traditionally, no woman could have held the position of executive director that I am holding today. In fact, I am not the only one. My company is practically run by women. From the chief executive officer to the managers, the majority of the positions are held by women. Some are married with families, but most are singles who focus solely on climbing the corporate ladder.

According to statistics, many women put off getting married till a much later age. I have rejected many offers of marriage, as I want to concentrate on my career first. I feel that life after marriage for a woman is different because she is expected to have children and manage the home. These two are already mammoth tasks in themselves and, in such a situation, it would be impossible for me to keep my position in the office.

Quite a few of my married female colleagues choose not to have children or to do so at a much later age. As a result, there are many dual income families today in which the women are crucial in contributing to the household income. In fact, one of my colleagues is earning a much higher income than her husband. Gone are the days when employers would be questioned if they paid their female staff a higher salary than their male staff. With the changing times comes a change in mindset. My colleague's husband is grateful for the higher income his wife is bringing home, reducing the stress he has to face in paying the bills.

However, even though more women are going into the workforce, their role in the domestic front has not been **vacated**. They still have to perform household chores like cleaning and cooking. These roles remain very much in the women's **realm** with generally little chance of them being transferred to the men's area of responsibilities. However, it must be admitted that some men are taking on more responsibilities in the home. These advances cannot be **disregarded**. Just as the women help ease the **burden** of bringing home the bread and butter for the traditional breadwinner, so the men aid in domestic chores. **Mutual** respect for each other's roles is, therefore, important.

Not only have some men begun to shoulder more of the domestic chores, but here have also been cases where the husband stays home while the wife goes out to work. Such a complete role reversal is not unique to our country, but it might still be difficult for many to accept in an Asian country where patriarchal households still prevail. Households that believe men should be at the forefront while the women don the aprons would disapprove of such drastic changes in roles.

In the years to come, there may be more changes. These changes occur because women no longer want to be seen as quiet and obedient players in a household. They recognise their rights, and women's rights organisations have been set up to help them fight for these rights.

1. What roles do women play today?

Women play domestic, social and economic roles.

2. Describe the women in the writer's company.

The women hold most of the high-ranking positions. Some are married with families, but most of them are singles who want to climb the corporate ladder.

3. How has the writer's company evolved?

Traditionally, no woman could have held the position of executive director that the writer is currently holding. The majority of high-ranking positions are now held by women and not men.

4. Why has the writer rejected many offers of marriage?

She wants to concentrate on her career first, as marriage and having children will prevent her from keeping her position at work.

5. Explain what a dual income family is.

A dual income family consists of both the husband and wife working to contribute to the household income.

6. Why is it beneficial to a husband for a wife to work?

A working wife will help to bring home the 'bread and butter' as well as reduce the stress the husband faces paying the bills.

7. How have men's responsibilities changed?

Besides providing financially for the family, men are also helping with domestic chores. In some cases, the husband is staying at home while the wife is going out to work.

8. Describe a non-patriarchal household.

A non-patriarchal household is a household where men are not in control. In most cases, this can be seen by the sharing of roles. It would also be possible to have a matriarchal household (where the power is held solely by the women.)

9. Why are women's rights organisations necessary?

Women's rights organisations help women to fight for their rights so that they will not have to be quiet and obedient at home.

10. Write the word from the passage that means 'send or consign to an inferior position '.

The word is 'relegate'.

LANGUAGE and GRAMMAR SKILLS

Vocabulary

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

1. **vacated** (c)

- a. released b. sacrificed **c. abandoned** d. forgotten

2. **realm** (a)

- a. domain** b. branch c. section d. limit

3. **disregarded** (d)

- a. omitted b. rejected c. mistaken **d. ignored**

4. **burden** (b)

- a. blame **b. load** c. trouble d. plaque

5. **mutual** (d)

- a. dependent b. connected c. universal **d. reciprocal**

Verbal Reasoning

1. If the code for DOCUMENT is ! x + @ ? £ O =, what are the codes for the following words?

1) CODE + x ! £

2) TEND = £ O !

3) DUET ! @ £ =

4) TUNE = @ O £

2. What do these codes stand for?

1) O @ = NUT

2) + x ? £ COME

3) ! @ O £ DUNE

4) O x = £ NOTE

Adverbs

Add suitable adverbs from the list to make the following story more interesting. Use each adverb once only.

happily	noisily	rapidly	safely	miserably	wearily
---------	---------	---------	--------	-----------	---------

Then while he stood 1 miserably beside the track, he noticed that the train seemed to be travelling less 2 rapidly. As the brakes gripped the wheels, the train jolted 3 noisily and stopped 4 safely before reaching the bridge. John trudged 5 wearily but 6 happily along the embankment to speak to the guard.

Thinking Skills

- The time traveller had just returned from his trip to the future. Coming back from the year 35786 A.D. he announced that television cartoons had finally run out of names for their characters. All the animal and human names had been used up and were subject to copyright. There were no more names like Kenneth Koala, Reginald Possum or Slobodan Sloth available. The TV networks could only use generic names such as:
 ____ **b** ____.
 (a) Charles Chicken
 (b) Unspecified Rodent
 (c) Merv Mouse
 (d) Hank Hippopotamus
- A palindrome is a word that reads the same backwards as it does forwards. An example is: ____ **c** ____.
 (a) Mum's (b) Ohio (c) racecar (d) starts
- 'I forgot to bring my lesson this morning,' said a pupil to her teacher.
 'Did you forget to come to breakfast?' asked her teacher. 'No, Ma'am, I did not.'
 'Then,' said the teacher, 'your body has a better appetite for food, than:
 _____.
 (a) your mind has for knowledge. (b) anybody else.'
 (c) most people.' (d) your legs have for running.'

SET 42 HOMEWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

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

The Vikings lived more than a thousand years ago in Northern Europe. They were the ancestors of modern day Norwegians, Swedes and Danes. The Norse word, *vikingr*, originally meant someone who went with a group on sea expeditions abroad, but it came to mean 'pirate' - a reference to the Vikings' raiding and pillaging of European settlements.

Many Vikings became pirates and they made numerous raids on other countries. They brought back slaves and boatloads of silver and gold. However, even though pillaging was an easy way to get rich, it was not the only way by which the Vikings supported themselves.

As the Vikings lived in very cold, mountainous regions, often with their homes by the sea, they obtained many of their **resources** for survival from the sea. It was not **surprising** that the Vikings became experts at making boats. Their boats were **versatile**. They could be sailed by the wind or rowed by men. The Vikings were **skilled** craftsmen and successful farmers. Their famous cargo ships were used to trade goods with others in Europe and in East Asia. The ships were short and wide which made them **suitable** for carrying cargo like cattle, timber, wool and wheat, which was exchanged for gold, silver and iron. The Vikings managed to turn the gold and silver that they collected into beautiful jewellery and shape iron into tools and weapons.

The Vikings were also brave warriors and explorers. Nothing is as symbolic of the Vikings as the longship or the drakkar, which allowed them to navigate shallow waters even in bad weather. Called a dragon ship by their enemies, this ship was used to carry intrepid Vikings on their quest for new lands. About twenty or thirty oarsmen rowed the ship when the winds were calm. The Vikings categorised the ships according to the number of pairs of oars they carried. The **tju-sesser** had twenty pairs of oars. The Vikings made use of these ships to reach as far as Greenland, even managing to set up a camp in North America.

The Vikings also had a sophisticated form of government. They introduced councils to their villages and made their own laws. When a Viking chief died, his boats and treasures were buried with him.

1. Who are the descendants of the Vikings?

The Norwegians, Swedes Danes are the descendants of the Vikings.

2. Why were the Vikings considered pirates?

The Vikings raided and pillaged European settlements to earn a living.

3. As pirates, what did the Vikings usually bring back from other countries?

They took slaves, silver and gold.

4. Why were the Vikings boats suitable for trade?

The Viking boats were short and wide and were suitable for carrying cargo for trade.

5. Why did the Vikings trade their goods for gold, silver and iron?

The Vikings used the gold and silver to make jewellery and the iron to make tools and weapons.

6. How important was it for the Vikings to become experts at making boats? Why do you think so?

It was very important for the Vikings to be experts at making boats. They lived near the sea and were dependent on the sea for survival; it was important for them to have good boats to journey on, to transport their cargo and to carry out their piratical raids.

7. Considering the fearsome reputation of the Vikings, what two of their occupations might be considered surprising?

Considering the Vikings' reputation, jewellery manufacturing and farming might be considered as surprising occupations.

8. Why was the drakkar useful for the Viking warriors?

The drakkar enabled the warriors to attack other lands because it was able to navigate shallow waters in bad weather.

9. What do you think 'tju-sesser' (paragraph 4) means?

'Tju-sesser' might mean 'twenty'.

10. Which word tells you that the Vikings had a complex society?

The word is 'sophisticated'.

LANGUAGE and GRAMMAR SKILLS

Vocabulary

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

1. **resources** (c)

- a. reserves b. property **c. supplies** d. income

2. **surprising** (a)

- a. **startling** b. frightening c. bewildering d. predictable

3. **versatile** (a)

- a. **adaptable** b. limitless c. endless d. vertical

4. **skilled** (d)

- a. artistic b. diligent c. connoisseur **d. accomplished**

5. **suitable** (b)

- a. true **b. ideal** c. proper d. willing

Verbal Reasoning

1. If $S = 2$, $W = 3$, $R = 4$, $B = 5$ and $N = 6$, find the answers to the following calculations.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) $(S \times W) + N =$ <u>12</u> | 2) $R + N - S =$ <u>8</u> | 3) $B^2 - R^2 =$ <u>9</u> |
| 4) $2S + W^2 =$ <u>13</u> | 5) $2N + 3W =$ <u>21</u> | 6) $N - S + W =$ <u>7</u> |
| 7) $(B \times S) + W =$ <u>13</u> | | |

Sentences

In each of the following sentences, one word has been incorrectly used. Write that word on the line provided.

Example: *I found her story incredulous.* The incorrectly used word is *incredulous*. The correct word is incredible.

- The groom wore a cauliflower in his lapel to the wedding reception. flower
- At the store, Dad chose a navy blue sergeant suit for himself. serge
- The procession of extracting iron from ore requires high temperatures. process
- The poor beggar with both legs amputated was a sympathetic sight. pathetic
- The demonstrators hissed the film star who was wearing an determine coat. ermine

6. Which knight are you free to go to the cinema with me? night
7. There was a strong surge of current and the main fuse in the house blew. surge

Thinking Skills

1. Many people complain and share their supposed miseries with us. Socrates, a great thinker of ancient Greece, found such people tiresome. He said that few of these perceived problems amounted to much and if all of life's misfortunes were gathered into a single container to be equally distributed amongst all people, most of us would prefer: _____.
- (a) **the share they already had** (b) it much better
(c) more problems than we have (d) to get them
2. Flying fish have been seen to fly up to five metres high and cover quite long distances. While they seem to enjoy flying, they are often seen to do this when pursued by large, fierce predatory fish. Flying is probably: _____.
- (a) **a clever means of escape** (b) something they do for pleasure
(c) their way of attacking enemies (d) why they do it
3. February has 28 days in most years and 29 in each leap year. At one time it had 30 days but the Emperors Augustus and Julius Caesar both took one day off and added them to the two months named after them: _____.
- (a) November and December (b) February and August
(c) **July and August** (d) May and October