

★ SET 39

CLASSWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

The newspapers sensationalised the whole issue. Almost everyone on the street was talking about it. Most were voicing their disbelief that there would be people willing to do such a thing. Many were against the idea and criticised the decision made by the couple.

Such was the situation surrounding the adoption of a baby girl who was suffering from AIDS. Everyone knows that AIDS is an incurable disease. Although many patients are able to live for quite a while, a child may succumb to the disease within a matter of years. In addition, the child would be under heavy medication in an effort to stop the disease from weakening the body further.

However, Mr and Mrs Rama were **unperturbed** by all that they heard. The idea of being childless was something that the couple had **vehemently** refused to accept. They had been trying for years to have a child. Although they **shared** in the joy when family and friends gave birth, it added to their **pain** as it made them even more aware of their own childless situation. After spending thousands of dollars on doctor's fees to have their own child, they finally decided to adopt a child. However, the many adoption agencies they went to were unable to find a suitable child for them. Their situation looked **hopeless**. Out of desperation, they tried an agency that they had come across on the Internet. That was when they met Sheila.

She was the sweetest, most adorable baby they had ever seen. Even though she was only two months old, she took an immediate liking to Mrs Rama, clinging to her clothes and smiling at her. Then came the harsh reality.

She had been born to an AIDS infected mother. Her natural mother, a drug addict, had given Sheila up for adoption the minute she was born. Being a teenager and jobless, she was unable to take care of the infant.

Mrs Rama looked at the little girl sleeping contentedly in her arms. She knew she had to adopt her. She would do everything she could for the girl. Seeing how much his wife had taken to the baby, Mr Rama signed the adoption papers and the little girl officially became their daughter.

Now, as they looked at their little girl, they kissed her and told her how much they loved her. They had planned a grand birthday celebration for her first birthday. They looked at her lying on the white sheets, her puny body still and lifeless. There were toys all around her. Toys she had accumulated in those months that she had spent with them. Mr Rama knew he had to cancel the cake and call all who had received the invitation cards. He placed a beautiful white dress on her, still in its plastic wrapping. It was her birthday present. Mrs Rama covered her tiny head with the sheets. They left the room, holding hands, heads bowed. Tears flowed down their cheeks but already Mrs Rama was trying to recall the number of the adoption agency. She could not wait to hold another Sheila in her arms.

All answers must be in complete sentences.

1. How did most people feel about the issue?

They were against it and they criticised the decision made by the couple.

2. What problems did a child suffering from AIDS face?

He or she might die a few years after getting the disease and would also have to be under heavy medication to stop the body from weakening.

3. What were Mr and Mrs Rama's goal?

It was to have a child.

4. What efforts did Mr and Mrs Rama make to get a child?

They spent thousands of dollars and doctor's fees to try to have their own child and they approached many adoption agencies for a suitable child.

5. Why was Sheila put up for adoption?

Her natural mother was a drug addict and was a jobless teenager, so she did not have the money to take care of Sheila.

6. What impression did Mr and Mrs Rama have of Sheila?

They felt that she was the sweetest and most adorable baby they had ever seen.

7. Which phrase means 'to like'?

The phrase is 'taken to'.

8. When did Sheila pass away?

She passed away just before her first birthday. /She passed away just before she turned one year old.

9. Did Mr and Mrs Rama expect Sheila to pass away then? How do you know?

No, they did not because they had planned a birthday party for her.

10. How did Mr and Mrs Rama feel after Sheila's death?

They were sad but Mrs Rama was also looking forward to adopting another child and giving it the kind of care she knew they could.

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. unperturbed (C)
a. apathetic b. confident **c. unruffled** d. easy-going
2. vehemently (A)
a. fiercely b. maliciously c. frantically d. pleasingly
3. shared (A)
a. joined b. received c. accepted d. retained
4. pain (B)
a. problem **b. suffering** c. regret d. experience
5. hopeless (C)
a. tragic b. desperate **c. discouraging** d. threatening

Verbal Reasoning

Look at the first group of three words. The word in the middle has been made from the other two words. Complete the second group of three words in the same way, making a new word in the middle.

Example PAIN INTO TOOK ALSO SOON ONLY

- | | | | | | |
|----------|------|-------|-------|-------------|-------|
| 1. HIDE | MAID | NAME | ITEM | <u>SITE</u> | FIST |
| 2. SORRY | ROSE | SENSE | MOANS | <u>NONE</u> | NAÏVE |
| 3. TREK | LATE | NAIL | FATE | <u>RAFT</u> | LAIR |
| 4. RAIL | RATE | TEAR | PAIN | <u>PEAR</u> | AREA |
| 5. REAL | HARE | HEEL | WEAN | <u>FAWN</u> | FOND |
| 6. PIPE | COPE | CODE | RULE | <u>RARE</u> | RAIN |

Find the letter which will complete both pairs of words, ending the first word and starting the second. The same letter must be used for both pairs of words.

Example mea (t) able fi (t) ub

1. dee (D) efy woo (D) eek
2. plat (E) vent crat (E) nvy

3. chil (L) ead coi (L-) atch
4. shar (P) ost was (P-) ump
5. boa (R) ole moo (R) eal

Correct Word

Words can be similar in meaning or just confused. Only one of the pair in each of these sentences is correct.

1. In some parts of the world they have sunshine all the year (around, round)

2. The thief's (partner, accomplice) _____ carried the acetylene blowtorch.
3. Around the walls of the hut were several (shrunk, shrunk) _____ heads.
4. He is being sued for (libel, slander) _____ for the article he wrote in the paper.
5. He asked his secretary to make three (duplicates, copies) _____ of the letter.

Thinking Skills

6. An ancient story tells of a Greek general who landed his troops on an enemy shore, then burned his ships. He wanted to make it very clear that there was no room in his plans for: _____ **C** _____
(a) capture .(b) attack. (c) retreat. (d) victory.
7. Ostriches are not very observant. It was the practice for native hunters to shoot and kill these large birds for their feathers. These hunters would dress themselves in an ostrich skin then go among a flock of them shooting them down one by one with poisoned arrows. The poor birds were entirely: _____ **B** _____
(a) afraid of the hunters.
(b) unaware that there was an enemy among them.
(c) fast runners because of their long legs.
(d) punished for their stupidity.
8. James Watt made great improvements to the steam engine. It is said that as a child he was fascinated to watch how steam could lift the lid from a boiling kettle. This is said to have made him aware at a very young age that steam:
_____ **A** _____
(a) could be used to do work.
(b) was caused by water vapour.
(c) could scald you badly if you were careless.
(d) was simply water in a solid state.

SET 39 HOMEWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

- At a time when everyone was probably snuggled in bed, Aaron would still be at the office. He worked at MainCorps Bank. Aaron was a conscientious worker and he earned the respect of many of his colleagues. Often praised for his diligence, Aaron was nonetheless not an outstanding employee and was often passed over for promotions. Yet, he never groused and continued working without complaining.
- Like most of the staff, Aaron performed his duties **loyally** during the day and left the office at 6 o'clock. He joked and chatted with his colleagues on the way down but he never joined them for meal after work. **Declining** them, he always told them that he had to have dinner with his mother. No one suspected anything. In fact, they **lauded** him for being a filial son and held him in high **regard** for the values he held. While the others left for home, Aaron made a detour for a quick bite at a nearby food centre before continuing with his real work at night. Anyone looking up at the fifteenth floor would notice the **lone** light that was on for the most of the night.
- Over the years, Aaron had learnt how the banking system worked. Subsequently, he created a false customer account and from there, began siphoning money from the bank. This account now contained millions of dollars. Aaron only used the money once in a while. He continued leading a simple life and he did not make withdrawals of huge amounts. As the days went by, Aaron became greedier and greedier. He had already reached his **goal** but tempted by the possibility of having even more money, Aaron continued with his ways. Greed overcame him and the more he siphoned, the more he wanted.
- Unfortunately, an incident last year changed Aaron's life. He was careless and he had left the computer on after he left the office for the night. An employee who had arrived early at the office saw the computer running and was about to switch it off when she noticed that the user had been accessing a customer's account in the middle of the night. Curious, she checked and found out that Aaron had logged on to the computer. Feeling suspicious, she reported the incident to her manager who then began monitoring Aaron's activities discreetly.
- It took less than a week for the authorities to find out what Aaron had been doing all along. He was arrested at his house one night. All his years of hard work had gone down the drain. Not only did he spend ten years in prison, he had to return all the money that he had taken. Aaron had to start from scratch when he was released from prison.

All answers must be in complete sentences.

1. Why was Aaron respected by his colleagues?

He was respected for being a conscientious worker and a devoted son. His colleagues held him in high regard for his values.

2. Why was Aaron passed over for promotions?

He was not an outstanding employee.

3. What excuse did Aaron give for not joining his colleagues for dinner?

He told his colleagues that he had to have dinner with his mother.

4. Would anyone have known that Aaron was wealthy? Why?

No, no one would have known. He led a simple lifestyle and he did not withdraw huge amounts of money.

5. What does 'goal' (line 18) refer to?

It refers to the total amount of money that Aaron wanted to have in his secret bank account.

6. What roused the employee's interest in the computer?

A user had been accessing a customer's account in the middle of the night.

7. Why do you think Aaron's activities were monitored?

The manager was suspicious of why Aaron would be accessing a customer's account late at night.

8. Which word in the passage means 'done in secret'?

The word is 'discreetly'.

9. How was Aaron punished by the authorities for his crime?

He had to return all the money he had taken and spend ten years in prison.

10. Write the two words from the passage that explains why Aaron's criminal act was exposed.

The words are 'greed' and 'careless'.

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. **loyally** (**D**)
 a. carefully b. efficiently c. respectfully **d. dutifully**
2. **declining** (**B**)
 a. snubbing **b. rejecting** c. disallowing d. postponing
3. **lauded** (**A**)
a. praised b. teased c. honoured d. mocked
4. **regard** (**B**)
 a. favour **b. esteem** c. honour d. value
5. **lone** (**A**)
a. single b. solo c. specific d. separate

Verbal Reasoning

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

Example hunt sip hut snip

1. caper eel CAPE REEL
2. niche sift NICE SHIFT
3. tang tee TAG TEEN
4. raft rail RAT FRAIL
5. sidle pay SIDE PLAY

Complete the following expressions by underlining the missing word.

Example Frog is to tadpole as swan is to (duckling, baby, cygnet).

1. Cow is to beef as pig is to (sty, piglet, pork, grunt, farm).
2. Sleep is to slept as go is to (come, going, travel, went, goodbye).
3. Boat is to water as car is to (garage, road, driver, petrol, fast).

4. Eager is to keen as essential is to (needless, **indispensable**, nonsense, useless, normal).
5. Pleasure is to pain as crooked is to (bent, curved, crafty, shady, **straight**).

Correct Word

Words can be similar in meaning or just confused. Only one of the pair in each of these sentences is correct

1. My grandfather is due to (resign, **retire**) _____ as he is nearly seventy.
2. Our class captain thanked the teacher and used a (judicial, **judicious**) _____ choice of words.
3. If they do not pay the rent they will be (expelled, **evicted**) _____ from the flat.
4. The young boy tried to (**provoke**, irritate) _____ the dog into biting him.
5. Mr Smythe was the judge and said he would (mediate, **arbitrate**) _____ in the dispute.

Thinking Skills

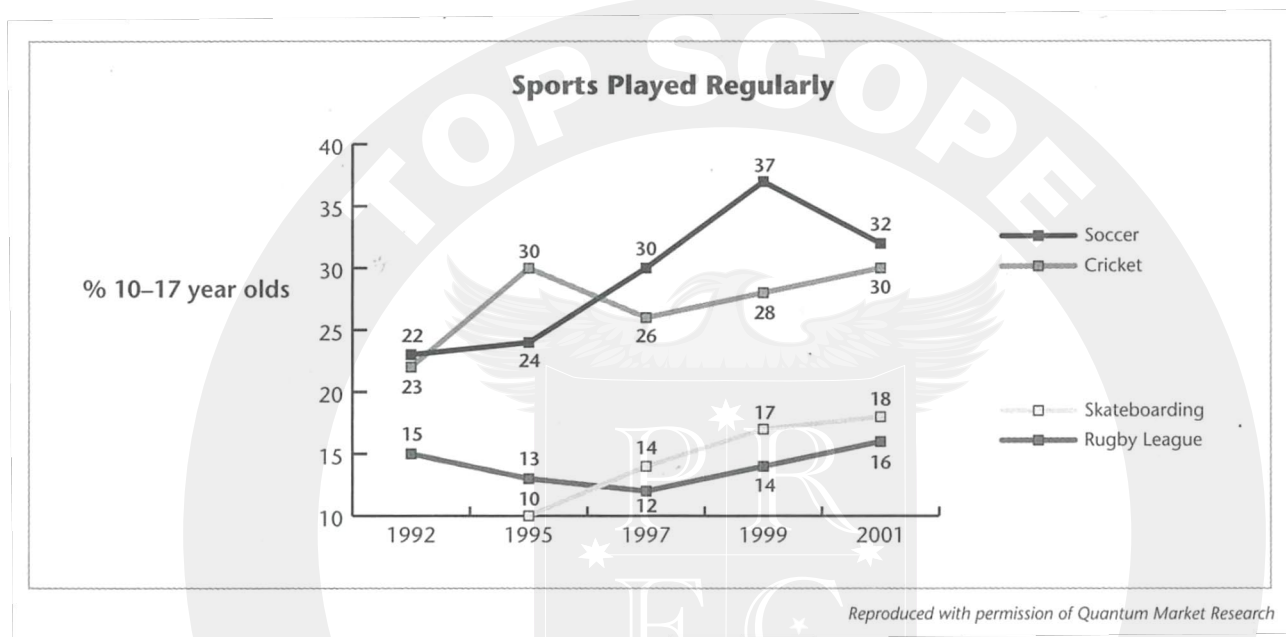
1. Walloons are the French speaking people of Belgium. The Flemings of Belgium speak a language called Flemish. Many Belgians speak both languages. These people can converse with either Walloons or Flemings because they : **C**
 - (a) live there.
 - (b) are good conversationalists.
 - (c) are bilingual.**
 - (d) listen carefully but know when to interrupt and politely give advice.
2. Sometimes termites are referred to as white ants. This is a misnomer. Termites are quite different insects from ants and they are not even always: **A**
 - (a) white.**
 - (b) insects.
 - (c) carnivorous.
 - (d) ants.
3. A Japanese proverb similar in meaning to *Birds of a feather flock together* is: **B**
 - (a) *Slow and steady wins the race.*
 - (b) When the character of a man is not clear to you, look at his friends.**
 - (c) *A bird in the hand gathers no moss.*
 - (d) *Love laughs at locksmiths.*

★ SET 40

CLASS WORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Look at the graph below and answer the questions. (Note: There are usually 1,000 young people in Quantum Market Research Studies.)



1. The graph shows the percentage of 10 - 17 year olds interviewed that regularly play the four sports listed. True, false, or not clear?

TRUE

2. The graph shows the top four sports played regularly. True, false, or not clear?

NOT CLEAR

3. The most popular of the four sports in 1999 was soccer. True or false?

TRUE

4. Which two sports have shown the most growth since 1995?

SOCCER AND SKATEBOARDING

5. Which sport showed the most growth between 1992 and 1999?

SOCCER

6. What percentage of 10-17 year olds played cricket in 1999?

28%

7. Overall, does the graph show an increase or decrease in participation in the four sports?

INCREASE

8. The graph does not tell you if both boys and girls were interviewed. If both sexes were interviewed, what does this tell you about girls' participation in sport?

It is not possible to tell from the information given in this graph. As there has been an increase in participation perhaps more girls participated in these sports too.

9. Based on what you know about sports played by young people do you think that both girls and boys were interviewed? Why/ why not?

Your own answer

LANGUAGE and GRAMMAR SKILLS

Vocabulary

For each question, choose the word closest in meaning to the bolded words. Consider these words in light of the context of the text above.

1. assumption (A)

a. premise b. error c. truth d. guess

2. substantiate (C)

a. substance b. testimony c. evidence d. fact

3. verify (B)

a. honest b. proof c. check d. document

4. credible (D)

a. possible b. incredulous c. unreliable d. trustworthy

5. data (C)

a. intelligence b. specifics c. facts d. report

Verbal Reasoning

Underline the word in the brackets which goes best with the words given outside the brackets.

Example word, paragraph, sentence (pen, cap, letter, top, stop)

1. oak, fir (bluebell, primrose, palm, parsley, bean)

2. serious, grave (absurd, helpless, **solemn**, lazy, foolish)
3. quarrel, disagree (settle, satisfy, permit, allow, **dispute**)
4. midnight, dawn (atmosphere, cloudy, horizon, **sunset**, planet)
5. greet, salute (ignore, **welcome**, frighten, march, pleased)

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

Example: black king purple green house

- 1 **cheap** expensive dear **loved** costly
- 2 breed **type** raise **lower** nurture
- 3 total **number** **question** increase add
- 4 **wind** blow thump **damage** punch
- 5 author **poem** **sketch** poet artist

Rhyming Word

In each example there are two clues to words that rhyme. You have to write and spell the word on the right whose definition is in bold.

1. dispatched
a perfume **___SCENT___**
2. too proud
it carries blood **___VEIN___**
3. clients of doctors
ability to stay calm **___PATIENCE___**
4. strength
small parasite **___MITE___**
5. making less heavy
electricity in clouds **___LIGHTNING___**
6. golf course
cat **___LYNX___**

Thinking Skills

1. The proverb '*The devil finds work for idle hands*' is similar in meaning to the proverb:
_____ **C** _____
 - (a) '*Many are called but few are chosen.*'
 - (b) '*Hope is a good breakfast but a bad supper.*'
 - (c) **'He who does nothing is in a fair way to do mischief.'**
 - (d) '*Fire is a good servant but a bad master.*'
2. You must expect some minor distractions in achieving worthwhile goals. You should not let these distractions deter you. To be successful you must: _____ **D** _____
 - (a) choose only tasks that are easy to do.
 - (b) deny the existence of any alternative.
 - (c) copy as much as you can from others.
 - (d) **be resolute and persistent in pursuit of your goals.**
3. Gladiators often fought to death in the arenas of ancient Rome. Because the Romans were civilized in many ways, it is surprising that: _____ **A** _____
 - (a) **they enjoyed watching such brutal contests.**
 - (b) they showed mercy to beaten gladiators.
 - (c) their empire was so vast.
 - (d) gladiators were often set free if they were popular with the crowd.

SET 40 HOMEWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Read the fact sheet below and answer questions 1 – 4.

What We Know About Mars

1. Mars is further from the Sun than the Earth so it is much colder, averaging at minus 60°C. At its equator at midday, the temperature can rise to 20°C. The cold, thin atmosphere also means liquids cannot exist for any length of time.
2. Mars has the largest volcanoes in the solar system.
Olympus Mons, which is also a volcano, is 600 kilometres in diameter.
3. Mars has the highest mountain and the longest valley in the solar system, known as Olympus and Valles Marineris respectively.
4. Many regions of Mars are flat, low-lying plains. The lowest of the northern plains are among the flattest, smoothest places in the solar system.
The plains might have been created by water that once flowed across the Martian surface.
5. Mars' dust storms are the largest in the solar system, capable of blanketing the entire red planet and lasting for months.
6. Vast deposits of what appear to be finely-layered stacks of water, ice and dust extend from the poles to latitudes of about 80 degrees in both hemispheres.
These deposits of ice and dust were probably deposited by the atmosphere over long periods of time.

1. Why is the headline more informative than if it had just been titled 'Mars'?

It tells readers this text will contain facts known about the planet.

2. Which fact in the text is illustrated on the fact sheet?

Fact no. 4 – many regions of Mars are flat low-lying plains.

3. Explain why 'The cold, thin atmosphere means liquid water cannot exist for any length of time.'

Mars is much further from the sun than Earth and therefore is much colder averaging -60 degrees Celsius, therefore the atmosphere is thin.

4. Is the final statement in no. 6 of the fact sheet a fact or a hypothesis?

It is a hypothesis because it suggesting a probable answer based on the facts available.

5. What is the main purpose of this page?

To educate people, most likely students, about the facts scientists know about Mars.

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.

1. respectively (a)
a. individually b. respect c. firstly d. secondly
2. region (b)
a. country b. area c. body d. scope
3. plain (c)
a. unattractive b. simple c. plateau d. extensive
4. deposit (c)
a. security b. put c. store d. consign
5. latitude (d)
a. freedom b. liberty c. scope d. distance

Verbal Reasoning

Find and underline the two words which need to change places for each sentence to make sense.

Example She went to letter the write.

1. Polish must you your shoes before tomorrow.
2. The sun came just out after lunch.
3. It is now too complicated to explain far.
4. Add the teabag and remove some milk.
5. She made one new friends after just two day.

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)

1. (rest, wonder, ward) (full, ore, den)
2. (car, sand, on) (our, pit, nest)
3. (split, miss, bar) (gin, row, take)
4. (writ, bite, grow) (err, up, ten)
5. (up, prop, red) (shore, dish, pose)

Rhyming Word

In each example there are two clues to words that rhyme. You have to write and spell the word on the right whose definition is in bold.

1. campers' homes
not relaxed ___ **TENSE** ___
2. throng
a hidden store or fund ___ **HOARD** ___
3. oceans
grab ___ **SEIZE** ___
4. walk through water
measured to see how heavy ___ **WEIGHED** ___
5. first half of day
grieving ___ **MOURNING** ___
6. being born
ship's bunk ___ **BERTH** ___

Thinking Skills

1. Which thing is being described in this old riddle?

A container without door, hinges, key or lid; Yet golden treasure inside is hid.

The riddle is describing: ___ **D** ___

- (a) a door.
- (b) a safe.
- (c) a car.
- (d) an egg.**

2. In many countries the earliest models of government had a king as ruler. His will was enforced by his followers. When the king died leadership was then usually passed on to his oldest surviving son.

In this country the governing of affairs is determined by elected representatives of the people. Government is no longer: ____ **D** ____

- (a) democracy.
- (b) elected.
- (c) legislation.
- (d) hereditary.**

3. **Sports Commentator #1:** Danny Buderus dummies, beats one...two before being tackled by former Knights teammate, Ben Kennedy. He gets up and plays the ball to Andrew Johns. It's the fifth tackle... Andrew wants to hurry up and get the kick in!

Sports Commentator #2: He really got onto it....is it going to be a forty – twenty...is it?...yes!

The sport being described is: ____ **D** ____

- (a) soccer.
- (b) rugby union.
- (c) Australian Rules football.
- (d) rugby league.**