

## **Practice General Reading Test-3 Section** **1 Passage 1**

*You should spend about 10 minutes on Questions 1–7 which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.*

### **NOTICE A**

#### **Notice: Central Library to close for renovations following long weekend**

London Public Library will open a temporary Central Library location in Citi Plaza following the Victoria Day long weekend as ongoing renovations force the closure of the downtown branch for about two weeks.

The upcoming construction closure schedule is divided into two periods.

- May 24 to June 3
- June 13 to June 24

During those periods, a temporary location, Pop Up Central will be available. Pop Up Central will be located across from the Bulk Barrel not far from the Central Library's Citi Plaza entrance

Members can avail the following services at Pop Up Central:

- Pick up your Central holds
- Return materials
- Borrow Quick Pick books, feature film DVDs, and children's Grab and Go picture book bags
- Use a public computer and printer (availability is limited)
- Validate parking with a Library Card
- Pay fines and fees (credit & debit only)

Timings:



Monday to Thursday: 10 am to 8 pm

Friday & Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm

Evening programs at the Wolf Performance Hall and the Stevenson and Hunt Room will not be affected.

## **Notice B**

### **Temporary Suspension of Library Services**

At the end of August, the Barbican Library will move to a temporary facility while construction begins on the building expansion project. The library will relocate to

EC2Y 8DS, United Kingdom. To accommodate the move, the projected closing date for the library is Monday, 24 August 2017. The library services are expected to be suspended for two weeks before reopening at the temporary location on Southwestern Blvd. This schedule is subject to change.

In preparation for the move, no library programs will be offered during the month of August. Programming will resume in September once the library reopens. Also during the month of August, the library will not accept any Program Room reservations. Anyone interested in alternative meeting/study space information may stop by the Information Desk or visit the website at [www.barbicancentrelibrary.com](http://www.barbicancentrelibrary.com)

Please note, library items due during this two-week transition period will now be due on Tuesday, 8 September. Any items placed on hold will be made available the week of Sept. 8 at the new location on Southwestern Blvd. Holds will not expire during the August closure.

### **Questions 1-7**

*The above passage has two notices, **Notice A** and **Notice B**.*



*You will read the statement and select which notice agrees with the statement.*

*Select from the options **A** and **B**.*

1) This library's evening programmes will not be affect due to its closure.

Select your answer

2) This Library's downtown branch will remain shut on 25 May.

Select your answer

3) Pop Up Central is a temporary arrangement located near this Library's Citi Plaza Entrance

Select your answer

4) More information about this Library's temporary closure can be accessed at its Information desk.

Select your answer

5) Members will be able to borrow Quick Pick Books during the temporary shut-down of this Library

Select your answer

6) It will be two weeks before a temporary location opens to substitute the closing of this Library

Select your answer



7) Visitors will only be able to access this Library's programs after it reopens in September.

Select your answer

## **Practice General Reading Test 3 Section** **1 Passage 2**

*You should spend about 15 minutes on Questions 8-20, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.*

### **SNORKEL TUBE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Step 1 Slip the snorkel tube over the mount on top of the mask. The plastic tab on the snorkel tube should be facing behind the mask.

Step 2 Once the tube hits the colored O-ring seal, gently push it forward while moving the tube side-to-side and pushing down firmly. Angling the tube is important so that it can work itself over the O-ring

Step 3 Push firmly until the tube is flush with the mount on the mask. Do not use excessive force to install the tube. This tight fit helps prevent leaking while the mask is in use.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Seaview 180° is intended for surface snorkeling and allows you to breathe easily without lifting your head from the surface of the water. This snorkel mask is not intended for use in freediving or scuba diving. Please follow the instructions in this booklet carefully to maximize your snorkel experience and to maintain safe use of the product.

### **PREPARATION**



When at the snorkel location, make sure there is no sand on the mask or tube. Sand can scratch the mask and impair breathing. If there is sand, rinse using water to clear sand from the breathing tube.

Once the mask is clean and ready for use, attach the breathing tube. Make sure the breathing tube is clear of debris.

Pull the straps of the mask over your head and check the fit of the mask on your face. It should create a full seal around your face. Breathe normally to check for any leaks. If you feel a slight pressure change when you breathe then you have a good seal. If the mask is too loose or too tight take the mask off of your face and adjust the straps accordingly.

Please note that facial hair could prevent a proper seal and may cause leaking in the mask. For an optimal experience, shave any facial hair you may have.

## USE

Seaview 180° is designed to be used on the surface of the water rather than as a free diving mask. Once in the water, swim on the surface and breathe calmly through either your mouth or nose. Calm breathing helps prevent fogging. Keeping your chin slightly up will create the best breathing experience. If you feel any obstruction to your breathing, it may be due to the snorkel being covered in water temporarily. The dry snorkel design will prevent water from entering through the top of the snorkel. If water leaks into your mask, simply lift your head out of the water and it will drain out of the chin valve. No need to remove your mask to clear it of water.

## Questions 8-15

*Do the following statements agree with the information given in the passage?*

*Select the correct options.*

**TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information



**FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information

**NOT GIVEN** if there is no information on this

8) If there is slight change in pressure when you breathe through the mask, it means there's something wrong with the seal.

Select your answer

9) If you breathe calmly into the mask, you can avoid fogging.

Select your answer

10) Facial hair may prevent effective functioning of the snorkeling gear.

Select your answer

11) If the snorkel is covered in water temporarily, it may cause permanent damage to the equipment.

Select your answer

12) Considerable force is required to install the Snorkel Tube.

Select your answer

13) There is no need to angle the Snorkel tube, as it adjusts itself automatically over the O-ring.

Select your answer



14) The snorkel mark should not be used in scuba diving.

Select your answer

15) It is important to clean the mask after using it for surface snorkeling.

Select your answer

### **Questions 16 – 20**

Choose **NOT MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

*Write your answers in the blank given below.*

16) Clean the snorkeling tube thoroughly before attaching it to the \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

17) Check if the mask fits your face perfectly after pulling the \_\_\_\_\_ of the mask over your head.

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

18) To check if the seal is tight, breathe \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer \_\_\_\_\_



19) If you experience \_\_\_\_\_, it means there are no leaks.

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

20) When you are in the water, you can breathe through either your \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

## **Practice General Reading Test 3 Section** **2**

*You should spend about 15 minutes on Questions 21-30 which are based on Reading Passage 2 below.*

### **How to get your garden ready for autumn**

With autumn nearly upon us, you're probably not spending much time thinking about your lawn. But autumn, with its cooler temperatures and occasional rainfall, is the ideal time to prepare your lawn for next spring. Many homeowners think lawns need less care in autumn because the grass grows more slowly. In fact, just the opposite is true. During this time of year, the grass is busily absorbing energy, moisture, and nutrients in preparation for a long, dormant winter. Give it a little attention now, and you'll be rewarded with a lush, healthy spring lawn. Just follow these six tips.

#### **KEEP ON MOWING**

Continue to water and mow your lawn, as needed. Then as the season draws to a close, drop the mower's blade to its lowest setting for the last two cuttings of the year. That will allow more sunlight to reach the crown of the grass, and there will be less leaf to turn brown during the winter.





Note: As you lower the blade, just remember not to trim off more than one-third of the grass blades at any one time. If necessary, gradually lower the cutting height until the time of the final two cuttings.

## **AERATE THE SOIL**

Autumn is also an ideal time to aerate your lawn so that oxygen, water, and fertilizer can easily reach the grass's roots. You can rent a gas-powered, walk-behind lawn aerator for about \$70 per day. The self-propelled machine will quickly punch holes into the soil and extract plugs of dirt. If you've got a very large yard—say, more than 3 or 4 acres—and don't feel like aerating it yourself, hire a landscaping contractor.

## **RAKE THE LEAVES**

I know raking leaves is no one's idea of fun, but it's important to remove fallen leaves from your lawn as soon as possible. Don't wait until all the leaves have fallen from the trees to start raking. If you do, the leaves will become wet from rain and morning dew, stick together, and form an impenetrable mat that if left unmoved will suffocate the grass and breed fungal diseases. An alternative to raking leaves is to use a lawnmower fitted with a collection bag or vacuum system. These methods are particularly effective if you have a very large yard with many deciduous trees. Regardless of whether you use a rake or a lawnmower, just be sure to remove the leaves before they turn into a soggy, suffocating mess.

## **FERTILIZE FOR FUTURE GROWTH**

Most lawn experts agree: If you fertilize your lawn only once a year, do it in autumn. The reason? Grass leaves grow much more slowly as the weather turns cool, but the grass roots and rhizomes continue to grow quickly. (Rhizomes are the horizontal plant stems that lie just beneath the soil's surface; they produce the blades of grass above and the roots below). Application of fertilizer in this season delivers essential nutrients for the grass to grow deep roots now and to keep nutrients on reserve for a healthy start next spring. Wait until



mid-to-late autumn, then apply a dry lawn fertilizer to all grassy areas; be careful not to miss any spots.

## **FILL IN BALD SPOTS**

Autumn is also a great time of year to fix any bare, bald spots in your lawn. The quickest, easiest way to do this is with an all-in-one lawn repair mixture. Sold at most garden shops and home centers, this ready-to-use mixture contains grass seed, a special quick-starter lawn fertilizer, and organic mulch. Use a garden rake to scratch loose the soil at the bald spot in your lawn. Then spread a thick layer of the lawn repair mixture over the area. Lightly compact the mixture, then water thoroughly, and continue to water every other day for two weeks.

## **WEED CONTROL**

If broadleaf weeds like dandelions have taken over your lawn, now's the time to fight back. Weeds, like most plants, are in the energy-absorbing mode during autumn. They're drinking in everything that comes their way, including weed killers. Apply an herbicide now and the weeds won't return in the spring. Read the package label before use. Most herbicide manufacturers recommend applying the weed killer during early-to-mid autumn when daytime temperatures are consistently above 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

### ***Questions 21-30***

Choose **NOT MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

*Write your answers in the blank given below.*

21) During autumn, the grass is actively preparing for what?

**Answer**

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22) For the last two mowing rounds of the year, how should the blade setting be?

Answer

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23) What is the act of removing fallen leaves from the lawn called?

Answer

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24) What should you do to your lawn in autumn so water and nutrients can reach its grass's roots?

Answer

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25) What is it that you should do in autumn, if you do it only once a year?

Answer

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26) What areas of your lawn can be fixed by lawn repair mixtures?

Answer

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27) What kind of weeds are dandelions?

Answer

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### **Questions 28 to 30**

*Read the passage and complete each sentence with the list of options given below.*

*Select the option that agrees with the statement.*

28) If you have a large lawn you can hire a landscaping contractor to \_\_\_\_\_.

Select your answer

29) Autumn is the best time to \_\_\_\_\_.

Select your answer

30) Wait until mid-to-late autumn to \_\_\_\_\_.

Select your answer

## **Practice General Reading Test 3 Section**

### **3**

*You should spend about 7 minutes on Questions 30–36, which are based on Reading section 3 below.*

### **The Tower of London: History**

**A** Founded nearly a millennium ago, The Tower of London has been expanded upon over the centuries by many a king and queen. The first foundations were laid in 1078 and the castle has been constantly improved and extended. The Tower of London is the oldest palace, fortress and prison in Europe. The origins of the Tower begin with the Norman invasion of England. William, Duke of Normandy met King Harold at the Battle of Hastings on 14 October, 1066. The



Duke's Norman warriors won the battle, and William was crowned king on Christmas Day. William was a foreigner in a land he did not yet firmly control. He needed a stronghold to keep the rebellious citizens of London in line. The site William chose for his castle was the very same site upon which Claudius, the Roman Emperor, had built a fortress more than a thousand years before, and traces of the old Roman walls can still be seen within the Tower grounds.

**B** The addition of other smaller towers, extra buildings, walls and walkways, gradually transformed the original building into the splendid example of castle, fortress, prison, palace and finally museum that we enjoy today. The Tower began as a simple timber and stone enclosure. The original structure was completed by the addition of a ditch and palisade along the north and west sides. Within this enclosure a stone structure was built. This stone building came to be called The Great Tower. Around the year 1240 King Henry III made the Tower of London his home. He whitewashed the Great Tower, widened the grounds to include a church, and added a great hall and other buildings. The Normans called the tower 'La Tour Blanche' (White Tower) on account of its whitewashed exterior.

**C** The White Tower formed the basis of a residential palace and fortress suited for a king or queen, and the Tower of London became an all-purpose complex. Originally the caps at the top of the White Tower's four turrets were conical, but were replaced by the present onion-shaped ones in the sixteenth century. Henry III began to use the Tower as a prison, but at the same time he continued to use it as a place where he entertained important guests. Many of these guests came with gifts of animals for the king. These gifts were kept near the drawbridge where Henry built Lion Tower; a royal zoo where visitors would be greeted by roaring beasts.

**D** Today it houses the keeper of the Royal Ravens. The Tower of London ravens are flightless birds due to the fact their wings are clipped. This tradition relates to a superstition from the time of Charles II that when there are no longer ravens at the Tower both the White Tower and the Commonwealth of England will fall. The Tower was a dynamic project for the monarchs of England. Kings and queens built



upon the Tower over the centuries, adding walls and smaller towers (thirteen inner and six outer) and finally encircling the entire complex within a moat fed by the River Thames. The official title of the Tower is still 'Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress the Tower of London' although there isn't actually a single Tower of London. It is not quite known when the name was first used but through the ages 'Tower of London' has become the accepted term of description for the entire complex. The Tower of London is not one structure but a complex of buildings begun during the time of William the Conqueror. Originally built as a fortress to keep hostile Londoners at bay it was also used to keep watch for enemies approaching along the River Thames. It has been used as a palace, a library, a mint, a treasury, a bank, an arsenal and an observatory, but is most famous as a prison.

**E** There are several towers within the Tower of London, the oldest and most conspicuous being the White Tower, so named during the 13th-century when Henry III had it whitewashed. This is the central keep built by William the Conqueror and completed by his sons William Rufus and Henry I. One of the four corner turrets housed the first royal observatory. The White Tower currently contains the Chapel of St John, where the Royal Family and their court worshipped and where knights of the Order of Bath spent a vigil the night before a king or queen was crowned. The White Tower also contains an exhibition of arms, armour and torture instruments.

**F** The Queens House at the Tower of London was built around 1530 by Henry VIII. It takes its name from the Victorian myth that it was built by Anne Boleyn, Henry's second wife and mother of Elizabeth I. In actual fact Anne spent the last 18 days of her life in the Queen's Lodgings, an extension of the royal apartments which have since been torn down. On 19 May, 1536 Queen Anne was taken from her lodgings and beheaded on Tower Green for alleged infidelity. Queen's House is used now as the Council Chamber and it is here that Guy Fawkes was interrogated before being tortured on the rack in the White Tower and signing a confession incriminating his fellow conspirators in the 1605 Gunpowder Plot. Adjoining the Council Chamber is a room in which William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, was once a prisoner.



### **Questions 31 to 36**

*Read the passage and select the correct heading for each paragraph A-F from the list of headings provided below:*

31) Paragraph A

Select your answer

32) Paragraph B

Select your answer

33) Paragraph C

Select your answer

34) Paragraph D

Select your answer

35) Paragraph E

Select your answer

36) Paragraph F

Select your answer

### **Questions 37 – 40**



*Choose NOT MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the passage for each answer.*

*Write your answers in the blank given below.*

37) The Tower of London ravens have their wings clipped because of a superstition that dates back to the time of \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

38) The construction of the Tower of London began during the time of \_\_\_\_\_

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

39) \_\_\_\_\_ is another name given to the White Tower.

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

40) Queen Anne was executed on \_\_\_\_\_ for alleged disloyalty.

Answer \_\_\_\_\_

