

SAT Reading Test

- (1) Once I fell headlong and cut my face; I lost no time in stanching the blood, but jumped up and ran on, with a warm trickle down my cheek and chin.
- (2) All the time I ran I was saying to myself: 'They have moved it a little, pushed it under the bushes out of the way.'
- (3) Nevertheless, I ran with all my might.
- (4) All the time, with the certainty that sometimes comes with excessive dread, I knew that such assurance was folly, knew instinctively that the machine was removed out of my reach.
- (5) My breath came with pain.
- (6) I suppose I covered the whole distance from the hill crest to the little lawn, two miles perhaps, in ten minutes.
- (7) And I am not a young man.
- (8) I cursed aloud, as I ran, at my confident folly in leaving the machine, wasting good breath thereby.
- (9) I cried aloud, and none answered.
- (10) Not a creature seemed to be stirring in that moonlit world.
- (11) "When I reached the lawn my worst fears were realised.
- (12) Not a trace of the thing was to be seen.
- (13) I felt faint and cold when I faced the empty space among the black tangle of bushes.
- (14) I ran round it furiously, as if the thing might be hidden in a corner, and then stopped abruptly, with my hands clutching my hair.
- (15) Above me towered the sphinx, upon the bronze pedestal, white, shining, leprous, in the light of the rising moon.
- (16) It seemed to smile in mockery of my dismay.
- (17) "I might have consoled myself by imagining the little people had put the mechanism in some shelter for me, had I not felt assured of their physical and intellectual inadequacy.
- (18) That is what dismayed me: the sense of some hitherto unsuspected power, through whose intervention my invention had vanished.
- (19) Yet, for one thing I felt assured: unless some other age had produced its exact duplicate, the machine could not have moved in time.
- (20) The attachment of the levers-I will show you the method later-prevented anyone from tampering with it in that way when they were removed.
- (21) It had moved, and was hid, only in space.
- (22) But then, where could it be?
- (23) "I think I must have had a kind of frenzy.
- (24) I remember running violently in and out among the moonlit bushes all round the sphinx, and startling some white animal that, in the dim light, I took for a small deer.
- (25) I remember, too, late that night, beating the bushes with my clenched fist until my knuckles were gashed and bleeding from the broken twigs.
- (26) Then, sobbing and raving in my anguish of mind, I went down to the great building of stone.
- (27) The big hall was dark, silent, and deserted.
- (28) I slipped on the uneven floor, and fell over one of the malachite tables, almost breaking my shin.
- (29) I lit a match and went on past the dusty curtains, of which I have told you.
- (30) "There I found a second great hall covered with cushions, upon which, perhaps, a score or so of the little people were sleeping.
- (31) I have no doubt they found my second appearance strange enough, coming suddenly out of the quiet darkness with inarticulate noises and the splutter and flare of a match.
- (32) For they had forgotten about matches.
- (33) 'Where is my Time Machine?'
- (34) I began, bawling like an angry child, laying hands upon them and shaking them up together.

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Q1: What is the main concern of the speaker as depicted in the passage?

- A. To find his time machine.
- B. To find his lost pet.
- C. To escape dangerous creatures.
- D. To rescue the little people.

Correct Answer: A. To find his time machine.

Reason: The speaker continuously mentions his missing Time Machine throughout the passage, signifying that this is his main concern.

Q2: The speaker's physical condition during his search for the Time Machine can best be described as

- A. calm and composed.
- B. exhausted and injured.
- C. energetic and agile.
- D. indifferent and nonchalant.

Correct Answer: B. exhausted and injured.

Reason: Throughout lines (1), (5), (8), (25) and (28), the speaker mentions various instances of physical pain, exhaustion, and injury.

Q3: In line 19, the 'age' most likely refers to

- A. the lifeline of a person.
- B. an archaeological era.
- C. a period in history.
- D. the maturity of an object.

Correct Answer: C. a period in history.

Reason: Given the context of the sentence and the use of the Time Machine, 'age' in this scenario most probably refers to a period in history.

Q4: The speaker's reaction to the absence of his Time Machine can best be described as

- A. detached and indifferent.
- B. exulted and joyous.
- C. bewildered and irritated.
- D. devastated and distraught.

Correct Answer: D. devastated and distraught.

Reason: Lines 14, 16, and 23-25 reveal the speaker's extreme upset and turmoil due to the loss of his Time Machine.

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Q5: The 'great building of stone' in line 26 is best described as

- A. an ancient ruin.
- B. a monolithic monument.
- C. a fortified castle.
- D. an inhabited dwelling.

Correct Answer: D. an inhabited dwelling.

Reason: The mention of a 'big hall' and 'cushions' where the 'little people were sleeping' in lines 27 and 30 portrays the 'great building of stone' as an inhabited dwelling.

Q6: 'The little people' as referred to in the passage are

- A. children.
- B. mythical creatures.
- C. miniature humanoids.
- D. smaller adult humans.

Correct Answer: C. miniature humanoids.

Reason: Given the context and the character of the passage, 'The little people' are most likely referring to miniature human-like figures.

Q7: How does the speaker's treatment of 'the little people' reflect his state of mind?

- A. His gentle approach shows his composed nature.
- B. His indifferent attitude depicts his respective behavior.
- C. His brutal approach reflects his desperation.
- D. His playful interaction reflects his nonchalant nature.

Correct Answer: C. His brutal approach reflects his desperation.

Reason: In lines 33 and 34, the speaker is depicted as 'bawling' and 'shaking' the little people in his quest for the Time Machine, showing the speaker's desperate state of mind.

Q8: What is the implication of 'They had forgotten about matches' in line 32?

- A. 'The little people' no longer use fire.
- B. 'The little people' have access to superior technology.
- C. 'The little people' have evolved beyond physical needs.
- D. 'The little people' have lost their memory of past inventions.

Correct Answer: D. 'The little people' have lost their memory of past inventions.

Reason: The implication is that 'the little people' are no longer familiar with certain technology or inventions that were once known to them, indicating a potential loss of memory or knowledge.

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Q9: The speaker's interaction with his surroundings and events can best be described as

- A. peaceful and harmonious.
- B. frustrating and confrontational.
- C. understanding and empathetic.
- D. productive and fruitful.

Correct Answer: B. frustrating and confrontational.

Reason: Given the speaker's reactions to the disappearance of the Time Machine, his interaction with the surroundings and the events are marked by frustration and confrontation.

Q10: The phrase 'sobbing and raving in my anguish of mind' (lines 26) primarily serves to

- A. show the speaker's disappointment at his own mistakes.
- B. demonstrate the speaker's physical agony.
- C. illustrate the speaker's emotional breakdown.
- D. hint at the speaker's regret for his actions.

Correct Answer: C. illustrate the speaker's emotional breakdown.

Reason: The speaker's description of 'sobbing and raving in my anguish of mind' depicts a deep emotional crisis or breakdown brought about by his desperate situation.

Q11: In context of the passage, the phrase 'it had moved and was hid, only in space' (line 21) means that

- A. the Time Machine was hidden somewhere in outer space.
- B. the Time Machine had moved from its original place but not in time.
- C. the Time Machine disappeared into thin air.
- D. the Time Machine was swallowed by a space-time vortex.

Correct Answer: B. the Time Machine had moved from its original place but not in time.

Reason: Considering that the Time Machine could move both in time and space, the phrase suggests that it was no longer in its original physical location but hadn't traveled to a different time period.