

SAT Reading Test

- (1) For awhile I was blinded by the light.
- (2) "We did not think you would start to explore this island of ours without telling us," he said; and then, "I was afraid-But-what-Hullo." My last remaining strength slipped from me, and my head fell forward on my chest.
- (3) I think he found a certain satisfaction in giving me brandy.
- (4) "For God's sake," said I, "fasten that door." "You've been meeting some of our curiosities, eh!" said he.
- (5) He locked the door and turned to me again.
- (6) He asked me no questions, but gave me some more brandy and water and pressed me to eat.
- (7) I was in a state of collapse.
- (8) He said something vague about his forgetting to warn me, and asked me briefly when I left the house and what I had seen.
- (9) I answered him as briefly, in fragmentary sentences.
- (10) "Tell me what it all means," said I, in a state bordering on hysterics.
- (11) "It's nothing so very dreadful," said he.
- (12) "But I think you have had about enough for one day." The puma suddenly gave a sharp yell of pain.
- (13) At that he swore under his breath.
- (14) "I'm damned," said he, "if this place is not as bad as Gower Street, with its cats." "Montgomery," said I, "what was that thing that came after me?"
- (15) Was it a beast or was it a man." "If you don't sleep to-night," he said, "you'll be off your head to-morrow!" I stood up in front of him.
- (16) "What was that thing that came after me." I asked.
- (17) He looked me squarely in the eyes, and twisted his mouth askew.
- (18) His eyes, which had seemed animated a minute before, went dull.
- (19) "From your account," said he, "I'm thinking it was a bogle." I felt a gust of intense irritation, which passed as quickly as it came.
- (20) I flung myself into the chair again, and pressed my hands on my forehead.
- (21) The puma began once more.
- (22) Montgomery came round behind me and put his hand on my shoulder.
- (23) "Look here, Prendick," he said, "I had no business to let you drift out into this silly island of ours.
- (24) But it's not so bad as you feel, man.
- (25) Your nerves are worked to rags.
- (26) Let me give you something that will make you sleep.
- (27) _That_-will keep on for hours yet.
- (28) You must simply get to sleep, or I won't answer for it." I did not reply.
- (29) I bowed forward, and covered my face with my hands.
- (30) Presently he returned with a small measure containing a dark liquid.
- (31) This he gave me.
- (32) I took it unresistingly, and he helped me into the hammock.
- (33) When I awoke, it was broad day.
- (34) For a little while I lay flat, staring at the roof above me.
- (35) The rafters, I observed, were made out of the timbers of a ship.
- (36) Then I turned my head, and saw a meal prepared for me on the table.
- (37) I perceived that I was hungry, and prepared to clamber out of the hammock, which, very politely anticipating my intention, twisted round and deposited me upon all-fours on the floor.

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Q1: The main topic of the passage is

- A. An individual exploring an unknown island.
- B. A detailed description of an unusual creature.
- C. A conversation between two best friends.
- D. A trial of a man accused of a crime.

Correct Answer: A. An individual exploring an unknown island.

Reason: The main focus of the passage revolves around the narrator's adventures on a strange island and his discussions with Montgomery about the inhabitants and his experiences.

Q2: As used in line 6, 'pressed' most nearly means

- A. pushed with force.
- B. urged.
- C. condensed.
- D. distressed.

Correct Answer: B. urged.

Reason: In context, 'pressed me to eat' indicates that Montgomery is strongly encouraging or urging the narrator to consume food.

Q3: The phrase 'bordering on hysterics' in line 10 suggests that the narrator is

- A. about to lose control emotionally.
- B. ready to burst into laughter.
- C. preparing to confront Montgomery.
- D. planning to escape the island.

Correct Answer: A. about to lose control emotionally.

Reason: Hysterics usually refer to uncontrolled or extreme emotions, which usually implies the narrator is on the verge of emotional collapse or excessive emotional reaction.

Q4: The 'bogle' in line 19 refers to

- A. a physical challenge the narrator must overcome.
- B. a creature or beast the narrator has encountered.
- C. the island that the narrator is exploring.
- D. an alcoholic beverage Montgomery offers the narrator.

Correct Answer: B. a creature or beast the narrator has encountered.

Reason: The term 'bogle' is often used to refer to a ghost or phantom. In the context of the passage, the 'bogle' that Montgomery refers to is likely the unknown entity that the narrator had previously asked about in line 14.

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Q5: As used in line 24, 'bad' most nearly means

- A. defective.
- B. harmful.
- C. inadequate.
- D. undesirable.

Correct Answer: D. undesirable.

Reason: Considering the context, 'bad' refers to the undesirable situation the narrator is in, trapped on the island.

Q6: In line 23, when Montgomery says 'this silly island of ours', he is using

- A. metaphor.
- B. sarcasm.
- C. understatement.
- D. symbolism.

Correct Answer: C. understatement.

Reason: 'This silly island of ours' is an understatement because Montgomery is downplaying the difficulties and dangers presented by the island.

Q7: Based on the context, the 'dark liquid' referred to in line 30 most likely is

- A. a poison.
- B. a sleeping aid.
- C. a hallucinogen.
- D. a cure for the plague.

Correct Answer: B. a sleeping aid.

Reason: Earlier in line 26, Montgomery expresses his desire to give the narrator something to make him sleep and is then seen returning with a 'dark liquid'. Hence, it can be inferred that the liquid is a sleep aid.

Q8: The overall tone of the passage is

- A. enthusiastic.
- B. confident.
- C. skeptical.
- D. unsettling.

Correct Answer: D. unsettling.

Reason: The overall tone of the passage can be characterized as unsettling due to the narrator's confusion and fear about the strange happenings on the island.

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Q9: Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A. Lines 23-25 ('Look here...wounded to rags.')
- B. Lines 8-9 ('Oh! I wonder...only thing that frightens him.')
- C. Lines 16-18 ('Faith, Madame... risks! Tally ho!')
- D. Lines 29-31 ('Presently he returned.. unresistingly, and he touched me.')

Correct Answer: A. Lines 23-25 ('Look here...wounded to rags.')

Reason: Choice (A) shows the uncertainty and confusion of the narrator, contributing to the overall unsettling tone of the passage.

Q10: What does the narrator primarily suggest about the situation through his actions in line 29?

- A. He is surrendering to Montgomery.
- B. He is accepting his current circumstances.
- C. He is preparing to take some dangerous action.
- D. He is showing distrust towards Montgomery.

Correct Answer: B. He is accepting his current circumstances.

Reason: Despite his confusion and fears, the narrator acquiesces to Montgomery's advice, takes the drink, and goes to sleep. This suggests that he is yielding to his current situation.

Q11: In the context of line 35, 'observed' most nearly means

- A. watched carefully.
- B. respected.
- C. noticed.
- D. commemorated.

Correct Answer: C. noticed.

Reason: In context, 'Observed' is used to express that the narrator noticed or realized that the rafters were made from the timbers of a ship.