

Practice Paper 5

English

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 2. You have to read a passage and then answer some questions about it. You can look back at the passage to check your answers as many times as you want. There are also some grammar, spelling and punctuation exercises to do.
 3. This is a multiple-choice test in which you have to mark your answer to each question on the answer sheet. You should mark only one answer for each question.
 4. Draw a firm line clearly through the rectangle next to your answer like this . If you make a mistake, rub it out as completely as you can and put in your new answer.
 5. Be sure to keep your place on the answer sheet. Mark your answer in the box that has the same number as the question.
 6. You may not be able to finish all the questions, but try to do as many as you can. If you cannot do a question, do not waste time on it but go on to the next. If you are not sure of an answer, choose the one you think is best.
 7. You may do any rough working on a separate sheet of paper.
 8. **Work as quickly and as carefully as you can.**
 9. You will have 45 minutes to do the test.
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Read this passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

The Universe

1. Mars

- If you look up at the night sky, you can sometimes see a brightly glowing red planet. This is the planet Mars. Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun. Its neighbours are Earth and Jupiter. Mars is one of the eight planets in our solar system. It is one of the four planets in 5. our solar system known as 'rocky planets'. The other three are Mercury, Venus and Earth.

Mars is about half the size of Earth and much colder. There is no rain to water plants or air for animals to breathe. There are no oceans on Mars or soil that would be the right kind for growing plants. Mars has lots of rocks and no trees. Seasons last twice as long because a year on Mars is almost twice as long as a year on Earth.

10. If you stood at the north or south pole of Mars, you would see lots and lots of ice. The north half of the planet also has flat desert areas. The south part of the planet has deep canyons. Across the planet, there are also tall cliffs, huge volcanoes, dried-up river beds, and huge holes in the ground called craters.

If there is life on Mars, it must be very different from life on Earth. The conditions on the 15. surface of Mars are very harsh. There is no oxygen, it is drier than any desert on Earth, and there is radiation from the Sun that would kill most living things. If there is any life on Mars, it would have to be very small and live far underground.

Mars is often called the Red Planet because it shines with a red-orange light in the sky. In the 1960s and 1970s, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) sent 20. space probes to Mars. They found out that Mars is red because of rust in the planet's soil.

When Mars first formed, the inside of the planet was very hot. High temperatures inside Mars caused the rocks to melt and form magma. Massive streams of magma flowed upwards towards the surface. The melted rock exploded onto the surface of Mars. When 25. magma reaches the surface of a planet, it is called lava. Long ago, lava on Mars poured out and spread across the planet's surface. As it slowly cooled, the lava changed back to solid rock. Huge mountains of cooled lava, called volcanoes, formed on the surface.

Jupiter

Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun in our solar system. It is also the second brightest planet. Venus is the only planet that is brighter. Jupiter is so bright that when it appears in 30. the night sky, you can see it without a telescope. It looks like a silver star.

Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system. Its diameter – the distance right through the middle of the planet from one side to another – is 11 times larger than Earth's.

If you view Jupiter through a telescope, you can see that it has alternating stripes of cream and brown. The cream stripes are called zones. The brown stripes are called belts. Different chemicals in each layer make the different colours. Most of Jupiter is made up of clouds and gas layers. It is one of the planets called 'gas giants'. The other gas giants are Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

Naming the Planets

When people looked at Mars long ago, its red colour made them think of blood and wars. They thought the planet was like a strong soldier who was ready for battle. For that reason, the Ancient Romans named the red planet Mars, after their god of war.

Astronomers named Jupiter after the King of the Roman gods. This god was the ruler of everything in the sky. He was believed to be the god who brought light to the world. Paintings of the god Jupiter often show him with a lightning bolt in his hand.

45. Time in Space

The time it takes for a planet to rotate once around its axis is called a day. Like Earth, Mars takes about 24 hours to rotate once. The time it takes for a planet to orbit the Sun is called a year. It takes Mars about 687 Earth days to orbit the Sun. This means that a year on Mars lasts almost two Earth years. A day on Jupiter lasts a little less than 10 hours.

50. Weather in Space

Space probes to Mars have taught us that Mars has thin clouds, high winds and huge dust storms. These dust storms can be eight kilometres high. During the winter months, temperatures on Mars can be as low as -123°C . During the summer months, temperatures on Mars can climb as high as 17°C . During a day on Mars, the temperatures change a lot. The average daytime temperature on Mars during the summer is -23°C . The average night-time temperature on Mars during the summer is -57°C . Temperatures on Mars change more during just one day than temperatures on Earth change during whole seasons!

Since Jupiter is so far away from the Sun, it is always cold. At the top of Jupiter's cloud layer, the temperatures get as cold as -150°C . It is also very windy. The fastest winds, near the planet's equator, can reach speeds of up to 550 kilometres per hour. There are also thunderstorms.

Visitors from Space

In 1938, an actor and writer named Orson Welles scared many Americans. He was the host of a radio show in which actors read plays. On Halloween night, Welles and other 65. actors presented a play based on a novel by H.G. Wells called *War of the Worlds*. The novel was about an attack on Earth by aliens from Mars. The show began with what sounded like a real news flash about an attack on Earth. It sounded so real that many Americans really thought it was happening. They were terrified. They thought Martians were taking over Earth.

Please answer these questions. (Look at the passage again if you need to.) You should choose the **best** answer and mark its letter on your answer sheet.

1

How many planets are there in our solar system?

- A** four
- B** five
- C** six
- D** eight
- E** nine

2

Which statement about Mars is true?

- A** Mars is the eighth planet in our solar system.
- B** Mars is a rocky planet.
- C** Mars is a gas giant.
- D** There has never been water on Mars.
- E** Earth is half the size of Mars.

3

How is Mars different from Earth?

- A** It has volcanoes.
- B** A day lasts about 24 hours.
- C** It is a rocky planet.
- D** It orbits the Sun.
- E** It has no oceans.

4

According to the passage, why is it unlikely that there is life on Mars?

- A** There are no trees.
- B** It is too cold.
- C** There is strong radiation.
- D** There is hardly any rain.
- E** There is too much oxygen.

5

Why is Mars red?

- A It is very hot.
- B Its surface reflects the glow of the Sun.
- C It is covered with hot volcanic lava.
- D There is rust in the soil.
- E because of the blood and wars

6

What is the name of the brightest planet in our solar system?

- A Mars
- B Venus
- C Jupiter
- D the Sun
- E the Moon

7

Which statement about Jupiter is true?

- A Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system.
- B Jupiter has brown stripes called zones.
- C You need a telescope to see Jupiter.
- D Jupiter is named after the Roman god of war.
- E Jupiter's stripes are created from volcanic lava.

8

Why do you think paintings of the god Jupiter often show him with a lightning bolt in his hand?

- A He was the Greek god of thunderstorms.
- B He was a very angry god.
- C He was the Roman god who brought light.
- D He was the King of the gods.
- E He was killed by lightning.

9

How long is a year on Mars?

- A 10 hours
- B 24 hours
- C 365 days
- D 687 days
- E 1000 days

10

Which statement about the weather on Mars is false?

- A There are no rainstorms.
- B There are dust storms.
- C There are high winds.
- D The fastest winds are near the equator.
- E Mars has large variations in temperature.

11

Who was H.G. Wells?

- A an actor
- B an astronomer
- C an author
- D a scientist
- E a Roman god

12

In 1938, why did some Americans believe that aliens were attacking the Earth?

- A They saw it on the news.
- B It was Halloween.
- C They heard an unrealistic broadcast on the radio.
- D There was a war of the worlds.
- E They heard a convincing radio broadcast.

13

Why do you think *War of the Worlds* was broadcast on Halloween night?

- A to make the play more interesting
- B to make the play more atmospheric
- C because more people would be at home to listen to it
- D because it is a story about ghosts
- E to play 'trick or treat'

14

For hundreds of years, astronomers have wondered if life exists on Mars.

Why do you think people believe there could be life on Mars?

- A Martians come from Mars.
- B Mars looks like a strong soldier.
- C The landscape on Mars is similar to that on Earth.
- D Mars is very cold.
- E Traces of life have been found on Mars.

15

In which section(s) of this passage can you find information about the length of a year in space?

- 1 Mars
- 2 Jupiter
- 3 Naming the Planets
- 4 Time in Space
- 5 Weather in Space

- A** 4 only
- B** 2 and 4 only
- C** 1 and 4 only
- D** 1, 4 and 5 only
- E** 4 and 5 only

16

What type of writing is this passage?

- A** fiction
- B** non-fiction
- C** science fiction
- D** persuasive writing
- E** biographical

Now answer the following questions about the meanings of words as they are used in the passage.

17

Which word is closest in meaning to ‘very harsh’? (line 15)

- A horrible
- B unbearable
- C severe
- D freezing
- E depressing

18

Which word is closest in meaning to ‘terrified’? (line 68)

- A terrific
- B excited
- C petrified
- D ecstatic
- E miserable

Now answer these questions about words and phrases as they are used in the passage.

19

What type of words are these?

Mars Jupiter Earth Saturn Neptune

- A verbs
- B adverbs
- C prepositions
- D adjectives
- E nouns

20

‘Paintings of the god Jupiter often show him with a lightning bolt in his hand.’ (line 44)

Which word in this sentence is a verb?

- A Paintings
- B often
- C show
- D lightning
- E hand

This exercise contains some **spelling** mistakes. On each numbered line, there is either **one** mistake or **no** mistake. Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark its letter on your answer sheet. **If there is no mistake, mark N.**

My Furry Friend

21 Some people maintain that keeping pets is a relaxing hobby. Don't you beleive it!

A

B

C

D

22 My mum and I were out shopping last Wednesday when we spoted a notice

A

B

C

D

23 in a window: 'Hampster and gerbil babies for sale'. It was love at first sight,

A

B

C

D

24 so Maxi (as I called him) came home with us in a rather espensive cage,

A

B

C

and that's when the problems began.

D

25 It wasn't my fault. I simpley opened the door and turned my attention

A

B

C

D

26 briefly to the food and bedding we had also bought. It was just a minute,

A

B

C

D

27 no longer: but for days afterwards we found a trail of damage – to curtins, carpets

A

B

C

D

28 and furniture – where Maxi had tried unsuccessfully to organise things for himself.

A

B

C

D

These sentences contain some **punctuation** mistakes. On each numbered line, there is either **one** mistake or **no** mistake. Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark its letter on your answer sheet. **If there is no mistake, mark N.**

Game Over

Emma had come face to face with the final enemy in her computer game, which she was determined to complete.

29 Nearer and nearer crept the ghastly thing. The single eye in the middle of its
A B C D

30 green, scaly forehead did not blink but flickered – up down and from side to side – as
A B C D

31 the huge body lumbered forward. Emmas heart was in her mouth as she summoned
A B C D

32 her strength, focusing her will on the need to escape, if she gathered her inner forces
A B C D

33 she could definitely cross the bridge over the chasm 'Time, and time, and
A B C D

34 time again!' chanting the magic words of power, the controls grasped firmly
A B C D

35 in her hand, she pressed the button. 'Yes' she breathed, gazing happily at the screen
A B C D

36 as the image broke up and was replaced by the words *GAME OVER*.
A B C D

Read this passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

The Day Alfie Learned to Fly

1. Alfie wasn't really a model pupil. He never received glowing school reports, despite his best intentions, and his clumsiness had often got him into trouble. On Tuesday, he had been sent to the headteacher for dropping his pet lizard into Mr Manley's yoghurt. On Wednesday, he had been thrown out of the technology room for trying to balance frying pans on his head while Mrs Beavers was demonstrating how to make the perfect apple pie. The next day, however, he decided that he was going to impress his teachers by coming to school early.

OK, it was only two minutes early (he didn't want to overdo it), but he thought it was a fair effort nonetheless. Alfie sat at his desk and quickly felt himself growing bored. Perhaps 10. it hadn't been such a good idea to arrive early. As he waited for the rest of the class to drip in, Alfie started humming a tune to himself. He then started flapping his arms up and down, casually, just as a way of keeping rhythm with his own tune.

And that's how Alfie discovered he could fly!

The chair creaked below him and angled backwards as his weight was lifted 20 or 30 centimetres into the air. Alfie was so astonished that he drew his arms protectively 15. against his chest and, lacking propulsion, fell back down onto his chair. He sat very still for a moment and then extended his arms out to try again. However, before he could do anything, the door slammed open and his classmates streamed into the room. Alfie thought it best to postpone the experiment.

20. On Friday, Alfie went into his classroom early once more. This time he was a full half-hour early. He stood on his chair, bent his knees, extended his arms like the wings of a plane, and flapped them up and down. His entire body rose upwards until he had almost reached the ceiling. THWACK! His head bumped into the light with such force that he plummeted down and crashed into a display of African flags and maps. He spent the rest of the half-hour putting everything back into place.

When Mrs Buckley came in and asked how he had got that bruise on his forehead, Alfie told her that he had banged his head against the light. Predictably, he was thrown out of the class.

For the rest of term, Alfie always went into his classroom as early as he could. Within 30. a couple of weeks, he had developed enough control to hover around the classroom without banging his head into the ceiling and walls. At the end of the month, he opened

the window and, with his heart in his mouth, took the great leap. He found that flying outside was even easier than it was in the classroom and he quickly reached his house, bouncing from one icy rooftop to another. He saw his mother in the kitchen, but she was
35. too busy to notice, and then he had to return to his class.

The weeks passed and, every time he flew, Alfie became more daring in his explorations. He soared out and over the city, side by side with the crows and the sparrows. He floated over gushing rivers and dodged stormy rain clouds. He reached the English Channel and crossed over into France, and he saw the great capitals of Europe – Paris, Rome and Berlin.
40. He flew above an oil tanker, alongside seagulls, off the shores of the Atlantic and glided down until he could feel the froth spraying on his cheeks.

Unfortunately, one day he stayed out of school too long, and as he stepped back onto the ledge of the window, he found his entire class staring at him. Mr Smart, Alfie's teacher, had eyes as wide as dinner plates.

45. 'Alfie Armstrong!' he exclaimed. 'You can fly!'

'No, not really.' Alfie tried to excuse himself. 'I was just taking a look out here, off the window ledge ...'

'What are you talking about? You can fly, Alfie, you can fly!'

Immediately he assigned Alfie an extra essay on the history of flight. Word spread as fast
50. as lightning, and soon Alfie was given lots of extra homework. He was asked to solve mathematical equations on flying and write poems about birds and the sky. His classmates also started using him for their little tasks. They sent him flying to fetch the ball when it was kicked over the playground fence or when it landed in the branches of a tree.

Days passed and eventually word reached Mr Varley, the headteacher, who decided to
55. organise an event for television. The idea was to show the world how Alfie could fly, and to bring prestige to the school.

'But I don't want to go on TV,' protested Alfie. It was to no avail.

The big day finally came. Alfie stood on a trampoline in the playground and stared at the TV cameras, pupils and teachers, who were watching in anticipation. Alfie took a deep
60. breath, flapped his arms and leapt into the air. It didn't work; he could no longer fly! Alfie fell, spraining his ankle. He grimaced in pain. The TV crew were furious and a great row erupted with the headteacher. All the teachers were very disappointed. For a few days afterwards, Alfie was on the receiving end of a number of angry remarks.

But things soon settled down, as they always do. Alfie's routine quickly returned to normal
65. and he stopped going to school early. Once, however, he was slow clearing up his books and he found that he had been left alone in the classroom. He looked all around and then spread his arms and flapped them softly. He felt his body rising gently from the tiles on the floor, a few centimetres at most. Then it settled back down. Alfie hugged the discovery tightly and smiled inwardly as he left class.

Please answer these questions. (Look at the passage again if you need to.)
You should choose the **best** answer and mark its letter on your answer sheet.

37

Why was Alfie often in trouble?

- A He arrived late for school.
- B He could fly.
- C He was clumsy.
- D He got poor school reports.
- E He bounced on the rooftops.

38

At the start of the story, why did Alfie flap his arms?

- A to keep in rhythm
- B to keep in tune
- C because he was hot
- D to help him fly
- E to be an aeroplane

39

On which day did Alfie learn to fly?

- A Monday
- B Tuesday
- C Wednesday
- D Thursday
- E Friday

40

When Alfie first flew, why did he fall back down into the chair?

- A He hit his head on the light.
- B He wasn't very good at flying.
- C He stopped flapping his arms.
- D He tripped over.
- E The rest of the class came in.

41

Why did Mrs Buckley send Alfie out of the classroom?

- A** He banged his head on the light.
- B** He knocked over the flags and maps.
- C** She thought he had a headache.
- D** He put a lizard in her yoghurt.
- E** She thought he was lying.

42

Why did Alfie keep coming to school early?

- A** to impress his teachers
- B** to practise flying
- C** to practise humming
- D** to keep out of trouble
- E** to make sure he wasn't late

43

How long did Alfie practise before taking his first flight outside?

- A** a few minutes
- B** three or four hours
- C** a couple of days
- D** between two and four weeks
- E** a couple of months

44

Who is Mrs Armstrong?

- A** Alfie's class teacher
- B** the cookery teacher
- C** the headteacher
- D** the TV presenter
- E** Alfie's mother

45

What was the weather like on Alfie's first flying trip?

- A** sunny
- B** rainy
- C** frosty
- D** cloudy
- E** stormy

46

When Alfie's school discovered that he could fly, which of the following is true?

- A** Alfie became world famous.
- B** Alfie became rich.
- C** Alfie became very busy.
- D** Alfie got into trouble with his teachers.
- E** Alfie came top in maths.

47

Which of these tasks was Alfie not given?

- A** extra maths homework
- B** extra English homework
- C** an extra history essay
- D** fetching the ball from the rooftop
- E** fetching the ball from the tree

48

How did Alfie feel about being filmed?

- A** unwilling
- B** excited
- C** proud
- D** ecstatic
- E** suspicious

49

How do you think Alfie feels when he is about to fly in front of the TV crew?

- A** apathetic
- B** apprehensive
- C** arrogant
- D** ravenous
- E** relaxed

50

Why was the TV crew furious?

- A** The headteacher shouted at them.
- B** Alfie fell on the cameras.
- C** They had wasted their time.
- D** Alfie was hurt.
- E** They missed Alfie flying.

51

Which of the following newspaper headlines is most likely to have been printed?

- A** Boy Amazes School with Flying Skills
- B** Headteacher Praises Young Flyer
- C** Girl Sprains Ankle in Flying Disaster
- D** Boy Flies to Paris and Rome
- E** Armstrong Flight Is a Flop

52

Why do you think Alfie smiles at the end of the story?

- A** He is going to be famous.
- B** He will be on television.
- C** He heard a joke.
- D** He has a secret.
- E** He will get into trouble because he can fly again.

Now answer the following questions about the meanings of words as they are used in the passage.

53

Which of these is closest in meaning to ‘postpone’? (line 19)

- A** start
- B** delay
- C** finish
- D** continue
- E** send

54

Which of these is closest to the description ‘watching in anticipation’? (line 59)

- A** eagerly waiting to see what will happen
- B** enthusiastically looking at what has happened
- C** impatiently waiting to see what will happen
- D** patiently waiting to see what happens
- E** watching nervously

Now answer these questions about words and phrases as they are used in the passage.

55

'Word spread as fast as lightning' (lines 49–50)

Select one answer that best describes this quotation.

- A** a phrase
- B** a description
- C** a simile
- D** a proverb
- E** a metaphor

56

'He soared out and over the city, side by side with the crows and the sparrows.' (line 37)

Which of these words is a verb?

- A** He
- B** soared
- C** out
- D** over
- E** sparrows