

From PET – Examination Papers. Book 7. Reading Test 3.

Part 1 - Questions 1-5

Look at the test in each question. What does it say? Write the correct letter A, B or C on the answer sheet.

- 1 George, the video Fox is closed. Can you get and get the video somewhere else? If you haven't got any time to go, we'll watch TV.
Lucy

Why has Lucy written the note?

- A To remind George to get a video from Fox.
- B To tell George that the video shop is closed.
- C To remind George that there is a film to watch on TV tonight.

- 2 **FOR EXTERNAL USE
ONLY**

- A Apply only to areas that are exposed.
- B Do not allow non-employees access to documents.
- C Do not use on children.

- 3 **Sorry
NO VACANCY**

- A We apologise, but, no jobs are available at this time.
- B We apologise, but we're closed.
- C We apologise for the inconvenience, but no rooms are available.

- 4 Hi Paul.
I'm sorry, but I'm not feeling well and cannot come to your birthday party tonight. My sister Jane will attend.
We can meet next week and have a drink together. I have to give you your present!
Sally

Why is Sally writing to Paul?

- A To tell him she is sick, but she can have a drink with him.
- B To tell him she will give him his present on the following day.
- C To communicate to him that she cannot go to his party.

- 5 **CAUTION
Container may
explode if heated**

- A Beware that heat may cause the object to work improperly.
- B Beware that heating the object may cause it to blow up.
- C Beware that heat may cause the container to malfunction.

PART 2. Questions 6-10

The people below are all looking for their perfect holiday get-away package. Read the eight descriptions of various holiday get-away packages available. Choose which description (letters A-H) would be the most suitable for each person (numbers 6-10). There are three extra letters which you do not need to use. Write the letters on the answer sheet.

6 Sara would like to go to a place that is warm and sunny. She lives in California, but wants to go someplace away from home, yet doesn't want to take a flight longer than 9 hours. It must offer water sport activities, such as diving and surfing. She has three daughters who are all under the age of 11 years old, therefore activities for her children are essential. They are a family of 5 and need plenty of space to sleep.

7 Shelby is looking for a very romantic and relaxing get-away holiday with her new husband. She and her husband, Carl, have only been married a year and would like a place where they can have privacy, yet be sociable when they want. They don't care if it's cold or warm where they go, so long as there is peace and quiet, yet not complete isolation.

8 Eric has decided he wants an adventure holiday. He and his companion, Julia, are always up for new adventures. Their idea of adventure includes discovering new countries, and bungee jumping, whereas rock climbing is a bit too adventurous. They're looking for a place they've not yet been to that offers them a memorable cultural experience, but also a nearby beach where they can relax.

9 Laura and her husband want to escape the heat of the city where they live. They both have strong cultural interests and they wish to visit museums and see interesting things.

10 Teresa and Leslie are two young cousins seeking adventure and men. They want a holiday that is meant for young, beautiful and single people! They want to travel to Europe, but would prefer not going further east than Greece. They desire sun, fun and sand.

VACATION GET-AWAYS

A IBIZA - This little island hosts all of the most famous nightclubs and hotels in Europe. We are the party island of Europe and are known for our great food, drinks, beaches and babes in the sun! We are only 8 hours by plane from New York and 1 hour by plane from Paris. Our island offers sandy beaches and water sports during the day, while at night there are the best parties Europe has to offer.

B THE BAHAMAS - These lively islands are only a couple of hours off the coast of Florida. No visa is required for American citizens. With over 700 islands, the Bahamas offer both tranquility and sanctuary for those looking for pure peace and quiet, as well as activity for those seeking more adventure.

C St. CURTAINS - The capital, Nassau, is famous for its quiet and peaceful beaches while offering a vibrant nightlife. St. Curtains offers travellers the chance to try out the ultimate adventure sports like rock climbing and cliff diving. Bungee jumping is also an adventure activity that is offered on the island.

D BORA BORA - Bora Bora is located in the middle of the South Pacific Ocean. This location offers couples a get-away island experience that is romantic and tranquil. It is an island where exotic fruits grow wild and exotic birds and fish can be found. Visitors have the option to choose from various private spa treatment packages. Couples, who are looking for the ultimate honeymoon experience of privacy and far off location, should choose Bora Bora.

E CAPE COD - A great year round holiday location not only for families, but also for individuals in search a varied holiday experience! Cape Cod is located in Massachusetts, just outside of Boston along the Atlantic Coast. It is a unique location that offers its visitors the beauty, history and mystery of the East Coast of the US, all in one visit. Visitors may go to the various towns of Cape Cod where they will find not only white sandy beaches and enjoyable people, but historical museums as well.

F FLORIDA KEYS - A great place for a get-away vacation within the continental US. We offer our visitors something for everyone! While parents relax by the poolside or on various private beaches, the kids can take surfing and water skiing lessons. Our various hotels, spas and resorts offer families or couples of all economic backgrounds spacious living while on holiday here at the Florida Keys. We have rooms, apartments, bungalows and suites.

G CAIRO - Here is a destination that offers the mind unimaginable stimulation and close proximity to beautiful sandy beaches, all in one trip. Cairo is strategically located near the Valley of Temples, home to the world's most famous Egyptian Pharaohs and Queens, and the Red Sea. The world's longest river, The Nile River, and some of the most beautiful Egyptian tombs and pyramids can be found only a short drive away, while beautiful living coral reefs and beaches are just a few hours away.

H MUNDON - A city that not only offers the history of important Kings and Queens, but also a cultural experience that extends to museums, ballet, opera, theatre, music and, last but not least, pub-life. This is a city for people of all ages, both young and old. It offers a lot for everyone. The only drawback to Mundon is its lack of warm weather, so remember to pack your umbrella, rain jackets and warm jumpers when on your way to visit the city of the Queen.

PART 3 - Questions 11-20

Look at the sentences below about black cats. Read the text and decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, write A and if it is incorrect, write B on the answer sheet.

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| 11 | Black cats are very popular cats. | A / B |
| 12 | Black cats are considered to be mysterious animals my many. | A / B |
| 13 | In <i>Harry Potter</i> , Harry transforms himself into a black cat. | A / B |
| 14 | Black cats are believed to be able to turn into witches. | A / B |
| 15 | The UK is the only place where the black cat crossing one's path brings good luck. | A / B |
| 16 | European countries have myths that state the black cat has magical bones. | A / B |
| 17 | The origins of the superstitions date back to ancient times. | A / B |
| 18 | The black cat was an adopted symbol for anarchists in the UK during the First World War. | A / B |
| 19 | <i>Le Chat Noir</i> has changed the status and importance of the black cat. | A / B |
| 20 | <i>Le Chat Noir</i> was painted in Paris. | A / B |

BLACK CATS

In English homes there are about five million cats, which shows that cats are very popular pets, second only to dogs. But black cats are something different. Or not?

Black cats are a phenomenon and a symbol of superstition around the world. For thousands of years these mysterious creatures have incited myths and stories throughout the world that focus on the supernatural powers, or relevant importance of the black cat.

According to some myths, black cats have been linked to witches and death in European countries. Some of these myths tell of witches choosing the cat as their second form. If one looks at the *Harry Potter* books, the author, J.K. Rowling, has made use of such myths. In fact, a character in the book, Professor McGonagall, has the ability to transform into a black cat.

It is said that witches could change into a cat nine times and from that came the expression "a cat has nine lives".

In Britain, Ireland and Japan, it is believed that black cats bring good luck if they cross one's path. The opposite can be found in countries like the US and several other European countries, where it is believed that black cats which cross one's path, or walk by, bring bad luck. In addition, according to various other myths found in the US, black cats are believed to have magical powers in their bones.

The origins of these superstitions concerning black cats are to be found in Ancient Egypt where a goddess called Bast was the official deity of Egypt at the time of the Twenty-Second Dynasty. Many thought they could obtain her favour by keeping black cats in their households. They believed she would become part of the spirit of that cat and bring them riches and prosperity.

Black cats have not only had the bad fortune of being categorized as supernatural or magical creatures and bearers of bad luck, but have also been adopted as the symbol of the anarchists in France. During and after the First World War, the symbol of an arched-back, black cat was adopted by anarchists to symbolize workers' rights. This arched-back, black cat symbol is known as *sab-cat* or *sabo-tabby*.

During the 19th century cabaret, in the Montmartre district of Paris, on the 18th of November, 1881, the artist Rodolphe Salis designed the world-renowned black cat symbol, *Le Chat Noir*. It was this image that made the black cat less of a superstition and more of a character in the face of modern day times.

But still when you ask people what they think when they hear the words "black cat", most of them will come up with these words: bad luck, evil, demonic. This demonstrates that the superstition lives on, even today.

PART 4 - Questions 21-25

Read the text and the questions below it. For each question write A, B, C or D on the answer sheet.

The mythical Saimaa Seal

Deep in the waters of Lake Saimaa, in Finland, there is a legend that tells of the Saimaa Ringed Seal, also known as the *Phoca hispida Saimensis*. Its existence is unquestionable, but its presence is elusive.

Over 9,000 years ago, sometime after the Ice Age, Lake Saimaa became a freshwater lake. The vegetation and life forms that were accustomed to salt water either adapted or died in the lake's basin. Somehow, the Saimaa Ringed Seal managed to adapt itself to freshwater over time, making it unique.

The Saimaa Ringed Seal is an extremely endangered species, and can only be found in the waters of Lake Saimaa. Today it is estimated that roughly 280 of these seals are living in the lake. Scientists that have vigilantly followed and continue to follow the progress and life of these mammals say that the population is in fact slowly increasing, due to the earnest protection and monitoring of the species.

Lake Saimaa and areas nearby Savonlinna & Pihlajavesi, including the Finnish national parks Linnansaari and Kolovesi, are the primary protected habitats of this species.

Very few residents and tourists who have visited the famous Lake Saimaa have had the chance to see this rare mammal. For this reason, it's often said to be a mythical creature. Its existence is never questioned, but those who get the rare chance to attest to its real presence in the depths of Lake Saimaa's waters are really very few.

21 What makes the Saimaa Ringed Seal different from other seals?

- A It has been around for thousands of years.
- B It is near the North Pole.
- C It was traced back to the Ice Age.
- D It is a fresh water seal.

22 Why are the Saimaa Seals increasing?

- A Because they are living in a freshwater lake.
- B Because they are not hunted and killed.
- C Because scientists are protecting and monitoring them.
- D Because they are big animals.

23 How many seals are thought to be living in the lake?

- A Over 9,000.
- B Just about 9,000.
- C Around 280.
- D More than 280.

24 Where can Lake Saimaa be found?

- A Savonlinna.
- B Finland.
- C North Pole.
- D Pihlajavesi.

25 Why is the Saimaa Seal said to be a mythical creature?

- A Because it has been seen by very few people.
- B Because some people think it doesn't exist.
- C Because journalists have declared it to be a mythical creature.
- D Because its real presence in lake Saimaa has never been attested.

PART 5 - Questions 26-35

Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space.

For each question, mark the letter next to the correct word - A, B, C or D - **on your answer sheet.**

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

There is always a lot of talk about the positives and negatives related to school uniforms. Should children be (26) to wear school uniforms? Should children have the freedom and liberty to (27) what they want to wear to school every day? Is it fair that (28) children are made fun of because of what they wear or don't wear? In today's (29), often times social status is visible through the (30) we wear.

Let's look at the two sides of the argument. Some young people say that wearing school uniforms is good because they don't have to pick out a different outfit every morning, (31) they know immediately what to put on. They also say that it makes everyone (32) and feel equal in all ways, that there is less discrimination when wearing school uniforms in school. The other side of the argument (33) that wearing something different every day allows them to (34) themselves and be independent, rather than look like everyone else. Freedom of expression and identity are (35) points for this side of argument. At the end of the day, both sides have solid arguments, but interestingly enough – one side of the argument places more value on the collective group, rather than on the individual. It proves that young people do in fact know how to think beyond themselves.

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|----|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 26 | A required | B said | C excused | D promised |
| 27 | A see | B choose | C assist | D want |
| 28 | A blue | B any | C short | D some |
| 29 | A city | B person | C car | D society |
| 30 | A make-up | B clothing | C cars | D hats |
| 31 | A instead | B however | C despite | D although |
| 32 | A look | B see | C sing | D express |
| 33 | A believes | B prays | C displays | D talks |
| 34 | A guard | B wonder | C see | D express |
| 35 | A strange | B strong | C open | D truly |