**City Olympiad 2024/2025**

**Reading Comprehension Test**

**for 8th Form Students**

***Directions:***

*In this test you will read five texts. Each text is followed by four true/false or multiple-choice questions. You should do the tasks that follow a text on the basis of what is stated or implied in that text. For each task you will choose the best possible answer.*

**TEXT 1. Sports Camps**

Action Sports Camps provide activity holidays for children aged over five and adults. We offer training in over twenty sports at ten different centers throughout the UK. All the centers are open from April until October and some open during the winter for weekend courses. The camps are not just limited to outdoor sports - we cover a wide range of indoor activities as well. So if the rain comes, the camps continue although you may have to take off your football boots and pick up a squash racket instead. With the experience we've gained over the years, we put together the right mix of sport and activities providing sport for all, not just for those who are brilliant at athletics. It is unnecessary to bring any equipment because it is all provided.

We work in small groups, children working with others of their own age, but we do all come together for social activities and meals. So, different members of a family can make their own individual choices but they get a chance to exchange their experiences later on.

Our centers offer first-class accommodation, food and facilities - and the staff is first-class too. Qualified teachers or professionals receive training from us and many work with us year after year. We always employ qualified staff for activities such as swimming, trampolining and gymnastics but some of the assistants organizing the children's games are students, many of whom came to the camp themselves when they were younger.

At most of our centers, accommodation is in a hostel or tents. It is not possible for us to arrange other accommodation but we can send you a list of what is available in the area. Most of the places are recommended to us, but not all, so we are not responsible for the quality of the accommodation on this list. Luxury accommodation is not available near our camps.

***Mark ‘T’ if the statement is true, ‘F’ - if it is false.***

**1.** The activities available depend on the weather.

**2.** Children and adults spend some time together each day.

**3.** Some of the staff is unqualified.

**4.** Action Sports Camps only recommend accommodation of a high quality.

**TEXT 2.**

Every good climber wants to climb mountain Everest, 8, 848 metres above the sea level, the highest mountain in the world. It stands between Nepal and Tibet, in the Himalayas. It is, in fact, quite a "young" mountain — only about two million years old. The Tibetans call it Chomolungma, the "Mother of the World". Only just over 600 people have ever climbed to the top of Everest. You cannot climb the mountain without special permission from the government of Nepal; you can only climb it in May or October every year; you must have a booking for your expedition — and at the moment there are no more bookings for the next ten years!

The expeditions which have climbed Everest have all used tents, oxygen bottles and other climbing equipment. Many expeditions have left their old equipment behind them — empty oxygen bottles, old food containers, etc — so there is now a serious litter problem high up on the mountain.

The government of Nepal is now trying to clean up the mountain. In May 1993 they gave permission to a team of young Americans to climb the mountain ... but they asked them to bring back the litter on their way down again. The expedition brought down 2, 850 kilos of litter from the highest slopes of the mountain. This was the start of a plan to clear all the litter from Mountain Everest.

***Mark ‘T’ if the statement is true, ‘F’ - if it is false.***

**5.** Everest is less than 1,100 metres high.

**6.** It is in the Alps.

**7.** 500 people have climbed it.

**8.** People can climb it from May to October.

**TEXT 3. Kon-Tiki Expedition**

The date was the 28th of April. It was the early morning. Callao harbour was very busy. The Minister of Marine had ordered a tug to row us out of the harbour. A crowd of people was waiting to watch.

When I arrived, only Herman was there. He was guarding the raft. I got out of the car and jumped on board. Fruit baskets and boxes lay in a heap on the deck. They had been thrown on board at the last moment. In the middle of the heap sat Herman. He was holding a cage; and in the cage there was a green parrot. The bird was a present from a friend in Peru.

“Take care of the parrot for a minute”, said Herman. “I want to go ashore and have a drink. The tug won’t be here for a long time”.

Herman went for his drink, and a few minutes later the tug arrived. A large motor-boat came to tow the raft away from the other boats. The motor-boat was full of officers and sailors. The officers called out some orders; and the sailors then fixed a strong rope to the raft.

“One moment!” I shouted. “It’s too early! We must wait for the other men”. I pointed towards the city.

But nobody understood. The officers only smiled politely. I untied the rope and threw it into the water. I waved my arms and made signs to the officers. This excited the parrot. The bird opened its cage and escaped. It walked about on the bamboo deck. I tried to catch the parrot. But it called out rude words in Spanish and flew into the cabin. At last, I caught the bird and put it back into its cage.

***Circle the correct letter (A, B, C, or D).***

**9. The story takes place at**

A. sunset

B. noon

C. dawn

D. midnight

**10. When the narrator got to the raft, Herman**

A. was alone

B. was sitting on a heap of baskets and boxes

C. was holding a cage

D. all of the above

**11. Herman said that the tug**

A. would arrive immediately

B. would arrive much later

C. would not come at all

D. had come some time ago 3

**12. After the parrot escaped from its cage**

A. it walked around on the shore

B. it flew around over the sea

C. it sat on Herman’s shoulder

D. it walked about on the deck

**TEXT 4. The Perfect Dog**

During summer vacations, I would volunteer at the vet’s, so I’d seen a lot of dogs. Minnie was by far the funniest-looking dog I’d ever seen. Thin curly hair barely covered her sausage-shaped body. Her bugged-out eyes always seemed surprised. And her tail looked like a rat’s tail.

She was brought to the vet to be put to sleep because her owners didn’t want her anymore. I thought Minnie had a sweet personality, though. No one should judge her by her looks, I thought. So the vet spayed her and gave her the necessary shots. Finally, I advertised Minnie in the local paper: “Funny-looking dog, well behaved, needs loving family”.

When a young man called, I warned him that Minnie was strange looking. The boy on the phone told me that his grandfather’s sixteen-year-old dog had just died. They wanted Minnie no matter what. I gave Minnie a good bath and fluffed up what was left of her scraggly hair. Then we waited for them to arrive.

At last, an old car drove up in front of the vet’s. Two kids raced to the door. They scooped Minnie into their arms and rushed her out to their grandfather, who was waiting in the car. I hurried behind them to see his reaction to Minnie.

Inside the car, the grandfather cradled Minnie in his arms and stroked her soft hair. She licked his face. Her rat-tail wagged around so quickly that it looked like it might fly off her body. It was love at first lick.

“She’s perfect!” the old man exclaimed. I was thankful that Minnie had found the good home that she deserved. That’s when I saw that the grandfather’s eyes were a milky white color — he was blind.

***Circle the correct letter (A, B, C, or D).***

**13. We can come to a conclusion that the teller helped the vet**

A. as a part of daily routine

B. on his own initiative

C. for fun

D. against his will

**14. The vet provided all the necessary**

A. **treatment**

B. reflections

C**.**  corrections

D. attractions

**15. The dog seemed to get a good … before leaving.**

A. caring

B. beating

C. piercing

D. sharing

**16. In the car, Minnie’s tail showed her**

A. readiness to fly

B. wish to escape

C. eagerness to eat

D. emotional state

**TEXT 5. The moving stones**

These big stones leave long tracks behind them. The long tracks show that the stones have moved along the ground. But how do they move? Scientists have tried to answer this question for the last 50 years.

These famous moving stones are in Death Valley, USA. Many of the stones are small but a few of them are very big. Some of the big stones are as big as a man. The biggest stones weigh 350 kilograms. They are heavier than four men!

The stones only move at night and only once every year or two. Nobody has ever seen them moving, but now scientists know the answer to the question.

The answer is the wind. When the wind comes from the west, the stones move to the east. When the wind is from the south, they always move to the north. But how can the wind move a stone that weighs 350 kilograms?

This answer is more complicated. Death Valley is one of the hottest places in the world, but it can be very cold at night. Sometimes there are bad storms in the night. Rain falls, and the hard ground becomes soft and wet. The wind is very strong and cold. The water on the ground changes to very thin ice. Then the strong wind can move flat stones along the flat ground. In the morning, the sun comes up and dries the ground.

***Circle the correct letter (A, B, C, or D).***

**17. … of the moving stones are very heavy.**

A. All

B. Some

C. None

D. Whole

**18. They ……. move the same way as the wind.**

A. always

B. sometimes

C. never

D. rarely

**19. The nights are ……..**

A. never stormy

B. hot in the day time

C. sometimes very cold and wet

D. rainy and warm

**20. The wind can move stones because the ground is….**

A. soft and wet

B. flat and icy

C. hot and dry

D. even and frosty