

READING

EC3

First name _____

Last name _____

School _____

Class _____

Date of birth

Date of test

Total score (maximum 41)



128893



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Practice questions

In this booklet, there are different types of question for you to answer in different ways. Here are some practice questions which show you the types of question you will see in the test. The instructions tell you what you need to do. Start by reading the text in the box below.

When the morning of the trip finally arrived, Anna was up and ready to go before the sun had even peeked above the horizon. After breakfast, the family hiked to the train station with their heavy suitcases, sandy buckets and colourful spades.

During the train journey Anna listened to music and played games. Finally, they went through a long dark tunnel and, as the train glided out, the rippling blue sea came into view. What a summer this was going to be!

- a** Draw **three** lines to match the correct description to each object.

colourful

bucket

sandy

suitcase

heavy

spade

- b** How did they travel on the trip?

Tick **two**.

by bus ☐

by aeroplane ☐

by train ☐

by boat ☐

by foot ☐

Hint: Check how many you have to tick.

- c** Find and copy two things that Anna did to pass the time on the journey.

1. _____

2. _____

Hint: You must look back in the text to find these.

- d Look at the text in the box below.

Underline two words that describe the sea.

Hint: Check how many words to underline.

Finally, they went through a long dark tunnel and, as the train glided out, the rippling blue sea came into view.

Hint: If you make a mistake and want to change your answer, then write out your new answer underneath.

- e Put ticks to show which statements are **true** and which are **false**.

	True	False
Anna was ready before the sun was up.		
Anna slept for the whole journey.		
They went on the trip in autumn.		

- f Put these events in order by numbering them from 1 to 4.

One has been done for you.

Anna ate breakfast. ☐

Anna saw the sea. ☐

Anna went to the station. ☐

Anna woke up.

STOP

Please wait until you are told to start work on page 4.

In this booklet, you have three texts to read and answer questions about. Read the first text carefully BEFORE you start answering the questions for that text. Then carefully read the next text BEFORE answering the questions and so on.

You should work through the booklet, referring to the text when you need to, until you finish page 15 or until you are asked to stop.

You have up to 60 minutes to do the test.

Taking a trance with a shark

By Alex Bowland

HYPNOTIST DIVER TAMES SEA PREDATOR

IF ONLY every man-eating sea monster could be tamed as easily as this. This shark whisperer has got a deep-sea predator eating out of the palm of his hand after hypnotising it by gently rubbing the end of its nose.

While Caribbean reef sharks are not generally known as a 'man-eating' species, they can still be aggressive – but not in this marine mind-bender's hands.

The incredible moment that Tom, the shark whisperer, worked his magic on a shoal of sharks was captured on camera.

By gently tickling the shark's nose, he was able to induce a state of 'tonic immobility' (temporary paralysis) which lasted for about 15 minutes and caused no harm to the animal.



Caribbean reef shark

Mr Williams, a Welsh businessman, took pictures which are now being broadcast on a TV channel's 'Shark week'. He added: "I lightly touched the shark's body and fins ... the skin felt like rubbery, fine-grain sandpaper."

He said of his bottom-of-the-ocean encounter with the shoal of sharks: "I never once felt threatened. The sharks were not interested in us at all and seemed almost friendly."

But Tom had this warning for other potential shark tamers: "It's good to keep in mind that these are wild animals."



Making friends

Tourist Joe Williams, 31, who was holidaying in the Bahamas, said: "It became completely docile in his hands. Once he had calmed the shark, he grasped its dorsal fin and sat it on my lap. I stayed as still as I could to avoid disturbing the shark. I couldn't help thinking, 'What if it wakes up suddenly and finds itself face-to-face with a strange human being?' Who knows what could've happened?"

You can see Mr Williams' pictures on *Shark Tales*, as part of 'Shark week' on Marine Life 4.

- 1 Draw **three** lines to match the people to their role.

Tom

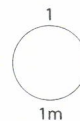
writer of the article

Alex

tourist and photographer

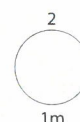
Joe

shark hypnotist



- 2 *HYPNOTIST DIVER TAMES SEA PREDATOR*

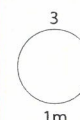
Find and **copy another** word for *hypnotist* used in the article.



- 3 Look at the text in the box below.

Underline the **two-word phrase** that shows that the writer wishes more animals could be hypnotised.

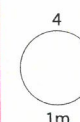
IF ONLY every man-eating sea monster could be tamed as easily as this. This shark whisperer has got a deep-sea predator eating out of the palm of his hand after hypnotising it by gently rubbing the end of its nose.



- 4 Find and **copy two** words that describe what was done to its nose to hypnotise the shark.

1. _____

2. _____



please turn over

5

... (temporary paralysis) ...

Why is this phrase in brackets in the article?

Tick **one**.

because it is an explanation

☐

to show it is from a foreign language

☐

to show it is the name of a type of shark

☐

to emphasise its meaning

☐

5

1m

6

Find and **copy** the phrase that shows that the shark did not suffer by being hypnotised.

6

1m

7

Number these events from 1 to 5 to show the order in which they happened.

One has been done for you.

The shark was unable to move.

☐

Tom approached the shark.

☐ 1

Tom put the shark on Joe's lap.

☐

Joe sat with the shark for about 15 minutes.

☐

Tom rubbed the shark's nose.

☐

7

1m

8

Some people might want to try to hypnotise a shark.

Find and **copy** the phrase used to describe these people.

8

1m

9

Why did Tom give a warning at the end of the article?

Tick **one**.

to put people off going on holiday in the area

☐

to remind people that it is a dangerous activity

☐

to protect the sharks from being harmed by tourists

☐

to point out the harm that sharks can suffer by being hypnotised

☐

9

1m

10

After reading this article, some people might want to try holding a shark, like Joe did. Put ticks to show which quotations from the article would make them feel more **relaxed** or more **anxious** about holding a shark.

One has been done for you.

	Relaxed	Anxious
"It became completely docile in his hands."	✓	
"I stayed as still as I could to avoid disturbing the shark."		
"What if it wakes up suddenly ..."		
"I never once felt threatened."		
"The sharks were not interested in us at all..."		
"It's good to keep in mind that these are wild animals."		

10

2m

11

Put ticks to show which statements are **true** and which are **false**.

	True	False
Caribbean reef sharks can be found in the Bahamas.		
Tom had to keep the shark moving so it would not wake up.		
The shark's skin felt slightly rough.		
Caribbean reef sharks are sometimes aggressive.		
There is no evidence that Mr Williams' story is true.		

11

2m

12

Here is a copy of the text on page 4.

Label each arrow to show the different parts of text.

A – caption

B – eyewitness account

C – headline

D – overview

E – quotation from the hypnotist

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

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Making friends

Tourist Joe Williams, 31, who was holidaying in the Bahamas, said: "It became completely docile in his hands. Once he had calmed the shark, he grasped its dorsal fin and sat it on my lap. I stayed as still as I could to avoid disturbing the shark. I couldn't help thinking, 'What if it wakes up suddenly and finds itself face-to-face with a strange human being?' Who knows what could've happened?"

You can see Mr Williams' pictures on Shark Tales, as part of 'Shark week' on Marine Life 4.

12

1m

TOTAL

10m

Hercules

Hercules is a hero from Greek myths. According to legend, he had superhuman powers but he also had superhuman enemies. In this extract, baby Hercules uses his extraordinary strength to overpower two snakes that have been sent to kill him.

The baby's cradle stood in the shade and his hands reached for the lazy flies that circled overhead. His mother Alcmena was indoors sleeping through the heat of the day. The gardens were greenly watered and the air was filled with the scent of azaleas*, and with silence.

So at the sound of a scurrying rattle, the baby smiled and looked around. Two heaving heaps of green, quivering and shivering, fumed like compost heaps on either side of the cradle. Out of the thorny heaps, horny heads appeared, wavering; gaping wide red mouths with forked tongues and bared, pronging fangs. Venom dripped on the bedclothes and scorched large, sizzling holes.

'Strangle him. Bite on him. Crush him in your coils,' murmured the leaves on the trees. The baby boy laughed out loud at the ducking dance of the serpents' swaying heads. He reached out and took each by its thick green throat. Their hinged jaws gaped. Their tails slumped, coil upon coil, into the crib on top of the baby's legs. Their thrashing rocked the wooden bed so that its feet thumped on the wooden terrace. The noise woke Queen Alcmena in her room overhead, and looking out of her window, she clutched at her hair: "My child! My Hercules! Save my Hercules!"

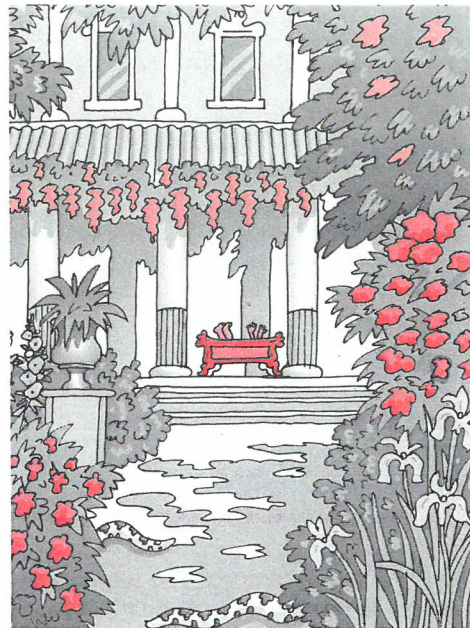
The young child looked up at her and smiled at the sight of his mother's face. And he held up the snakes – one in each hand – as if to say, "Look what I've got!" He jabbed his nose into their red mouths, saying "Aboo! Abboo!" Venom trickled down their scaly trunks.

First he knotted their necks. Then he knotted their tails. He plucked off their scales like petals off a daisy.

'Dead! Dead! My darlings!' murmured the wind in the hollow trees of the garden.

At last Hercules dropped the serpents out of the crib and watched rather sadly as their lifeless coils slumped one by one out onto the floor. Then his mother came running along the terrace outstretched like a bird, her clothes billowing. He turned on her a pair of doleful eyes, then looked over the side of his cot at one of the snakes and said, with a trembling chin, "Broke it."

*azaleas – flowering shrubs



- 1 Here is a copy of the text on page 8.
Label each arrow to show the different parts of the text.

A – the paragraph that shows Hercules' superhuman strength

B – the paragraph that contains a comic moment

C – the paragraph that suggests that it is just an ordinary day

D – the paragraph that shows the arrival of a great danger

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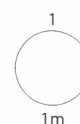
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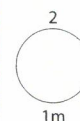
*azaleas – flowering shrubs



- 2 What mood is created in the first paragraph, starting *The baby's cradle...*?

Tick **one**.

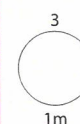
excitement	<input type="checkbox"/>	terror	<input type="checkbox"/>
panic	<input type="checkbox"/>	celebration	<input type="checkbox"/>
calmness	<input type="checkbox"/>	discomfort	<input type="checkbox"/>



- 3 Why was Alcmena asleep?

Tick **one**.

because it was night time	<input type="checkbox"/>
because she was tired from watering the garden	<input type="checkbox"/>
because it was too hot to do anything else	<input type="checkbox"/>
because it was quiet and peaceful	<input type="checkbox"/>

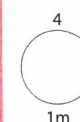


- 4 Look at the paragraph starting *So at the sound...*

Find and **copy** two details that suggest that the creatures were snakes.

1. _____

2. _____



please turn over



5

How did Hercules first react to the snakes?

Tick **one**.

He was terrified.

☐

He was bored.

☐

He was sad.

☐

He was amused.

☐

5

1m

6

Look at the text in the box below.

a) **Underline four** words that describe how the snakes' bodies moved.

Two heaving heaps of green, quivering and shivering, fumed like compost heaps on either side of the cradle. Out of the thorny heaps, horny heads appeared, wavering; gaping wide red mouths with forked tongues and bared, pronging fangs. Venom dripped on the bedclothes and scorched large, sizzling holes.

b) **Find** and **copy one** phrase that suggests that the snakes wanted to bite Hercules.

6a

2m

6b

1m

7

Draw **four** lines to show which description belongs to which part of the snakes' bodies.

scaly



heads



thick



trunks



horny



throats



gaping



mouths



7

1m

8

He plucked off their scales like petals off a daisy.

What does this suggest?

Tick **two**.

The snakes had disguised themselves as flowers.

☐

Hercules fought to protect himself from the snakes.

☐

The snakes were helpless against Hercules.

☐

Hercules thought nature was trying to harm him.

☐

Pulling the scales off was like a game to Hercules.

☐

8

1m

9

Put ticks to show which statements are **true** and which are **false**.

	True	False
The snakes were following orders.		
Hercules grabbed the snakes by their tails.		
The snakes struggled to escape Hercules' grasp.		
Hercules' mother was afraid for her son.		
Hercules was annoyed that his mother interrupted his game.		
Hercules would not have survived if his mother had not saved him.		

9
2m

10

... watched rather sadly...

Look at the last paragraph.

Find and **copy two** other phrases that show that Hercules was sad at the end of the story.

1. _____

2. _____

10
1m

11

Why was Hercules sad as the snakes' *lifeless coils slumped one by one out onto the floor*?

Tick **one**.

He had been frightened by the snakes. ☐

He had been bitten by one of the snakes. ☐

He could not play with the snakes anymore. ☐

He had dropped the snakes out of reach. ☐

11
1m

please turn over

TOTAL
10m

PONTCYSYLLTE AQUEDUCT AND CANAL

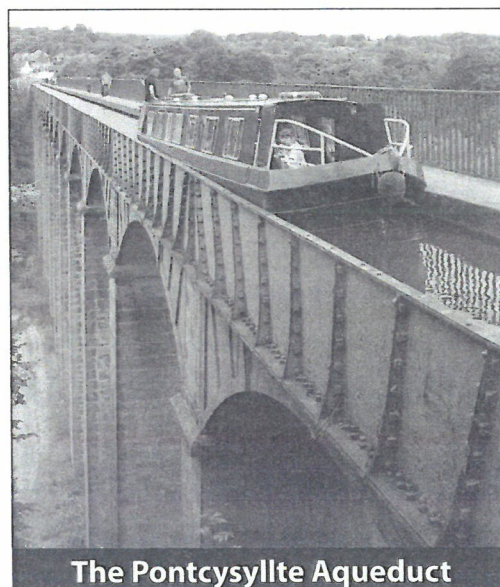
Your mini-guide to the **highest** boat-crossing in the UK

When the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct was built in 1805, it was the tallest canal boat crossing in the **world**. It's still here today and it still takes canal boat passengers on the ride of their lives... and now it's officially one of the greatest historical sites in the world as it became a UNESCO world heritage site in 2009.

When you see it, you'll see something that was 'touched by genius', as it was built by a true visionary: Thomas Telford. It's no exaggeration to say that the techniques and ideas, developed by Telford in building Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, helped to shape the world through their impact on engineering. And what's really amazing is the way the structure still captures people's imagination... over 200 years after it was built.

It has never lost its magic.

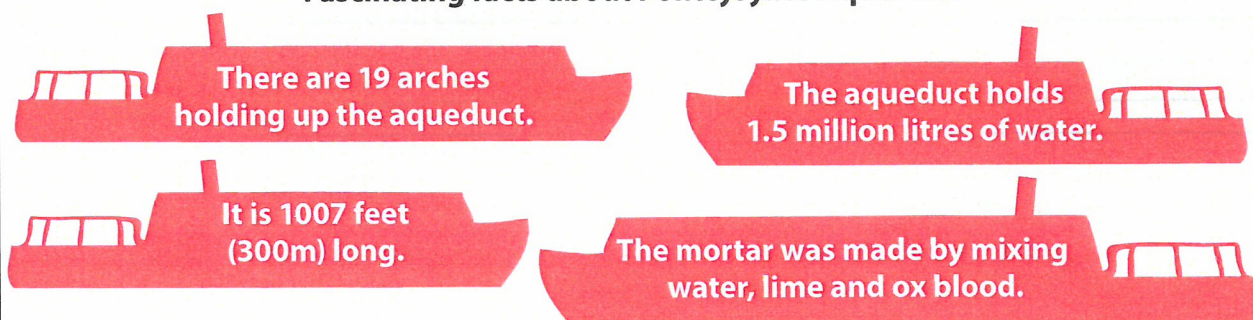
We are often told, "Look, don't touch." Some heritage sites are just too fragile for the public to be allowed to handle them. That's not the case with the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. Telford's structures are tough. Here are four activities you can do to actually experience the site for yourself.



The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

1. Dare you cross the stream in the sky? And can you do it without looking down? Walking along the canal side, 126 feet in the air, is a thrilling experience!	2. Are you scared of the dark? Just a little way from the aqueduct, you can explore a long, dark tunnel. You may want to bring a torch.	3. Want some peace and quiet? Walk the towpaths away from either end of the aqueduct. The best thing about this gentle walk is that there are no hills!	4. How about a float on a boat? People have been enjoying leisurely horse-drawn boat trips along the canal for over 100 years. There are 45-minute trips daily and 2-hour trips on certain days in peak season.
---	---	---	---

Fascinating facts about Pontcysyllte Aqueduct



Within easy reach of three counties: Denbighshire, Wrexham and Shropshire.

www.pontcysyllte-aqueduct.co.uk

1 Which of these facts about Pontcysyllte Aqueduct are true?

Tick **two**.

It was the longest aqueduct in the world.

☐

It was the highest aqueduct in the world.

☐

It is the oldest aqueduct in the world.

☐

It is the highest aqueduct in the UK.

☐

It is the highest aqueduct in the world.

☐

It is the oldest aqueduct in the UK.

☐

2 a) Who was Thomas Telford?

Tick **one**.

a magician

☐

a boatman

☐

an engineer

☐

a bricklayer

☐

b) The information in the second paragraph suggests that...

Tick **one**.

Thomas Telford's work was copied by others.

☐

Thomas Telford's work was not very successful.

☐

Thomas Telford was a rich man.

☐

Thomas Telford built many aqueducts.

☐

3 Look at the paragraph starting *We are often told, "Look, don't touch."*

What does it tell you about Pontcysyllte Aqueduct?

Tick **one**.

how strong it is

☐

how weak and fragile it is

☐

how old it is

☐

how magical it is

☐

4 What is the effect of using questions as the activity headings?

Tick **one**.

It involves the reader in considering each option.

☐

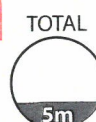
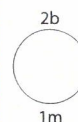
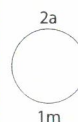
It encourages the reader to discuss the options with someone else.

☐

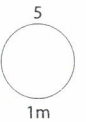
It shows that the writer does not know much about the activities.

☐

It forces the reader to make a choice of which activity they would like to do.

☐

5 According to the text, when can you go on two-hour boat trips on the canal?



6 Two of the activities could be described as **relaxing** and two as **exciting**.

Draw **four** lines to show which activity fits which description.

activity 1

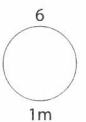
activity 2

activity 3

activity 4

relaxing

exciting



7 There is **one** activity which is suitable for someone who is scared of heights, darkness and animals. What is it?

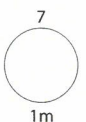
Tick **one**.

activity 1 ☐

activity 2 ☐

activity 3 ☐

activity 4 ☐



8 Which of the four fascinating facts about the aqueduct might be considered unpleasant by some readers?

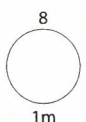
Tick **one**.

how long it is ☐

how many arches it has ☐

how the mortar was made ☐

how much water it contains ☐



9

Leaflets for historical sites often contain lots of helpful information.

Which of the following pieces of information is included in this text?

Tick **one**.

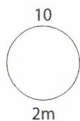
- opening times of the site ☐
- prices of the activities ☐
- detailed directions for how to get there ☐
- tips to consider when choosing activities ☐



10

Put ticks to show which statements are **fact** and which are **opinion**.

	Fact	Opinion
...it became a UNESCO world heritage site in 2009.		
...what's really amazing is the way the structure still captures people's imagination...		
Telford's structures are tough.		
Walking along the canal side, 126 feet in the air, is a thrilling experience!		
The aqueduct holds 1.5 million litres of water.		



11

Here is a copy of the text on page 12.

Label each arrow to show the different parts of the text.

- A** – activities at Pontcysyllte
- B** – history
- C** – facts and figures
- D** – where to find further information

☐
☐
☐
☐

Your mini-guide to the highest boat-crossing in the UK

PONTCYSYLLTE AQUEDUCT AND CANAL

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Just a little way from the aqueduct, you can explore a long, dark tunnel. You may want to bring a torch.

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Walk the towpaths away from either end of the aqueduct. The best thing about this gentle walk is that there are no hills!

4. How about a float on a boat?

People have been enjoying leisurely horse-drawn boat trips along the canal for over 100 years. There are 45-minute trips daily and 2-hour trips on certain days in peak season.

Fascinating facts about Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

There are 19 arches holding up the aqueduct.

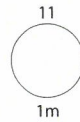
It is 1007 feet (300m) long.

The aqueduct holds 1.5 million litres of water.

The mortar was made by mixing water, lime and ox blood.

Within easy reach of the surrounding Denbighshire, Wrexham and Shropshire.

www.pontcysyllte-aqueduct.co.uk



End of test. Please check your work.