

READING

EB1

First name _____

Last name _____

School _____

Class _____

Date of birth

Date of test

Total score (maximum 38)



National Reading Tests



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.

One sunny Sunday morning, Paul decided to go for a bike ride. He called his two friends, Jo and Rhys, and agreed to meet them in the park for lunch. Paul did not want to hurt himself if he fell off his bike, so he put on his elbow-pads and helmet and got ready to go. He shouted to tell his brother, Haydon, that he was leaving and waved to Jayne, his sister. He whistled goodbye to Bob, the dog, and pedalled away up the street.

a Who did Paul arrange to meet?

Tick **two**.

Jo ☐

Bob ☐

Anne ☐

Rhys ☐

Becky ☐

Hint: Check how many you have to tick.

b Look at the text in the box below.

Underline one word that tells you where Paul was going to meet his friends.

Hint: Check how many words to underline.

One sunny Sunday morning, Paul decided to go for a bike ride. He called his two friends, Jo and Rhys, and agreed to meet them in the park for lunch.

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

c **Find and copy two** things that Paul wore to keep safe on his bike.

1. _____

2. _____

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

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

	True	False
Paul went to meet his friends for lunch.	☐	☐
This story took place on Monday.	☐	☐
Paul had a sister called Jayne.	☐	☐

- e Put these events in order by numbering them from 1 to 5.
One has been done for you.

Paul cycled away.

Paul called his friends.

Paul waved to his sister.

Paul decided to go out in the sunshine.

Paul put on his safety equipment.

- f Draw **three** lines to show how Paul said goodbye to each of the following.

whistled

Haydon

shouted

Jayne

waved

Bob

- g Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and tick your choices.

Hint: Read the whole passage below before you choose your answers.

The weather was

a) **rainy** ☐

sunny ☐

windy ☐

snowy ☐

and Paul wanted to go for a

b) **swim.** ☐

boat ride. ☐

walk. ☐

bike ride. ☐

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 until you finish page 14 or until you are asked to stop, referring to the text when you need to.

You have up to 60 minutes to do the test.

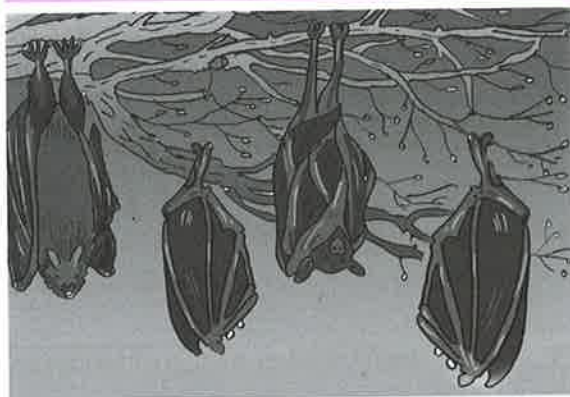
Bat Chant

I'm a bat
furry bat
and I'm happy as Larry in the dark
'Cos I got radar, I don't need eyesight
I dip and I loop
In the dovegrey twilight
I zip and I swoop
in the navyblue midnight
but I'm over the moon when it's black as pitch.
Come the dawn I'll be gone
but at sunset I start to twitch
when my folded up wings begin to itch
for the dark,
pitch dark.
No I'm not a
spooky moth, no I'm not a
sort of
night bird not a flying mouse
though I fly and I squeak in my hollowtree house
I'm a bat
fancy that,
highnoon
I hang upside down like a sunny day umbrella
waiting for dark
wait till night is as
dark as the big black cloak of Dracula
I'm a bat
I'm unique
from my highpitch unaided hearing and my
supersonic squeak
I'm a bat
and I'm happy as Larry in the dark.

Liz Lochhead

Happy as Larry is a phrase that means very happy. It comes from New Zealand and is thought to have been used to refer to a sportsman who never lost.

Bats have perfectly good eyes for seeing in the daylight. The problem is that they do most of their hunting at night. Instead of relying on their sense of sight for night-time vision, bats use a system called echolocation to find their prey. They make rapid high-pitched squeaks which are too high for most people to hear. If these sounds hit something, they bounce back, like an echo. The bat hears the echoes and can tell where the object is.



Bats do not make nests, but choose various places throughout the year to roost, where they hang upside down to sleep. Some prefer hollow trees, others caves. Many shelter in the roof spaces of buildings.

Count Dracula is a famous fictional character from a novel by Bram Stoker. He is able to transform into a bat.



- 1 Read all three parts of the passage below. Choose the best word or group of words to fit each part.
Tick your choices.

The poet uses the adventures of a bat to help

a) **the reader** ☐ **Larry** ☐ **other bats** ☐ **Dracula** ☐

understand how

b) **frightened** ☐ **comfortable** ☐ **cold** ☐ **noisy** ☐

bats feel after

c) **dinner.** ☐ **sunset.** ☐ **rain.** ☐ **dawn.** ☐



1m



1m



1m

- 2 Find and copy three words used to describe the movement of the bat when it flies.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



2m

- 3 What does the language in the poem suggest about the bat's movements?

Tick **one**.

that he is relaxed and lazy ☐

that he is swift and energetic ☐

that he is sleepy and slow ☐

that he is clumsy and awkward ☐



1m

- 4 Bats fold up their wings and hang upside down to sleep.

Find and copy one phrase in the poem used to describe what the bat looks like when it is asleep.



1m

please turn over



7m

5

Draw **three** lines to show what the bat does at each time of day.

midnight

twitches

sunset

sleeps

highnoon

zips and swoops

5

1m

6

Where do bats sleep?

Tick **two**.

in a hollow tree

☐

in a nest

☐

under a cloak

☐

inside umbrellas

☐

in a cave

☐

over the moon

☐

6

1m

7

The poem uses imagery to describe the night and the darkness, for example:
the dovegrey twilight.

Find and **copy another** example of this.

7

1m

8

Bats are nocturnal creatures – this means they are awake at night.

Find and **copy one** phrase from the poem that shows this.

8

1m



Put ticks to show which statements are **true** and which are **false**.
One has been done for you.

	True	False
Bats like the dark.	✓	
Bats have very poor eyesight.		
Bats hunt at night.		
Bats are fictional creatures.		
Bats originated in New Zealand.		



please turn over

Bird Brain



We are considered to be very smart because we can use complex tools, like a computer, to solve day-to-day problems. However, scientists have discovered that a number of animals also have intelligent behaviour. But who would have thought that some of these clever animals are crows? Scientists have noticed that these birds can work out the solutions to some very complicated problems.

There are several members of the crow family including magpies, jackdaws, ravens and rooks. All of them are thought to be clever for one reason or another.

Ravens are the largest British crows and are very intelligent. They sometimes watch where other ravens bury their food and then, later, steal it. Some ravens even work in pairs to pinch food from other animals: one raven will get the animal's attention, while the other snatches its food!

Crows living in towns and cities (such as the carrion crow) have been seen gathering nuts from trees, placing them in the street and waiting for passing cars to crack open the shells. After waiting patiently for the traffic lights to change, they return to the street to retrieve their nutty snack – an impressive example of animal innovation.



Scientists have been studying another type of crow for many years and what they have discovered is quite fascinating. Found only on one remote South Pacific island, the New Caledonian crow makes two very different types of tool for finding prey. They craft hooks from twigs to poke grubs from holes in trees. They also cut up stiff leaves with their beaks, carefully shaping them into sharp instruments, to probe for insects.

If that's not impressive enough, the hooded crow has figured out how to catch fish. First it scatters bread onto a pond, then it catches the unsuspecting fish as they surface to eat the crumbs.

Simply amazing!

How do scientists know that crows are intelligent?

Tick **one**.

- They can use computers. ☐
- They live in towns and cities. ☐
- They can solve problems. ☐
- They can travel to unusual places. ☐

2 Which is the biggest type of crow in Britain?

Tick **one**.

- magpie ☐
- jackdaw ☐
- raven ☐
- rook ☐

a) Look at the text in the box below.

Three words are used to describe ravens stealing food.
One has been underlined for you.

Underline two more words that describe this.

They sometimes watch where other ravens bury their food and then, later, steal it.
Some ravens even work in pairs to pinch food from other animals: one raven will
get the animal's attention, while the other snatches its food!

b) Who do ravens steal food from?

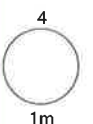
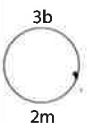
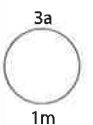
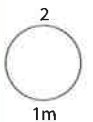
Find and copy two.

1. _____

2. _____

4 **Find and copy one** phrase that tells you the carrion crows do not seem in a hurry to collect their food from the road.

please turn over



... an impressive example of animal innovation.

Which of these is the best description of innovation?

Tick **one**.

- staying away from humans ☐
- finding something to eat ☐
- staying safe on roads ☐
- finding a clever way to do something ☐

5
1m

a) What does the hooded crow use to catch fish?

Tick **one**.

- a hook ☐
- grubs ☐
- leaves ☐
- breadcrumbs ☐

6a
1m

b) **Find** and **copy one** word that shows the fish do not know that crows are planning to catch them.

6b
1m

The word *scientist* has been used three times in the text.
What effect does this have?

Tick **one**.

- It suggests that the information is more believable because it comes from experts. ☐
- It means the text is only interesting for people who like science. ☐
- It suggests that we may not understand the text if we are not good at science. ☐
- It means the reader can be an expert about crows too. ☐

7
1m

Find and **copy two** phrases that show that the writer admires crows.

1. _____

2. _____

8
2m

- 9 Look at the final paragraph. It is made up of only two words.
What is the purpose of ending the text this way?

Tick **one**.

- It summarises the writer's feelings. ☐
- It suggests the writer wants to tell us more. ☐
- It shows the writer's understanding. ☐
- It suggests the writer did not finish the text. ☐

9
1m

- 10 Put ticks to show which statements are **true** and which are **false**.
One has been done for you.

	True	False
Magpies, rooks and jackdaws are all types of crow.	✓	
New Caledonian crows only live on one island.		
Crows are the only intelligent animals.		
Crows only eat nuts.		
New Caledonian crows can make tools from twigs and leaves.		
Scientists have only recently started studying crows.		

10
2m

please turn over

Daniel and the Ravens

This is an extract from a novel. Daniel and his great uncle, an old man who knows a lot about the natural world, have climbed up a big hill to watch the ravens.

The old man knew all about ravens. They were beginning to spy the titbits. A pair of them now were flying quite low. Daniel had never seen them so close before and he was amazed at the size of them. They were as big, if not bigger, than buzzards. He noticed their long straight necks and curved beaks. He had always thought of them as being pitch black. Well, they were black, of course, but their feathers were so silky and shiny that they seemed to have lights in them.

'They're making a sort of "prukk" noise up here,' observed Daniel. 'They seemed more deep-throated when they flew over Gilfach this morning.'

'They can make many sounds, boy. They can squeak and whistle. Sometimes they trill and they can even imitate human voices. They are good mimics, like starlings. The springtime is the best time to hear them, though. Especially during mating. Sort of soft sounds, almost like the "toc" of a mellow old clock, or the sound of a round pebble plopping into water.'

'Prukk, prukk,' they seemed to cry now, collecting their titbits, while others joined them. 'Prukk, prukk,' as they soared high up above, higher and higher, then swooping swiftly down to arc up again in a wide loop-the-loop. Then one of them dived straight down, and began to twist like a corkscrew before righting himself.

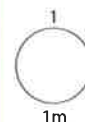
'Clowns, they are,' chuckled the old man. 'I bet they know we are here and are just showing off to us. Look, look – look at that one!'

To Daniel's amazement one raven had actually turned on his back and was coasting along on the breeze, as a human being would float on water.

'Fantastic!' he cried.



Where did Daniel go to watch the birds?



Why is the first paragraph written in italics, like *this*?

Tick **one**.

It is about a different subject.

☐

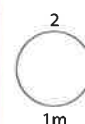
It is an introduction to the story.

☐

It tells you who wrote the story.

☐

It is just an extract.

☐

Draw **three** lines to match the description with the correct part of the raven.

feathers

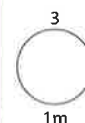
long

neck

curved

beak

glossy



... *their feathers were so silky and shiny that they seemed to have lights in them.*

What does this tell you about the feathers?

Tick **one**.

They had white spots.

☐

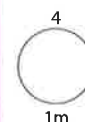
They reflected the sun.

☐

They glowed in the dark.

☐

They could be seen in daylight.

☐

When did the old man say was the best time to hear the ravens?

Tick **one**.

spring

☐

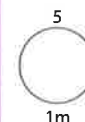
summer

☐

autumn

☐

winter

☐

TOTAL

5m

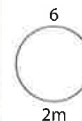
- 6 Look at the paragraph starting 'They can make ...'

Find and **copy three** words that describe the noises that the ravens made.

1. _____

2. _____

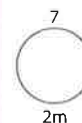
3. _____



- 7 Look at the text in the box below.

Underline three words that describe how the ravens moved.

'Prukk, prukk,' they seemed to cry now, collecting their titbits, while others joined them. 'Prukk, prukk,' as they soared high up above, higher and higher, then swooping swiftly down to arc up again in a wide loop-the-loop. Then one of them dived straight down, and began to twist like a corkscrew before righting himself.



- 8 Put these events in order by numbering them from 1 to 5. One has been done for you.

Daniel admired the bird flying on its back.

☐

Daniel listened to how the birds sound.

☐

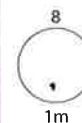
Daniel's great uncle explained about the noises the birds make.

☐

Daniel studied how the birds look.

☐

Daniel watched the birds collect food.

☐

End of test. Please check your work.

Acknowledgements

Photographs of crows by J Morrison and Adrian Bell.

'Bat Chant' by Liz Lochhead from *The Kingfisher Book of Comic Verse - Selected by Roger McGough*, Kingfisher Books, 1991.

'Daniel and the Ravens' adapted from *The Old Man of Gilfach* by Eirlys Trefor, Pont Books, 1997.

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