

# READING

# EC1

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Last name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth

Date of test

Total score  (maximum 40)



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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
This story took place on Monday.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul had a sister called Jayne.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 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.  1

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**

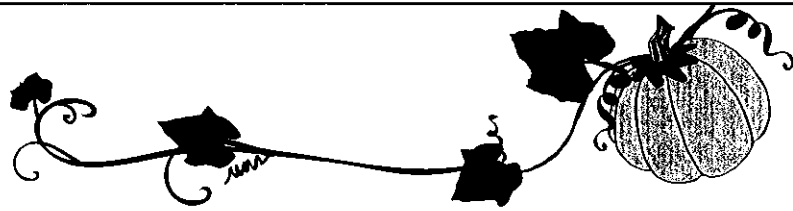
**Please wait until you are told to start work on page 4.**

*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 15 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.*

## Pumpkins



*From pumpkin soup to pumpkin pie, there are many tasty recipes for this king of the vegetable patch. Stir meltingly sweet cubes of fried pumpkin into risottos or curries, offsetting the sweetness with fragrant herbs such as sage or thyme, or warming spices such as ginger.*

*Here is one of our favourite pumpkin recipes – a bowl of this spectacularly delicious soup feels like a cuddle from your granny. You can buy and prepare the pumpkin yourself but if you are short of time then you can also buy pumpkin in a tin – this tends to make the dish smooth and delicious, not to mention convenient. We love the soup made either way, so it's your choice.*

### Preparation and cooking times

- Prep 20 mins
- Cook 25 mins

### Ingredients (Serves 6)

- 2 tablespoons (tbsp) olive oil
- 2 finely chopped onions
- 1kg peeled, deseeded and chopped pumpkin
- 700ml vegetable stock
- 142ml pot of double cream
- a touch of chilli powder



### Method

1. Heat the **2 tbsp of oil** in a large saucepan, then gently cook the two **finely chopped onions** for 5 mins, until soft but not coloured.
2. Add the kilo of **peeled, deseeded and chopped pumpkin** to the pan, then carry on cooking for 8 - 10 mins, stirring occasionally until it starts to soften and turn golden.
3. Pour all **700ml of vegetable stock** into the pan, then season with salt and pepper.
4. Bring to the boil, then simmer for 10 mins until the pumpkin is very soft.
5. Pour the **pot of double cream** into the pan, bring back to the boil, then purée with a hand blender. For an extra velvety consistency, you can now push the soup through a fine sieve into another pan.

**! Caution:** cutting and peeling a pumpkin is hard work and requires a sharp knife. It's not a job for clumsy people.



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

	True	False
Pumpkins are sour or bitter to taste.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The recipe takes several hours to cook.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The recipe will feed a family of six people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



2 Tick **all** the ways in which pumpkin can be used, according to the text.

- cake  pie   
curry  pasta   
sandwich  risotto



3 Look at the text in the box below.  
**Underline four** words used to make pumpkin dishes sound delicious.

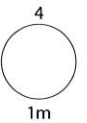
Stir meltingly sweet cubes of fried pumpkin into risottos or curries, offsetting the sweetness with fragrant herbs such as sage or thyme, or warming spices such as ginger.



4 Which of the following phrases is intended to make everyone want to try the soup?

Tick **one**.

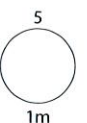
- there are many tasty recipes   
king of the vegetable patch   
spectacularly delicious soup   
it's your choice



5 In the recipe, there is a suggestion for making the soup easier to prepare. What is it?

Tick **one**.

- Leave out the chilli powder.   
Ask your grandmother to help.   
Use pumpkin from a tin can.   
Miss out stage 5 of the method.



*please turn over*



6 Sometimes recipes also include a list of equipment. What equipment is needed to make this soup?

Find and copy three pieces of equipment.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_



7 Number the stages of the recipe, from 1 to 6, to show the order in which they have to be carried out.

One has been done for you.

add vegetable stock

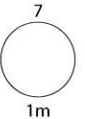
cook until pumpkin softens

fry onions in oil

add cream

add pumpkin

blend



8 Why might the chilli powder in the ingredients list cause a problem for some cooks?

Tick two.

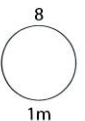
The instructions about how much to use are imprecise.

Chilli powder is not mentioned in the method.

Chilli powder is very expensive to buy.

Most people dislike chilli powder.

Chilli powder is not mentioned in the first two paragraphs.



9 According to the text, what is the hardest part of the recipe to do?

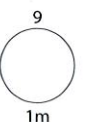
Tick one.

chopping and frying the onions

cutting and peeling the pumpkin

removing the seeds from the pumpkin

measuring out the spices



10 In one section of the recipe, it is important to follow exactly the order in which it is written. Which section is this?

Tick **one**.

- preparation and cooking times
- ingredients
- method
- caution

10  
1m

11 How often should you stir the pumpkin as it is cooking?

Tick **one**.

- never
- occasionally
- once
- continuously

11  
1m

*please turn over*



## The Lookout

*This is an extract from a story which takes place during World War Two. Stalker is watching for planes from a hide-out on the top of a cliff. He's alone – but not for long.*

Stalker rested his binoculars and rubbed his neck where the strap cut into it. He was round-shouldered and the weight of the binoculars didn't help. He hated the long thinness of his body, the bandy legs and sunken chest that were the mark of rickets. The body that had kept him out of the army. The recruiting sergeant had said he was good for nothing.

So, it seemed a miracle when Jones from the Bird-Watching Club had rung him up. They needed people to watch for enemy planes from cliff-top observation posts.

Unable to believe his good luck, he blurted out, 'Do you really want me?'

'Nothing wrong with your eyes, Stalker.'

So he'd gone, looking forward to company and talk.

\* \* \*

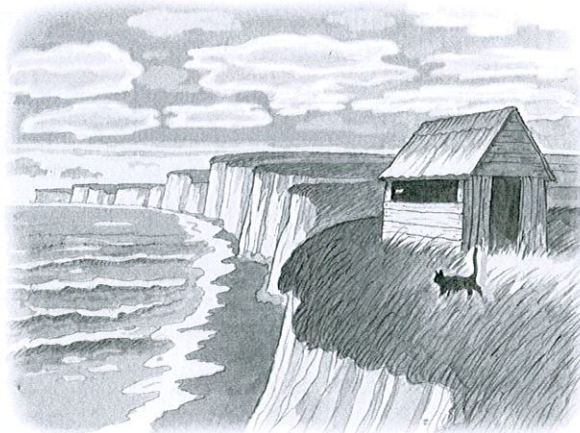
No company. When he'd reached the little hut, it was empty. It had been empty a long time. The notices on the notice-board were bleached into invisibility. The floor was covered with last season's dead leaves. The phone had cobwebs.

He was sipping tea when he saw the cat limping up towards him. His first thought was that black cats were lucky. But through his binoculars she didn't look very lucky. She looked thin, beaten, furtive and her fur was staring.

He had no feelings about cats, one way or another. But she was an event in the monotony. Company. When she paused, ten yards from the post, he took a beef sandwich from his packet and sallied out to meet her. She fled, though he called to her as softly, as gently as he could. He thought bitterly that he couldn't even give a starving cat a beef sandwich properly. He tore up the sandwich and dropped the pieces on the grass and went back inside, watching her from the bird-watcher's hide. He watched with sad satisfaction as she sniffed the sandwich; then turned his attention back to the sea.

Next thing he knew, she was up on the sandbags beside him, purring wildly, rubbing herself in ecstasy against the hand that held the binoculars. He laughed at his sudden success; his popularity. He gave her another sandwich. That, too, vanished instantly.

He felt elated at doing a fellow-creature good. In all this terrifying world, here was someone to whom he could make a difference.





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

This story took place while the country was at war.  
'Stalker' is the main character's

a) **name.**       **job.**       **hobby.**       **cat.**

In order to help the war effort, he had tried to

b) **join a gym.**       **become a pilot.**       **become a spy.**       **join the army.**

1a  
  
1m

1b  
  
1m

2 What task was Stalker asked to do?

Tick **one**.

join the army

bird-watching

watch for planes

rescue animals

2  
  
1m

3 The first paragraph, starting *Stalker rested*, tells the reader that Stalker was ...

Tick **one**.

unattractive.

hopeless.

not intelligent.

physically weak.

3  
  
1m

4 In this extract, we read both good and bad opinions of Stalker.  
Put ticks to show whether the following give a **positive** or **negative** view of him.

	Positive	Negative
the recruiting sergeant's view	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jones' view	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stalker's view of himself	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4  
  
1m

*please turn over*

- 5 In many ways, Stalker and the cat were alike. Put ticks to show whether the descriptions below describe **Stalker** or the **cat** or **both**. The first one has been done for you.

	Stalker	Cat	Both
nervous		✓	
unfit			
bored			
hungry			

5  
1m

- 6 *She looked thin, beaten, furtive and her fur was staring.*

What does this tell the reader about the behaviour of the cat?

Tick **one**.

She was ...

- lazy.  aggressive.   
 observant.  uneasy.

6  
1m

- 7 Look at the text in the box below.

- a) **Underline two** words or phrases that show that the cat was happy.

Next thing he knew, she was up on the sandbags beside him, purring wildly, rubbing herself in ecstasy against the hand that held the binoculars. He laughed at his sudden success; his popularity. He gave her another sandwich. That, too, vanished instantly.

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7a  
1m

- b) **Find and copy two** words or phrases that show how happy Stalker was.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

7b  
1m

- 8 The writer describes Stalker's success in feeding the cat as *sudden*. What might be another good word to describe his success?

Tick **one**.

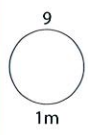
- unwanted  undeserved   
 unhurried  unexpected

8  
1m



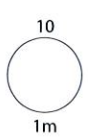
9 Put these events in order by numbering them from 1 to 5. One has been done for you.

- Stalker went back inside hut
- cat approached hut
- Stalker left food for cat
- cat entered hut
- Stalker went out to meet cat



10 Stalker's feelings changed throughout the passage. Draw **four** lines to show what he was feeling at each point.

on his own in the hut	●	frustrated
when he first saw the cat	●	happy
when the cat sniffed the sandwich	●	lonely
when the cat entered the hut	●	interested



11 This is a copy of part of page 8. Label each arrow to show these different parts of the passage.

- A – an introduction to the story
- B – a point at which the writer hints that events may take a turn for the better for Stalker
- C – description of Stalker
- D – dialogue

**The Lookout**

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. . .

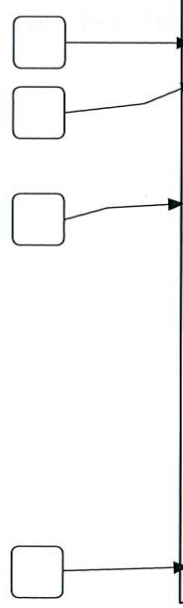
No company. When he'd reached the little hut, it was empty. It had been empty a long time. The notices on the notice-board were bleached into invisibility. The floor was covered with last season's dead leaves. The phone had cobwebs.

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please turn over

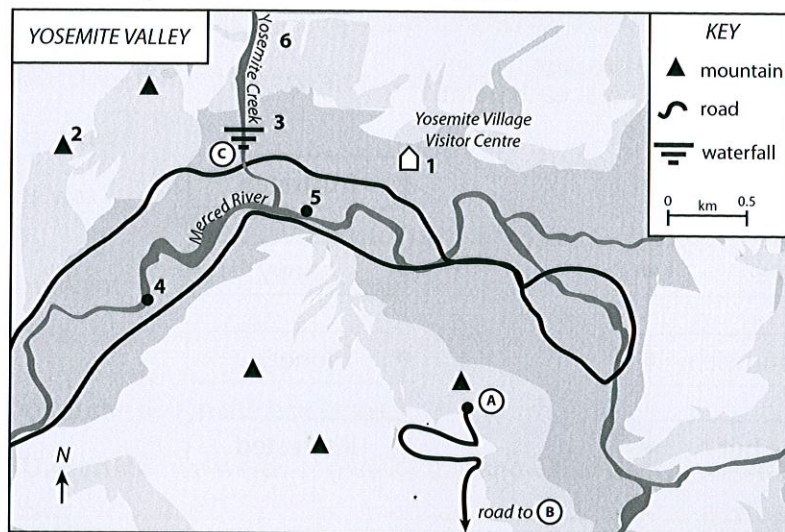


Yosemite is a National Park that is located in California in the USA. Over 3.7 million people visit each year and explore the seven square miles of Yosemite Valley. Here is an extract from the Yosemite Guidebook.

### Your Full Moon Tour

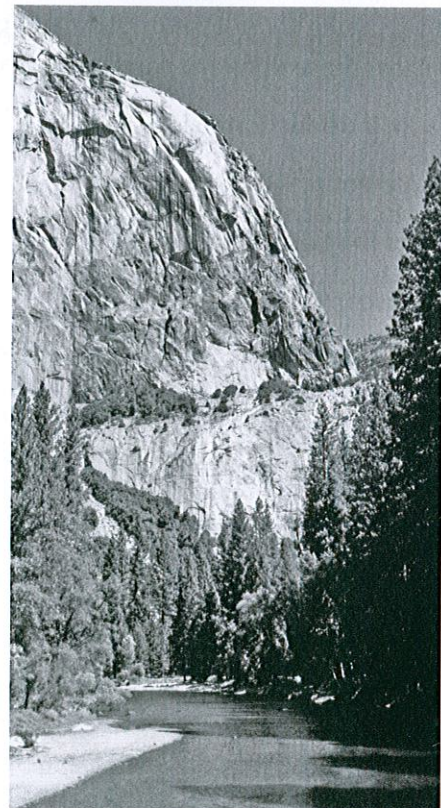
If you are lucky enough to be in the area during full moon, do not miss the chance to see Yosemite Valley in its most beautiful light. Moonbeams wash the cliff faces white, creating a completely otherworldly atmosphere, and it is possible to hike around without need of a torch.

The best place to begin your evening tour, at least in summer, is at **Glacier Point (A)**. You should aim to arrive about half an hour before sunset – or even earlier in summer, when park rangers give special presentations. From this awesome viewpoint you will be able to watch the moon rise through the pink haze that descends over the mountains after sunset, and gradually begin to cast its light into the valley. Maybe you'll want to sit there all night. But there's more to come.



The next move is to drive back down into Yosemite Valley, stopping off at the **Wawona Tunnel (B)** viewpoint on the way. By now the moon should be working its magic on the face of the earth and you'll be able to see the silhouette of the mountains in the distance. Press on towards *Yosemite Village (1)*, stopping off whenever the fancy takes you to marvel at the serene valley views. Some of the best are: *El Capitan (2)*, *Yosemite Falls (3)* from *Swinging Bridge (4)* (if the water is calm enough you may be able to see the falls reflected in the river) and from *Sentinel Bridge (5)*.

If you're here from April to June, you stand a good chance of witnessing a phenomenon that as far as we know is unique to Yosemite. All you need to do is walk to the base of **Lower Yosemite Falls (C)**. Being perfectly situated to catch the moonlight early in the evening, during these times of high water, the spray and light combine to create ethereal, pure white "moonbows", which arc gracefully across *Yosemite Creek (6)*. You won't believe it until you see it, but once you've seen it you'll never forget it!





1 About how many people visit Yosemite National Park each year?

\_\_\_\_\_

1  
1m

2 Choose the best word or group of words to complete both the sentences below and tick your choices.

The best time to go on a tour of Yosemite Valley is

a) **at full moon.**  **at new moon.**  **in the rain.**  **when cloud covered.**

The best time to start is at

b) **dawn.**  **midday.**  **sunset.**  **night.**

2a  
1m

2b  
1m

3 It is suggested that you should arrive at Glacier Point half an hour before sunset. Why should summer visitors arrive especially early?

Tick **one**.

to make sure they do not miss the sunset

to avoid the crowds and get a good seat

to watch a presentation

to make sure they start the tour in good time

3  
1m

4 When would it be possible to see a "moonbow" in Yosemite National Park?

Tick **one**.

between February and March

between April and June

between August and September

between October and November

4  
1m

5 Look at the text in the box below.

**Underline three** words that show the "moonbows" are beautiful.

Being perfectly situated to catch the moonlight early in the evening, during these times of high water, the spray and light combine to create ethereal, pure white "moonbows", which arc gracefully across Yosemite Creek.

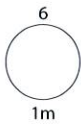
5  
2m

please turn over

TOTAL  
7m

6 Draw **four** lines to show which view can be seen from each location.

Glacier Point	silhouette of the mountains
Wawona Tunnel	pure white "moonbows"
Swinging Bridge	moon rise through the pink haze
Lower Yosemite Falls	the falls reflected in the river



7 Look at the paragraph starting *If you are lucky enough ...*

a) What is the **main** purpose of **this** paragraph?  
To make the Yosemite Valley sound ...

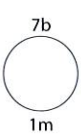
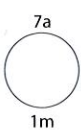
Tick **one**.

- of scientific interest.
- magical and beautiful.
- of historical interest.
- child-friendly.

b) What are the purposes of the **whole** text?

Tick **two**.

- |             |                          |            |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| to amuse    | <input type="checkbox"/> | to discuss | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| to inform   | <input type="checkbox"/> | to record  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| to persuade | <input type="checkbox"/> |            |                          |



8 This text is mainly intended for which of the following?

Tick **one**.

- |            |                          |             |                          |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| teachers   | <input type="checkbox"/> | tourists    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| children   | <input type="checkbox"/> | geographers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| historians | <input type="checkbox"/> | scientists  | <input type="checkbox"/> |





9 What additional information does the map provide that is not provided by the text or the photographs?

Tick **one**.

- the names of viewpoints
- a description of the area
- a detailed view of the area
- a simplified view of the park

9  
1m

10 Look at the map.

The letters A, B, C appear like this (A).  
What is the purpose of these letters?

Tick **one**.

- to abbreviate the names of the places you must visit
- to show the places to be avoided in the winter
- to show the order in which to visit the places on the tour
- to show the fastest way in which to complete the tour

10  
1m

11 How does the writer assume that the reader will be travelling around the area?

Tick **one**.

- on horse-back
- in a boat
- by bicycle
- by car

11  
1m

12 *You won't believe it until you see it, but once you've seen it you'll never forget it!*

What does this sentence mean?

Tick **one**.

- The writer is making things up.
- You will need to take photos so that you will never forget it.
- It is very different to other places on Earth.
- Once you see it, you will wish you hadn't.

12  
1m

**End of test. Please check your work.**