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Essex 11+ English Sample Test

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This test contains an English passage. Read the passage carefully and then answer the questions.

Think carefully about the passage and its meaning.

Work quickly but carefully through the questions.

This is not a test of memory. You can look back at the passage to check your answers as many times as you want.

The number of marks available for each question is indicated in the right hand margin.

Incorrect spelling will be penalised.

Punctuation should be both clear and exact.

Where you are asked to choose between a number of possible responses, choose always the most appropriate response.

You have 25 minutes to do the test.

The following passage has been adapted from 'The Old Curiosity Shop' by Charles Dickens. Read it carefully and answer the questions which follow.

1 The Jolly Sandboys was a small roadside inn of pretty ancient date, with a sign,
2 representing three Sandboys increasing their jollity with as many jugs of ale and bags of
3 gold, creaking and swinging on its post on the opposite side of the road. As the travellers
4 had observed that day many indications of their drawing nearer and nearer to the race
5 town, such as gipsy camps, carts laden with gambling booths and their appurtenances,
6 itinerant showmen of various kinds, and beggars and tramps of every degree, all
7 wending their way in the same direction, Mr. Codlin was fearful of finding the
8 accommodations forestalled; this fear increasing as he diminished the distance between
9 himself and the hostelry, he quickened his pace, and notwithstanding the burden he had
10 to carry, maintained a round trot until he reached the threshold. Here he had the
11 gratification of finding that his fears were without foundation, for the landlord was leaning
12 against the doorpost looking lazily at the rain, which had by this time begun to descend
13 heavily, and no tinkling of cracked bell, nor boisterous shout, nor noisy chorus, gave note
14 of company within.

15 'All alone?' said Mr. Codlin, putting down his burden and wiping his forehead.

16 'All alone as yet,' rejoined the landlord, glancing at the sky, 'but we shall have more
17 company tonight I expect. Here one of you boys, carry that show into the barn. Make
18 haste in out of the wet, Tom; when it came on to rain I told 'em to make the fire up, and
19 there's a glorious blaze in the kitchen, I can tell you.'

20 Mr. Codlin followed with a willing mind, and soon found that the landlord had not
21 commended his preparations without good reason. A mighty fire was blazing on the
22 hearth and roaring up the wide chimney with a cheerful sound, which a large iron
23 cauldron, bubbling and simmering in the heat, lent its pleasant aid to swell. There was a
24 deep red ruddy blush upon the room, and when the landlord stirred the fire, sending the
25 flames skipping and leaping up--when he took off the lid of the iron pot and there rushed
26 out a savoury smell, while the bubbling sound grew deeper and more rich, and an
27 unctuous steam came floating out, hanging in a delicious mist above their heads--when he
28 did this, Mr. Codlin's heart was touched. He sat down in the chimney corner and smiled.

29 Mr. Codlin sat smiling in the chimney corner, eyeing the landlord as with a roguish look
30 he held the cover in his hand, and, feigning that his doing so was needful to the welfare of
31 the cookery, suffered the delightful steam to tickle the nostrils of his guest. The glow of
32 the fire was upon the landlord's bald head, and upon his twinkling eye, and upon his
33 watering mouth, and upon his pimpled face, and upon his round fat figure. Mr. Codlin
34 drew his sleeve across his lips, and said in a murmuring voice, 'What is it?'

35 'It's a stew of tripe,' said the landlord smacking his lips, 'and cow-heel,' smacking them
36 again, 'and bacon,' smacking them once more, 'and steak,' smacking them for the fourth
37 time, 'and peas, cauliflowers, new potatoes, and sparrow-grass, all working up together in
38 one delicious gravy.'

	Questions	Marks
1	<p>Why did the travellers think that they were getting nearer to the race town? In your own words and in complete sentences, give FOUR reasons.</p> <p>A.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>B.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>C.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>D.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	4 marks
2	<p>What preparations had the landlord of the Jolly Sandboys made for his expected guests? (Put TRUE against the statements you think are correct, and FALSE against those which are incorrect.)</p> <p>A. He had laid out tables for them.</p> <p>B. He had ordered more beer.</p> <p>C. He had asked for a fire to be made up.</p> <p>D. He had started to cook a stew.</p>	6 marks

	<p>E. He had engaged a band of musicians.</p> <p>F. He had redecorated the inn.</p>																												
3	<p>Why was Mr. Codlin surprised when he reached the Jolly Sandboys? (Put TRUE against the statements you think are correct, and FALSE against those which are incorrect.)</p> <p>A. Because the landlord was busy.</p> <p>B. Because it was so quiet.</p> <p>C. Because it had been refurbished.</p> <p>D. Because there were no guests.</p>	4 marks																											
4	<p>Select from the passage one word that most closely corresponds to the word or phrase on the left below. Guidance is given in the right hand column below on the lines within which the word may be found.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Word from passage</th> <th style="width: 35%; text-align: center;">Look in lines</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A.</td> <td>augmenting</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1 – 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B.</td> <td>signs</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3 – 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C.</td> <td>inn</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7 - 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D.</td> <td>despite</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8 – 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E.</td> <td>entrance</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8 – 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F.</td> <td>pleasure</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9 – 11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G.</td> <td>basis</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11 – 13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>H.</td> <td>pretending</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30 – 32</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Word from passage	Look in lines	A.	augmenting	1 – 3	B.	signs	3 – 5	C.	inn	7 - 9	D.	despite	8 – 10	E.	entrance	8 – 10	F.	pleasure	9 – 11	G.	basis	11 – 13	H.	pretending	30 – 32	8 marks
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5	<p>Rewrite the following sentence properly punctuated, including capital letters where necessary.</p> <p>Theres room for all of us said Andrew. Are you sure asked Lucy. After thinking for a while Andrew said I'm pretty sure</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	8 marks																											

	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	
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	Answers	Marks
1	<p>A. They thought they were getting nearer to the race town because they saw gipsy camps.</p> <p>B. They thought they were getting nearer to the race town because they saw carts loaded with gambling booths and associated equipment.</p> <p>C. They thought they were getting nearer to the race town because they saw all sorts of travelling showmen.</p> <p>D. They thought they were getting nearer to the race town because they saw all kinds of beggars and tramps.</p>	4 marks
2	<p>A. FALSE</p> <p>B. FALSE</p> <p>C. TRUE</p> <p>D. TRUE</p> <p>E. FALSE</p> <p>F. FALSE</p>	6 marks
3	<p>A. FALSE</p> <p>B. TRUE</p> <p>C. FALSE</p> <p>D. TRUE</p>	4 marks
4	<p>A. increasing</p> <p>B. indications</p> <p>C. hostelry</p> <p>D. notwithstanding</p> <p>E. threshold</p> <p>F. gratification</p> <p>G. foundation</p> <p>H. feigning</p>	8 marks
5	<p>“There’s room for all of us,” said Andrew. “Are you sure?” asked Lucy. After thinking for a while, Andrew said, “I’m pretty sure.”</p> <p>Apostrophe in There’s (1 mark)</p> <p>Open and close inverted commas “There’s... us” (1 mark)</p> <p>Comma after “us” (1 mark)</p> <p>Open and close inverted commas “Are... sure” (1 mark)</p> <p>Question mark after “sure” (1 mark)</p> <p>Comma after “while” (1 mark)</p> <p>Comma after “said” (1 mark)</p> <p>Open and close inverted commas “I’m... sure” and full stop after “sure” within inverted commas (1 mark)</p>	8 marks