

READING

EC4

First name _____

Last name _____

School _____

Class _____

Date of birth

Date of test

Total score (maximum 39)



139083



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 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.

b 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.

c 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.

- d** 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.	☐	☐

- e** Number these events from 1 to 4 to show the order in which they happened.

One has been done for you.

Anna ate breakfast. ☐

Anna saw the sea. ☐

Anna went to the station. ☐

Anna woke up.

- f** Choose the best word or group of words to fit the sentence and tick your choices.

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

Anna was travelling

- a) with her friends ☐ on her own ☐ with her family ☐ with her class ☐

and was going to

- b) the city. ☐ the seaside. ☐ the mountains. ☐ the desert. ☐

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.

Welcome to the mountains

Mountains are spectacular places to explore. They are wild, remote and beautiful. There are still many unvisited mountains in the world. So plan a trip, find some companions, get equipped and get out into the mountains.

Interview with a mountain explorer, Rob Hutton.

Q. When were you first interested in mountains?

A. I always loved facts and figures about mountains and would spend hours poring over books and atlases. I memorised the heights of the highest mountains in the world when I was six. Then I joined the Outdoor Pursuits club at school when I was 13. Each year we went to North Wales for a week, where I was introduced to abseiling, climbing, hill walking and wild camping. Great stuff!

Highest mountain on each continent

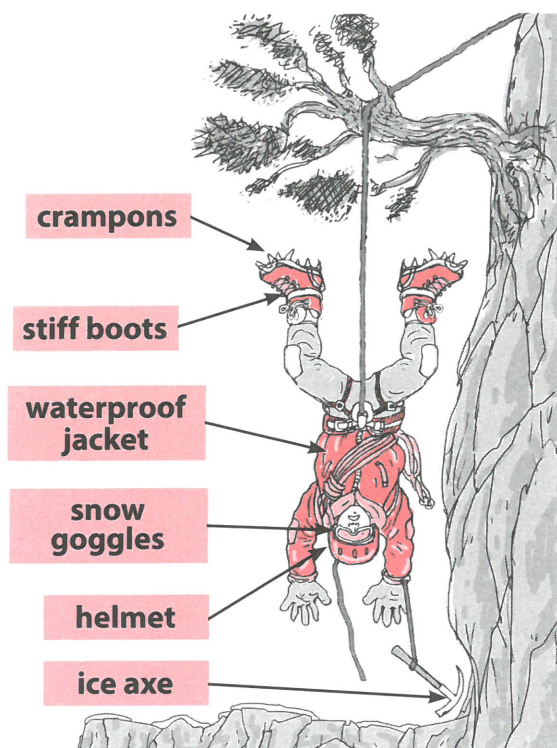
Continent	Mountain	Height (above sea level)
Asia	Everest	8,848m
South America	Aconcagua	6,961m
North America	McKinley	6,194m
Africa	Kilimanjaro	5,895m
Europe	Elbrus	5,642m

Q. What do you like about exploring mountains?

A. Getting away from crowds, being self-reliant, and the sheer fun and physical nature of mountaineering all attract me, as well as the wonderful landscapes you pass through.

Q. Is there a particular mountain you would like to climb?

A. Island Peak (almost 6,200 metres high) in Nepal. It's the mountain Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay climbed in 1953 before they conquered Everest. I'd like to succeed with that one. I have climbed in the area on dozens of occasions but I still can't pretend to know the mountains well. They combine challenge, a fantastic landscape and remoteness all to the right degree.



Q. Have you ever got lost in the mountains?

A. Yes, loads. The important thing is not to panic. Make a plan to relocate yourself using your map, compass and memory of the ground that you have just walked over.

Q. Is there anything that scares you about mountains?

A. AVALANCHES. They don't respect age or climbing ability. In spite of lots of scientific research, they still remain unpredictable. I almost got trapped under a barrage of snow thundering downhill at 130 kilometres per hour when climbing in the Alps once. It frightened the life out of me.

Q. What is your favourite bit of kit?

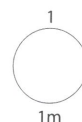
A. I think it has to be a headband. It doesn't make your head boil like a woolly hat can, but it keeps your ears warm. I think the headband is an unsung hero.

- 1 Look at the section in the box at the top of the page.

What is this section encouraging you to do?

Tick **one**.

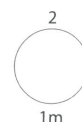
- to go mountain climbing ☐
to read the text ☐
to meet Rob Hutton ☐
to read books about mountaineering ☐



- 2 Look at the text in the box below.

Underline the **two** words that show there are not many people in the mountains.

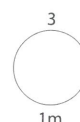
Mountains are spectacular places to explore. They are wild, remote and beautiful. There are still many unvisited mountains in the world. So plan a trip, find some companions, get equipped and get out into the mountains.



- 3 What was the **first** sign that Rob would one day be a mountain climber?

Tick **one**.

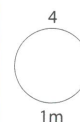
- He was fascinated by mountains as a small boy. ☐
He joined an outdoor activity club while at school. ☐
He climbed his first mountain at age 13. ☐
He visited the mountains in North Wales. ☐



- 4 Which of the following does Rob say that he enjoys about mountain climbing?

Tick **three**.

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| the scenery | ☐ | depending on himself | ☐ |
| the danger | ☐ | the physical challenge | ☐ |
| the weather | ☐ | the company of other climbers | ☐ |



please turn over

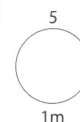


5 The word *AVALANCHES* is printed in capital letters to show Rob's tone of voice.

Which of the following do the capital letters represent?

Tick **one**.

- anger ☐
surprise ☐
emphasis ☐
whispering ☐

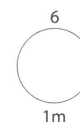


6 In his last answer, Rob describes the headband as an *unsung hero*.

This means he thinks that the headband...

Tick **one**.

- provides protection. ☐
is just a passing fashion. ☐
is overrated. ☐
is undervalued. ☐
is a secret. ☐



7 Which mountains has Rob climbed?

Put ticks to show whether Rob **has** or **has not** climbed the listed mountains or whether it is **not possible to tell**.

	Has climbed	Has not climbed	Not possible to tell
Mount Elbrus			
Mount Everest			
Island Peak			
mountains in the Alps			
Mount Kilimanjaro			
mountains in North Wales			



8 Island Peak is almost 6,200 metres high.

Why is it **not** listed in the table of highest mountains at the top of the page?

Tick **one**.

- because all the other mountains are higher than Island Peak ☐
- because Rob has not climbed it yet ☐
- because it is not the highest mountain on its continent ☐
- because it has only just been discovered ☐

8
1m

9 What does the illustration add to the text?

Tick **two**.

- a comical view of mountain climbing ☐
- information about the height of mountains ☐
- health and safety advice ☐
- encouragement to try mountain climbing ☐
- useful information about the kit needed ☐

9
1m

10 Which of the following does the text include?

Tick **two**.

- some facts and figures ☐
- a diary entry ☐
- a fictional account ☐
- a formal report ☐
- personal opinion ☐

10
1m

please turn over

A pirate's life

Life as a pirate was hard, despite the lure of easy money. Long months at sea, perilous weather and the threat of execution for pirates who got caught made for a difficult existence.

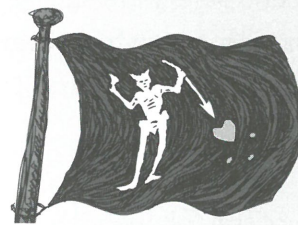
Nevertheless, in the early 1700s piracy flourished. Sailors who had left the navy, criminals in search of a quick fortune, merchants who had fallen on hard times, and escaped slaves all thought the risks worth taking. This continued until about 1730, when piracy was so widespread that European navies took action and hunted pirates down.

Were there really treasure islands?

During the golden age of piracy, in the early 1700s, hundreds of pirate ships sailed the Atlantic. They were looking for Spanish treasure ships, carrying home vast amounts of wealth from Spanish colonies in South America. Some of the pirates who raided them managed to amass huge fortunes. Most pirates frittered away their riches carelessly and few had much left over. But some treasure really *was* buried on islands for safekeeping, just as it was in adventure stories and folk tales.

Who were the most famous and feared?

Blackbeard, whose real name was Edward Teach, had a reputation that reached far and wide. His daring and dramatic entrances on board enemy ships would cause chaos amongst the crew. He liked to appear in a cloud of smoke, with burning fuses woven into his hair and beard. His victims were usually so scared that they handed over their cargo without a struggle.



Blackbeard's flag: a sight dreaded by sailors

Although Blackbeard was the most famous of pirates, Bartholomew Roberts was the most successful and menacing. The rumour is that he captured a staggering total of more than 400 ships in his short career!

Roberts, born in South Wales, was reluctant at first to live a life of crime. He had been working aboard a royal ship when it was captured by a crew of fearsome pirates, captained by Hywel Davies (another Welshman). Roberts was forced to join the criminal crew. However, Davies was killed in battle less than a month later and in this short time Roberts had proven his skills and leadership. Surprisingly, the crew elected him to be the next captain.

Believe it or not, having an awesome beard wasn't a 'must-have' for being a pirate. In fact, some of the beardless pirates were actually women. However, male pirates were a superstitious bunch who fiercely believed that having women on board would bring bad luck. So how did women 'wannabe' pirates overcome this obstacle? By keeping their true identity under wraps – dressing like men and letting their ferocity do the talking. What's more, these female pirates were just as good at being bad as even the most merciless men.



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

Piracy was

- a) an easy ☐ an unavoidable ☐ a dangerous ☐ a relaxing ☐

way of life, chosen by people who were hoping to

- b) join the navy. ☐ find their fortune. ☐ return home. ☐ find honest work. ☐

1a
☐
1m

1b
☐
1m

- 2 Look at the text in the box below.

Underline two words that show how popular piracy became.

Nevertheless, in the early 1700s piracy flourished. Sailors who had left the navy, criminals in search of a quick fortune, merchants who had fallen on hard times, and escaped slaves all thought the risks worth taking. This continued until about 1730, when piracy was so widespread that European navies took action and hunted pirates down.

2
☐
1m

- 3 ... all thought the risks worth taking.

What does this show about the people who became pirates?

Tick **one**.

- They found the thrill of the experience enough of a reward. ☐
They believed the rewards outweighed the dangers. ☐
They saw risk-taking as a valuable characteristic for a pirate. ☐
They called the treasure they had stolen their 'risks'. ☐

3
☐
1m

- 4 Look at the section headed *Were there really treasure islands?*

Find and **copy one** word that means the ships were searched for treasure.

4
☐
1m

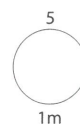
please turn over

- 5 Look at the **last sentence** in the section headed *Were there really treasure islands?*

Why is the word *was* in italics?

Tick **one**.

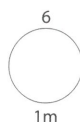
- to stress that this information is definitely true ☐
to highlight how long ago in history this happened ☐
to tell you that this is not factual information ☐
to show that the buried treasure is no longer there ☐



- 6 According to the text, which of these statements are about Blackbeard?

Tick **two**.

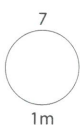
- His real name was Bartholomew Roberts. ☐
His real name was Edward Teach. ☐
His real name was Hywel Davies. ☐
He was the most successful pirate. ☐
He was the most famous pirate. ☐
He was the most menacing pirate. ☐



- 7 According to the text, how did Blackbeard get most of his treasure?

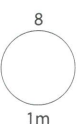
Tick **one**.

- by frightening people with his appearance ☐
by setting his enemies' ships on fire ☐
by putting women on board enemy ships for bad luck ☐
by fighting only people who had the most treasure ☐
by masking himself in smoke so sailors could not see him ☐



- 8 Number these events from 1 to 6 to show the order in which they happened in Bartholomew Roberts' life.

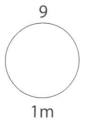
- Roberts' ship was captured by pirates. ☐
Roberts captured more than 400 ships. ☐
Roberts worked on a royal ship. ☐
Hywel Davies died in battle. ☐
Roberts joined the pirate crew. ☐
Roberts became captain. ☐



- 9 Find and **copy two** words that show that Bartholomew Roberts had **not** wanted to become a pirate.

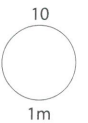
1. _____

2. _____



- 10 It may not be true that Bartholomew Roberts captured more than 400 ships.

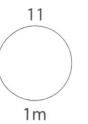
Find and **copy one** word that shows this.



- 11 Female pirates were...

Tick **one**.

- less fierce than male pirates. ☐
- obstacles on board the ships. ☐
- as cruel as male pirates. ☐
- very bad at being pirates. ☐
- kept secret by male pirates. ☐

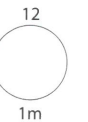


- 12 Why did pirates not like having women aboard their ships?

The pirates thought...

Tick **one**.

- women could not fight well. ☐
- women were too violent. ☐
- women disliked their beards. ☐
- women would bring bad luck. ☐
- women would get in the way. ☐



please turn over



The housekeeper

This text is about a girl, Laura, who has gone to stay with her uncle.

Laura swung out of bed and put her feet on the cold wooden boards. As she did so, she caught sight of the clock. For a mad moment, she wondered if it was upside down. In her entire eleven years she'd only twice been allowed to sleep in past eight, and both times were at Christmas. Now it was 10.05am. Laura strained her ears but the house was silent. Her uncle didn't seem concerned whether she slept the day away or turned cartwheels.

There was a pot of coffee and some milk on the kitchen table. Laura poured herself a drink and walked around cradling it, searching for her uncle. His bedroom door had been opened and the bed neatly made. He hadn't mentioned what he did for a living. Maybe he was rich and did nothing at all.

She heard a drawer being opened in the next room. Unaccountably pleased that her uncle had not gone out, but was merely working in his study, Laura bounded over to the door, which was slightly ajar. She pushed it open without thinking. A woman with crinkly black hair and a squashed button nose was crouching over Calvin Redfern's desk with a document in her hand, like a bird of prey poised to rip into a mouse. A feather duster lay across a high-backed black leather chair.

"I'm cleaning," declared Mrs Webb, a note of defiance in her voice.

"Of course," said Laura. She closed the door quickly and returned to the kitchen, heart thudding. Either her uncle liked his documents polished or Mrs Webb was – was what? Going through his personal papers? Laura gave herself a shake. She'd only just arrived in St Ives and already she was finding fault with the place.

She was washing her mug at the sink when Laura sensed she was being watched. Mrs Webb was leaning against the door, arms folded and lips pursed.

"You'll be Mr Redfern's niece?" Laura knew at once it would be a mistake to make an enemy of her.

"That's right," she responded as warmly as she could manage. "I'm Laura. And you must be Mrs Webb. My uncle was raving about your cooking."

"He'd be hard pressed to find anyone better to take care of him, that I can promise you," Mrs Webb said challengingly, as though Laura were making a bid for her job.

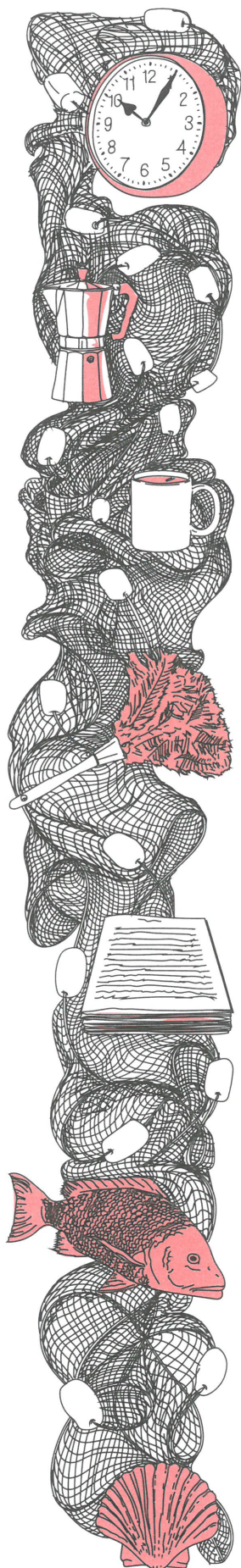
"Umm, Mrs Webb, what is it that my uncle does?" Laura said, edging past the housekeeper into the hallway.

For some reason the question seemed to amuse Mrs Webb. "He's a fisheries man. He counts fishing boat catches or some such."

Laura was unlocking the front door when she heard the housekeeper mutter, "Or so he says."

She paused. "Excuse me?"

The housekeeper leaned around the kitchen door. "I said, 'Enjoy St Ives'."



1

Choose the best word or group of words to fit each sentence and tick your choices.

Laura woke up

- a) in a new house. ☐ in her own home. ☐ at boarding school. ☐ in hospital. ☐

Her first thought was that

- b) she was dreaming. ☐ she had misread the time. ☐ she had fallen out of bed. ☐ it was Christmas. ☐

She was surprised that no one

- c) had made breakfast. ☐ knew she was there. ☐ had woken her up. ☐ was cleaning the house. ☐

Normally, she was used to

- d) living alone. ☐ an early start. ☐ breakfast in bed. ☐ chaos. ☐

1a



1m

1b



1m

1c



1m

1d



1m

2

What was the first sign that there was someone else in the house?

Tick **one**.

- Laura found some breakfast. ☐
 Laura heard a noise. ☐
 Laura saw that a door was open. ☐
 Laura saw Mrs Webb. ☐
 Laura saw that her uncle's bed was made. ☐

2



1m

3

What did Laura see Mrs Webb doing in Calvin Redfern's room?

Tick **one**.

- cleaning his desk ☐
 polishing his belongings ☐
 stealing his money ☐
 looking at his papers ☐

3



1m

4

Mrs Webb was *like a bird of prey poised to rip into a mouse*.

The effect of this description is to make Mrs Webb...

Tick **one**.

- seem like a comic character. ☐ seem sad and unloved. ☐
 seem like a wise old lady. ☐ seem unpleasant and vicious. ☐

4



1m

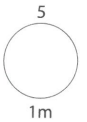
please turn over

TOTAL

7m

- 5 Mrs Webb told a lie to cover up what she was doing.

Find and **copy** the lie.

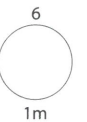


- 6 Look at the text in the box below.

Underline the phrase that shows that Laura found it hard to be friendly to Mrs Webb.

"You'll be Mr Redfern's niece?" Laura knew at once it would be a mistake to make an enemy of her.

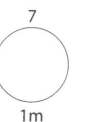
"That's right," she responded as warmly as she could manage. "I'm Laura. And you must be Mrs Webb. My uncle was raving about your cooking."



- 7 Which of the following best describes Mrs Webb's attitude to Laura?

Tick **one**.

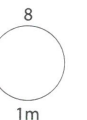
- cruel ☐
hostile ☐
uninterested ☐
uncommunicative ☐



- 8 Laura tried to please Mrs Webb by praising her...

Tick **one**.

- cleaning. ☐
orderliness. ☐
cooking. ☐
appearance. ☐
sense of humour. ☐



9 Laura began a question to Mrs Webb with the sound "Umm".

What does this sound represent?

Tick **one**.

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| a cough | ☐ | a hesitation | ☐ |
| a laugh | ☐ | an exclamation | ☐ |
| humming | ☐ | singing | ☐ |

9
1m

10 Why did Mrs Webb say 'Enjoy St Ives'?

Tick **one**.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| She was confused and had forgotten what she had said. | ☐ |
| She did not want to repeat what she had said the first time. | ☐ |
| She spoke nonsense most of the time. | ☐ |
| She was distracted and had made a harmless mistake. | ☐ |

10
1m

11 The extract on page 12 is the beginning of a longer story and it gives a few clues about what is likely to happen.

Tick to show whether the text **does** or **does not** provide evidence to suggest the following.

	Does provide evidence	Does not provide evidence
There is a mystery about Calvin Redfern's job.		
Mrs Webb might cause trouble for Laura.		
Laura is going to solve a murder.		
Mrs Webb and Laura would soon become close friends.		
Laura's uncle was a violent criminal.		
Mrs Webb and Calvin Redfern were close friends.		

11
2m

End of test. Please check your work.

Acknowledgements

'Welcome to the mountains' adapted from *Mountains (Explorer Travel Guides)* by Chris Oxlade
(Raintree, 2014)

'A pirate's life' adapted from
The Usborne Book of Treasure Hunting by Anna Claybourne and Caroline Young
(Usborne Publishing Ltd, 1998)

and

'10 Amazing Female Pirates' by Mark Pygas
<http://listverse.com/2013/09/28/10-amazing-female-pirates/>

'The housekeeper' taken from *Dead Man's Cove* by Lauren St John (Orion Children's Books, 2011)

These texts have been incorporated into this test paper solely for the purposes of the examination
in accordance with Section 32(3) of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

No copyright clearance for any other use has been obtained or sought.