

READING

EC6

First name _____

Last name _____

School _____

Class _____

Date of birth

Date of test

Total score (maximum 38)



165148



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.

28 May 1865

With great excitement, we set sail today. There are over 150 brave souls on board our ship, the Mimosa, sailing off for a better life. The Reverend Jones, our leader, has promised us a new life where we can preserve our Welsh language, our culture and traditions.

The Argentinian government has agreed to give us green, fertile farming land – almost like our land in Wales – in an area called Patagonia.

29 July 1865

We feel desolate. We landed yesterday. This is nothing like our beautiful homeland! It's more like a desert. After two months at sea we were looking forward to fresh water and meat, but we can see no animals, and water is three days' walk inland.

a Draw **three** lines to match each word to its description in the text.

homeland

desert

Patagonia

beautiful

people

brave

b Find and copy two things that the people wanted to preserve in their new life.

1. _____

2. _____

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

- c Look at the text in the box below.

Underline one word that means *miserable*.

Hint: Check how many words to underline.

We feel desolate. We landed yesterday. This is nothing like our beautiful homeland! It's more like a desert. After two months at sea we were looking forward to fresh water and meat, but we can see no animals, and water is three days' walk inland.

Hint: If you make a mistake and want to change your answer, cross it out clearly and underline your new answer.

- d Choose the best word or group of words to fit each of the sentences below and tick your choices.

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

Mimosa was the name of ...

- a) the ship. ☐ their homeland. ☐ the new country. ☐ the people. ☐

When they set sail, the people were ...

- b) nervous. ☐ unwell. ☐ disappointed. ☐ hopeful. ☐

- e Put these events in order by numbering them from 1 to 4. One has been done for you.

The ship set sail.

1

They started looking for fresh water.

They sailed for two months.

They landed in a 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 18 or until you are asked to stop.

You have up to 60 minutes to do the test.

Survival skills

To start, consider the 'rule of threes'. A human can survive for:

- **three** minutes without air
- **three** hours without a controlled body temperature (which means you need shelter)
- **three** days without water
- **three** weeks without food.



Shelter

In a survival situation, many people get into serious trouble because of direct exposure to the weather, and they die of the cold (hypothermia). It is extremely important to prevent or minimise heat loss, or if in a desert environment, to minimise water loss. There are many natural shelters you can find including caves, hollow stumps and logs, as well as the possibility of building shelters such as a hut made of debris, a lean-to (shelter built against something else), a scout pit (a shelter dug into the ground) or a snow shelter.



Water

Since the human body is composed of up to 78% water, it should be no surprise that water is higher on the list than food. Ideally, a person should drink about four litres of water per day. Many lost persons fail to survive because of thirst (dehydration). The best sources of clean drinking water in the wild are springs, small streams, and morning dew. The most widely used and proven method for safely purifying water is boiling – this will kill bacteria and viruses.

Food

Without food, people can die of starvation. Most natural environments are filled with a variety of things that can meet our nutritional needs. Wild plants often provide the most commonly available foods, though insects and small wild game can also meet our needs in a survival situation. However, some edible plants have poisonous lookalikes – if you cannot identify the plant, do not eat it!

Attitude

More than anything else, your attitude determines how successful you are in a survival situation. Surviving a difficult wilderness situation requires meeting many challenges while avoiding panic.

Naturalist skills

The more you know about nature, the better you will be able to survive in the outdoors. For example, wildlife tracking skills allow you to locate wild game for food, and knowledge of herbal medicine allows you to treat illnesses with wild plants.

1 Why is it called the *rule of threes*?

There are three rules for survival.

Survival times can be measured in threes.

You can't last longer than three weeks in the wild.

There are three ways to make a shelter.

Tick **one**.

☐☐☐☐

2 Draw **four** lines to match how long you can survive without each of the following:

eating

temperature regulation

drinking

breathing

three weeks

three minutes

three hours

three days



3 Which of the following mentioned in the text can you use to build a shelter?

Tick **two**.

plants

dew

debris

snow

game

☐☐☐☐☐

please turn over

- 4 Look at the text in the box below.

Underline one word that means *stop*.

In a survival situation, many people get into serious trouble because of direct exposure to the weather, and they die of the cold (hypothermia). It is extremely important to prevent or minimise heat loss, or if in a desert environment, to minimise water loss.



- 5 Look at the section about *Water*.

Find and copy two sources of clean water.

1. _____

2. _____



- 6 Look at the section about *Water*.

Find and copy one word from the text which means *cleaning*.



- 7 Look at the text in the box below.

Underline one word that means *something that is safe to eat*.

Wild plants often provide the most commonly available foods, though insects and small wild game can also meet our needs in a survival situation. However, some edible plants have poisonous lookalikes – if you cannot identify the plant, do not eat it!



8

... if you cannot identify the plant, do not eat it!

Why has the author used an exclamation mark?

Tick **one**.

to make the text interesting

☐

to show that the information is important

☐

to show that someone is speaking

☐

to show it is the end of the section

☐

8

1m

9

Put these in order of their importance to humans in a survival situation, by numbering them from 1 to 5.

1 is the most important and 5 is the least important. One has been done for you.

available food

☐

suitable shelter

☐

positive attitude

clean water

☐

knowledge of herbal medicine

☐

9

1m

10

Draw **four** lines to match each situation with its consequence.

lack of shelter

starvation

lack of water

hypothermia

lack of food

panic

lack of positive attitude

dehydration

10

1m

please turn over

TOTAL

7m

11

Why is the text separated into different sections?

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

	True	False
to show the order that the information should be read in		
to divide up the information		
to highlight the different survival skills		
to group information about the same topic		

11

2m



One wave

The nose of Jennifer's surfboard was pointing towards shore, but she had twisted round on it and was staring out to sea, watching, waiting. Silently she implored the sea to produce a mountain of surf. Come on, come on! How about this one? Nope. Big, but not big enough. The next? Bigger but...

Suddenly she saw it: a wave so enormous that it divided her emotions sharply into a dark valley of fear and a bright mountain of anticipation. It was what she wanted, what she dreaded. And she had only seconds in which to make up her mind – whether to sit still and let it pass under her or to take it. Heart pounding, she paddled.

Now she could feel the pull and power of it. It was exciting, frightening. There was too much power here, too much height.

With quick, cat-like movements she got up off her knees and stood for the ride towards shore. The view from the top of the wave was terrifying. And so was the knowledge that one little move forward would send her once and for all on her way; there could be no turning back then.

For a split second she stalled, balancing herself on the back of her board, one foot in front of the other. But she couldn't stall for long. It had to be now or never. Leaning forward, she shifted her

weight, twisted her body. It was now!

With a wild rush she raced down the side of the mountainous wave.

Feelings flew along with her – sensations of speed, skilful achievement, overcoming this moving mountain beneath her. Then, without warning, the situation changed. The great wave which she seemed to have mastered rebelled and threatened to curl over onto her. Instantly she had to size up the situation, make her plan, execute it.

By shifting her weight forward, she increased speed to a sensational pace. Her board left a white wake in the water as she sped straight for shore. One slight slip and she would be plunged into the wild water that raged at the back of her board. That board had to be beautifully balanced, her feet perfectly placed on its waxed surface, her arms adjusting the upper part of the body to the bumps. Balance itself was a bubble: fragile, easily broken.

But it was not broken on this ride. It was perfectly maintained as Jennifer won the race for the shore. Her achievement was complete, but short-lived. In some sports, thrilling achievements can be measured in minutes, but in surfing it is all done in seconds. No sooner is one dramatic episode over than another begins.

Fact box: Surfing in Wales

Whether the coastline is sandy or rocky, the coast of Wales offers waves for all surfers.

1. Llantwit Major: great waves in front of amazing cliffs, and best suited to experienced surfers.
2. Porthcawl, Glamorgan: popular because of its accessibility and its mellow waves, which suit beginners.
3. Newgale, Pembrokeshire: the spot that starts a lifetime of surfing for many first-timers due to easy hire of equipment and forgiving waves at most tides.
4. Aberdaron, Llŷn Peninsula: when the swell is bigger, and the wind isn't so harsh, the waves can be suitable for all levels.
5. Llangennith, Gower: voted Britain's best beach in 2013, the sands down to Rhossili provide waves for all abilities.
6. Whitesands, Pembrokeshire: popular for beginners but crowded during peak season. Its mix of dazzling sand and turquoise water beneath St David's Head makes it one of the most memorable surf spots in west Wales.



1 Look at the paragraph beginning *The nose of Jennifer's surfboard ...*

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'begged'.

2 Bigger but ...

What is the purpose of the ellipsis (...) as used in the text?

Tick one.

to show surprise

☐

to show there are words missing

☐

to complete the sentence

☐

to create suspense

☐

3 Heart pounding, she paddled.

Why was Jennifer's heart pounding?

Tick one.

She couldn't surf very well.

☐

She was stuck.

☐

She was excited.

☐

She was tired.

☐

4 Look at the paragraph beginning *With quick, cat-like movements ...*

Why was the view from the top terrifying?

Tick one.

She was very high up.

☐

She couldn't see anything.

☐

She was moving very quickly.

☐

She could see the next wave.

☐

please turn over



- 5 Look at the text in the box below.

Underline two words that suggest the sea is rough.

By shifting her weight forward, she increased speed to a sensational pace. Her board left a white wake in the water as she sped straight for shore. One slight slip and she would be plunged into the wild water that raged at the back of her board.



- 6 *Balance itself was a bubble: fragile, easily broken.*

Why is balance described as *a bubble*?

Tick **one**.

It is easy to do.

☐

You need to be flexible.

☐

It is delicate.

☐

You need to be patient.

☐

- 7 Look at the text in the box below.

Underline two words that show the experience of surfing is exciting.

Her achievement was complete, but short-lived. In some sports, thrilling achievements can be measured in minutes, but in surfing it is all done in seconds. No sooner is one dramatic episode over than another begins.



- 8 Which word best describes Jennifer?

Tick **one**.

carefree

☐

determined

☐

defeated

☐

cowardly

☐

- 9 Put these events in order by numbering them from 1 to 5.

One has been done for you.

Jennifer leaned forward to increase her speed.

Jennifer reached the shore.

Jennifer waited for a wave.

Jennifer paddled in the water.

Jennifer balanced on the back of her board.



- 10 Look at the fact box.

Find and copy two phrases that show why Whitesands is *one of the most memorable surf spots in west Wales*.

1. _____

2. _____



- 11 Draw **four** lines to match each surf spot with its description.

Newgale

the winds can be harsh

Whitesands

easy to get to

Porthcawl

difficult to forget

Aberdaron

easy to rent surfboards



please turn over



Shine

This extract is from a story about a spaceship landing on a new planet, far away from planet Earth. It describes the people's first impressions of the new planet.

Four long years after leaving Earth, and the Disaster that we escaped, a time came when we reached the light of a new sun. Bright golden light filled the spaceship from the starboard portholes.

And then the new planet loomed up. It looked unlike the Earth. It was redder and shinier; it had no cloud drifts around it. It didn't look green. People spent all day looking anxiously through the portholes at it, trying to guess the meaning of what they could see. But as the ship came in to land, nightfall was racing us across the ground – a big black shadow covering everything and leaving us behind, so that we landed in total darkness. It was a controlled landing anyway. It happened smoothly. Then the ship switched off its own gravity and hummed quietly as it began to shut down.

The next morning, dawn broke like a dark curtain being swept aside in a single rapid movement; for a few minutes there was a deep indigo light, and after that, brilliance.

We trooped down the ship's ramp. Before us lay a wide and gentle plain sloping to the shores of a round, wide lake some miles across. The children ran forward onto the open expanse of land before

them, shouting. And at once we were limping, crying, and hopping back. We were still wearing the soft ship slippers we had been given to keep down the noise in the corridors of the spacecraft, and the pretty grey grass and flowers had cut through the thin leather at once, and cut our feet. The guide ordered the crate of boots to be brought from the store and unpacked. Meanwhile, we stooped and picked the sharp plants, which broke easily in our fingers when gathered; they seemed to be made of glass, sharp and shiny like jewels. But as soon as we all had boots on, we could walk over them safely, for they were crushed beneath the soles, as fragile and as crunchy to walk on as the frost-stiffened grass of winter on Earth.

We all walked over the crisp and sparkling frost plain, down towards the shores of the lake. The lake shore was a wide silver beach, made of soft bright sand, like grains of worn-down glass. And all the time we walked towards the lake, the water did not move or ruffle, even enough to shake the curtains of reflected mountains and reflected sky that hung in it. And though the air smelled good and sweet to breathe, it was as still as the air in a deep cave underground.

"I think we may be lucky," said the guide. "I think this place is good."

Fact box: Other habitable* planets

After Earth, Mars is the most habitable planet in our solar system for several reasons.

- Its soil contains water (to extract).
- There is enough sunlight to use solar panels.
- Gravity on Mars is 38% that of Earth's, which many people believe humans could adapt to.
- It has an atmosphere (a thin one) that offers protection from harmful rays.
- The day/night rhythm is very similar to ours here on Earth: a full day/night cycle on Mars lasts 24 hours, 39 minutes and 35 seconds.

NASA's Kepler space telescope, which was launched in 2009, has been searching for Earth-like planets beyond our solar system. Kepler's observations have shown that small, rocky worlds like our own are abundant in our Milky Way galaxy, and some of them may be capable of supporting life as we know it.

To qualify as potentially life-friendly, a planet must be relatively small and rocky, and must orbit in the 'habitable zone' of its star (a place where the temperature allows water to exist on a planet's surface).



*suitable to live on

- 1 Look at the paragraph beginning *And then the new planet loomed up.*

Find and copy one word that shows how the people were feeling before the ship landed.

- 2 Look at the text in the box below.

Underline two words that describe how the ship landed.

But as the ship came in to land, nightfall was racing us across the ground – a big black shadow covering everything and leaving us behind, so that we landed in total darkness. It was a controlled landing anyway. It happened smoothly. Then the ship switched off its own gravity and hummed quietly as it began to shut down.

- 3 Look at the paragraph beginning *The next morning, dawn broke like a dark curtain ...*

Find and copy one word that means 'quick'.

- 4 *And at once we were limping ...*
Why?

Tick **one**.

They had hurt their feet.

☐

Their slippers were uncomfortable.

☐

They could see the lake.

☐

They were wearing boots.

☐

- 5 Look at the paragraph beginning *We all walked over the crisp and sparkling frost plain ...*

Find and copy two words that describe the air on the new planet.

1. _____

2. _____



6

"I think we may be lucky," said the guide. "I think this place is good."
Why might the guide think the planet was good?

Tick **two**.

The air was good to breathe.

☐

The plants were sharp.

☐

They had brought boots to wear.

☐

There was a source of water.

☐

It was warmer than on Earth.

☐

6

1m

7

Put these events in the order they happened in the story by numbering them from 1 to 5. One has been done for you.

The ship landed.

☐

They walked to the lake's shore.

☐

The sun set.

☐ 1

They picked up the plants.

☐

The crate of boots was unpacked.

☐

7

1m

8

Look at the text in the box below.

Underline one word that means 'plentiful'.

NASA's Kepler space telescope, which was launched in 2009, has been searching for Earth-like planets beyond our solar system. Kepler's observations have shown that small, rocky worlds like our own are abundant in our Milky Way galaxy, and some of them may be capable of supporting life as we know it.

8

1m

9

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

	True	False
NASA uses a telescope to look for planets.		
Mars has stronger gravity than Earth.		
There are no habitable planets in our Milky Way.		
The atmosphere on Mars protects you from harmful rays.		
Humans would need to adapt to life on Mars.		

9

2m

10

Choose the best word or group of words for each part of the sentence below and tick your choices. Tick **one** option for each line.

For a planet to be considered life-friendly, it must be located within ...

- a) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
 the 'habitable zone' another galaxy our solar system the Milky Way

the surface must be ...

- b) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
 rocky shiny smooth large

it needs to have ...

- c) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
 life water a moon sand

and the planet must be ...

- d) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
 any size. reasonably small. enormous. microscopic.

10

4m

please turn over

11

What do the story *Shine* and the *Fact box: Other habitable planets* have in common?

They prove that there is life on other planets.

They are set on Mars.

They are about habitable planets.

They describe how to travel in space.

Tick one.

☐☐☐☐

11

1m

End of test. Please check your work.