8+ English Assessment

Reading Comprehension - Sample Questions

This is a sample of the type of questions on the paper; there will be more questions than this in the test.

Put a circle round the right answer

1. Thursday is the day before **Monday/Friday/ Tuesday.**
2. We can see the moon at **noon/sunrise/night.**
3. Climbing Mount Everest is a **different/difficult/disgusting** challenge.
4. The old lady was very sad when her hip operation was **confiscated/cancelled/seized** at the last minute.
5. A violin is a musical **implement /applicant/instrument.**

Read this passage carefully and answer the questions below.

There have been stories about dragons for thousands of years. There are ancient stories about a giant flying animal, like a lizard, which breathes fire. The word 'dragon' comes from a Greek word meaning serpent. In pictures some dragons look like serpents others more like flying dinosaurs. Of course nobody knows what a dragon really looks like because they are mythical creatures.

It is strange how dragons are described in so many different ways. Dragons from China are friendly and bring good fortune. The dragon dance is an important part of Chinese New Year celebrations and beautiful dragon costumes are made especially for this occasion. In old legends English dragons were often fierce, terrorising villagers all over the land. In some stories brave knights had battles with dragons to save beautiful princesses. But more recently authors have written stories about funny, friendly dragons who are not frightening at all. Sometimes they make friends with children, sometimes they have mad adventures and often these dragons cause chaos.

Dragons have always been popular in countries all over the world, whether they are fire breathing monsters or friendly pets. Perhaps people like them because they are imaginary - not real.

Read each question carefully and tick the best answer for each one. Only tick one box for each question.

1. **The word dragon comes from:**

- a picture
- The Greek word for snake
- A flying dinosaur

2. **In the old stories dragons are described as:**

- scary monsters with sharp teeth
- huge fire breathing creatures
- large green birds that fly

3. **Why do we not know what dragons really look like?**

- In some pictures they look like snakes
- They sometimes look like dinosaurs
- They are not real

4. **Why are dragons popular in China?**

- People think they bring good luck
- Lovely dragon costumes are made for Chinese New Year
- People enjoy dragon dances

5. **How are dragons in today's stories different from dragons in myths and legends?**

- They always fight knights and rescue princesses
- They are friendly and funny
- In China they are part of the New Year celebrations