English 1

Familiarisation

Read the following with your child:

1. You have to read a passage and then answer some questions about it. You can look back at the passage to check your answers as many times as you want. There are also some spelling, punctuation and grammar exercises to do.
2. This is a multiple-choice paper in which you have to mark your answer to each question on the separate answer sheet.
3. Draw a firm line clearly through the rectangle next to your answer like this . If you make a mistake, rub it out as completely as you can and put in your new answer.
4. Be sure to keep your place on the answer sheet. Mark your answer in the box that has the same number as the question in the booklet.
5. You may find some of the questions difficult. If you cannot do a question, **do not waste time on it but go on to the next**. If you are not sure of an answer, choose the one you think is best.
6. **Work as quickly and as carefully as you can.**

GL Assessment

Read this passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

The Swiss Family Robinson

by Johann David Wyss

This story is told by a father who has been shipwrecked on an island along with his wife and sons, Jack and Fritz, and their pet dogs. They have spent the winter safely in Falconhurst which is the home that they built. The weather has recently improved, and it is time to find out what effect the winter storms have had on their tree house and tents.

The winds at length were lulled, the sun shot his brilliant rays through the clouds, the rain ceased to fall – spring had come. No prisoners set free could have felt more joy than we did as we stepped out from our winter home. We refreshed our eyes with the pleasant greenery around us, and our ears with the merry songs of a thousand happy birds, and drank in the pure air of spring.

Our tree house was our first care: filled with leaves and broken and torn by the wind, it looked indeed dilapidated. We worked hard, and in a few days it was again habitable. I was anxious to visit the tent, for I feared that much of our precious stores might have suffered. The damage done to Falconhurst was nothing compared to the scene that awaited us. The tent was blown to the ground, the canvas torn to rags, and the provisions soaked. We immediately spread the things that we hoped to preserve in the sun to dry.

The irreparable damage we had suffered made me resolve to find some safer and more stable winter-quarters before the arrival of the next rainy season. Fritz proposed that we should hollow out a cave in the rock. The difficulties such a task would present appeared almost insurmountable, yet I was determined to make the attempt. We might not, I thought, cut out a cavern of sufficient size to serve as a room, but we might at least make a cellar for the more valuable and perishable of our stores.

Some days afterwards we left Falconhurst with the cart laden with a cargo of spades, hammers, chisels, pickaxes and crowbars, and began the work. On the smooth face of the rock I drew out in chalk the size of the proposed entrance, and then, with minds bent on success, we battered away.

Six days of hard and incessant toil made little impression; I do not think that the hole would have been a satisfactory shelter for even our smallest dog. But we still did not despair, and were soon rewarded by coming to a softer and more yielding substance; our work progressed, and our minds were relieved.

On the tenth day, as our persevering blows were falling heavily, Jack, who was working hard with a hammer and crowbar, shouted:

'Gone, father! Fritz, my bar has gone through the mountain! It went right through the rock; I heard it crash down inside. Oh, do come and see!'

We sprang to his side, and I thrust the handle of my hammer into the hole. I could turn it in any direction I chose. Fritz handed me a long pole; I tried the depth with that. Nothing could I feel. A thin wall, then, was all that stood between us and a great cavern.

With a shout of joy, we battered vigorously at the rock; piece by piece fell, and soon the hole was large enough for us to enter. Fritz and I enlarged the opening, while Jack, springing on his horse, thundered away to Falconhurst to bear the great and astonishing news to his mother.

He soon returned, quickly followed by the rest of our party in the cart. All were in the highest state of excitement.

Jack had stowed in the cart all the candles he could find, and we now, lighting these, entered. I led the way. Silently we marched – my wife, the boys, and even the dogs seeming overawed with the grandeur and beauty of the scene. We were in a cave of diamonds – a vast chamber of glittering crystal. The candles reflected on the walls a golden light, bright as the stars, while great crystal pillars rose from the floor like mighty trees, mingling their branches which sparkled and glittered with all the colours of the rainbow.

The floor of this magnificent palace was formed of hard, dry sand, so dry that I saw at once that we might safely make our home inside it.

Please answer these questions. (Look at the passage again if you need to.)
You should choose the **best** answer and mark its letter on your answer sheet.

1 **At what time of year is the passage set?**

A winter
B spring
C rainy season
D mid-summer
E autumn

2 **The father compares himself and his family to prisoners set free. Why?** (lines 2–3)

A They had been held hostage by pirates.
B They had been trapped in their cave.
C They had been trapped in their house due to stormy weather.
D They had been caught in heavy rain which had finally stopped.
E They had been unfairly accused of crimes but the accusations had been dropped.

3 **'The winds at length were lulled'** (line 1)

What is another way of saying 'lulled'?

A rhythmic
B weakened
C welcomed
D rocked
E calmed

4 **Why might the author have decided to include water references in the first paragraph?** (lines 1–5)

A The heavy rain had recently stopped.
B Rain was still falling heavily.
C Water makes the setting seem more peaceful.
D The family hadn't had a drink for a long time.
E The family have found themselves on an island surrounded by water.

5 **How many adjectives can you count in the sentence beginning "We refreshed our eyes…"?** (lines 3–5)

A 1
B 2
C 3
D 4
E 5

6 **'in a few days it [the tree-house] was again habitable'** (line 7)

What does this mean?

A The family soon got used to the damage to the tree-house.
B The tree-house was rapidly transformed into a luxury home.
C The family were soon able to live in the tree-house again.
D The tree-house was destroyed again within a few days.
E The tree-house quickly dried out by itself.

7 **Where had the family kept their supplies over the winter?**

A in a cellar
B in their tree-house
C in their tent
D in a cave
E outside, in barrels

8 **How did the family attempt to rescue their supplies?**

A They shook all of the water off them.
B They fetched new materials to mend them.
C They took them to the tree-house instead of the tent.
D They made a fire to dry them out.
E They placed them out in the sun to dry.

9 **The father considered the damage inflicted on their property 'irreparable'.** (line 12) **What does this word suggest he thought about the damage?**

A It would be easy to repair the damage.
B The damage was likely to be repeated.
C The damage could be repaired but it would be difficult.
D It would be impossible to repair all of the damage.
E The father had never seen damage like it before.

10 **What is meant by 'quarters'** (line 13)**?**

A sections
B lodgings
C storerooms
D stables
E beds

11 **What do we know about the climate on the island?**

A The island is protected from heavy winds.
B There is a rainy season.
C The climate is very consistent.
D Despite being warm, there is not much sun.
E It rains all the time.

12 **Based on the passage, what was the main goal of hollowing out a cave in the rock?**

A to provide a look-out point to watch for enemies
B to provide a space for their animals
C to test how much water had got into the rock
D to provide an extra room in case they had visitors
E to provide accommodation for the winter season

13 **If they only managed to carve out a smaller cave, what did the father hope to use it as?**

A a shelter for emergencies
B a house for their dog
C a playroom for the children
D a storage space for supplies
E a shelter for rain showers

14 **How easy did the father think it would be to carve out a cave?**

A very easy
B easy as long as they set their minds to it
C quite difficult, with no guarantee of success
D so difficult it was nearly impossible
E completely impossible

15 **'with minds bent on success'** (lines 20–21)

What does this imply about their attitude to the work?

A They were indifferent as to whether they succeeded.
B They wanted to succeed but struggled to believe they could.
C They were absolutely determined to see it through.
D They were so confident they felt they had already succeeded.
E They worked cautiously because there was a high chance they wouldn't succeed.

16 **'incessant toil'** (line 22)

What does the word 'incessant' say about the work they were doing?

A The work they were doing was very difficult.
B They kept working without a break.
C They worked hard but it was having no effect.
D They worked on and off, taking frequent breaks.
E The work was uninspiring and monotonous.

17 **What would be another word for 'impression' on line 22?**

A impact
B dent
C consequence
D trouble
E achievement

18 **Why did the family feel 'relieved' after they had started their work?** (line 25)

A They knew they couldn't get any further and could stop working.
B They had finally begun to make progress.
C Somebody rewarded them for their six days of work.
D They realised they could fit their dog in the hole.
E They had learned from the experience so it hadn't been a complete waste of time.

19 **What type of word is 'persevering' on line 26?**

A noun
B verb
C adjective
D adverb
E preposition

20 **What type of words are the following? heavily** (line 26)**, hard** (line 27)**, vigorously** (line 33)**, quickly** (line 37)**, safely** (line 46)

A nouns
B verbs
C adjectives
D adverbs
E prepositions

21 **What was the reaction when Jack lost his crowbar?**

A Jack's father was angry because Jack had lost one of their tools.
B Jack was embarrassed because he looked incompetent.
C Jack was excited because of what it implied about the rock.
D Jack and his father were relieved because it meant they could stop work.
E Jack and his father were nervous because they didn't know what to expect.

22 **'we battered vigorously at the rock'** (line 33)

Which of the following words is closest in meaning to 'vigorously'?

A painfully
B rebelliously
C energetically
D carefully
E powerlessly

23 **What did Jack do while Fritz and his father enlarged the opening of the cave?**

A Jack went for a ride on his horse to celebrate the work was over.
B Jack went to inform his mother.
C Jack shouted loudly.
D Jack went to collect more tools.
E Jack had a rest so that he could take over next.

24 **What type of words are the following? resolve** (line 12)**, sprang** (line 30)**, thrust** (line 30)**, enlarged** (line 34)**, thundered** (line 35)

A nouns
B verbs
C adjectives
D adverbs
E prepositions

25 **What was the family's reaction to the cave?**

A They thought it was so beautiful they couldn't possibly make a home inside.
B They were excited but fearful about what was inside.
C They couldn't see much because it was so dark.
D The cave was as they had expected and they immediately felt at-home.
E They were overwhelmed at the dazzling appearance.

26 **What other word is used interchangeably with 'diamonds' in the description of the cave?** (lines 41–44)

A gold
B rainbow
C silver
D stars
E crystal

27 **Inside the cave, 'crystal pillars rose from the floor like mighty trees'** (line 43)

This is an example of…

A a metaphor
B personification
C exaggeration
D a simile
E alliteration

28 **Why was the cave considered suitable as a home?**

A because it resembled the family's previous home
B because it was high and hidden from animals
C because the crystal made it brighter inside
D because the hard, dry sand would protect against damp
E because it was warm inside

Spelling Exercises

In these sentences there are some **spelling** mistakes. On each numbered line there is either **one** mistake or **no** mistake. Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark its letter on your answer sheet. **If there is no mistake, mark N.**

29 The local county's superior players dominated the tennis tornament.



30 I recieved an elaborate invitation to an exclusive party next week.



31 The telephone company persued the customers that did not pay.



32 Oli asked his mum for permision to attend the charity concert.



33 Yulia regretted postponing her annual expedition to Norway.



34 Attendance at the secret meeting was compulsery and critical.



35 Ezra's adorable new puppy was obedient but also enthusiastic and playfull.



36 Sam enjoyed climing mountains and spending time in the countryside.



37 Consistant hard work has contributed to significant improvements.



Hippos

In these sentences there are some **punctuation** mistakes. On each numbered line there is either **one** mistake or **no** mistake. Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark its letter on your answer sheet. **If there is no mistake, mark N.**

38 Mention the word hippo and you will probably think of a cute but robust animal



39 But how accurate is this. Hippos look like they have tough skin when, in fact, their



40 skin is highly sensitive and susceptible to burn in the sun. Hippo sweat even has special



41 properties to protect the skin from the suns harmful rays. The same fluid, red in



42 colour also moisturises and serves as an antibiotic. Imagine using hippo sweat



43 as a cosmetic or a medicine! Its true that hippos are omnivores but don't let yourself



44 be fooled they are not gentle creatures and can be quite dangerous, especially given the



45 speed they can run (up to 30 kilometres per hour. Hippos typically do their



46 running at night whilst hunting for food. During the day, they stay in the water.



In this passage you have to choose the **best** word, or **group of words**, to complete each numbered line so that it makes sense and is written in correct English. Choose the **best** answer and mark its letter on your answer sheet.

Performance Time

Waiting in the wings, the students' nerves soared as they listened to the

47 excitement (A) | excite (B) | exciting (C) | excited (D) | excites (E) whispers from the audience.

48 All of there (A) | they're (B) | their (C) | those (D) | them (E) friends and family had come to see them perform in the end-of-year show.

But what they were about to see was not what you

49 considered (A) | would consider (B) | are considering (C) | considering (D) | wouldn't consider (E) a normal show.

Whilst the curtain was still down, Jamie and Farooq heaved the three boxes into the centre of the stage.

One of the boxes

50 will open (A) | was opened (B) | would open (C) | won't open (D) | had opened (E) slightly so they hastily slammed it shut.

The noise from the audience was getting

51 louder (A) loud (B) loudest (C) increased (D) increasing (E) .

52 "Who has missed (A) misses (B) is missing (C) will miss (D) does miss (E) their goggles?" asked their teacher in an urgent whisper.

Sara rushed forward to grab them and almost tripped on the ropes

53 next to (A) to which (B) onto (C) in between (D) from (E) three of the students were harnessed.

54 As (A) Because (B) Although (C) Before (D) Even as (E) the teacher nodded, the three students rose into the air and the curtain lifted.

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