



AQUINAS COLLEGE OF HIGHER STUDIES – COLOMBO 08
DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH
LEVEL II – READING & VOCABULARY
FEBRUARY 2024

Examination No. : Marks :
N.I.C. No. : Duration : 2 hours

READING

Question No. 01

Fill in the blanks with suitable words. (1x10 = 10marks)

(threat, no, among, remarkable, cover, continuous, the, belief, correct, cope)

Without water 1. _____ animal can survive. In desert regions the greatest 2. _____ to life is drying up. But many creatures are able to make use of 3. _____ little water that exists in arid areas. One of nature's masterpieces 4. _____ creatures equipped to 5. _____ with desert life is the hardy camel. Stories range the desert lands far and wide about 6. _____ endurance feats by camels. It is said that camels can 7. _____ a distance of about 800 miles in eight days through 8. _____ travel without an intake of a single drop of water. The popular 9. _____ the camels store water in the humps is 10. _____ in a way; water is indeed stored there but in the form of fat.

Question No. 02

Cloze Reading - Fill in the blanks with appropriate words from the words given below.

(1/2x20 = 10marks)

(the, and, useful, about, your, experiences, at, popular, of, making, about, famous, you, of, stories, think, which, effectively, shake, success)

We all like listening to 1. _____ and the person who is good 2. _____ at telling stories will always be a 3. _____ member of any company. The art 4. _____ good story-telling covers much more than 5. _____ up fabulous adventures; it includes telling 6. _____ the doings of living people or 7. _____ men and women of the past, 8. _____ your own

travels and adventures and 9. _____, about the books you have read 10. _____ the films you have seen.

Practicing 11. _____ art of story-telling can be very 12. _____ too. It will help you to 13. _____ clearly and logically, to sort out 14. _____ ideas to express yourself clearly and 15. _____, to gain and hold the attention 16. _____ others. It will help you to 17. _____ off shyness and self-consciousness, and give 18. _____ that feeling of freedom 19. _____ is so important to 20. _____ in life.

Question No. 03

(20marks)

A. Read the poem and answer the questions.

(2x8=16marks)

January - By John Updike

The days are short,
The sun a spark,
Hung thin between
The dark and dark.

Fat snowy footsteps
Track the floor,
Milk bottles burst
Outside the door.

The river is
A frozen place
Held still beneath
The trees of lace.

The sky is low.
The wind is gray.
The radiator
Purrs all day.

1. What are the characteristics of the days mentioned in the poem?

-
2. How does the poet describe the sun in January?
.....
3. Describe the weather conditions portrayed in the poem.
.....
4. What happens to the milk bottles in the poem?
.....
5. How does the poet describe the sky and the wind during January?
.....
6. What sound does the radiator make, as mentioned in the poem?
.....
7. List three words that describe the atmosphere created in the poem.
.....
8. What does the poet say about the river?
.....

B. Match A with B.

(1× 4=4marks)

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| i. short | explode |
| ii. gray | gleam |
| iii. burst | dull |
| iv. spark | brief |

Question No. 04

A. Read the different passages and write suitable sub headings for each of the paragraphs selecting from the list given. **(2×5 =10marks)**

(The Significance of Reading as a Fundamental Skill, Expanding Empathy Through Diverse Perspectives, The Richness of Knowledge within Books, Reading: Catalyst for Personal Enrichment, Evolution of Reading in the Digital Era)

1. _____
Reading is a fundamental skill that plays a vital role in our lives. It's not just about deciphering words on a page but about the doors it opens, the knowledge it imparts, and the worlds it allows

us to explore. Reading is an essential tool for learning, expanding our horizons, and fostering imagination.

2.

When we read, we acquire knowledge. Whether it's reading textbooks, newspapers, or online articles, we gain information that helps us understand the world. Books, in particular, are a treasure trove of knowledge. They contain the wisdom of generations, the discoveries of great minds, and the stories of diverse cultures. Reading books can educate us on history, science, literature, and countless other subjects. It's like having a mentor, guiding us through the complexities of life.

3.

Reading also broadens our horizons. It exposes us to different viewpoints, perspectives, and experiences. When we read about characters from various backgrounds or explore far-off lands through the pages of a novel, we step into their shoes and see the world from a different angle. This broadening of perspective fosters empathy and understanding, making us more tolerant and open-minded individuals.

4.

In our modern digital age, reading has taken on new forms. E-books and audio books have made it more accessible and convenient. With just a few clicks or taps, we can access a vast library of literature. However, there's something timeless and intimate about holding a physical book, flipping its pages, and smelling the scent of paper and ink.

5.

In conclusion, reading is not just a hobby; it's a cornerstone of education, personal growth, and cultural enrichment. It empowers us with knowledge, broadens our perspectives, ignites our imagination, and equips us with essential skills. Whether we're reading for pleasure, information, or self-improvement, reading is a journey that enriches our lives and shapes us into more informed, empathetic, and creative individuals.

Answer the following in complete sentences.

(2x10=20marks)

1. What are some ways in which reading contribute to personal growth?

.....

2. Why is reading so essential?

.....

3. What are the advantages of digital reading, as mentioned in the text?

.....

4. Why reading is considered as a cornerstone of education?

.....

5. What aspects of physical books are highlighted in the text?

.....

6. How does reading differ in the digital era compared to traditional methods?

.....

7. What role does reading play beyond being just a hobby?

.....

8. Why is reading referred to as a journey?

.....

9. In what ways does reading shape individuals into more informed and knowledgeable beings?

.....

10. Why do you think reading exposes us to different viewpoints and perspectives?

.....

C. Write a suitable word for each description choosing from the passage. (2x5 =10marks)

1. A particular way of seeing or understanding things -

2. An organized explanation or set of principles -

3. Something extremely large, wide ranging or extensive -

4. Information, skills and education -

5. Gradual development, change or transformation -

VOCABULARY

Question No. 01

(1×10=10marks)

Underline the word with correct spelling.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. biscuit | bicuite | biscut | biscuite |
| 2. colabarate | collabarate | colaborate | collaborate |
| 3. grammer | grammar | gramar | gramer |
| 4. pressure | presure | preasure | preassure |
| 5. foreine | fariegn | forein | foreign |
| 6. spaghetti | spagetti | spagheti | spageti |
| 7. ingridents | ingrediants | ingreedients | ingredients |
| 8. indipensable | indipenseble | indispansible | indispensable |
| 9. survaillance | surveillance | survellance | surveilance |
| 10. skillful | skillfull | skilfull | skilpull |

Question No. 02

(1×10=10marks)

Give the opposites/ antonyms of the following words.

- | | | |
|-------------|---|-------|
| 1. achieve | - | _____ |
| 2. blunt | - | _____ |
| 3. busy | - | _____ |
| 4. crooked | - | _____ |
| 5. aware | - | _____ |
| 6. decrease | - | _____ |
| 7. common | - | _____ |
| 8. comfort | - | _____ |
| 9. arrogant | - | _____ |
| 10. gentle | - | _____ |