

Reading Test 3 - The Lottery

"Have you picked your numbers?" Mum asked Dad, as she rooted around in her handbag for a £10 note for this week's lottery.

"Yep," he said, "same as always - 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and £9 worth of Instants."

I was waiting for Mum to make some comment about Dad's choice of numbers, as she did every week. However, this week she seemed a bit preoccupied.



"We'd better win," she said gloomily. "The red gas bill arrived today, to go with the red phone bill that arrived yesterday."

"Oh," said Dad, unperturbed, "put it with the red electric bill that came the day before."

I scooted up the stairs, back to my room, away from lottery numbers and red bills. If I had stayed downstairs any longer, Mum would have explained to me for the thousandth time what a red bill was: 'If you don't pay the first bill, they send you a red one. If you don't pay the red bill, they cut you off.' I knew the speech off by heart.

I must confess though, it puzzled me that with so many bills mounting up, they wasted £10 every week on the lottery. I had tried to tell them what our maths teacher had said. "The chances of winning the lottery are so small that they should pay you to gamble on it!" But they weren't interested. "We'll win soon," they said.

I punched a few keys on my computer and watched as it flicked instantly into life. I had been designing my own computer game for months now and I was really pleased with the progress. I won't tell you about it though because you might copy my idea!

Anyway, just as I was about to change a complicated bit, Mum called out, "I know you're messing about with your computer as usual, but will you run this down to the newsagent?" She handed me this week's lottery numbers and a £10 note. I didn't need the numbers written down - I knew them off by heart!

I also knew off by heart what the newsagent would say! The newsagent, as always, would grumble, "You're too young. Tell your Mum and Dad to come down themselves. The walk would do your Dad good. He needs the exercise."

But in the end he always took the money, processed the ticket, and handed me nine Instant tickets. It seemed to me that the only thing 'instant' about the ones that Mum and Dad bought was the instant loss of £9!

I went downstairs after the lottery programme had finished and I could tell by the gloomy looks on all the faces in the front room that we were not going to be millionaires this week. Mum, Dad, the dog and even the goldfish seemed affected.

"We could always sell the dog," said Dad, at which Mutt snorted loudly, scratched himself and rolled over. "Perhaps not," said Dad "no-one would buy him."

"Mum, Dad," I said, "can I speak to you?"

"Of course," said Mum, surprised at the formal approach.

"Well," I said, "it seems to me that you spend £10 on the lottery each week, which costs you £520 a year."

Dad looked at Mum sheepishly, and I continued, "And, of course, you never win anything, so it's money down the drain. So instead of wasting this money, why don't you give the £10 to me so that I can start posting my computer game off to manufacturers to see if they want to buy it?"

Mum looked aghast.

"And not do the lottery?" she cried in disbelief. "What if our numbers came up and we hadn't got a ticket? That would be disastrous!"

Dad's mouth was also open, ready with his objections, but fortunately Mutt was rooting around in the rubbish bin and this distracted Dad, making him forget what his objections were.

"At least with my game we have a chance," I protested. "The lottery is no chance at all."

"He's got a point there," said Dad.

The following week, Mum and Dad were beginning to regret their decision to let me have the £10.

"No point watching," said Dad, mournfully.

"I'll kill him," said Mum, matter-of-factly, "if our numbers come up."

The first five packages had been sent off that Monday, but by Saturday I still hadn't received a reply.

"I suppose they got there," said Dad, flicking through the TV channels.

"Even if they got there, they might not like the game," said Mum with conviction. Mutt trotted past the living room carrying something in his teeth.

"What's Mutt got in his mouth?" asked Dad warily.

"What's he eating now?" asked Mum.

"It's an envelope," I said.

"Give it here, Mutt," I cried; but Mutt, who can be obstinate sometimes, began chewing furiously.

Dashing to the kitchen, I returned with a juicy piece of chicken. There wasn't a lot Mutt wouldn't do for chicken.

"Hold on," said Dad, "that's a bit extreme, that's tonight's dinner."

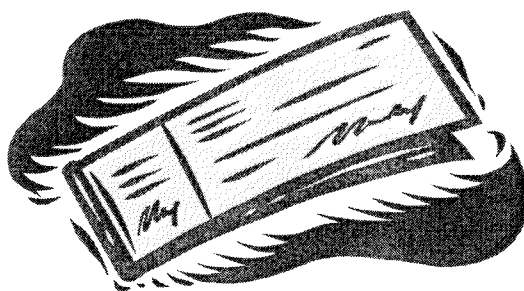
Mutt sniffed and was deciding whether there was time to eat both snacks when I reached down and grabbed the letter.

Mutt looked disgusted as the letter was snatched away from him, but was soon slurping happily at the chicken.

"The letter!" I shouted. "It's addressed to me!"

As I opened the envelope a cheque for £1,000 fell out. As I began to read 'Dear Bruce. Please find enclosed a cheque for £1,000...' the lottery came on the TV.

"Turn that rubbish off," said Dad, excitedly.



Reading Test Questions 3 - The Lottery

1. Bruce's parents always spent...

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| More money than they had | £10 per week on the lottery | Too much money on bills | A lot of money on Bruce |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|

1 mark

2. They really needed to win some money because...

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| They hadn't won anything for ages | They had chosen really good numbers | They had a lot of bills | £10 was a lot to spend every week and not win |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|

1 mark

3. Bruce suggests that instead of spending the money every week on the lottery they should...

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Invest in his computer game | Save for a holiday | Pay all their bills | Buy him a new computer game |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|

1 mark

4. His parents invest the £10 on him one week and Bruce waits for a letter from the Computer Company. When it arrives Mutt gets hold of it. He...

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Has chewed it so it can't be read | Had to be distracted by some chicken | Has buried it in the garden | Will only swap it for a bone |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|

1 mark

5. When the letter says that the Computer Company are buying Bruce's game, his parents...

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Want some of the money | Still put £10 on next week's lottery | Are proud of Bruce | Lose interest in the lottery |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|

1 mark

6. a) What comment do you think Mum would have made about Dad's choice of lottery numbers?

1 mark

6. b) Circle the lottery numbers chosen by Dad.

Lottery Ticket								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
		46	47	48	49			

1 mark

7. a) Why was Mum too preoccupied to pay attention to Dad's choice of numbers?

1 mark

7. b) What would have happened if Bruce's parents had not paid their 'red' bills?

1 mark

8. What evidence suggests that Bruce's dad was not keen on physical activity?

1 mark

9. What law was broken in the story?

1 mark

10. Why did Dad look at Mum 'sheepishly' when Bruce calculated the annual amount that they spent on the lottery?

1 mark

11. a) Why did Bruce ask his parents for £10?

1 mark

11. b) Why didn't his dad raise any objections to giving him the £10?

1 mark

12. How did Bruce's parents' attitude to the lottery change during the course of the story?

2 marks

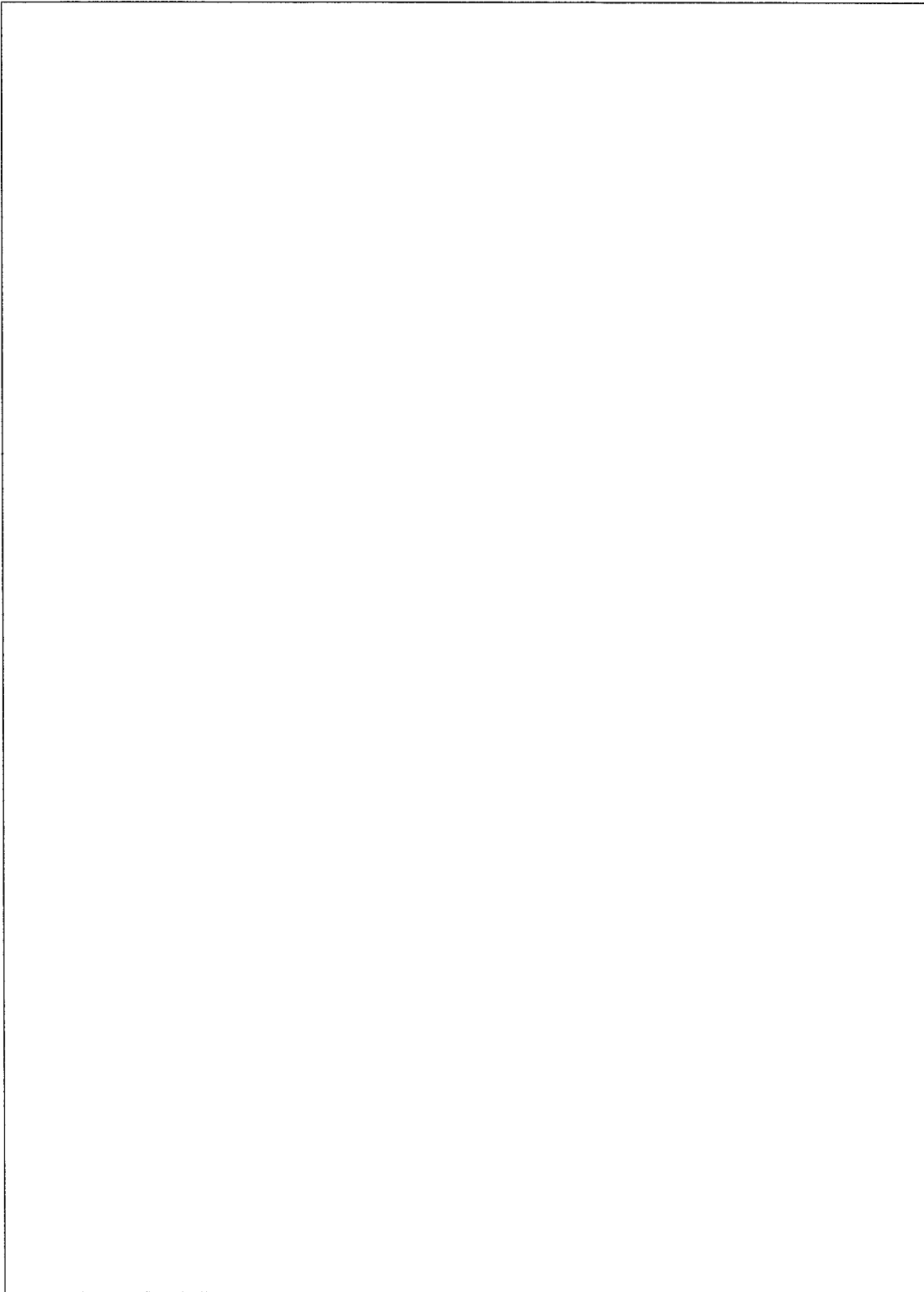
13. Why do you think Bruce's mum and dad hadn't won on the lottery before?

2 marks

14. What makes you think that Bruce's parents were spending too much money on the lottery and had always done so?

2 marks

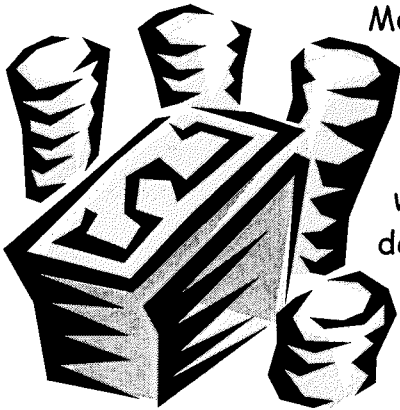
15. What do you think was contained in the letter that Bruce received from the Computer Company? Write the whole letter out, using the story to help you. Remember, the letter is a formal reply from a company.



4 marks

Maximum
24 marks

Reading Test Extra - Money, Money, Money



Money is a necessity of life. Throughout history, money has been a very important possession. It has been fought over, forged and hoarded. It has been the centre of attention for thousands of years, although not necessarily in a form we would recognise. Before notes, coins, credit cards and debit cards were invented, stones, beads and shells were used as money.

Money is the accepted medium of trade between people the world over; you hand it over and you receive goods or services in return. Today, money almost universally takes the form of notes, coins and cards, but it didn't always take this form.

As already mentioned, money was a medium of trade. If you wanted to purchase something, it had to be bought with the accepted currency of the time. Although coins made of gold, silver and copper were made as early as 600 BC in Turkey, there have been many different varieties of 'money'.

Different Forms of Money Through the Ages

Feathers

On the Pacific Island of Santa Cruz, the islanders paid each other with feathers. Tiny red feathers were glued on to coils of vegetable fibre that were sometimes nine metres in length; the brighter the feathers, the more valuable the coil. They were used as payments in marriage ceremonies or to buy ocean-going canoes.

Leaves

In Virginia and Maryland, USA, tobacco leaves were used as payment in the 17th and 18th Centuries.

Salt

As late as 1920, Ethiopians traded bars of salt, which were bound with reeds to prevent them breaking.

Cattle

In Eastern Africa, herds of cattle are still symbols of wealth and status today.

Chocolate

When the Spanish Conquistadors arrived in Mexico, the Aztecs and Incas traded in cacao beans - despite having all that gold! In Italy in the 1970s, sweets were given as small change when coins were in short supply!



Stones

Centuries ago, on the Pacific Island of Yap, stones were used for money. They were carved into 'wheels' with a hole running through the centre, but you would have to have been extremely strong to be rich - the larger stone 'coins' were as much as four metres across!

Cigarettes, Food and Clothes

After the Second World War, a wide variety of items were used in place of money, due to the shortage of notes and coins all over Europe. You could pay your bills with cigarettes, food (especially chocolate) and even clothes - these items were in such short supply that they could be traded like money!

Developing a Common Currency

As people began to travel further and more often, meeting other cultures, it became necessary to have a commonly recognised currency for trade. Substances such as gold, silver, brass and copper, which could be weighed for value and pressed into shape, began to be used more widely.

At first, all kinds of shapes were used; squares and rectangles, hoes (a kind of small spade), knives and even dolphins. However, eventually coin shapes became smaller and rounded. These were easier to handle, but even this system had its problems.

Noted

In 10th Century China, the Government issued heavy iron coins that had very little value. To pay for goods, the ancient Chinese had to haul enormous amounts of coins about. One thousand of these coins had a mass of about 3.5 kilos (7.7lbs). It was rather too much for the Chinese, so they quickly devised a solution - paper money!

Originally they would leave their money with a merchant, who would give them a written receipt for it. By the 11th Century, the Government took over the issuing of receipts and they simplified the system by printing notes with fixed values.

Fakes

Forgery - the art of making fake money - is an ancient practice; wherever there was real money, forgers quickly made fake money that looked the same.

Forgers took huge risks in committing this crime, as they were subject to cruel punishments, including execution, but they obviously decided that the risks were worth taking as the rewards were so great.

Evidence of their work has been found by archaeologists, proving that they were always busy; examples include 'gold' coins that are, in fact, only copper with a gold plating, 'silver' coins that were actually tin and hand-drawn fake notes.

Plans for the Future

In the future we may not have to worry about forgeries or carrying money about with us. Researchers are trying to develop a credit card that is a minicomputer as well. All our spending could be done by card. People already use credit and debit cards as a replacement for cash. We use less cash than we used to and credit cards have the advantage over cash in that they let you pay for something even when you haven't got the money! You pay the Credit Card Company back at a later date. Credit cards are also safer than cash. If you want to buy an expensive item, it is safer to pay by card than carry a lot of cash around with you.

An idea for the future is to insert a microchip under your skin which contains all your financial details. Instead of your shopping getting passed over the scanner at the checkout, the assistant would have to scan you!



Reading Test Extra - Questions - Money, Money, Money

1. How is money described that emphasises how crucial it is? (Page 4)

1 mark

2. To what lengths have people gone to gain/keep money?

1 mark

3. What form did money take before notes, coins, credit and debit cards?

1 mark

4. Money is described as a 'medium of trade' (Page 4) What does the word 'medium' mean in this phrase?

2 marks

5. Why were such unusual types of 'money' used in the past?

2 marks

6. Give two reasons why people traded with food and clothes after the Second World War?

2 marks

7. In which two countries would you have needed to have been very strong to be wealthy?

2 marks

8. Name two food products that we eat today that were once used as money.

1 mark

9. a) How has money changed for us in the late 20th and early 21st Centuries?

1 mark

9. b) What 2 advantages have credit cards over cash?

2 marks

10. What do you think would be a good alternative title for the article 'Money, Money, Money'?

Money is the
Root of All Evil

How money
has changed
over time

Banking Today

The Future of
Money

1 mark

11. What evidence is there that money was forged in the past?

2 marks

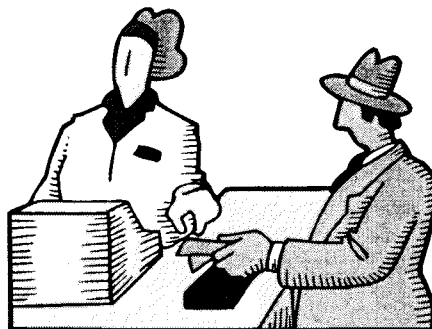
12. Why has the information about the different forms of money through the ages such as feathers, leaves and salt got their own sub-headings?

1 mark

13. Fill in the details missing from the table below. The first one has been done for you.

Date	Type of money	Where used
600 BC	Coins of gold, silver and copper	Turkey
		Maryland/Virginia USA
	Salt bars	
	Cigarettes, food, clothes	
		Italy
2001		

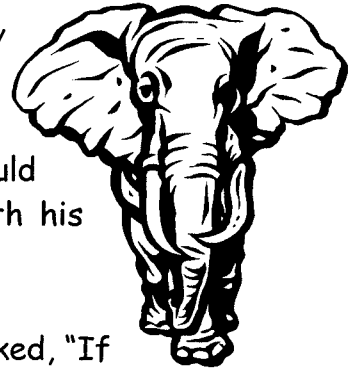
5 marks



Maximum
24 marks

Reading Test 4 - The Boot Sale

Aaron and Sean were best mates. They didn't know how they became best mates but they were. It might, thought Sean, have had something to do with the fact that the other boys at school poked fun at both of them. You see, Aaron had ears that would make an African elephant jealous and Sean had a problem with his knee that made him walk with a limp.



One day they were sitting on a park bench talking when Aaron asked, "If you had one wish, what would you wish for?"

"That's easy," replied Sean. "I would like my leg to get better so that I didn't have a limp, and then I could play football."

"I'd wish for smaller ears that didn't stick out," said Aaron, with a sigh.

Just then, a gang of boys went by on their micro-scooters.

"Hey Aaron," one of them yelled, "don't stay out in this wind too long; with ears like that you'll take off like a glider!"

"Yes," said Aaron, watching them scoot into the distance, laughing, "I would definitely wish for smaller ears."

Aaron liked Sundays at home because everyone went out and he had the place to himself. His mum was known as the 'Boot Sale Bandit' because she loved boot sales so much. Aaron did his best to avoid them, but his mum went every Sunday, whatever the weather.

"You never know what bargains you might get," she'd say, as she packed her pockets with old carrier bags ready for her assault on the latest boot sale. Aaron thought you could substitute 'rubbish' for 'bargains' and you wouldn't be far wrong.

The doorbell would ring and Aaron knew it would be Mum returning fully laden, with her carrier bags bulging. She would have so many bags that she wouldn't be able to reach into her pocket for the door key. Aaron would rush to open the door and let her in.

"What a fantastic boot sale!" she would cry, when she got her breath back. "Bargains galore!"

"So I can see."

"Now, Aaron," Mum would say, "don't use that tone of voice."

Aaron would settle back in his chair for the next instalment, with a glazed expression on his face. Mum would proceed to unpack every item and explain what it was, how much the stallholder wanted, how much she offered and how much she eventually paid. It was the same every Sunday, and Aaron would often drift into his own world after the first ten items.

But this Sunday was to prove different...

"And this," said his mum, triumphantly, "is my favourite purchase of the week."

With a flourish she held out a brass lamp.

"I'll bet that's Aladdin's lamp," muttered Aaron.

"Aaron! I've told you about taking that tone with me."

"But," said Aaron, trying to mollify his mother, "it *does* look like Aladdin's lamp."

"And how would you know what Aladdin's lamp looks like?" she asked.

"I saw it in a pantomime at Christmas."

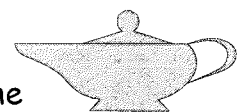
Mum seemed satisfied with that and suddenly decided that Aaron should have the lamp for his bedroom. Later, Aaron was in his room looking at the lamp and wondering why he had made his mum think that he liked the hideous object.

"Well," he decided, "if it *is* Aladdin's lamp, I'd better give it a rub."

He started to rub the lamp but nothing happened. He gave it a shake and a small spider crawled out and dropped to the floor.

'Hmmm...' he thought, and began to rub again.

This time, as he rubbed the lamp he began to sense a burning smell coming from it, and smoke gradually started to pour out from under the lid. Aaron dropped the lamp, startled. As it hit the floor, he heard a yelp and found himself face to face with a man in instantly recognisable clothes. He was rubbing his head vigorously and looked very irritated.



"I am the genie of the lamp," he announced grandly, "although if you have an ounce of intelligence *that* should be obvious!"

"Shhh," said Aaron, "Mum will recognise that tone of voice a mile away."

"That," boomed the genie, "is your problem. I am required to tell you that since you have ill-treated me and my home, you are not entitled to the full quota of three wishes, you are allowed only one."



"Wowee!" screamed Aaron. "My dream come true!" Aaron touched his enormous ears for the last time. This would be great. He thought of a quote from a film he had seen last week; 'So long, suckers, you're going to be history.'

"What is your wish?" asked the genie.

"I wish," cried Aaron, "that my ears were a size to fit my face!"

"Good idea," muttered the genie. "If I had ears like those, I would wish for exactly the same thing."

The genie started to wave his arm.

"Stop!"

The genie was startled into stopping his magic spell.

"I've changed my mind! I wish my best friend Sean didn't have a bad leg and that he could play football."

"Are you sure?" asked the genie. "What about your ears?"

"I'm positive. Help my friend instead."

The genie waved his arm and with a blinding flash he was gone.

Aaron was left in a smoke-filled room with his hands covering his still-big ears. As the smoke cleared, Aaron heard his mum calling from downstairs saying that Sean was on the phone. Aaron smiled to himself, ran down to the phone and was greeted by Sean's excited voice.

"You'll never guess what's happened...!"

Reading Test Questions 4 - The Boot Sale

1. At the start of the story Aaron and Sean discuss their wishes. Sean wishes for...

A new football	To be captain of the football team	His leg to get better so he can play football	Aaron to have his wish come true
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1 mark

2. This week Aaron's mum returns from a boot sale with...

Some bargains	Things Aaron really liked	A brass lamp	A pantomime ticket
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1 mark

3. When Aaron first rubs the lamp he drops it. As a result...

The smoke stops pouring out	The genie laughs at him	The genie gives him 3 wishes	The genie will only give him 1 wish
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1 mark

4. Aaron is about to make his wish. It is for...

A smaller nose to fit his face	Long hair so that his ears won't show	Ears that fit his face	His leg to get better
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1 mark

5. But at the last minute Aaron changes his mind and decides to wish instead that Sean's leg gets better and he can play football. You realise the wish has come true when...

Sean arrives at the house in his football kit	The room fills with smoke	Aaron's ears are the same size	The phone rings and it is Sean. He is very excited
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1 mark

6. Why did Aaron always have to open the door for his mum?

1 mark

7. a) Aaron usually watched his mum unpack her boot sale bargains with a 'glazed expression' (Page 2). What does that phrase mean?

1 mark

7. b) What other evidence from the same paragraph also shows Aaron's reaction to his mum's bargains?

1 mark

8. Events from the story 'The Boot Sale' are listed below. Number each event to show the order in which they happen. The first one has been done for you.

	The genie appears
1	Aaron and Sean discuss their wishes
	Mum gives Aaron the lamp
	Sean phones Aaron
	Aaron's mum returns from the boot sale

2 marks

9. Why were the clothes of the genie 'instantly recognisable'?

1 mark

10. What mood was the genie in when he first appeared?

1 mark

11. Why did Aaron only receive one wish?

1 mark

12. Why do you think Aaron decided to change his wish?

2 marks

13. Put a tick or a cross next to the phrases below to show what did and what did not happen in the story.

	Aaron's mum stayed in on Sundays
	Other boys poked fun at Sean and Aaron
	Sean enjoyed playing football
	Aaron was bored by his mum's boot sale bargains
	The genie rubbed his ear vigorously
	Aaron thought the lamp looked hideous
	Mum came home without buying anything
	Aaron's dreams came true
	Sean phoned Aaron
	The genie interrupted his magic spell

5 marks

14. At the start of the story Aaron has no interest in what his mum buys at boot sales. Do you think he changes his mind after she bought the lamp? Why?

1 mark

15. When Aaron's mum finds out about the lamp, the genie and Sean's leg, what effect do you think it will have on her going to future boot sales?

1 mark

16. The story ends as Sean rings Aaron on the phone. Write down the conversation that you think took place between them.

3 marks

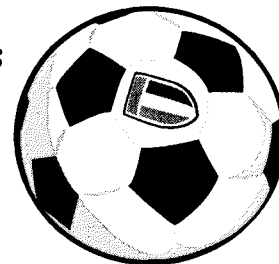
Maximum
25 marks

Reading Test Extra - Sports

Football

Football had been played in England from the 12th Century. There was no limit on the number of players and so few rules that the game became too rough to play, and often games ended in fights.

It became such a rowdy sport that it had to be banned from London streets in 1314.



Another 500 years passed before football began to be played again. This time in public schools. Once this happened rules had to be drawn up for the game. Problems arose because there were different rules in different schools and arguments developed when boys went on to university. It was difficult for boys from all the different schools to play together as they were all used to playing with different sets of rules. Cambridge University therefore decided to issue rules for an 11-a-side game in 1863. These new rules led to proper team games, which led, in turn, to the development of the professional teams we have today, where people are paid to play.

Rugby

In 1823, a boy at Rugby School, a famous public school, ignored the rules of football and picked up the ball and ran with it. This began a new game called Rugby which was named after the school. In this game the ball is handled as well as kicked.



Today, like football, rugby is played around the world by both men and women.

Ancient Sport

Sport was important in Ancient Greece, as it was not only a form of entertainment but also a way of training to keep men fit and healthy for fighting. It was very competitive. The oldest and most famous sporting event that started in Ancient Greece is the Olympic Games.

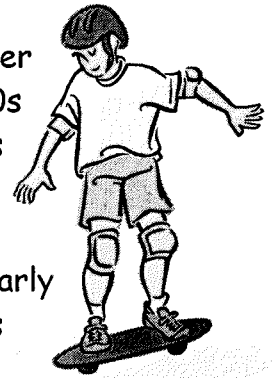
At that time a truce was called for the five days of the games so that athletes who wanted to compete could travel safely to the games through states that normally would have been at war.

The first Olympic Games were held in 776 BC. As well as running events and gymnastics, there were musical and literary competitions.

The ancient Olympic Games ended in AD 395 and didn't start again until 1896. The modern games are a worldwide event, and the next competition is to be held in Athens in 2004.

Modern Sports

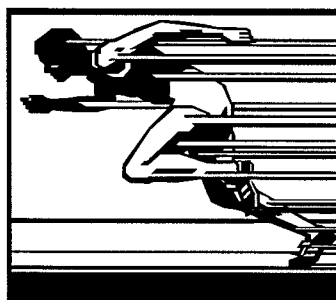
Some modern sports were actually invented a long time ago; roller skates were invented in 1760, and skateboarding began in the 1930s when surfers built boards with wheels to try out surfing techniques on land.



Technology has made a tremendous difference to sport. In early sports, the only concern was whether you won! However, today's athletes and swimmers can measure how long it takes them to run or swim, and then compete against their own or other competitor's best times in order to improve. Consequently, even if they are swimming or running on their own, they are still in competition against themselves or others.

It was the invention of the stopwatch, in the mid-19th Century, that meant that athletes or swimmers or anyone in competitive sport could race against the clock for the first time. Therefore, when other athletes' times were published, you could run in a local field but also be able to test yourself against other runners in the world. Computerised timers are now used that are accurate to about one millisecond (one-thousandth of a second).

The results of some races are decided by computerised technology. Important race starts are also linked to computers - both the gun that starts the race and the starting blocks that the athletes' feet rest on at the starting line are linked by computer. If a runner jumps the gun, in other words starts racing before the gun goes off, the race has to be stopped and started again. This is called a false start. False starts can occur naturally as the result of nervous tension before the race. Occasionally they are deliberate. Some athletes will deliberately cause a false start to distract the other competitors.



Reading Test Extra - Questions - Sports

1. The text 'Sports' is divided into...

Four sports	Four sentences	Four sub-sections	Four paragraphs
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1 mark

2. Why was football banned in 1314?

1 mark

3. a) In which century was football first played in England?

1 mark

3. b) In which century did football gain proper teams and rules?

1 mark

4. Why was it important to have a set of rules for football?

2 marks

5. What does the term 'professional' mean, when applied to sport?

1 mark

6. How did the game of rugby get its name?

1 mark

7. The section 'Ancient Sport' tells you about...

Old sportsmen and women	The Olympic Games	What comes next	Fighting
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1 mark

8. Write down two reasons why sport was important in Ancient Greece

1 mark

9. Why was a truce called for the five days of the Olympic Games?

1 mark

10. Name two sports that were part of the earliest Olympic Games.

1 mark

11. What other competitions used to take place in the early Olympic Games?

1 mark

12. Why do you think surfers 'invented' skateboarding?

1 mark

13. What was invented in the mid-19th Century that changed the nature of competition in sport?

1 mark

14. What does it mean to 'race against the clock'?

2 marks

15. a) What does the term 'jump the gun' mean?

1 mark

15. b) What is the correct term in sport for 'jumping the gun'?

1 mark

16. Why is it as important to have computerised technology for the start of races as it is for the finish?

2 marks

17. In some races, you are only allowed 2 or 3 false starts. Any more than this and you would be disqualified. Why do you think this is?

2 marks

Maximum
23 marks