

**End of Primary Benchmark
2016**

Second Session

English Reading Comprehension

30 marks

50 minutes

Read the following schedule carefully and answer the questions below.

After-school Activities

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Swimming	Basketball	Choir Practice	Swimming	Public Library
Drama	Dance	Judo	Piano Lessons	Violin Lessons
Hockey	Art Lessons	Scouts	Athletics	Football

1. Underline the correct answer.

3 marks

- (a) Paul plays football on (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday).
- (b) Maria learns how to play the piano every (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday).
- (c) Carla and Joe go to art lessons every (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday).
- (d) Maria and Matthew play basketball every (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday).
- (e) Victor enjoys going to scouts with his friends every (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday).
- (f) Tania can return the book she borrowed on (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday).

Read the following timetable carefully and answer the questions below.

School Timetable

Time	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8.30 – 9.00	Maths	Maltese	English	Music	French
9.00 – 9.30	Religion	Maths	French	Music	Italian
9.30 – 10.00	English	English	Maths	Religion	Maltese
10.00 – 10.30	MID-MORNING BREAK				
10.30 – 11.00	Social Studies	Library	Social Studies	I.T.	Social Studies
11.00 – 11.30	P.E.	Library	Italian	Maths	English
11.30 – 12.00	Italian	Drama	Maltese	P.E.	Maths
12.00 – 12.30	MID-DAY BREAK				
12.30 – 13.15	Science	Drama	Religion	English	Art
13.15 – 14.00	Maltese	French	Science	Science	Art

2. True (T), False (F) or No Information Given (NIG)

Read the following sentences and tick (✓) the correct box.

3 marks

- (a) Art is a double lesson on Friday.
- (b) The school canteen is open during both breaks.
- (c) Maltese text books will be needed every day.
- (d) Mid-day break is between 10.00 and 10.30.
- (e) Assembly is held at 8.20 every Monday.
- (f) The students have P.E. lessons twice a week.

	T	F	NIG
(a)			
(b)			
(c)			
(d)			
(e)			
(f)			

Read the following text which is divided into two sections. Then answer the questions that follow each section.

Section 1

Dizzry came home with Harriet for the birthday tea. The cake was made in the shape of a penguin with blackcurrant icing and an orange beak, and Harriet's presents included an electronic guitar, a little pocket calculator, and from Harriet's aunt, a tube of **everlasting** toothpaste. Harriet was not impressed by this last present; the thought of toothpaste supplied for the rest of her life did not excite her.



'I'd rather have an endless supply of sweets,' she said crossly. 'Probably I won't have any teeth left by the time I'm ninety; what use will toothpaste be then?'

Her presents from Dizzry were by far the nicest: a pink necklace made of berries and a bird whom Dizzry had trained to take messages, answer the telephone and carry home small quantities of shopping.

'Now,' said Mrs Armitage looking rather anxious, 'I'd better show Harriet the Closed Room.'

Harriet and Mrs Armitage went up to the top floor and Mrs Armitage paused before a door covered in cobwebs and pulled a rusty key out of her pocket.



'Now you must say, 'I, Harriet Armitage, solemnly swear not to **reveal** the secret of this room to any other soul in the world.'

'But when I grow up and have a daughter,' objected Harriet, 'won't I have to tell her, just as Granny told you and you're telling me?'

'Well, yes, I suppose so,' Mrs Armitage said uncertainly. 'I've rather forgotten how the promise went, to tell you the truth.'

'Why do we have to promise not to tell?' asked Harriet.

'To be honest, I haven't the faintest idea,' replied Mrs Armitage.

'Let's skip that bit - there doesn't seem much point to it - and just go in,' Harriet suggested. So they opened the door and went in.

Questions on Section 1

(9 marks)

1. Why did Dizzry go home with Harriet? 1 mark

2. Underline the correct answer. ½ mark

‘... a tube of **everlasting** toothpaste’

The word **everlasting** means (soon, never, already) coming to an end.

3. What **TWO** presents did Dizzry give Harriet? 1 mark

(a) _____ (b) _____

4. Where did Mrs Armitage want to take Harriet? 1 mark

5. Underline the correct answer. ½ mark

‘I, Harriet Armitage, solemnly swear not to **reveal** the secret ...’

The word **reveal** in this sentence means the same as (remember, forget, tell).

6. Underline the correct answer. 2 marks

(a) Mrs Armitage told Harriet about the promise (before, long before, as soon as) she took the key out of her pocket.

(b) Mrs Armitage (had forgotten, knew, didn’t know) the reason for making the promise.

7. True (T), False (F), or No Information Given (NIG).

Read the following sentences and tick (✓) the correct box.

3 marks

	T	F	NIG
(a) Harriet got a toy penguin as a present.			
(b) The tube of toothpaste was Harriet’s least favourite present.			
(c) Harriet liked eating sweets.			
(d) Harriet and Mrs Armitage went up ninety steps to the top floor.			
(e) The door of the Closed Room was opened regularly.			
(f) Mrs Armitage opened the door as soon as they got upstairs.			

Section 2

The room was dim, lit only by four glass tiles in the roof; it was quite empty except for a small dusty machine made of wood with a stool to match.

‘It’s a machine. For weaving hair,’ said Mrs Armitage.

‘Who wants to weave hair? What can you make?’ asked Harriet.

‘I suppose you can make a mat. You must only use hair that’s never been cut since birth,’ answered Mrs Armitage.

‘Haven’t you tried?’ asked Harriet.

‘Oh my dear, I never seemed to get a chance,’ replied Mrs Armitage. ‘When I was your age and Granny first showed me the machine, everyone wore their hair short; you couldn’t get a bit long enough to weave. And then you children came along – somehow I never found time.’

‘Well I jolly well shall,’ Harriet said. ‘I’ll try and get hold of some hair. I wonder if Miss Pring would let me have hers? I bet it’s never been cut – she must have metres.’

She was so taken up with the idea that only as they went downstairs did she think to **enquire** about the way the machine had come into the family.

‘I’m not sure about that,’ Mrs Armitage admitted. ‘I believe it belonged to a relative a long time ago.’

Without paying much attention, Harriet went off to find Mark and Dizzry. Her father said they were at the shop; so she followed, pausing at the chemist’s to ask the elderly Miss Pring if she would sell her hair to be woven into a rug.

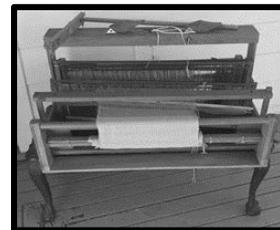
‘It would look pretty,’ Harriet urged. ‘I could dye some of it pink or blue.’

Miss Pring was appalled.

‘Sell my hair? Cut it off? The idea! Dye it! What cheek! Get along with you, you naughty child!’ exclaimed Miss Pring.

So Harriet was forced to abandon the idea; nonetheless, she stuck up a card in the shop window when she joined Mark and Dizzry: HUMAN HAIR REQUIRED, BEST PRICES PAID.

(Adapted from *Harriet’s Hairloom* by Joan Aiken)



Questions on Section 2

(11 marks)

8. What was the machine found in the room used for? 1 mark

9. What did Mrs Armitage suggest Harriet could make when she used the machine? 1 mark

10. Give **TWO** reasons why Mrs Armitage had never made use of the machine. 2 marks

(a) _____

(b) _____

11. Why did Harriet decide to ask Miss Pring for her hair? 1 mark

12. ‘... only as they went downstairs did she think to **enquire** about the way the machine had come into the family.’

Write **a word or phrase** which means the same as **enquire**. 1 mark

13. What **TWO** things did Harriet say to convince Miss Pring to sell her hair? 1 mark

(a) _____

(b) _____

14. How can we tell that Harriet was going to keep trying to buy human hair? 1 mark

15. True (T), False (F), or No Information Given (NIG)

Read the following sentences and tick (✓) the correct box.

3 marks

	T	F	NIG
(a) The room was not well-lit when Harriet and Mrs Armitage walked in.			
(b) The room was packed with furniture.			
(c) Any hair could be used for weaving, according to Mrs Armitage.			
(d) Mrs Armitage was 12 years old when she first saw the machine.			
(e) Mrs Armitage was certain that the machine belonged to a relative.			
(f) Miss Pring was shocked at the idea of selling her hair.			

Questions on the two sections

(4 marks)

16. Underline the correct answer.

2 marks

- (a) Mrs Armitage was (nervous, sure, excited) about taking Harriet up to the Closed Room.
- (b) Harriet got (into, down to, out of) making the promise before she entered the Closed Room.

17. Underline the correct answer. Then complete the sentence.

2 marks

This passage is taken from a (craft, story, science) book.

I can tell because _____

END OF READING COMPREHENSION PAPER