

**End of Primary Benchmark  
2018**

**English Reading Comprehension**

**30 marks  
50 minutes**

You are interested in buying one of the following passes to be able to visit top attractions in Malta and Gozo.

Read the advertisements for these passes below.



Sensational value on 12 months of FUN

**€139 per person**

- ✓ 12 months' entry to several attractions
- ✓ Visit any time without restrictions
- ✓ Extra hours at three attractions
- ✓ Farewell gift pack at all attractions
- ✓ Available online
- ✓ Great shop and photo discounts
- ✗ Special events at no charge
- ✗ Complimentary parking
- ✗ Priority entry to all attractions



The ultimate pass with NO restrictions

**€179 per person**

- ✓ 12 months' entry to several attractions
- ✓ Visit any time without restrictions
- ✓ Extra hours at three attractions
- ✓ Farewell gift pack at all attractions
- ✓ Available online
- ✓ Great shop and photo discounts
- ✓ Special events at no charge
- ✓ Complimentary parking
- ✓ Priority entry to all attractions

✓ Included in the pass

✗ Not included in the pass

(Adapted from *Merlin Annual Passes*)

1. Underline the correct answer.

3 marks

- (a) The passes on sale can be used for (a week, a month, a year).
- (b) The Standard Pass is (more expensive than, less expensive than, as expensive as) the Premium Pass.
- (c) Both passes include entry to (a couple of, a few, many) attractions.
- (d) You get a free gift when you (leave, book, arrive at) the attractions.
- (e) The Premium Pass offers (free, discounted, limited) entrance to special events.
- (f) With the Premium Pass, you will be able to enter all attractions (after, before, at the same time as) other visitors.

2. 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 price of each pass is for two persons.			
(b) Children must be over one metre tall to enter the attractions.			
(c) The Standard Pass gives you extra hours at four attractions.			
(d) The passes cannot be bought online.			
(e) Both passes have photo discounts on offer.			
(f) Parking is free with the Premium Pass.			

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

### Section 1

Omri got dressed but he could hardly control his **fumbling** fingers enough to do up buttons and tie his shoe-laces. He'd thought he was excited yesterday, on his birthday, but it was nothing compared to how he felt now.



He was dying to open the cupboard door and have another look at the toy Indian, a gift Patrick had given him, but the landing outside his bedroom door was like a railway station in the morning – parents and brothers passing continually and if he were to close his door for a moment, somebody would be sure to burst in.

He'd nip up after breakfast and have a look when he was supposed to be in the bathroom brushing his teeth... However, it didn't work out. There was a **row** in the kitchen at breakfast because Adiel took the last of the cornflakes, the other two attacked Adiel and made such a fuss that their mother lost her temper, and the result was nobody got to brush their teeth.

All three of them were bundled out of the house at the last minute – Omri even forgot to take his swimming things although it was Thursday, the day his class went to the pool. He was so annoyed when he remembered (halfway to school, too late to go back) that he turned on Adiel and shouted, “You made me forget my swimming stuff!” and bashed him. That led to them all being late for school, and arriving in a very grubby condition.

All this actually pushed the toy Indian right out of Omri's mind. But the minute he set eyes on Patrick, he remembered. And not for one single second for the rest of the day was that Indian out of Omri's thoughts.

### Questions on Section 1

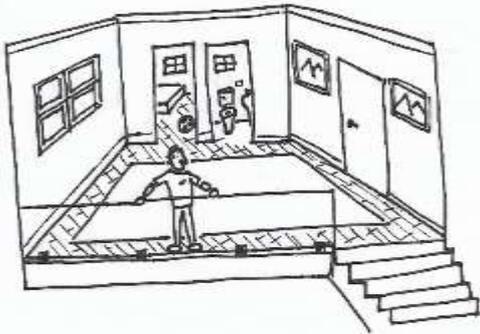
(9 marks)

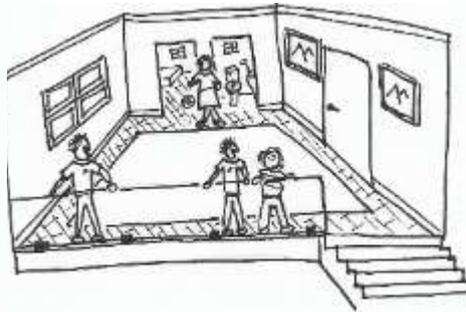
1. What did Omri celebrate the day before?

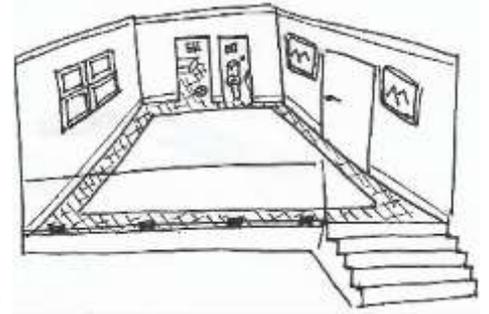
1 mark

2. Underline the correct answer. “...he could hardly control his **fumbling** fingers...”  
 The word **fumbling** means (steady, elegant, clumsy). ½ mark

3. Tick (✓) the box under the picture which matches the description of the landing outside Omri’s bedroom that morning. 1 mark








4. Which **two** rooms in Omri’s house are mentioned? 1 mark

5. What was Omri planning to do immediately after breakfast? 1 mark

6. Underline the correct answer. 1½ marks

- (a) “There was a **row** in the kitchen.” The word **row** means (noise, quarrel, chat).
- (b) The boys left the house in (a great, no, a slight) hurry.
- (c) Omri remembered the toy Indian when he (spoke to, called, saw) Patrick at school.

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) Omri was more excited yesterday.			
(b) Mother was with the boys at breakfast.			
(c) The boys all brushed their teeth that morning.			
(d) Omri realised he had left his swimming things behind when he got to school.			
(e) At school, Omri got into trouble for being late.			
(f) The boys arrived at school looking dirty.			

## Section 2

You may imagine the temptation to tell Patrick what had happened. Several times, at school, Omri very nearly did tell him, and he couldn't help dropping a number of hints.

"Your present was the best thing I got."

Patrick looked rather astonished. "I thought you got a skateboard!"

"Ye-es... But I like yours better."

"Better than a skateboard? Are you having me on?"

"Yours turned out to be more exciting."

Patrick just stared at him. "Are you being sarcastic?"

"No."

Later, after they'd had the spelling test and Omri got three right out of ten, Patrick joked, "I bet the plastic Indian would have done better."

Without thinking, Omri replied, "Oh, he can't write English, he can only just speak..."

He stopped himself quickly, but Patrick was giving him a very odd look. "What?"

"Nothing."

"No, what did you say about him speaking?"

Omri fought with himself. He wanted to keep his secret, in any case Patrick wouldn't believe him. Yet the need to talk about it was very strong. "He can speak," he said slowly at last.

"Beard," said Patrick, which was their school slang for 'I don't believe you.'

Instead of insisting, Omri said nothing more, and that led Patrick to ask, "Why did you say that about him speaking?"

"He does."

"Itchy beard." (Which of course means the same only more so.)



Omri refused to get involved in an argument. He was somehow scared that if he talked about the Indian, something bad would happen. In fact, as the day went on and he longed more and more to get home, he began to feel certain that the whole incredible happening hadn't really happened and that something could go wrong. All his thoughts, all his dreams were centred on the miraculous, endless possibilities opened up by a live miniature Indian of his very own. **It would be terrible if the whole thing turned out to be some sort of mistake.**

(Adapted from *The Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynne Reid Banks)

**Questions on Section 2**

**(11 marks)**

8. What was Omri tempted to do at school?

**1 mark**

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9. **Underline the correct answer.**

**1 mark**

(a) Omri told Patrick that he liked his present best because he wanted to (avoid, bring up, close) the subject of the Indian.

(b) Patrick was (disappointed, surprised, annoyed) to hear that Omri liked his present better.

10. (a) **Underline the correct answer.**

“**I bet the plastic Indian would have done better.**” When he said this, Patrick was being (honest, serious, funny).

**1 mark**

(b) Give a reason why Patrick said this.

**1 mark**

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11. What does Patrick mean when he tells Omri “Itchy beard”?

**1 mark**

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12. Why did Omri refuse to get into an argument with Patrick?

**1 mark**

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13. 'It would be terrible if the whole thing turned out to be some sort of mistake.'

(a) How is Omri feeling?

1 mark

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(b) Why is Omri feeling this way?

1 mark

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

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

3 marks

	T	F	NIG
(a) Omri came close to telling Patrick what had happened more than once.			
(b) At first, Omri thought that the skateboard was the better present.			
(c) Omri and Patrick did the spelling test after lunch break.			
(d) Omri told Patrick that the Indian could speak.			
(e) Omri misunderstood Patrick when he spoke school slang.			
(f) Omri was in no hurry to get home from school.			

Question on the two sections

(4 marks)

15. Tick (✓) the four sentences which are true about Omri.

You will lose marks if you tick more than four.

(a) He found it hard to get dressed because he was excited.	
(b) He kept the cupboard in the bathroom.	
(c) He had two brothers.	
(d) He had swimming lessons every week.	
(e) He could not stop thinking about the Indian on his way to school.	
(f) He had mixed feelings about telling Patrick about the Indian.	
(g) He felt comfortable talking about the toy Indian.	

**END OF READING COMPREHENSION PAPER**