Reading Comprehension 1

Read this page from a brochure about Horse Riding in Oakland Woods.

Horse Riding in Oakland Woods
Join us for an enjoyable ride through the ancient forest of Oakland Woods. We have horses for all kinds of riders.

Adventure Trail Ride
€25 per person/per hour
Come and enjoy a beautiful ride through Oakland Woods. This trail ride is a great, safe, outdoor adventure suitable for first time riders or more advanced riders. Rides start at 9 am; last ride is at 4 pm.

Sunset Ride
€45 per person (starts at 5 pm)
Enjoy Oakland Woods as the day begins to fade. This 2-hour ride is suitable for experienced horse-riders and there is also a hearty meal at the end.

Pony Rides
€8 per child
Young children can enjoy a 30-minute guided tour on one of our miniature ponies.

Visit Oakland Stables
By donation / 7:30 am – 9:00 am
Come early in the morning and experience what it takes to care for a stable full of horses. Learn all about grooming and feeding horses. Sessions are aimed at children aged 8 and up.

Get to know some of our horses
Our horses are chosen for their calm nature and gentle manners. Befriend Lollipop, the pony princess, Leo our banana lover and curious Dusty...to name a few.

Adapted from: https://visitherwood.co.uk
Reading Comprehension 2  
(22 marks)

Read the following text which is divided into two sections. Then answer the questions on your booklet.

Section 1

At dawn, Lucy found herself walking through the wood arm in arm with this strange creature, with hooves for feet and a twitchy tail. It was as if they had known one another all their lives. They were walking on hour after hour, into what seemed a delicious dream. The sky became bluer and bluer and white clouds hurried across it from time to time. By now, the girl had even stopped saying, “Look! There’s a hummingbird,” or “Just listen to that robin!” It was just the clop clop of Mr Tumnus’ hooves. (paragraph 1)

Mr Tumnus and Lucy walked on in silence drinking it all in, passing through patches of warm sunlight into cool, green woods and out again into wide mossy openings where tall trees raised the leafy roof far overhead. Then they stepped into dense masses of flowering shrubs and walked among bushes where the sweet smell was almost overpowering. (paragraph 2)

They had gone far before they came to a place where the ground became rough and there were rocks all about and little hills up and little hills down. By then, Lucy had a slight blister on the back of her foot. (paragraph 3)

They didn’t hurry so much and they allowed themselves more longer rests. They were pretty tired by now of course; but not bitterly tired — only slow and feeling very dreamy and quiet inside as one does when one is coming to the end of a long day in the open. (paragraph 4)
Section 2

The sun got low, the light got redder, the shadows got longer, and the flowers began to think about closing. “Not long now,” said Mr Tumnus, and began leading the way uphill across some very deep, springy moss, which felt so soothing under Lucy’s aching feet. They came to a place where only tall trees grew, very wide apart. The climb, coming at the end of the long day, made them both pant and blow. And just as Lucy was wondering whether she could really get to the top without another long rest, suddenly they were at the top. (paragraph 5)

They were in a green open space from which you could look down on the forest spreading as far as one could see in every direction. Mr Tumnus turned suddenly aside as if he were going to walk straight into an unusually large rock, but at the last moment Lucy found he was leading her into the entrance of a dark cavern. (paragraph 6)

As soon as they were inside, Mr Tumnus stooped and took a flaming piece of wood out of the fireplace with a little pair of tongs, and quickly lit a lamp. Lucy found herself blinking as the cave suddenly came to life. There was a warm glow of the lamp and shadows flickered on the walls. (paragraph 7)

“No we shan’t be long,” he said, and immediately put a kettle on. Lucy thought she had never been in such a pleasant place. It was a little, dry, clean and fragrant cave of reddish stone, with a carpet on the floor, two minute chairs, a table, a dresser, and a mantelpiece over the fire and above that a picture of Mr Tumnus when he was a young Faun. Lucy looked at these while Mr Tumnus was setting out the tea things and telling her wonderful tales of life in the forest. (paragraph 8)

(Adapted from The Chronicles of Narnia - The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis)