

Practice Test

English 11 +

Read the instructions carefully.

- Do not begin the test or open the booklet until told to do so.
 - Work as quickly and as carefully as you can.
 - Ring the correct letter from the options given to answer each question.
 - You may do rough working on a separate sheet of paper.
 - If you make a mistake cross out the mistake and write the new answer clearly.
 - You will have 50 minutes to complete the test.
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Read the extract carefully, then answer the questions.

'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens tells the story of mean and lonely Mr Scrooge, who, on Christmas Eve, meets the ghosts of the past, present and future, who frighten him into changing his ways.

Once upon a time – of all the good days in the year, on Christmas Eve – old Scrooge sat busy in his counting house. It was cold, bleak, biting weather: foggy withal: and he could hear the people in the court outside, go wheezing up and down, beating their hands upon their breasts, and stamping their feet upon the pavement stones to warm them. The city clocks had only just gone three, but it was quite dark already – it had not been light all day – and candles were flaring in the windows of the neighbouring offices, like ruddy smears upon the palpable brown air. The fog came pouring in at every chink and keyhole, and was so dense without, that although the court was of the narrowest, the houses opposite were mere phantoms. To see the dingy cloud come drooping down, obscuring everything, one might have thought that Nature lived hard by, and was brewing on a large scale.

The door of Scrooge's counting house was open that he might keep his eye upon his clerk, who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters. Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part. Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter, and tried to warm himself at the candle; in which effort, not being a man of a strong imagination, he failed.

"A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!" cried a cheerful voice. It was the voice of Scrooge's nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach.

"Bah!" said Scrooge, "Humbug!"

He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge's, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again. "Christmas a humbug, uncle!" said Scrooge's nephew. "You don't mean that, I am sure?"

"I do," said Scrooge. "Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough."

"Come, then," returned the nephew gaily. "What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough."

Scrooge having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment, said "Bah!" again; and followed it up with "Humbug."

"Don't be cross, uncle!" said the nephew.

"What else can I be," returned the uncle, "when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas! What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, but not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and having every item in 'em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you? If I could work my will," said Scrooge indignantly, "every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. He should!"

"Uncle!" pleaded the nephew.

"Nephew!" returned the uncle sternly, "keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine."

"Keep it!" repeated Scrooge's nephew. "But you don't keep it."

"Let me leave it alone, then," said Scrooge. "Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!"

- 14** What does Scrooge think that his nephew finds himself doing at Christmas? Circle the correct letter.
- A** eating and drinking a lot **B** giving presents
C going away on holiday **D** paying bills and settling his accounts
E seeing his friends
- 15** Why does Scrooge's nephew like Christmas? Circle the correct letter.
- A** It makes him richer. **B** It is cold and sunny.
C He gets time off work. **D** People are kind to each other.
E He comes to see his uncle.
- 16** The clerk is described as 'not being a man of a strong imagination' (line 16). What does this mean here? Circle the correct letter.
- A** He is not strong. **B** He is not very clever.
C He is unhealthy. **D** He is mad.
E He is old.
- 17** What happened when the clerk poked the fire? Circle the correct letter.
- A** It burned brighter. **B** It warmed the room more.
C Nothing. **D** The flames got smaller.
E It went out.
- 18** Scrooge said to his clerk, "...you'll keep your Christmas by losing your situation." (line 58). What does he mean? Circle the correct letter.
- A** You will have Christmas Day off because you will lose your job.
B You will have to work on Christmas Day and lose your pay.
C Your Christmas will be a very miserable one.
D You will have a good Christmas because you will be warm.
E On Christmas Day I will remove your chair.
- 19** What type of work does Scrooge suggest to his nephew? Circle the right letter.
- A** clerk **B** Member of Parliament
C doctor **D** soldier
E lawyer
- 20** Which word best sums up Scrooge's personality? Circle the correct letter.
- A** foolish **B** cheerful
C brave **D** mean
E sensible
- 21** What is the most important thing in Scrooge's life? Circle the correct letter.
- A** being unkind to his clerk **B** seeing his nephew
C making money **D** keeping warm
E helping people

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22 What is Scrooge's general view of people? Circle the correct letter.

- A They are fools. B They are poor.
C They are unpleasant. D They are kind.
E They are lazy.

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Answer the following questions about these words and phrases.

23 Which word in this sentence is an adjective? Circle the correct letter.

"Don't be cross, uncle!" said the nephew.

- A Don't B be
C cross D uncle
E said F the
G nephew

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24 What parts of speech are 'Nature' (line 9) and 'stake' (line 39)? Circle the correct letter.

- A adverbs B nouns
C prepositions D adjectives
E verbs

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25 Which of these words is a preposition? Circle the correct letter.

- A open (line 11) B kept (line 14)
C imagination (line 17) D upon (line 19)
E quickly (line 19)

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In this extract there are a number of spelling mistakes. Circle the letter where the spelling mistake is underlined or, if there isn't a spelling mistake, circle the letter X.

26 He caught sight of the house beyond, but, when he drew nearer, it disappeared

A B C

suddenly behind the neighbouring hedge.

D

X

1

27 A feeling of incredible anger, as he waited hopelessly outside, began to grow

A B C

silently within him.

D

X

1

28 The door swung noisily open, without any human presence visible.

A B

Nervously he started forward, hoping that the owner would appear.

C D E

X

1

- 29 "Boy!" called an agetated voice. Henry jumped, frightened by the sudden sound
A **B** **C**
echoing in the empty hall.
D **X**
- 30 A wizened, ancient man, clothed all in a black gown, was standing silently,
A **B** **C**
hiden by obscuring shadows.
D **X**
- 31 A scrawny hand clutched his. It was cold as marbel. He could see a beaked nose
A **B** **C**
and peering weasel's eyes.
D **X**
- 32 He tried impatiently to pull away, but the grip silently tightened.
A **B**
An imense feeling of dread started to invade his body.
C **D** **X**
- 33 He stared hard, trying to imagine how he might escape those awful eyes.
A **B** **C** **D** **X**

In this extract mistakes have been made in the use of punctuation and capital letters. Circle the letter where the mistake is or, if there isn't a mistake, circle the letter X.

- 34 Emma hurtled outside and shouted, "Help. Uncle Sam, help! Peter's injured"
A **B** **C** **D** **X**
- 35 I'd hardly been in a house with a pool before, though wed rented one once.
A **B** **C** **D** **X**
- 36 The walls were lovely and light with windows in the roof.
A **B**
A door at the end led outside I hoped that it went into the garden.
C **D** **X**
- 37 It was a french book, which she couldn't read, though she hoped with luck
A **B** **C**
that her uncle could translate it.
D **X**

- 38 "Theres no hope, I'm afraid. The money's been stolen. We'll not see it again."
 A B C D X
- 39 The enormous sack, weighted, with gold, was impossible to lift. It wouldn't budge.
 A B C D X
- 40 "What's the worry" he asked. "You'll be there by nightfall if you don't lose the
 path, or stop."
 A B C D X
- 41 The monkeys looked puzzled at the way the bananas were growing and some
 even thought it was a trick.
 A B C D X
- 42 He waited thinking it would be dark soon. Then he'd leave, completely unseen.
 A B C D X

In this extract, the letter below the best word or words needs to be chosen so the extract makes sense and uses correct English. Circle the correct letter.

- 43 He waited, silently hoping the beast couldn't wouldn't shouldn't could've return.
 A B C D
- 44 The beast growled. There wasn't the best most hopeful greatest faintest hope
 of rescue.
 A B C D
- 45 He hoped that the branch would beer bear bare bring his weight.
 A B C D
- 46 There was a loud crack. He hurried howled hurtled skipped to the ground.
 A B C D
- 47 He ran slowly slyly kindly nervously towards the safety of the hill.
 A B C D
- 48 He had almost completely utterly totally made it, when disaster struck.
 A B C D
- 49 The beast, roars roaring roared roar loudly, stood over him.
 A B C D
- 50 Its giant paw stealthily heavily slowly lightly came down on his head.
 A B C D