

UNIT 1

READING PASSAGE.

The English Landscape.

Although next door to Devon, Dorset is totally different in scenery and landscape. For one thing a good deal of it consists of chalk downlands which Devon does not possess. Then, too, it has the vast heathlands of Egdon Heath which were immortalized in the novels of Thomas Hardy.

5

Dorset is essentially a county of villages, most of which are built of local stone. It is a landscape of villages rather than of scattered farms as in, say, Devon or Cornwall, for the simple reason that no human life is possible without water, and water is rather scarce in Dorset – above all in the chalk country. The importance of the local streams is made quite clear on the map by such names as Winterborne. These are streams which tend to disappear or get very low for half the year, but in winter they fill up again and give a good supply of water.

10

One Winterborne, in central Dorset, has a whole string of villages along its banks – a dozen at least – all called Winterborne followed by a manorial name, such as Winterborne Clenston. Indeed, there are so many Winterbornes along such streams that some have disappeared completely. A good example of this is Winterborne Tomson, which possesses a perfect little Norman church but no visible village. It appears to stand alone, but in a field nearby there are the humps and bumps of the former village visible under the grass, especially in winter-time and early spring.

15

20

The vital importance of water for early settlers in Dorset is also shown in a remarkable village called Ashmore, which is built entirely around a large pond. In fact Ashmore really means Ash-mere, meaning the pond around which ash trees grew. It is a perfect example of a pond village, but there are more to be found in other parts of the chalk downlands. On the clay lands, however, Marshwood in the south west and Blackmoor in the north of the county, streams are plentiful and therefore the villages do not develop strongly as a form of settlement. In these parts we see many more woodland and scattered farms rather than full-blown villages.

25

30

32

1. Comprehension questions - Part 1.

In each group of answers **only one** is correct.

1. Most streams of Dorset contain the word "Winterborne" in their name because
 - a) they attract tourists in winter.
 - b) they have plenty of water only in winter.
 - c) the villages near them are inhabited only in winter.
 - d) the villages near them are uninhabited in winter.

2. Lincets are
 - a) arable rings around the hills following the contours.
 - b) cultivation areas on the hills.
 - c) levelled areas for farming.
 - d) sheep pastures on the hills.

3. Have villages been only by the stream-side?
 - a) There were not villages on high altitudes.
 - b) There were single farms before the Roman conquest.
 - c) There were scarcely any villages near winterbournes.
 - d) Villages have also been on the downs before the Roman conquest.

4. Central Dorset was inhabited
 - a) after the discovery of America.
 - b) after the Iron Age
 - c) nearly ten thousand years ago.
 - d) shortly after the Roman conquest.

5. In Dorset, the Mesolithic people
 - a) disliked seafoods.
 - b) enjoyed a rich diet.
 - c) supplemented their meals with seafood.
 - d) were abstainers.

2. English Usage

In this section you must choose the word or phrase which best completes each sentence. Then underline the letter (**a**, **b**, **c** or **d**) for the word or phrase of your choice. Give **one answer only** to each question.

1. The new mayor's concern is to the slums of this town.
a) abolish b) ban c) discard d) prohibit
2. Cynthia paid £30 for her new watch. She thought it was a(n) until she heard that Jane had bought a similar one at £18.
a) bargain b) occasion c) opportunity d) sale
3. Mr Hunter's is to become manager of his company.
a) ambition b) interest c) purpose d) schedule
4. Bernard is my..... friend. I love and trust him as if he were my brother.
a) bosom b) breast c) chest d) heart
5. Although the famous actress appeared at the party in her bikini, nobody turned a(n)
a) elbow b) face c) hair d) shoulder
6. They would have helped you if they you were so badly in need.
a) discovered b) had viewed c) informed d) knew
7. The young woman lay in the garden of her house and pleasantly in the sun.
a) basked b) burned c) scorched d) tanned
8. The number of scientists employed in work increases every year.
a) inquiry b) investigation c) perusal d) research
9. The leaves of the elm-trees were in the light breeze.
a) rattling b) rustling c) shivering d) trembling
10. It was a(n) sight with all that refuse piled up in front of the building.
a) insolent b) perishable c) repudiating d) repulsive

3. Derivatives.

The word at the beginning of each of the following sentences should be used to form a new word that fits suitably in the blank space. Fill each blank in this way.

Example:

important

The teacher spoke of the **importance** of education this morning.

1. break

The hotel charged the two men £250 for

2. memory

The birth of Jesus Christ is on the 25th December.

3. apt

The new students were given an test before they were placed in their appropriate classes.

4. adapt

The of D. A. Summerton's novel for the TV was a failure.

5. influence

The press is an medium in forming people's opinions.

6. suspect

The woman looked at the old picture; she had a feeling that something was wrong with it.

7. grow

The of vegetables is hastened with the use of fertilizers.

8. charm

How of you to send me flowers on my birthday!

9. surprise

The little boy could perform a large number of tricks.

10. evolve

Charles Darwin worked systematically in his attempt to establish the theory of

4. Use of English - Section A - Sentence transformation.

Finish each of the following sentences in such a way that it means **exactly the same** as the sentence printed before it.

Example: A. The careless child broke the crystal vase.

B. The crystal

Answer: B. The crystal **vase was broken by the careless child.**

- 1) A. "Where can I find a cheap restaurant to eat?" asked the young tourist.
B. The young tourist asked
- 2) A. It doesn't matter what he says about it; nobody will ever believe him.
B. He won't be believed whatever
- 3) A. Starting earlier in the morning won't make any difference.
B. Even if we
- 4) A. "I didn't open the manager's letter," said the secretary.
B. The secretary denied
- 5) A. He did not go to work and furthermore he telephoned to his office to say he had been hit by a car.
B. Not only
- 6) A. It is not likely that Mr Hunter will come tonight, in this storm.
B. Mr Hunter is unlikely
- 7) A. I very seldom go to a football match.
B. Hardly
- 8) A. The alarm didn't ring, so I didn't get up on time.
B. If
- 9) A. Herbert's job is generally thought to be very profitable.
B. People
- 10) A. "Don't walk along that road at night," said the villager to me.
B. The villager told

5. Use of English. Section B - Structural conversion using key words.

For each of the sentences below, write a new sentence as similar as possible in meaning to the original one, but using the words given at the beginning of each sentence (which **must not be altered** in any way).

Example: A. My brother usually swims in the winter.

accustomed

B. My brother in the winter.

Answer: B. My brother **is accustomed to swimming** in the winter.

1. threatened

The teacher said that he would send them out of class next time.

The teacher

2. familiar

Robert is not at home with this kind of work.

.....

3. impolite

Mr Green often speaks rudely to his customers.

.....

4. prefers

Jennifer would rather stay at home this evening.

.....

5. afford

They haven't so much money as to stay at that expensive hotel.

.....

6. unwholesome

Marshes are places which do not contribute to good health.

.....

7. mind

Would you be kind enough to close the window?

.....

8. unlike

My brother, but not my sister, works till late at night.

.....

9. spends

In the evenings she always watches TV.

.....

10. takes

Cynthia likes to play tennis very much.

.....

6. Cloze test 1 - Multiple choice.

Read the passage carefully. Then choose from the numbered groups that follow the best word that fills each blank space. Give **one answer only** for each gap.

→→→ Write the words in the numbered gaps.

Rosa, having no relations that she knew [1] _____ in the world, had, from the seventh year of her age, known no home but the Nuns' House, and no mother but Miss Twinkleton. Her remembrance [2] _____ her own mother was [3] _____ a pretty little creature like herself not [4] _____ older than herself, it seemed to her, who had been brought home [5] _____ her father's arms, drowned. 5

The fatal accident had happened at a party [6] _____ pleasure. Every fold and colour in the pretty summer dress, and [7] _____ the long wet hair, with scattered petals of ruined flowers still clinging [8] _____ it, [9] _____ the dead young figure, in its sad, sad beauty lay upon the bed, were fixed indelibly [10] _____ Rosa's recollection. So [11] _____ the wild despair and the subsequent grief of her poor young father, [12] _____ died broken-hearted on the first anniversary of [13] _____ hard day. 10

The betrothal of Rosa grew [14] _____ of the soothing of his year of mental distress by his fast friend and old college companion, Drood, [15] _____ likewise had been left a widower [16] _____ his youth. But he, too, went the silent road into [17] _____ all earthly pilgrimages merge, some sooner and some [18] _____ ; and thus the young couple had come to be as they were. 15

The atmosphere of pity surrounding the little orphan girl [19] _____ she first came to Cloisterham had never cleared away. It [20] _____ taken brighter hues as she grew older, happier, prettier. 20

From: *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*
by Charles Dickens