



EduTest Year 10 Entry Reading Comprehension Practice Paper 1

Reading Comprehension

52 questions · 4 options each (A–D) · 30 minutes · No dictionary

How to use this booklet

- Read each text carefully, then answer the questions that follow it. Every question has four options, A, B, C and D: choose the one best answer.
- The last 16 questions are about grammar, punctuation, spelling and word choice. They do not have a passage.
- You have 30 minutes for the 52 questions. You will not lose marks for wrong answers, so attempt every question.

TEXT 1 — NARRATIVE

Questions 1–6

The Mapmaker's Mistake

This text is adapted from an original short story.

Ilse Brandt had drawn the map of the valley so many times that she could have sketched it blindfolded. Every contour line, every stream, every footpath had been checked on foot over three summers. When the survey office accepted it, she framed a proof copy and hung it above her desk, where it caught the morning light like a small and perfect country.

The mistake surfaced eleven months later, in a letter from a farmer. He wrote politely, in the stiff handwriting of a man unused to complaint, to say that the bridge shown on her map near the eastern ridge did not exist. A walking group, trusting the printed line, had spent a cold evening hunting for a crossing that was not there, and one of them had turned an ankle in the dark.

She read the letter twice. Then she took down the framed map, pulled out her notebooks and traced the error to its source. A single line in her field notes read “bridge (old?)”, in her own cramped hand. She had seen the ruined stone footings, assumed that the crossing still stood, and never returned to check.

The first thing she felt was a hot flush of defensiveness. The map was ninety-nine parts right. Every other map in the world contained errors of this kind, and the walkers should have carried a compass. She actually began composing the reply in her head: regretful, but firm about the limits of responsibility.

Then she thought of the farmer's handwriting, and of the ankle in the dark, and the reply dissolved. What remained was something plainer and more uncomfortable. The map had been her pride because it was accurate; and because it was believed, its small untruth had travelled further than any of her honest lines.

She wrote back that afternoon, without excuses, and sent a correction to the survey office. The revised sheets came out in the spring, with the bridge removed and, in the margin, a short note in her own words that the stone footings could be seen from the path.

She did not rehang the framed copy. She put it in a drawer, where it would remind her of a rule that no longer seemed like a rule at all: that a map is only as honest as its smallest, least convenient line.

1. The description of the framed map as “a small and perfect country” suggests that Ilse regarded it with

- A doubt about whether walkers could trust it
- B pride in its seeming perfection
- C indifference after the survey office had accepted it
- D embarrassment about the time that it had cost her

2. What can be inferred from the farmer's "stiff handwriting" and polite tone?

- A He is deliberately trying to make Ilse feel guilty for the harm
- B He is too angry to write clearly and has made a poor attempt
- C He is a skilled writer who often writes to officials
- D He is courteous and reluctant to make a complaint.

3. Why does Ilse feel "a hot flush of defensiveness"?

- A She believes that the farmer is lying about the bridge
- B She feels her careful work is being unfairly questioned.
- C She wants to apologise at once to the walking group
- D She fears that her map will be removed by the survey office

4. What causes the reply in Ilse's head to "dissolve"?

- A She thinks of the real person harmed by her error.
- B She remembers that she has not written to the farmer before
- C She realises that the survey office might respond first
- D She decides to ask the farmer to correct the map himself

5. What is meant by "its small untruth had travelled further than any of her honest lines"?

- A Because the map was trusted, one error had a larger effect than many truths.
- B The map had been sold in more countries than any of her others
- C The walkers had carried the map a long way from the valley
- D Honest lines on a map are always shorter than errors

6. What does the final sentence suggest about the rule that Ilse has learned?

- A Maps should be made only by experienced surveyors
- B Walkers should not rely on printed maps
- C Errors are acceptable if they are small
- D Honesty means reporting inconvenient details too.

READING COMPREHENSION — 52 QUESTIONS

Answers & worked solutions

Answer Key

1 B	2 D	3 B	4 A	5 A	6 D
7 B	8 C	9 C	10 B	11 B	12 D
13 A	14 C	15 B	16 B	17 A	18 C
19 D	20 A	21 B	22 A	23 D	24 C
25 A	26 C	27 D	28 C	29 A	30 B
31 A	32 D	33 C	34 C	35 A	36 C
37 D	38 B	39 C	40 D	41 C	42 D
43 A	44 D	45 A	46 A	47 C	48 B
49 B	50 D	51 D	52 A		

1. The description of the framed map as “a small and perfect country” suggests that Ilse regarded it with [Figurative]

Correct answer: B — pride in its seeming perfection

- What is the question asking? It asks what the comparison shows about her attitude.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: “where it caught the morning light like a small and perfect country”
- A small and perfect country is complete and admired. The image shows Ilse's pride in the map before the mistake is found.
- So the correct answer is B (pride in its seeming perfection).
- Why the other options are wrong:
 - A: A perfect country suggests satisfaction, not doubt, at this point in the story.
 - C: The detail shows affection and pride, not indifference.
 - D: She is shown framing it proudly, not feeling embarrassed.

LOS: Reading: figurative language

KEY TAKEAWAY

Figurative language means something other than the literal words: ask what two things are being compared and what they share.