



EduTest Year 11 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

A Place at the Table

This text is adapted from an original short story.

The kitchen of the Golden Ladle was a place where nobody had time to be anybody. At six o'clock on a Friday evening, it roared: the hiss of oil, the clatter of pans, the chef's voice cracking above the noise like a whip. Tran, who was seventeen and had been washing dishes there for eight months, had learned to make himself small and quick, a pair of hands that appeared at a sink and vanished again.

He had also learned to watch. Every night, between stacks of plates, he observed how the line cooks moved: the slice of a knife, the flip of a wrist, the way the chef tasted a sauce on the tip of a spoon and, without a word, reached for the salt. At home, in the cramped flat above a laundromat, he copied the movements with a spatula and a crust of bread until his mother asked, with the carefully neutral voice she used for matters of concern, what exactly he was doing.

"Nothing," said Tran. "Practising."

On the night of the large wedding party, two cooks failed to arrive, and the kitchen came apart. Orders stacked up on the rail like a deck of cards. The chef, Mr Lindqvist, a man of enormous shoulders and few words, stood still amid the chaos for one terrible second and then pointed his spoon. "You. Dishwasher. Can you do the dumplings?"

Nobody had asked him that before. Tran looked at the steamer, at the rolls of dough and at the bowl of filling that he had smelled for months and never touched. He understood that if he said no, the moment would close like a door and might not open again. He understood, too, that if he said yes, and failed, it might not open anyway.

"Yes, Chef," he said.

His fingers knew more than he did. The dough folded, pleated, sealed, and lined up in the steamer in exact rows, and when the first tray was done, he found that his hands had stopped shaking. Mr Lindqvist picked up one dumpling, bit it in half and chewed in silence for a length of time that felt like a sentence being passed.

"Again," said the chef, and turned away.

It was not praise. But Tran, drying his hands on his apron, recognised that in this kitchen, "again" was the highest compliment that a person could earn.

1. The description of the chef's voice "cracking above the noise like a whip" suggests that his voice is

- A soft and encouraging
- B distant and indistinct
- C weak and uncertain
- D sharp and commanding

2. What does the phrase “a pair of hands that appeared at a sink and vanished again” suggest about how Tran saw his role?

- A He felt unnoticed and reduced to a function.
- B He was proud of being the fastest worker
- C He was planning to leave the restaurant
- D He was ordered to work out of sight

3. What does his mother's “carefully neutral voice” reveal?

- A She is angry with Tran for wasting bread
- B She is worried but gentle.
- C She does not care what he is doing
- D She is amused by his copying

4. The comparison of orders stacking up “like a deck of cards” suggests that the orders are

- A numerous and chaotic
- B few and well organised
- C small and unimportant
- D beautiful and carefully arranged

5. What does Tran understand when he realises that saying no “would close like a door”?

- A Saying yes would certainly make him a chef
- B Refusing wastes a chance; accepting is risky.
- C Saying no would be safe and wise
- D The chef would be angry if he refused

6. What does the final sentence suggest about Mr Lindqvist's “again”?

- A It is an order to correct a mistake
- B In this kitchen, a request to repeat is praise.
- C It shows that the chef is angry
- D It shows that the chef did not taste the dumpling

READING COMPREHENSION — 52 QUESTIONS

Answers & worked solutions

Answer Key

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

1. The description of the chef's voice "cracking above the noise like a whip" suggests that his voice is [Figurative]

Correct answer: D — sharp and commanding

- What is the question asking? It asks what the simile shows.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: "the chef's voice cracking above the noise like a whip"
- A whip crack is sharp and carries over distance. It shows the chef's voice cutting across the noise with authority.
- So the correct answer is D (sharp and commanding).
- Why the other options are wrong:
 - A (soft and encouraging): A whip's crack is sudden and harsh.
 - B (distant and indistinct): The voice rises clearly above the noise.
 - C (weak and uncertain): A whip crack suggests authority.

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.