



**Test Papers
Hub.**

HAST Year 11 Entry Reading Comprehension Practice Paper 1

Reading Comprehension

36 questions · 4 options each (A–D) · 45 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.
- You have 45 minutes for the 36 questions. You will not lose marks for wrong answers, so attempt every question.

TEXT 1 — NARRATIVE

Questions 1–6

The Archivist

This text is adapted from an original short story.

The archive occupied the basement of the municipal building, a long, low room of grey steel shelves and flickering fluorescent tubes, and it smelled of dust, damp and old paper. Katerina had been its only full-time employee for nineteen years, and in that time, she had learned to move through its aisles with the unhurried economy of someone who knows that nothing in the room is going anywhere.

On the Tuesday that the young man from the university arrived, she was cataloguing a box of tax records from the 1930s. He introduced himself as a researcher, in the breathless manner of someone who has been looking for something for a long time. He was looking, he said, for any record of a family called Hadjiev, who had run a tailor's shop on Mill Street until 1943.

She knew without looking that the records for that year had been damaged by water in the flood of 1974, and that, of the forty boxes, perhaps a third had been salvaged. She told him so, honestly, and watched his face fall. "I can look," she said. "But I make no promises."

For three days, they worked side by side among the shelves, he turning pages with a care that she found, to her surprise, moving. On the third afternoon, in a box that had been mislabelled in 1951, they found a single sheet, brown at the edges and nearly illegible: a ledger page listing the contents of a shop, dated the last week of November 1943. Beside the final entry, in a different ink, a clerk had written two words: closed, family relocated.

He read it three times without speaking. Katerina, who had handled ten thousand documents like it, and who had trained herself long ago not to feel what they said, found that she was holding the edge of the shelf.

"Thank you," he said at last, and his voice was unsteady. She nodded. After he had gone, she sat for a long time under the humming lights. For nineteen years, she had believed that her work was to preserve paper. It occurred to her now that what she kept, in these long grey rows, was something quite different: the evidence that people had lived.

1. Katerina is said to move through the archive with "the unhurried economy of someone who knows that nothing in the room is going anywhere". This suggests that she

- A is bored and wishes to leave
- B is anxious about the documents
- C is searching for a missing record
- D is calm and unhurried in her work

2. Why does Katerina tell the researcher honestly that most of the records were damaged?

- A She wants him to leave
- B She dislikes visitors
- C She values truthfulness over comfort.
- D She expects to find the record quickly

3. Why does the writer record the clerk's words as "closed, family relocated"?

- A to prove the shop made a profit
- B to leave the fate unstated
- C to show that the clerk was careless
- D to give the date of the record

4. What does Katerina's holding "the edge of the shelf" reveal?

- A She is deeply moved.
- B She is tired after a long search
- C She is afraid the shelf will collapse
- D She is angry with the researcher

5. What is the effect of the final sentence?

- A It shows she wants to change jobs
- B It shows the archive is worthless
- C It shows she has lost the document
- D It redefines her work.

6. Which idea is most strongly expressed by the story?

- A Archives should be digitised
- B Floods are a threat to documents
- C Records preserve lost lives.
- D Researchers rarely find what they seek

READING COMPREHENSION — 36 QUESTIONS

Answers & worked solutions

Answer Key

1 D	2 C	3 B	4 A	5 D	6 C
7 A	8 B	9 A	10 B	11 A	12 A
13 C	14 A	15 A	16 D	17 B	18 A
19 D	20 A	21 C	22 C	23 B	24 C
25 D	26 D	27 B	28 C	29 C	30 B
31 C	32 D	33 D	34 B	35 D	36 B

1. Katerina is said to move through the archive with “the unhurried economy of someone who knows that nothing in the room is going anywhere”. This suggests that she [Figurative]

Correct answer: D — is calm and unhurried in her work

- What is the question asking? It asks what the phrase suggests.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: “the unhurried economy of someone who knows that nothing in the room is going anywhere”
- She works at an unhurried, efficient pace.
- So the correct answer is D (is calm and unhurried in her work).
- Why the other options are wrong:
- A (is bored and wishes to leave): The phrase describes calm.
- B (is anxious about the documents): Nothing in the room is going anywhere.
- C (is searching for a missing record): The phrase concerns manner.

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.

2. Why does Katerina tell the researcher honestly that most of the records were damaged? [Inference]

Correct answer: C — She values truthfulness over comfort.

- What is the question asking? It asks why she is honest.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: “She told him so, honestly, and watched his face fall. “I can look,” she said. “But I make no promises.””
- She prefers honesty to false hope.
- So the correct answer is C (She values truthfulness over comfort).
- Why the other options are wrong: