



Test Papers
Hub.

NSW Opportunity Class Practice Paper 1

Reading

14 questions · 4 options each (A–D) · 40 minutes · Printed version of the computer-based test

How to use this booklet

- Read each text carefully, then answer the questions that follow it. Most questions have four options, A, B, C and D: choose the one best answer.
- Three questions are different: one asks you to choose TWO answers (options A to E), one asks you to put four events in order, and one has Part A and Part B. Read their instructions carefully.
- You have 40 minutes for the 14 questions. You will not lose marks for wrong answers, so attempt every question.

TEXT 1 — NARRATIVE

Questions 1–3

Pip and the Paper Boat

This text is adapted from an original short story.

After three days of rain, the gutter outside Pip's window had become a small, brown river. Pip pressed her nose against the glass and sighed. She had read every book twice and built every puzzle. Then she had an idea.

She tore a page from an old notebook and folded it, corner to corner, into a boat. It took four attempts, because the first boat leaned like a tired duck and the second sank at once. The third floated. The fourth, she decided, was perfect.

Down in the yard, Pip placed the boat on the water and watched it spin and wobble toward the drain. "Go on," she whispered. "You can do it." The boat bumped against a twig, tipped, and then, as if it had changed its mind, righted itself and sailed on.

Pip followed it all the way to the garden gate, splashing through puddles, forgetting she was supposed to be bored. When the boat finally slipped under the fence and out of sight, she was not sad. She was already thinking about the next one.

1. Why does Pip decide to make a paper boat?

- A She is bored and wants something to do.
- B She wants to give it to a friend who lives nearby.
- C She is afraid that the rain will flood the yard.
- D Her teacher asked the class to make paper boats.

2. The first boat "leaned like a tired duck". This tells us the boat:

- A was moving very fast
- B was crooked and drooping
- C was a bright shade of yellow
- D was far too large to float

3. What does Pip's feeling at the end of the story show about her?

- A She is cheerful and has found something that excites her.
- B She is angry because the boat was lost for ever.
- C She is tired and wants to go back inside to bed.
- D She is scared of the fence and of what lies beyond it.

TEXT 2 — POEM

Questions 4–5

The Library Cat

She sleeps between the dictionaries,
a small grey loaf of warmth,
and no one dares to move her
though the sign says Silence Please.

She watches us with half-closed eyes
like a queen on a velvet chair.
We tiptoe past her, whispering,
as if she were the one in charge.

4. The cat is described as "a small grey loaf of warmth". This suggests the cat is:

- A round, soft and cosy
- B hard and crusty like old bread
- C hungry and looking for something to eat
- D noisy and always making a fuss

5. Read the poem again. Answer Part A and Part B.

Part A. How do the people in the library treat the cat?

- A They shout at her.
- B They ignore her completely.
- C They treat her with respect, as if she were important.
- D They want to chase her out.

Part B. Which line best supports your answer to Part A?

- A She sleeps between the dictionaries,
- B a small grey loaf of warmth,
- C though the sign says Silence Please.
- D as if she were the one in charge.

READING — 14 QUESTIONS

Answers & worked solutions

Answer Key

1	A	2	B	3	A	4	A	5	C, D	6	A
7	C and E	8	B	9	C	10	B	11	D	12	C
13	C	14	B								

1. Why does Pip decide to make a paper boat? [Inference]

Correct answer: A — She is bored and wants something to do.

- What is the question asking? It asks why she makes the boat.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: "She had read every book twice and built every puzzle. Then she had an idea."
- Pip has finished every book and puzzle and is stuck inside. The boat is an answer to her boredom.
- So the correct answer is A (She is bored and wants something to do.).
- Why the other options are wrong:
- B: No friend is mentioned; Pip is alone and 'had read every book twice'.
- C: Pip watches the rain from the window; she shows no fear of it.
- D: No teacher appears; the idea comes to Pip herself.

LOS: Reading: inferring meaning that is not stated directly

KEY TAKEAWAY

An inference is a conclusion the clues force you to make: find the clue in the text, then ask what it must mean.

2. The first boat "leaned like a tired duck". This tells us the boat: [Figurative]

Correct answer: B — was crooked and drooping

- What is the question asking? It asks what the comparison shows.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: "the first boat leaned like a tired duck and the second sank at once"
- A tired duck droops to one side. The boat leaned over and was not well made.
- So the correct answer is B (was crooked and drooping).
- Why the other options are wrong:
- A (was moving very fast): A tired duck is slow and weary, not fast.
- C (was a bright shade of yellow): The comparison is about the boat's shape, not its colour.
- D (was far too large to float): Nothing is said about size; the boat 'sank at once' for another reason.

LOS: Reading: figurative language