



Test Papers
Hub.

NSW Selective High School Practice Paper 1

Reading

17 questions · 4 options each (A–D) · 45 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 45 minutes for the 17 questions. You will not lose marks for wrong answers, so attempt every question.

TEXT 1 — NARRATIVE

Questions 1–3

The Night Market

This text is adapted from an original short story.

Linh had always believed her grandfather's noodle stall was the quietest place in the whole night market. Around it, vendors bellowed prices and music crackled from a dozen speakers, but at Ông Nội's stall the loudest sound was the soft slap of dough on the steel bench. He never called out to customers. He simply lifted the lid of the great pot, let a cloud of steam rise into the lantern light, and waited.

"Why don't you shout like the others?" she asked one evening, wiping the counter for the fourth time.

He smiled without looking up. "Shouting tells people you are worried they won't come."

That night, a man in a damp raincoat shuffled out of the drizzle and stood a long moment before the pot. He did not order. He only breathed in the steam as though it were something he had lost and found again. Her grandfather ladled a bowl, set it down, and said nothing about money. The man ate slowly, his shoulders loosening one bowlful at a time.

When he had gone, leaving three crumpled notes beneath the saucer, Linh stared at the empty doorway. She had been taught that a business was about selling. Yet she suspected that what had just passed across the counter was worth more than the notes.

"Grandfather," she said at last, "is it the noodles they come for?"

He wiped his hands on his apron and shrugged, the way he did when the answer was too large for words. Then he handed her the ladle.

1. What does the man in the raincoat's behaviour at the stall suggest?

- A He found comfort in the smell and warmth of the food.
- B He was too poor to afford a proper meal that evening.
- C He was angry at the stall's quiet and unwelcoming manner.
- D He was trying to remember the name of the stall.

2. In the sentence "He simply lifted the lid of the great pot, let a cloud of steam rise into the lantern light, and waited," the word "simply" is used to show that Ông Nội:

- A finds his job so easy that it bores him
- B does not make a fuss to attract customers
- C is not clever enough to know how to advertise
- D is only able to do one simple thing well

3. What does Ông Nội's answer "Shouting tells people you are worried they won't come" most strongly show about him?

- A He is confident that people will come without being called.
- B He dislikes loud people and avoids the other vendors.
- C He is worried about losing customers to the louder stalls.
- D He wants Linh to stay quiet while he works at the stall.

TEST PAPERS HUB - NOT FOR RESALE OR REDISTRIBUTION

READING — 17 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	15	A	16	D	17	C		

1. What does the man in the raincoat's behaviour at the stall suggest? [Inference]

Correct answer: A — He found comfort in the smell and warmth of the food.

- What is the question asking? It asks what the man's behaviour tells us about how he felt.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: "He only breathed in the steam as though it were something he had lost and found again."
- The text says he breathed in the steam like something 'lost and found'. Then his shoulders loosen as he eats. Both details point to comfort, not hunger, anger or confusion.
- So the correct answer is A (He found comfort in the smell and warmth of the food.).
- Why the other options are wrong:
- B: He left three notes, so money was not his problem.
- C: Nothing shows anger; his shoulders loosen as he eats.
- D: The text compares the steam to something he had lost and found, not a name.

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. In the sentence "He simply lifted the lid of the great pot, let a cloud of steam rise into the lantern light, and waited," the word "simply" is used to show that Ông Nội: [Vocab]

Correct answer: B — does not make a fuss to attract customers

- What is the question asking? It asks what the word 'simply' tells us about how he works.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: "He never called out to customers."
- The sentence before says he never called out. 'Simply' means 'only' or 'without extra effort': he lifts the lid and waits, with no fuss.
- So the correct answer is B (does not make a fuss to attract customers).
- Why the other options are wrong:
- A (finds his job so easy that it bores him): The text never says he is bored; he waits patiently.
- C: He deliberately chooses quiet and explains this later.
- D (is only able to do one simple thing well): 'Simply' describes his plain approach, not his ability.

LOS: Reading: word meaning in context