

READING

YEAR

9

2011

0:65

Time available for students to
complete test: 65 minutes

Use 2B or HB
pencil only



Do not write on this page.

YEAR 9 READING

Read *Marathon man to trade Kununurra for Big Apple* on page 2 of the magazine and answer questions 1 to 6.

1

Joseph Davies is excited about running a marathon in

- ☐ Canberra.
- ☐ New York.
- ☐ Kununurra.
- ☐ Alice Springs.

Shade one bubble.



2

What is the purpose of beginning this text with a comment about the weather?

- ☐ to encourage readers to feel admiration for Joseph Davies
- ☐ to suggest to readers that Joseph Davies is unhappy
- ☐ to persuade readers that anyone can run a marathon
- ☐ to warn readers of the dangers of running a marathon

3

What is Robert de Castella's main reason for establishing the running squad?

- ☐ He wants an Australian to win a gold medal at the next Olympics.
- ☐ He wants to stage sporting events in Indigenous communities.
- ☐ He wants to improve the fitness of Australian schoolchildren.
- ☐ He wants to provide opportunities for Indigenous athletes.

4

For Robert de Castella, the marathon in November will be

- ☐ one stage in a larger plan.
- ☐ the climax to a successful sporting career.
- ☐ one of the most difficult challenges of his life.
- ☐ a way of deciding who joins his SmartStart squad.

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5

In this text, Joseph Davies is best described as a person who is

- ☐ playful.
- ☐ carefree.
- ☐ determined.
- ☐ overconfident.

Shade one bubble.



6

To understand the newspaper headline, a reader needs to know that

- ☐ Kununurra is in Western Australia.
- ☐ a marathon is a race run over 42.2 km.
- ☐ New York is known as 'The Big Apple'.
- ☐ apples are common in an athlete's diet.

Read *Underwater fireworks* on page 3 of the magazine and answer questions 7 to 12.

7

The scientists' 2009 mission was special because it was the first time

- ☐ an underwater eruption had been filmed at close range.
- ☐ an underwater volcano had been discovered.
- ☐ an underwater eruption had been studied.
- ☐ an underwater volcano had erupted.

8

What motivated the scientists to return to West Mata in 2009?

- ☐ a desire to test Jason the robot
- ☐ the need to measure the depth of the ocean
- ☐ curiosity about a sudden increase in water temperatures
- ☐ an interest in investigating the results of their water samples

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When cooled, the *fiery bubbles of molten lava* become

Shade one bubble.



- ☐ sulfur.
- ☐ a hot gas.
- ☐ black rock.
- ☐ underwater fireworks.

10

The violence of West Mata's explosion was restricted mainly by

- ☐ the thickness of its lava.
- ☐ the pressure of the water above it.
- ☐ the temperature of the water around it.
- ☐ the strength of the nearby ocean currents.

11

According to the text, scientists hope that the information collected by Jason will help them to understand

- ☐ why underwater eruptions are not as hot as eruptions on land.
- ☐ why underwater eruptions shoot out lava bubbles.
- ☐ how underwater volcanoes might be observed.
- ☐ how underwater volcanoes develop.

12

Which quotation from the text relates to both Figures 1 and 2?

- ☐ *the volcano was active and might erupt again at any time*
- ☐ *scientists had found volcanic debris in water samples*
- ☐ *the force and the heat of the lava would have destroyed the robot and its cameras*
- ☐ *the scientists were able to witness a submarine eruption close-up*

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Read *The first day* on page 4 of the magazine and answer questions 13 to 18.

13

Why is Michael in the Principal's office?

- ☐ He is meeting the Principal because it is his first day.
- ☐ He has something to deliver to the Principal.
- ☐ A teacher is not happy with his behaviour.
- ☐ His parents have left a message for him.

Shade one bubble.



14

'Maybe we could just chalk it up to experience,' (paragraph 4)

In this sentence, *chalk it up to experience* means to

- ☐ learn from a negative experience.
- ☐ keep a record of recent experiences.
- ☐ encourage more positive experiences.
- ☐ refuse to acknowledge a recent experience.

15

'Were you pleased your family decided to move here, Michael?' (paragraph 5)

Why does the Principal ask this question?

- ☐ to encourage Michael to feel more at ease
- ☐ to acknowledge Michael is new to the school
- ☐ to show Michael how much he has embarrassed his family
- ☐ to suggest that Michael's feelings may be influencing his behaviour

16

The conversation ends with Michael feeling

- ☐ defeated.
- ☐ uncertain.
- ☐ miserable.
- ☐ disappointed.

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17

Michael's approach to the Principal suggests that he is trying to

- ☐ annoy her.
- ☐ charm her.
- ☐ challenge her.
- ☐ get to know her.

Shade one bubble.



18

Readers mainly learn about Michael's character through

- ☐ his facial expressions.
- ☐ what he thinks to himself.
- ☐ what he says to the Principal.
- ☐ what the Principal says about him.

Read *Salinity* on page 5 of the magazine and answer questions 19 to 26.

19

The text suggests that Australia's salinity problem

- ☐ is a process that cannot be reversed.
- ☐ would have occurred regardless of human influence.
- ☐ was deliberately caused by farmers and land developers.
- ☐ may have been averted had the right knowledge been available.

20

In a day, over 700 litres of water may pass through the leaves of a fully-grown river red gum. (paragraph 2)

This information in the text shows that trees

- ☐ are the only things preventing underground salt rising to the surface.
- ☐ play a vital role in preventing the watertable from rising.
- ☐ are able to access and utilise water in order to grow.
- ☐ contribute to the salinity problem.

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In the section called *Costs*, it is implied that salinity affects

- ☐ mainly the city of Wagga Wagga and the Murray River.
- ☐ an unimportant part of society and the environment.
- ☐ numerous aspects of society and the environment.
- ☐ mainly farmers and their equipment.

Shade one bubble.



22

In the section called *Costs*, the city of Wagga Wagga is mentioned to

- ☐ describe how rural towns are responding to the salinity crisis.
- ☐ give a real-world example of the high costs associated with salinity.
- ☐ show that the costs of salinity are trivial when distributed across the country.
- ☐ show that the costs of salinity are restricted to rural areas and country towns.

23

The section called *Slow change* suggests that Australian society

- ☐ is as ignorant about salinity as it has always been.
- ☐ may be about to cause another environmental emergency.
- ☐ needs to act now if salinity is to be prevented in the future.
- ☐ will be unable to predict the consequences of preventing salinity.

24

Figure 1 shows

- ☐ a rising watertable.
- ☐ a stable environment.
- ☐ a damaged environment.
- ☐ the early stages of salinity.

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Figure 2 shows that, besides rain, the watertable is affected by

- ☐ stormwater.
- ☐ irrigation.
- ☐ soil.
- ☐ salt.

Shade one bubble.



26

The intended audience of this text is people who

- ☐ are experts in salinity.
- ☐ do not know much about salinity.
- ☐ are replanting salt-damaged land.
- ☐ are measuring the financial costs of salinity.

Read *Mort's dog Blue* on page 6 of the magazine and answer questions 27 to 32.

27

What role does Blue play in the men's interaction?

- ☐ He interrupts it.
- ☐ He resolves its tensions.
- ☐ He is the motivation for it.
- ☐ He is an equal participant in it.

28

What does the Ranger believe about body language?

- ☐ Humans only use body language occasionally.
- ☐ Dogs use body language more than humans do.
- ☐ Humans are naturally skilled readers of body language.
- ☐ Dogs can read body language better than humans think they can.

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29

Mort says, ‘... *I’m a poor ignorant coot, and I just talk words.*’

This suggests that Mort is

- ☐ deliberately understating his skills.
- ☐ making it clear how little he knows.
- ☐ indirectly gaining the Ranger’s sympathy.
- ☐ acknowledging the wisdom of the Ranger.

Shade one bubble.



30

... *thumped his own thick brush on the floor again.*

What is one effect of this description of Blue’s behaviour?

- ☐ It presents Blue as an untrusting dog.
- ☐ It supports an opinion presented by the Ranger.
- ☐ It suggests that the Ranger has misinterpreted Blue.
- ☐ It casts doubt on an opinion presented by the Ranger.

31

‘... *how did you teach him those words, eh?*’

What is the effect of the Ranger’s repeated questions to Mort about teaching Blue?

- ☐ They make Mort seem rude.
- ☐ They make the Ranger seem unintelligent.
- ☐ They suggest that the Ranger knows the answer he wants.
- ☐ They suggest that Mort and the Ranger are playing a familiar game.

32

‘*Eh? No, I didn’t.*’ (towards end of text)

At this point in the text, Mort is most probably feeling

- ☐ bored.
- ☐ angry.
- ☐ terrified.
- ☐ defensive.

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Read *Where on Earth are you?* on page 7 of the magazine and answer questions 33 to 38.

33

Write the numbers 1 to 4 in the boxes to show the stages of the commercial availability of GPS, from its origins (1) to its likely future (4).

Write one number in each box.

limited

pervasive

common

denied

34

Some Internet services act like a beacon ... (paragraph 2)

In context, acting like a beacon suggests

Shade one bubble.

- ☐ illuminating a problem area.
- ☐ giving away information.
- ☐ sending a greeting.
- ☐ issuing a warning.

35

Identity theft and security breaches are mentioned to illustrate

- ☐ ways the military have used GPS.
- ☐ ways of controlling abuses of GPS.
- ☐ offences that may arise from abuses of GPS.
- ☐ offences that are more serious than abuses of GPS.

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The text presents the use of GPS by robbers and burglars as being

- ☐ part of a plan by GPS companies.
- ☐ a possible application of GPS capabilities.
- ☐ an unrealistic fear about GPS development.
- ☐ a risk worth taking for the benefits of GPS.

Shade one bubble.



37

In this text, the underlying assumption is that

- ☐ the risks of technology outweigh the benefits.
- ☐ modern life relies too much on gadgets.
- ☐ there is a solution to every problem.
- ☐ people are entitled to privacy.

38

Which statement about GPS makes the argument presented in the text more urgent?

- ☐ GPS is common.
- ☐ GPS is electronic.
- ☐ GPS is complicated.
- ☐ GPS is revolutionary.

Read *The living night* on page 8 of the magazine and answer questions 39 to 44.

39

In paragraph 1, why are the tourists feeling pleased with themselves?

- ☐ They are enjoying their holiday.
- ☐ They are looking forward to a surprise.
- ☐ They think they are doing something unique and adventurous.
- ☐ They think they are knowledgeable about what they are about to see.

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In paragraph 3, the list of turtle species that lay their eggs on this coast gives an impression of

Shade one bubble.



- ☐ security.
- ☐ excitement.
- ☐ diversity.
- ☐ uniformity.

41

Its straining face was eaten by the light of the torches.
(third last paragraph)

This metaphor about the effect of the torchlight

- ☐ presents the tourists as intrusive and slightly predatory.
- ☐ suggests that the tourists are seeing something for the first time.
- ☐ suggests that the turtle is frightened and distracted by the tourists.
- ☐ implies that the tourists' behaviour may prevent the turtle laying her eggs.

42

The description of the turtle's flippers as she lays her eggs

- ☐ presents her as instinctive and robotic.
- ☐ implies that in nature all things are inevitable.
- ☐ suggests that she does not know what she is doing.
- ☐ compares her with a toy to make her seem childish.

43

This text is supported by the idea that

- ☐ the behaviour of predators in the wild is unacceptable.
- ☐ turtles would be better off if they could exist without being observed.
- ☐ tourism is damaging to the environment in ways that are not understood.
- ☐ the world is fiercer and less picturesque than many like to think.

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In general, the tourists are presented as

- ☐ rude.
- ☐ hesitant.
- ☐ enthralled.
- ☐ perceptive.

Shade one bubble.



Read *Inventing daylight saving* on page 9 of the magazine and answer questions 45 to 50.

45

Hudson's address was a part of

- ☐ an ongoing discussion of ideas.
- ☐ an emotional publicity campaign.
- ☐ an announcement of official policy.
- ☐ a debate between meteorological experts.

46

What is Hudson's opinion of the idea that people should *alter their habits*? (paragraph 2)

- ☐ It is just another way of expressing his scheme.
- ☐ It could not be objected to by any reasonable person.
- ☐ It is good in theory but could not be put into practice.
- ☐ It would work well but would be expensive to implement.

47

When Hudson says, *I am not aware that any systematic attempt has been made to lengthen the hours of labour in summer on this account* (last paragraph), he is

- ☐ overstating his case.
- ☐ appealing to emotions.
- ☐ qualifying an assertion.
- ☐ contradicting his own opinion.

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What is the main idea presented in the final paragraph?

Write your answer
on the lines.



49

Which statement about public opinion is consistent with the underlying assumption in the text?

- ☐ It is too powerful to fight against.
- ☐ It contains a lot of traditional wisdom.
- ☐ It is the result of long, intelligent thinking.
- ☐ It can be changed by good, rational arguments.

Shade one
bubble.



50

What method does Hudson use to deal with his opponents?

- ☐ He refers to expert opinion.
- ☐ He ignores their arguments.
- ☐ He raises doubts about their motives.
- ☐ He points out errors in their arguments.

STOP – END OF TEST

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PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Read *Snowboarding in Australia* on page 12 of the magazine and answer questions P1 to P3.

P1

The first Olympic snowboarding event was held in

- ☐ 1998.
- ☐ 2008.
- ☐ 2009.
- ☐ 2010.

Shade one bubble.



P2

Where were the 1998 Winter Olympics held?

Write your answer on the line.



P3

Write the numbers 1 to 3 in the boxes to show the order in which Australian snowboarders gained international recognition.

Torah Bright

Zeke Steggall

Nathan Johnstone

Write one number in each box.

