

# TEST 2: Reading

## Instructions

- A correct answer scores 1 mark, and an incorrect answer scores 0.
- Marks are not deducted for incorrect answers.
- No marks will be given if more than the required number of boxes are shaded (most questions require one answer).
- Choose the alternative which most correctly answers the question and shade in the box next to it.

## Section A: Narrative

Read the following narrative and then answer the questions that follow.

### An African Folktale

Every evening, the *tajiri*, or the rich man, sat down to a hearty meal prepared for him in his own kitchen. The food that was left over would have been enough to feed a whole family, but the *tajiri* was extremely stingy. The leftovers from his table went to fatten his pigs so that he would have the benefit of them later.

The *maskini*, or poor man, lived on simple fare. He owned a goat that gave him milk and cheese, but his evening meal was usually nothing more than a bowl of porridge. However, he had found a way to make it more enjoyable. He would eat his meal while hidden outside the *tajiri*'s kitchen, where wonderful smells came wafting through the open window. They made the *maskini*'s mouth water, and the porridge seemed like a feast.

One evening the *tajiri* decided to take a walk in his garden in order to work up an appetite for dinner. He saw the *maskini* sitting outside the kitchen window. As the *tajiri* watched, he saw the *maskini* inhale deeply, and a blissful look come over his face. How dare he help himself to my smells, thought the *tajiri*, and he ordered his servants to seize the *maskini* and escort him to the village jail.

A few days later the *maskini* was summoned before the court that met weekly in the village center, where the case would be decided on its merits. The *tajiri* explained that the smells from the kitchen belonged to him, and the *maskini* was depriving him of them. As payment, he demanded the *maskini*'s goat, which was the only thing he owned. When asked to respond, the *maskini* looking very forlorn, could only stare at the ground and shuffle his feet, afraid to speak. The village elders, who had been hearing the case, now withdrew to the shade of the nearby baobab tree. After a brief discussion, the village chief came forward and addressed the crowd.

'The *maskini* did help himself to the smells from the *tajiri*'s kitchen,' she said. 'However, he did not receive any food from him. We have concluded, therefore, that the *tajiri* should not be given the goat. However, in fairness to him we believe he should have the right to smell the *maskini*'s goat whenever he wants.'

The *tajiri* was furious and left without saying a word. But the people of the village approved the court's decision. They felt that justice had been done.

Shade the correct box to answer the following questions:

1 The *tajiri* sent the leftovers from his table to his pigs because

- ☐ the pigs were his much loved pets.
- ☐ he didn't think his servants were hungry.
- ☒ he wanted to fatten his pigs for the future.
- ☐ he couldn't be seen to be favouring one poor family over another.

SHADE ONE BOX



2 The *maskini* ate porridge in the evening because

- ☐ it was good for his digestion.
- ☐ it took all day for the porridge to be prepared.
- ☒ that was all that was left at the end of the day.
- ☐ it was his tribe's customs to eat porridge at night.

SHADE ONE BOX



3 The porridge seemed like a feast tells us that the *maskini*

- ☐ had very poor tastebuds.
- ☐ wanted to trick the *tajiri*.
- ☐ knows the meal is a real treat.
- ☒ was able to convince himself it was good.

SHADE ONE BOX



4 The *tajiri* sent the *maskini* to the village jail because

- ☐ he wanted to brag to the villagers.
- ☒ the *maskini* had stolen something he owned.
- ☐ the *maskini* was trespassing on his property.
- ☐ the *tajiri* thought he owned the *maskini*'s goat.

SHADE ONE BOX



5 The *tajiri* was furious because

- ☒ the court had tricked him.
- ☐ the court didn't agree with him.
- ☐ the court had made an unlawful decision.
- ☐ he felt the court had misunderstood what he was asking for.

SHADE ONE BOX



6 The people of the village felt justice had been done because

- ☐ the court had made a decision.
- ☐ the *tajiri* didn't argue with the court.
- ☒ the *tajiri*'s greed had been highlighted.
- ☐ the court found the *maskini* guilty of the *tajiri*'s charge.

SHADE ONE BOX



## Section B: Recount

Read the following recount and then answer the questions that follow.

### Paddock Surfing

Astrid Hildebrand, *Heywire* blog post | November 2008

In a small country town there is not a lot of standard recreational activity. In fact, very little is available in the way of movie theatres, shopping malls, swimming pools or any of those venues where average urban teenagers tend to collect to hang out with each other. This does not mean, however, that we country kids do nothing in our spare time. Rather, I like to believe it tends to challenge us, to bring out the more experimental and creative side in we young folk from the bush. My own adolescence was coloured by various forms of what must be designated 'extreme sports'. Leaping the fire, burning the witch, cowpat handicaps (and yes – that was a particularly grubby pursuit). And – my very personal favourite – paddock surfing. The latter was a truly inspired activity. Let me give you a glimpse. Take a ute – a rope and an old door. Add a freshly irrigated paddock (these are getting scarce nowadays mind you) and a bunch of uncivilised, energy supercharged adolescents and hey presto – you have all the essential ingredients for a 'good old time'. Picture this. The rope ties the door to the ute's towbar – and as many kids as possible cram onto the door. One older and slightly more responsible young turk mans the gearshift – and off you go! Shrieking, sodden, supernovaswift-slicing through the watery paddocks. The driver spins the wheel to accelerate the excitement, ducking and weaving from side to side. Kids squeal at the hint of danger, grab in wild attempts to hang on to that crazy super surfboard. Let's put this in perspective. Paddocksurfing is a bizarre, homegrown blend of more widely recognised 'sexy' activities like wake and snowboarding. But hey – we dreamed up this grubbier pastime all on our own one quiet Spring evening when there just didn't seem much to do. Yes – our friends from the farm down the road, my sisters and I dredged down deep in our imaginations and voila! Created our very own species of weird entertainment. Looking back now, as far as I'm concerned we really did come up trumps. Things are different these days. Now the paddocks are drought-dry and the idea of using waterladen paddocks for this type of entertainment seem lightyears away. But I'll never forget that country kids like us knew how to make something out of nothing. And I'll never forget the thrill of those wild, wild rides.

Shade the correct box to answer the following questions:

1 The writer thinks country kids

- ☐ are foolish and take risks.
- ☐ are much smarter than city kids.
- ☒ need to be creative and imaginative.
- ☐ aren't as interested in entertainment.

SHADE ONE BOX



2 According to the text, one of the challenges country kids face is

- ☐ having lots of chores to do if they live on a farm.
- ☐ a lack of reliable transport available to get to venues.
- ☐ not seeing latest release films when they first come on.
- ☒ finding alternative forms of entertainment to the traditional ones.

SHADE ONE BOX



- 3 'Looking back now, as far as I'm concerned we really did come up trumps.'

This suggests the writer thinks

- ☐ they took a gamble and lost.
- ☒ that against the odds they achieved a good outcome.
- ☐ their most popular pastime was card games.
- ☐ after paddock surfing they had many cuts and bruises.

SHADE ONE BOX



- 4 For the writer, paddock surfing represents

- ☐ a good way to pass the time.
- ☐ the foolishness of childhood.
- ☒ the ingenuity of country kids.
- ☐ the failure of country kids to assess risk adequately.

SHADE ONE BOX



- 5 My own adolescence was coloured by various forms of what must be designated 'extreme sports'.

Why are the words 'extreme sports' in inverted commas?

This shows that

- ☐ they are spoken words.
- ☐ it is informal speech or slang.
- ☐ they are the most important words in the sentence.
- ☒ it is not the literal use of the words.

SHADE ONE BOX



## Section C: Expository

Read the following expository text and then answer the questions that follow.

### Baz Luhrmann's *Australia* is Good, but not a Masterpiece

David Stratton, *The Australian* | November 18, 2008

Baz Luhrmann's eagerly awaited *Australia* is certainly the epic that we all expected.

It's very ambitious, it has enormous sweep and scope as it tells a story that takes place in the Northern Territory between 1939 and 1941...

...The second half of the story, after the inevitable love affair, involves the Japanese attack on Darwin and all its ramifications. Like his earlier films *Strictly Ballroom*, *Romeo+Juliet* and *Moulin Rouge*, *Australia* shows Baz Luhrmann as a very theatrical director. He has a great eye for compositions and the film is beautifully shot by Mandy Walker, but there's theatricality about the film which is a bit off-putting at the beginning. The early scenes, even the first 20 minutes or so of the film, are handled in a slightly artificial, arch manner which doesn't sit well with the outback locations and the natural settings of the story. It's all very well to be artificial when you're dealing with a theatrical concept like *Moulin Rouge* or even *Strictly Ballroom*, but it doesn't really work so well when you're

doing the same sort of thing here, so there's something that's just a little bit off key about these scenes. Then once the cattle drive gets under way either you get used to it or that aspect of it is played down because the remainder of the film is much stronger in a rather conventional way. I have to say, there's a lot of clichés in the script, a lot of familiar elements from other films of the past – *The Wizard of Oz* and the song 'Over the Rainbow' are heavily referenced – and it's as though the film is aimed at not so much an Australian audience but an international audience, and especially an American audience. I think probably it has the potential to be quite successful in America because it is, I think for Australians, a rather simplistic view of this whole period. It's the sort of film where if you make a point about half-caste Aboriginals in the first 10 minutes you have to restate exactly the same point another couple of hours further on. The film is not without flaws, it's not the masterpiece that we were hoping for, but I think you could say that it's a very good film in many ways. While it will be very popular with many people I think there's a slight air of disappointment after it all. But I will say that the acting is of a very high level, especially given that some of the actors have been encouraged to perform in this rather stylised, theatrical way...

...Despite its flaws – and it certainly has flaws – I think *Australia* is an impressive and important film, and if I were to give it a star rating I would give it three and a half out of five.

Shade the correct box to answer the following questions:

1 David Stratton thinks the film *Australia* is

- ☐ a masterpiece.
- ☐ a failure and disaster.
- ☒ a very good film despite its flaws.
- ☐ a film you shouldn't bother going to see.

SHADE ONE BOX



2 Stratton suggests the film will appeal to Americans because

- ☐ it has many cowboy elements in it.
- ☒ it presents a simplistic view of the period.
- ☐ it uses a favourite American song, 'Over the Rainbow'.
- ☐ the actors speak with accents that can be understood by Americans.

SHADE ONE BOX



3 According to Stratton, one of the film's greatest strength is

- ☐ the cattle drive.
- ☐ its first 20 minutes.
- ☒ the quality of the acting.
- ☐ that it repeats important points.

SHADE ONE BOX



4 Stratton is critical of the theatricality of the film because

- ☒ the approach doesn't match the setting.
- ☐ the approach isn't kept up throughout the film.
- ☐ it makes the audience laugh at inappropriate times.
- ☐ the style isn't consistent with conventional approaches.

SHADE ONE BOX



- 5 Stratton says in speaking of the film: 'It's very ambitious, it has enormous sweep and scope...'

The phrase 'sweep and scope' refers to

- ☐ the number of actors in the film.
- ☐ the length and quality of the film.
- ☒ the setting and concerns of the film.
- ☐ the age groups the film will appeal to.

SHADE ONE BOX



## Section D: Informative

Read the following informative text and then answer the questions that follow.

### Swimmers Happier in Another Skin

Leigh Dayton, *The Australian* | March 26, 2008

The body parts that make men men and women women are a real drag for elite swimmers, slowing their performances by fractions of a second...

..."The fat layer of the leg moves like a wave down their leg. One of the things the suit is intended to do is cut that movement down to avoid the drag," Mason said of the new Speedo bodysuit that's causing ripples in swimming circles.

Very simply, drag occurs when the water grabs swimmers, slowing them in their progress.

It's caused by the surface of the swimmer – their skin or the material of their swimsuit – and their shape.

That's why the LZR Racer suit was designed...Speedo claims its paper-thin designer fabric cuts surface drag. So too does the orientation of seams...because if they cut across the flow of water they increase turbulence and, therefore, drag. But as Tim Langrish, a Sydney University engineer with expertise in fluid dynamics, noted, no matter how good a suit looks technically, swimmers must be able to wear it and swim in it.

"It's a trade-off between physics and biology," Langrish said.

According to Mason, that was precisely the problem with prototypes of the new supersuit...

..."We discovered problems," (Mason) said. "If (the suit) restricted movement around the shoulders, reducing drag, it also reduced the ability to increase propulsion.

"It's also no good being so tight, it takes two hours to get into ... these are the trade-offs. That's why it takes so long to develop (a suit)."

But the results, claim Speedo, offer a winning edge over its previous high-performance suits, reducing drag...

...Australia's head swimming coach Alan Thompson believes the spate of world records, which are being attributed to the new technology, has just begun as other leading countries prepare to hold their Olympic trials.

Thompson does not credit the fast times to the new swimsuits despite 13 world records in six weeks since they were launched.

"We are having great performances here [at the national Olympic trials] and, in Europe, we saw a lot of world records broken over the last six days," Thompson said.

"I think it's a great performance of swimming and I think we have more to look forward to ... this is the Olympic year and that's what we expect."

Shade the correct box to answer the following questions:

- 1 According to the text, the times of elite swimmers are most affected by

- ☐ the quality of pool water.  
☒ the swimmers' own bodies.  
☐ the materials used on pool surfaces.  
☐ the mental approach of the swimmer.

SHADE ONE BOX



- 2 According to the text, the swimsuit is designed to

- ☐ look stylish.  
☐ make swimmers look thin.  
☒ cut surface drag in the water.  
☐ increase swimmer comfort in the water.

SHADE ONE BOX



- 3 Alan Thompson attributes the recent spate of world records to

- ☐ the new swimsuits.  
☐ 'faster' water in pools.  
☐ better coaching methods.  
☒ elite swimmers being well prepared.

SHADE ONE BOX



- 4 It takes a long time to develop a suit because

- ☒ a balance between physics and biology has to be struck.  
☐ the material is very difficult to manufacture.  
☐ funding for research and development in sport is scarce.  
☐ elite swimmers are very critical when they trial the suits.

SHADE ONE BOX



- 5 The title of the text is *Swimmers Happier in Another Skin*.

This suggests that

- ☐ elite swimmers are impossible to please.  
☒ elite swimmers are keen to use the new swimsuit.  
☐ elite swimmers are unhappy with the new swimsuit.  
☐ elite swimmers prefer swimming in a traditional swimsuit.

SHADE ONE BOX



