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11+ English Skills Practice Paper 1

1 hour 10 minutes

Instructions:

You have 1 hour and 10 minutes to attempt all questions

Spend 10 minutes reading the text and underlining

Spend 30 minutes on Section A - 40 marks

Spend 30 minutes on Section B - 40 Marks

11+

Date:

Score:

This voyage of eight hundred miles was a perilous venture on a craft of twenty tons, and at that season of the year. The Chinese seas are usually boisterous, subject to terrible gales of wind, and especially during the equinoxes; and it was now early November.

It would clearly have been to the master's advantage to carry his passengers to Yokohama, since he was paid a certain sum per day; but he would have been rash to attempt such a voyage, and it was imprudent even to attempt to reach Shanghai. But John Bunsby believed in the Tankadere, which rode on the waves like a seagull; and perhaps he was not wrong.

Late in the day they passed through the capricious channels of Hong Kong, and the Tankadere, impelled by favourable winds, conducted herself admirably.

"I do not need, pilot," said Phileas Fogg, when they got into the open sea, "to advise you to use all possible speed."

"Trust me, your honour. We are carrying all the sail the wind will let us. The poles would add nothing and are only used when we are going into port."

"It’s your trade, not mine, pilot, and I confide in you."

Phileas Fogg, with body erect and legs wide apart, standing like a sailor, gazed without staggering at the swelling waters. The young woman, who was seated aft, was profoundly affected as she looked out upon the ocean, darkening now with the twilight, on which she had ventured in so frail a vessel. Above her head rustled the white sails, which seemed like great white wings. The boat, carried forward by the wind, seemed to be flying in the air.

Night came. The moon was entering her first quarter, and her insufficient light would soon die out in the mist on the horizon. Clouds were rising from the east, and already overcast a part of the heavens.

The pilot had hung out his lights, which was very necessary in these seas crowded with vessels bound landward; for collisions are not uncommon occurrences, and, at the speed she was going, the least shock would shatter the gallant little craft.

Fix, seated in the bow, gave himself up to meditation. He kept apart from his fellow-travellers, knowing Mr. Fogg's taciturn tastes; besides, he did not quite like to talk to the man whose favours he had accepted. He was thinking, too, of the future. It seemed certain that Fogg would not stop at Yokohama, but would at once take the boat for San Francisco; and the vast extent of America would ensure him impunity and safety. Fogg's plan appeared to him the simplest in the world. Instead of sailing directly from England to the United States, like a common villain, he had traversed three quarters of the globe, so as to gain the American continent more surely; and there, after throwing the police off his track, he would quietly enjoy himself with the fortune stolen from the bank. But, once in the United States, what should he, Fix, do?

Continued

Should he abandon this man? No, a hundred times no! Until he had secured his extradition, he would not lose sight of him for an hour. It was his duty, and he would fulfil it to the end. At all events, there was one thing to be thankful for; Passepartout was not with his master; and it was above all important, after the confidences Fix had imparted to him, that the servant should never have speech with his master.

Phileas Fogg was also thinking of Passepartout, who had so strangely disappeared. Looking at the matter from every point of view, it did not seem to him impossible that, by some mistake, the man might have embarked on the Carnatic at the last moment; and this was also Aouda's opinion, who regretted very much the loss of the worthy fellow to whom she owed so much. They might then find him at Yokohama; for, if the Carnatic was carrying him thither, it would be easy to ascertain if he had been on board.

A brisk breeze arose about ten o'clock; but, though it might have been prudent to take in a reef, the pilot, after carefully examining the heavens, let the craft remain rigged as before. The Tankadere bore sail admirably, as she drew a great deal of water, and everything was prepared for high speed in case of a gale.

Mr. Fogg and Aouda descended into the cabin at midnight, having been already preceded by Fix, who had lain down on one of the cots. The pilot and crew remained on deck all night.

At sunrise the next day, which was 8th November, the boat had made more than one hundred miles. The log indicated a mean speed of between eight and nine miles. The Tankadere still carried all sail, and was accomplishing her greatest capacity of speed. If the wind held as it was, the chances would be in her favour. During the day she kept along the coast, where the currents were favourable; the coast, irregular in profile, and visible sometimes across the clearings, was at most five miles distant. The sea was less boisterous, since the wind came off land - a fortunate circumstance for the boat, which would suffer, owing to its small tonnage, by a heavy surge on the sea.

Adapted from Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne, which is available in the Public Domain.

Questions

1. Give four reasons why the voyage was a “perilous venture”.

(4 marks)

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2. In your own words, explain why the Master may have wanted to sail to Yokohama.

(2 marks)

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3. How well do you think that John Bunsby expected the ship would perform? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.

(3 marks)

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4. In your own words, what did Phileas Fogg want the pilot to do?

(2 marks)

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5. Using your own words, explain why it was important for the pilot to hang out the lights.

(3 marks)

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6. The words in bold are taken from the passage. Use them in a new sentence that shows you understand what the word means and that you can use it correctly.

“boisterous” (2 marks)

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“admirably” (2 marks)

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‘profoundly’ (2 marks)

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_____

‘descended’ (2 marks)

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7. What was Fix thinking about Phileas Fogg? What did he think he may do next and why? Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.

(6 marks)

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8. What did Fogg think might have happened to Passepartout?

(3 marks)

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Continued

9. What were the problems that The Tankedere had to deal with and how well did she cope with them? Use evidence from the whole passage to support your answer and include all the problems that you can find.

(9 marks)

END OF SECTION A

SECTION B: WRITING **(40 marks)**

You are advised to spend 30 minutes on section B.

You must take care to plan, check and correct your work.

Presentation and accuracy of spelling and punctuation will be assessed in the marking of this section.

Answer **ONE** of the following two questions:

EITHER:

(1) Write a story based on the theme of friendship. Try to make your writing as vivid and interesting as you can.

(40 marks)

OR:

(2) Continue the story from the passage in Section A. What could happen next? Try to make your writing as vivid and interesting as you can.

(40 marks)

CHOSEN TITLE: .....

STORY: .....

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END OF PAPER