

11+ Practice Papers

Comprehension



ALPHANUMS
WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

Practice makes Perfect



11+ English Comprehension Test 1

Name _____

Class _____



An extract from "Treasure Island" by R. L. Stevenson

Squire Trelawney, Dr Livesey, and the rest of these gentlemen having asked me to write down the whole particulars about Treasure Island, from the beginning to the end, keeping nothing back but the bearings of the island, and that only because there is still treasure not yet lifted, I take up my pen in the year of grace
5 17——, and go back to the time when my father kept the "Admiral Benbow" inn, and the brown old seaman, with the sabre cut, first took up his lodging under our roof.

I remember him as if it were yesterday, as he came plodding to the inn door, his sea-chest following behind him in a hand-barrow; a tall, strong, heavy, nut-
10 brown man; his tarry pigtail falling over the shoulders of his soiled blue coat; his hands ragged and scarred, with black, broken nails; and the sabre cut across one cheek, a dirty, livid white. I remember him looking round the cove and whistling to himself as he did so, and then breaking out in that old sea-song that he sang so often afterwards:

15 *"Fifteen men on the dead man's chest—
Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!"*

in the high, old tottering voice that seemed to have been tuned and broken at the capstan bars. Then he rapped on the door with a bit of stick like a handspike that he carried, and when my father appeared, called roughly for a glass of rum.

20 This, when it was brought to him, he drank slowly, like a connoisseur, lingering on the taste, and still looking about him at the cliffs and up at our signboard.

"This is a handy cove," says he, at length; "and a pleasant sittiated grog-shop. Much company, mate?"

My father told him no, very little company, the more was the pity.

25 "Well, then," said he, "this is the berth for me. Here you, matey," he cried to the man who trundled the barrow; "bring up alongside and help up my chest. I'll stay here a bit," he continued. "I'm a plain man; rum and bacon and eggs is what I want, and that head up there for to watch ships off. What you mought call me? You mought call me captain."



Comprehension Test 1 Questions

Name _____

Class _____



Answer the following questions about the text. Choose the best answer and circle A, B, C or D.

Question 1

Based on the information given in the passage, Treasure Island is set in the

- A. Nineteenth century
- B. Eighteenth century
- C. Seventeenth century
- D. Sixteenth century

Question 2

From the narrator's description, it can be inferred that 'the captain' is

- A. A tall, old and scarred seaman.
- B. An adventurer looking for treasure.
- C. A drunkard looking for drinks.
- D. A tourist looking for a quiet place.

Question 3

What does the word **connoisseur** (line 20) mean?

- A. A drunkard with a fondness for rum.
- B. An expert in judging matters of taste.
- C. An old man who has difficulty swallowing.
- D. A thirsty man desperate for something to drink.

Question 4

'The captain' decided to stay in the Admiral Benbow inn because

- A. It was where the treasure was buried.
- B. He liked the taste of rum served in the inn.
- C. He wanted a place where very few people visited.
- D. It was ideally situated for watching ships.

**Question 5**

Which of the following information was not recorded by the narrator in his story?

- A. The value of the treasure.
- B. The name of his father's inn.
- C. The name of the 'captain'.
- D. The location of the treasure island.

Question 6

What is the effect of including the lines of the song in lines 15-16?

- A. It illustrates the narrator's writing skills.
- B. It makes the narrator's description of 'the captain' vivid.
- C. It reveals that 'the captain' was a musician.
- D. It shows how friendly 'the captain' was toward the narrator and his family.

Question 7

What part of speech is the word '**soiled**' in line 10?

- A. An adverb
- B. An adjective
- C. A noun
- D. A verb

Question 8

What word or phrase in the text means 'simple'?

- A. ragged
 - B. sabre
 - C. plain
 - D. livid
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Comprehension Test 1 Answers

1. B

Lines 4-5 of the passage say, “I take up my pen in the year of grace 17——”. The last two years are not given, but it is clear from these lines that the story is set in the eighteenth century (1700-1799).

2. A

Choice A is correct. Lines 6-7 describe the ‘captain’ as “the brown old seaman, with the sabre cut, first took up his lodging under our roof.”

Choice B is incorrect. The narrator does not say the ‘captain’ was looking for treasure. Choice C is incorrect. Though the passage says, the ‘captain’ drank rum; it doesn’t describe him as a drunkard.

Choice D is incorrect. Though the passage indicates that the captain was looking for a quiet place, he was not a tourist.

3. B

The word *connoisseur* means *someone who is a taste expert*. The narrator says ‘the captain’ drank the wine slowly as if he was a connoisseur appreciating its taste.

4. C

Choice A is incorrect. The narrator does not say the treasure was buried at the Admiral Benbow inn. He indicates that it was buried at the treasure island.

Choice B is incorrect. The ‘captain’ did not choose to stay at the Admiral Benbow inn because he liked its rum.

Choice C is correct. The ‘captain’ asked the narrator’s father if the Admiral Benbow inn had much company. When the father replied that it didn’t the ‘captain’ exclaimed “Well, then, this is the berth for me.” and decided to stay there.

Choice D is incorrect. The ‘captain’ said he wanted to watch ships. But that was not the reason he chose the Admiral Benbow inn.

5. D

Choice A is incorrect. The narrator does not say anything about the value of the treasure or why he left it out.

Choice B and C are incorrect. The narrator does not name his father or the ‘captain’, but there is an indication that he left out their names deliberately.

Choice D is correct. The narrator says he decided to “write down the whole particulars about Treasure Island, ... keeping nothing back but the bearings of the island, and that only because there is still treasure not yet lifted” From this, we can infer he is leaving out the location of the treasure island deliberately.

**6. B**

The narrator gives a detailed description of the ‘captain’, his appearance and his mannerisms. He comes across as a dangerous, fierce seaman with a fondness for rum. The song he sings reinforces this image.

7. B

Adjectives are words that describe nouns etc. ‘Soiled’ means dirty or stained, and it is used in the sentence to describe the coat.

8. C

Plain means *simple, ordinary*.
