

QUESTION BANK 3

READING

PART 3 • Longer Texts

PRACTICE 1

Questions 1 – 8 are based on the following passage.

Read the passage carefully and choose the **best** answer **A, B, C** or **D**. For each question, mark your answer on the answer sheet.

I could still remember the day when Payne received the letter. It was a lengthy letter which I did not understand much even though Payne insisted that I read it twice. What caught Payne's attention was the date of the letter. It was dated on 17th April, almost two months ago. However, the letter just arrived that morning, on the 19th of June. Looking at the ink, Payne knew that the letter was not backdated but it stirred questions as to why the writer did not immediately post it.

Instead of writing a reply to the letter, Payne and I took an hour-long journey driving to Hopewell to find The Pine House, the address written in the letter. When we arrived, we went around the small village, trying to locate the house. We found it but a sign "For Sale" had been put up by the gate which made us more curious. As it was already noon, Payne stopped at a restaurant so we could have lunch. Later, Payne asked the waiter about the house. However, another patron of the restaurant who heard Payne's question came over and introduced himself. He was willing to share and we were dismayed about what we had to hear from him.

"Hello, I'm Mr. Dillon. I heard your questions about The Pine house," the man introduced himself and sat down.

"Hi, I'm Payne and this is my assistant, Langford," Payne introduced us to Mr. Dillon.

Mr. Dillon said, "I haven't seen you around before. You two are new, aren't you?"

"Oh! We'd just got here. Actually, I'm visiting an old acquaintance. I only know her as Aunt Anna whom I believe lives in The Pine House. I hope her house isn't that far because having to drive for another hour can be quite daunting. Do you know her?" asked Payne.

"You mean you are a friend of Ms Annabelle Dawn? I'm sorry but I guessed you haven't heard the news that Ms Dawn had passed away last month. She had a fall from the staircase and was lucky to come out without a scratch. However, she died of natural cause two weeks after that," Mr. Dillon gave a lengthy explanation.

Payne looked surprised and so did I, myself. We did not expect to find that the person who wrote the letter was already dead. After all, we just received her letter earlier. I wondered about Ms Dawn's inkling about her fall which prompted her to write to Payne.

"Had she been sick after her fall?" Payne continued asking.

"The old lady was known to have a liver problem. It could be seen that even her skin seemed to have a tint of yellowness. Other than that, she was in good health, going around the village with her little dog. It's the reason that people have been talking after her death. She left her house and her money to her long-term companion, Ms Wilde. Ms. Wilde who has no blood relation to Ms Dawn at all! She left nothing for her only nephew and three nieces. People wouldn't believe that Ms Dawn had



left nothing for her relatives. It's unusual and speculations were rife when it was discovered that the will was changed a week before her death. Before you ask, it's certainly legal. No doubt that gossips were wild that Ms Wilde was behind it. She certainly declared she knew nothing about it," said Mr. Dillon.

The case was becoming more interesting.

Mr. Dillon continued, "Ms Wilde's sudden inheritance had certainly set tongues wagging. In addition, Ms Annabelle Dawn came from a generation in which family dignity and the privacy of family were important. She was known to have a great sense of family obligation. She gave the vibe that blood was always thicker than water and often invited the nephew and nieces to spend time with her. The last time they came down was on the weekend, a fortnight before her death.

"What about you? Do you think Ms Wilde would have a hand in the change of the will?"

Payne tried to fish for more information.

"I really don't know. I'm not close to either Ms Dawn or Ms Wilde. Although she was strict and authoritative, Ms Dawn could also be kind and generous to her employees. In my opinion, Ms Wilde would not be capable of doing such thing. She's dedicated and a little straight-forward but you may never know. People can change. I guess we'll never know now because the only one who knew was not available." Mr. Dillon released a sigh as to show that he was ending the conversation.

Payne got the hint and stood up.

"You seemed to know a lot, Mr. Dillon. Thank you very much for your information. I think we should go and pay Ms Wilde a visit now. I wonder whether I should offer my condolences or congratulate her." Payne seemed to be speaking his mind aloud.

(Adapted from Dumb Witness by Agatha Christie)

1. In paragraph 1, why did Payne want the writer to read the letter for the second time?
 - A He tried to make the writer to be more observant.
 - B The writer would be able to understand the person writing the letter.
 - C The writer would have to write a reply for the letter.
 - D He wanted to show that a long letter could be interesting.
2. What did Payne notice that the writer has missed?
 - A The reason the letter had been sent.
 - B The time the letter had been written.
 - C The address provided by the writer.
 - D The writer of the letter was a woman.
3. How did Payne gain information?
 - A By asking a lot of questions from Mr. Dillon
 - B By being friendly with the waiter
 - C By having a conversation
 - D By visiting Ms Wilde at her house
4. In paragraph 6, how did Ms Annabelle die?
 - A Her liver disease got worse.
 - B She had died naturally.
 - C She had taken extra medicine.
 - D She was badly hurt.
5. In paragraph 9, who had been thought to inherit Ms Dawn's wealth?
 - A Her nephew
 - B Her charity group
 - C Her blood relatives
 - D Her employees
6. Which of the following had caused 'tongue wagging'?
 - A Ms Dawn's death after her fall
 - B Ms Wilde's sudden wealth
 - C Ms Dawn's responsibility towards family
 - D Ms Wilde's decision to move away
7. In paragraph 8, what did Mr. Dhillon think about Ms Wilde's character?
 - A She is loyal and helpful.

- B She can be clever but forgetful.
 - C She is honest and direct.
 - D She is kind-hearted and trusted.
8. Why do you think that Payne was thinking about congratulating Ms Wilde?
- A Ms Wilde had inherited a lot of money unexpectedly.
 - B Ms Wilde had successfully got rid of her employer.
 - C Ms Wilde would be rich after selling The Pine house.
 - D Ms Wilde would be working at a new job.

PRACTICE 2

Questions 1 – 8 are based on the following passage.

Read the passage carefully and choose the **best** answer **A, B, C** or **D**. For each question, mark your answer on the answer sheet.

Brianna Wood was running alone on a mountain track when she heard an odd sound that had her thinking of an incoming danger. Then, something rustling in the bushes made her stopped immediately, trying to listen for the sounds again but everything seemed to be at a standstill. She began to regret not to start the run hours earlier as she usually did. However, the unexpected meeting schedule caused her to leave her office later than she always did. Still, she wanted to run the mountains. A routine that she had done for almost a year.

She would run up Cape Mountain, across Red Wolf Pass, then down Lush Mountain, where her sister, Brenda, would be waiting for her. From there, they would drive back home.

Feeling spooked, Brianna tried hard to deny that she was on edge about the rustle in the bushes. The recent news she read about a serial killer crossed her mind. The area was also known for its large brown bears but Brianna had never encountered with any of them. Her hand was ready to take the bear spray she had in her pocket as she moved forward again stealthily. Running would only attract the attention of the bear if it was indeed one. She increased her pace slightly when she heard a faint jingle, the sound she had heard earlier. Only then, she realised she was really in danger. She was at a place and time that no one would hear her screams.

Her heart thudding fast, she sprinted forward as fast as she could. She was in good shape but she had been running for the past hour. Brianna knew someone was pursuing her because she could hear footsteps scattering the rocks in the trail behind her. She knew the person was not far behind. She continued running, desperately struggling to stay ahead of whoever was behind her. Brianna did not know where she was and she could feel her legs were getting weaker but she could not stop. She did not want to be caught and facing death was not an option. She was still too young to die.

She could not think about any of that right now. She began praying as she needed all the help she could get. All she could afford to focus on was running, pushing harder, faster. As her lungs screamed for air, she felt another kind of pain in her chest, as if they were going to blow up. Then, suddenly she reached a clear trail and there was a road ahead. She hoped there would be cars passing by that could take her to town and people. She would be safe. Still, she kept on running. Slowing down might cut the distant between her and the person she was getting away from.

She emerged from the woods and headed towards the road where she almost ran straight into the path of a pickup truck. She waved frantically so the driver would have no choice but to stop. She would rather



think that the driver was someone who could help her than one who would harm her. It was a risk that she had to take. She would not want her unknown pursuer to catch up. When the driver stopped, Brianna hastily opened the door and jumped inside.

Amazingly, the driver did not ask questions but he just sped down the road, taking her away from the scary mountain woods. After a while, she began to relax. She called her sister to tell her she was safe and would be on her way home. Brenda informed her that she was at the police station, reporting her missing sister and asking them to have a search party. She would be there waiting for her. As if he heard the conversation, Brianna heard the driver telling her that he was driving to the police station. He could guess that she was in great trouble if she was risking her safety by getting a lift from anyone who was passing by.

They arrived at the police station where they were met by Brenda. Giving her a hug, Brenda told her about the agony she felt. When Brianna did not arrive at the estimated time, she waited for another hour before she decided to go to the police. She did not want to waste time. She was glad that Brianna was safe and unharmed. The police officer took down notes as she was telling them what had happened up on the mountains. When it was over, the police said that they would investigate although she knew there was nothing much for them to do so.

Although relieved that they could go home, Brianna was still perturbed by her dreadful experience. She was exhausted and hopefully a good night's sleep would help to calm her. Instead, she and Brenda were in for a shock when they opened the front door of their house.

(Adapted from: Mountain Refuge by Sarah Varland)

1. In paragraph 1, why did Brianna stop running?
 - A She was getting tired.
 - B She heard a strange sound.
 - C She heard the leaves rustling.
 - D She did not know where she was.
2. In paragraph 3, what does the phrase "was on edge" mean?
 - A worried
 - B angry
 - C calm
 - D glad
3. In paragraph 4, how did Brianna know she was being chased?
 - A She saw the scattered pebbles.
 - B She simply guessed about it.
 - C She could hear the leaves rustling.
 - D She heard sounds of footsteps.
4. In paragraph 5, what was the proof that Brianna was determined to be safe?
 - A She began praying.
 - B She kept on running.
 - C Her lungs screamed for air.
 - D She reached the roadside.
5. Where was the driver going to take Brianna?
 - A His house.
 - B Home.
 - C To meet her sister.
 - D The Police Station.
6. When did Brenda decided to get help from the police?
 - A An hour after the agreed time.
 - B Immediately after Brianna did not turn up.
 - C After she was tired waiting.
 - D After she had waited for hours.

7. How did Brianna feel after her ordeal?
- A Grateful that she could go home.
 - B Relieved that she had been saved.
 - C Disturbed by what had happened.
 - D Glad that it was finally over.
8. What was Brianna's plan when she reached home?
- A To eat and talk to her parents.
 - B To jump into bed.
 - C To read and calm herself.
 - D To watch TV and relax.

PRACTICE 3

Questions 1 – 8 are based on the following passage.

Read the passage carefully and choose the **best** answer **A, B, C** or **D**. For each question, mark your answer on the answer sheet.

The last trip my family and I took was to Egypt. My father planned a detailed itinerary for our ten-day trip. Everyone was excited to see spectacular pyramids, huge temples, ancient tombs, go on camel rides, explore ancient artifacts and sail down the Nile river in a *felucca*, a traditional Egyptian wooden boat with sails. I knew it was going to be a once-in-a-lifetime holiday and it was going to be unforgettable.

In Egypt, we visited several places. We started in Cairo, then flew to Aswan, took a day-trip to Abu Simbel, drove to Luxor and finally, flew back to Cairo before returning home.

My father hired a driver, a van and an Egyptologist who'd be able to give us detailed information about the historical significant of all the attractions.

Day one was spent travelling to Egypt; a very long journey. The morning of day two was spent at the Giza Plateau. We rode on camels to get up close to the magnificent Pyramid of Khufu or the Great Pyramid of Giza, several other smaller pyramids and the Sphinx. Afternoons are hotter so we headed to the Egyptian Museum, home of the world's largest collection of Egyptian artifacts. The solid gold mask and golden coffin of Tutankhamun were beautiful.

On day three, we visited two of the oldest and best-preserved pyramids in Egypt; Bent Pyramid and Red Pyramid. Everyone explored

inside both pyramids except me because of my fear of small spaces.

The following day was spent in Aswan. We rode in a *felucca* down the Nile river to one of the most beautiful temples in the country; Philae Temple.

We began day five with a day-trip to Abu Simbel. We spent several hours exploring the 3000-year-old twin temples built by Ramses II.

On the sixth day, we took a three-and-a-half-hour scenic drive along the east bank of the Nile river to Luxor. My father had informed us that we were going to visit three important temples and historical sites. First, it was the Temple of Kom Ombo. One-half of the temple complex is dedicated to Sobek, the crocodile-headed god, and the other half to Horus, the falcon-headed god. Next, we went to the Temple of Edfu; the largest temple dedicated to Horus. Finally, we went to the Temple of Esna, located nine metres below street level.

On day seven, we made the journey to the west bank of Luxor. I was looking forward to visiting the most famous archaeological site in the world; the Valley of the Kings. This royal burial ground has tombs of pharaohs who ruled Egypt between 1539 and 1075 BC. There were more than 60 tombs there but, only a few had been opened to the public. We visited the tombs of Seti, Tutankhamun, Ramses V and VI. After that, we went to the tomb of Queen Nefertari at the Valley of the Queens. Entrance into this tomb was expensive but worth the



price as it was the most exquisitely decorated tomb in the valley.

The following day, we headed to the east bank of Luxor to see the Karnak Temple. The ram-headed sphinxes at the entrance and the huge columns in the hall were truly breathtaking. I took a moment to enjoy the beautiful entrance. We spent about three

hours here before going to the Luxor Temple, which seemed almost similar to the Karnak Temple, and then to the Luxor museum.

On the ninth day, we returned to Cairo. We leisurely explored the Khan el-Khalili bazaar and took a walking tour through Old Cairo. We did some shopping and later got ready for our flight home the next day.

1. In paragraph 4, the writer and his family most probably went to the Giza Plateau first because _____.
 - A it had more attractions
 - B it was cooler in the mornings
 - C it only opened in the mornings
 - D the camel rides were in the mornings
2. In paragraph 5, what stopped the writer from exploring the inside of the pyramids?
 - A The intense heat
 - B Claustrophobia
 - C Too little time
 - D Distance
3. How did the writer and her family spend most of day 4?
 - A Driving to Aswan
 - B Exploring a temple
 - C Sailing on the Nile river
 - D Walking around the pyramids
4. In paragraph 8, what did the writer most likely learn about ancient Egypt?
 - A The architecture
 - B The people
 - C The rulers
 - D The gods
5. What was the highlight of day seven?
 - A Enjoying the scenic sights in Luxor
 - B Exploring the Valley of the Kings
 - C Visiting the most famous royal tomb
 - D Working at an archaeological site
6. Which of the following may deter tourists from visiting the tomb of Queen Nefertari?
 - A It has a complex entry way
 - B It's in a secluded location
 - C The size of the tomb
 - D The entrance fee
7. In paragraph 10, why didn't the writer immediately enter the Karnak Temple?
 - A There was a long queue to enter.
 - B She had to walk around the sphinxes.
 - C She had to pass through many columns.
 - D The entrance of the temple held her attention.
8. The ninth day of the family holiday was spent _____.
 - A travelling back to Cairo
 - B going on a walking tour of landmarks in Cairo
 - C shopping and sightseeing in Cairo
 - D visiting bazaars and old neighbourhoods in Cairo