



Time allowed: 30 minutes • Total marks: 25 (1 mark per question)

- Read the passage carefully before you start the questions.
- Circle the letter of the correct answer for each question.
- You can look back at the passage as often as you like.
- If a question is hard, move on and come back to it at the end.

The Midnight Bakery

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions. The numbers show the paragraphs.

- 1** Every year, on the night before the Spring Fair, Aunt Sara opened her little bakery at midnight instead of dawn. Two hundred rolls, ninety saffron buns and three enormous fair cakes had to be ready by nine o'clock, and this year, for the first time, Idris was old enough to help.
- 2** Inside, the ovens roared like sleeping dragons and the whole shop smelled of warm flour. Aunt Sara pinned the order list to the wall and gave Idris his jobs: weighing flour into the great steel bowls, lining the trays, and brushing every bun with egg so it would bake to a shine.
- 3** At two in the morning, disaster arrived quietly. The electric mixer gave a tired click and stopped, with the dough for all ninety saffron buns still to make. Idris stared at it in horror, but Aunt Sara only rolled up her sleeves. 'Hands were invented long before mixers,' she said, and tipped the flour out onto the counter.
- 4** So they kneaded side by side, pushing and folding until Idris's arms ached and the window fogged with warmth. At four o'clock the fishmonger from next door, awake early himself, appeared at the back door with a pot of sweet tea and stayed to butter tins.
- 5** By dawn the trays were sliding out golden, and a queue was already forming under the striped awning. On Idris's first solo tray, one bun had come out decidedly wonky, leaning to one side like a little tower about to fall.
- 6** Aunt Sara did not hide it at the back. She set the crooked bun right in the middle of the window, on the highest stand. 'A first bake,' she said, dusting her hands, 'deserves the best seat in the house.' Outside, the fair bunting was going up, and Idris, floury to the elbows, had never felt so tall.

Section A: Comprehension

Questions 1 to 13 are about the passage The Midnight Bakery.

- 1** At what time did Aunt Sara open the bakery on the night before the fair?
- ☐ A Dawn ☐ B Two in the morning ☐ C Midnight ☐ D Four o'clock ☐ E Nine o'clock
- 2** Why was this year special for Idris?
- ☐ A It was his first visit to the fair ☐ B He was allowed to eat a fair cake
- ☐ C He had just moved to the town ☐ D He was old enough to help for the first time
- ☐ E It was his birthday

- 3 The ovens roared like sleeping dragons. What is this kind of comparison called?
☐ A A recipe ☐ B An exclamation ☐ C A proverb ☐ D A rhyme ☐ E A simile
-
- 4 Which of these was one of Idris's jobs?
☐ A Brushing the buns with egg ☐ B Pinning up the order list ☐ C Lighting the ovens
☐ D Serving the first customers ☐ E Making the tea
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- 5 What went wrong at two in the morning?
☐ A The ovens went out ☐ B The electric mixer stopped working ☐ C The flour ran out
☐ D The order list blew away ☐ E The window cracked
-
- 6 What did Aunt Sara mean by 'Hands were invented long before mixers'?
☐ A The mixer was too old to use ☐ B Idris needed to wash his hands
☐ C They could knead the dough themselves instead ☐ D Mixers are better than hands
☐ E The dough was already finished
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- 7 How did the dough for the saffron buns get made in the end?
☐ A The fishmonger fixed the mixer ☐ B They borrowed a mixer from next door
☐ C They left the buns out of the order ☐ D Aunt Sara and Idris kneaded it by hand
☐ E A customer helped at dawn
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- 8 Who came to the back door at four o'clock, and what did he bring?
☐ A The fishmonger, with a pot of sweet tea ☐ B A customer, with an order
☐ C The baker from another shop, with flour ☐ D Aunt Sara's friend, with butter
☐ E The postman, with a parcel
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- 9 What does the word wonky mean in paragraph 5?
☐ A Perfectly round ☐ B Leaning crookedly to one side ☐ C Burnt at the edges ☐ D Too small to sell
☐ E Golden and shiny
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- 10 Where did Aunt Sara put the wonky bun?
☐ A At the back of the shop ☐ B In the bin ☐ C On Idris's tray to take home ☐ D Under the counter
☐ E In the middle of the window, on the highest stand
-
- 11 Why do you think Aunt Sara gave the crooked bun the best seat?
☐ A To sell it before it fell over ☐ B Because it was the biggest bun ☐ C To hide a gap in the window
☐ D Because a customer asked for it ☐ E To show she was proud of Idris's first bake
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- 12 How did Idris feel at the end of the passage?
☐ A Ashamed ☐ B Bored ☐ C Proud ☐ D Frightened ☐ E Jealous
-
- 13 Which of these would be the best summary of the passage?
☐ A A boy's first night helping in a bakery turns a mishap into a proud moment
☐ B A mixer is repaired just in time for a fair ☐ C A fishmonger opens a bakery of his own
☐ D A boy burns the buns and the fair is cancelled ☐ E An aunt teaches her nephew to ice cakes
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Section B: Spelling, punctuation and grammar

Questions 14 to 25 test spelling, punctuation and grammar.

14 Which word is spelt incorrectly?

- ☐ A January ☐ B Febuary ☐ C Wednesday ☐ D August ☐ E autumn

15 Which word is spelt incorrectly?

- ☐ A beach ☐ B coast ☐ C harbour ☐ D iland ☐ E cliff

16 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- ☐ A After the show we walked home, in the rain. ☐ B After, the show we walked home in the rain.
☐ C After the show we, walked home in the rain. ☐ D After the show, we walked home in the rain.
☐ E After the show we walked, home in the rain.

17 Which sentence uses an apostrophe correctly?

- ☐ A The childrens' coats hung by the door. ☐ B The childrens coat's hung by the door.
☐ C The children's coats hung by the door. ☐ D The children's coat's hung by the door.
☐ E The childrens coats' hung by the door.

18 Choose the correct word: The dog wagged ____ tail.

- ☐ A it's ☐ B its' ☐ C his' ☐ D it ☐ E its

19 Choose the correct word: Yesterday I ____ my homework before tea.

- ☐ A did ☐ B done ☐ C do ☐ D doing ☐ E does

20 Which word in this sentence is a noun? The baker kneaded the soft dough.

- ☐ A kneaded ☐ B baker ☐ C soft ☐ D the ☐ E gently

21 Which word in this sentence is a verb? The gulls circled the empty harbour.

- ☐ A gulls ☐ B circled ☐ C empty ☐ D harbour ☐ E the

22 What is the plural of loaf?

- ☐ A loafs ☐ B loafes ☐ C loave ☐ D loafies ☐ E loaves

23 Choose the best conjunction: Take an umbrella ____ it rains.

- ☐ A because ☐ B so ☐ C although ☐ D in case ☐ E unless

24 Which sentence is a statement?

- ☐ A The bakery opens at six. ☐ B Does the bakery open at six? ☐ C Open the bakery at six.
☐ D What an early start that is! ☐ E Could you open the bakery?

25 Which option shows the words in alphabetical order?

- ☐ A crust, crumb, cupboard, currant ☐ B crumb, cupboard, crust, currant
☐ C crumb, crust, cupboard, currant ☐ D currant, cupboard, crust, crumb
☐ E crumb, crust, currant, cupboard

End of paper. Well done!

