



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 Longest Swim

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

- 1** The lake crossing was a mile from the boathouse to the far jetty, and every September the swimming club held its charity swim across it. Amara's older brother had done it at eleven. Now she was eleven, her name was on the list, and she was beginning to wish it was not.
- 2** Pool training was the easy part. She could swim a mile in the warm, chlorinated calm of the leisure centre without much trouble. Open water was different. On her first practice in the lake she had panicked at the cold shock of it, at the brush of a weed against her ankle, at the greenish dark below her where the tiled floor should have been.
- 3** Her coach, Miss Devlin, did not laugh at any of it. Fear of dark water is ancient and sensible, she said; the trick is not to get rid of it but to give it less room. All through August they practised: entering slowly until the cold stopped shouting, breathing on a steady count, and one rule above all. Never swim to the far shore, Miss Devlin said. It is too far away and it never seems to get closer. Swim to the next buoy. The far shore will arrange itself.
- 4** Race morning was still and misty, the water like grey silk. The hooter sounded, forty swimmers surged, and for the first hundred metres Amara's practised calm held. Then, past the second buoy, the mist thickened, the far jetty vanished entirely, and the old panic rose in her chest like a cold hand.
- 5** She did what she had trained to do. She slowed her stroke, counted her breathing, and shrank the whole enormous lake down to one orange buoy bobbing thirty metres ahead. Then the next. Then the next. Somewhere between the fifth buoy and the sixth, she realised the panic had grown bored and gone home.
- 6** The jetty appeared out of the mist almost apologetically, long before she expected it. Hands hauled her up; someone wrapped her in a towel and pushed a cup of sweet tea into her shaking hands. Standing beside her brother, looking back at the water, Amara understood something that made her grin into the steam: the lake had not shrunk that morning. She had grown.

Section A: Comprehension

Questions 1 to 13 are about the passage The Longest Swim.

- 1** How long was the lake crossing?
- ☐ A Half a mile ☐ B Two miles ☐ C A hundred metres ☐ D Six buoys ☐ E A mile

- 2 Why was Amara's name on the list this year?
- ☐ A Miss Devlin had entered her secretly ☐ B She had won a pool race ☐ C Her school required it
☐ D She was now eleven, the age her brother had been when he swam it
☐ E Her brother had dropped out
-
- 3 Why was the pool mile easy for Amara?
- ☐ A The pool was warm and calm ☐ B It was shorter than the lake ☐ C She was allowed to rest
☐ D She used a float ☐ E Miss Devlin swam beside her
-
- 4 Which of these frightened her on her first lake practice?
- ☐ A A boat passing too close ☐ B Losing her goggles ☐ C A weed brushing her ankle
☐ D The hooter sounding ☐ E Her brother splashing her
-
- 5 What did Miss Devlin say about fear of dark water?
- ☐ A It is silly and must be ignored ☐ B It is ancient and sensible, and the trick is to give it less room
☐ C It only affects beginners ☐ D It disappears with age ☐ E It means a swimmer is not ready
-
- 6 What was Miss Devlin's one rule above all?
- ☐ A Never swim in mist ☐ B Always swim beside a friend ☐ C Breathe on every stroke
☐ D Enter the water quickly ☐ E Swim to the next buoy, not to the far shore
-
- 7 What was the water like on race morning?
- ☐ A Choppy and bright ☐ B Still and misty, like grey silk ☐ C Warm and clear ☐ D Full of weeds
☐ E Frozen at the edges
-
- 8 What happened past the second buoy?
- ☐ A She took the lead ☐ B She lost sight of the buoys ☐ C Cramp seized her leg
☐ D The mist hid the jetty and her panic returned ☐ E The hooter sounded again
-
- 9 The panic rose in her chest like a cold hand. What kind of language is this?
- ☐ A A command ☐ B A fact ☐ C A simile ☐ D A rhyme ☐ E An apology
-
- 10 How did Amara defeat the panic?
- ☐ A She slowed down, counted her breathing and aimed only for the next buoy
☐ B She swam faster to escape it ☐ C She floated until help came
☐ D She turned back to the boathouse ☐ E She shouted for Miss Devlin
-
- 11 What does the phrase the panic had grown bored and gone home suggest?
- ☐ A The fear faded once it was given no attention ☐ B The race had been cancelled
☐ C She had fallen asleep swimming ☐ D The panic would return that evening
☐ E The water had warmed up
-
- 12 What was Amara given at the jetty?
- ☐ A A medal and a certificate ☐ B Dry clothes and a blanket ☐ C A towel and a cup of sweet tea
☐ D A hot water bottle ☐ E Her brother's coat
-

- 13 What did Amara understand at the end?
- ☐ A The crossing was shorter than advertised ☐ B Mist makes swimming easier
☐ C Her brother's swim had been harder ☐ D The lake had not shrunk; she had grown
☐ E She would never swim again
-

Section B: Spelling, punctuation and grammar

Questions 14 to 25 test spelling, punctuation and grammar.

- 14 Which word is spelt incorrectly?
- ☐ A grieve ☐ B receive ☐ C achieve ☐ D relief ☐ E belive
-
- 15 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?
- ☐ A Although the water was cold Amara, kept swimming.
☐ B Although the water was cold, Amara kept swimming.
☐ C Although, the water was cold Amara kept swimming.
☐ D Although the water, was cold, Amara kept swimming.
☐ E Although the water was cold Amara kept, swimming.
-
- 16 Which sentence uses an apostrophe correctly?
- ☐ A Amaras goggle's fogged in the cold air. ☐ B Amaras' goggles fogged in the cold air.
☐ C Amara's goggles fogged in the cold air. ☐ D Amara's goggle's fogged in the cold air.
☐ E Amaras goggles fogged in the cold air's.
-
- 17 Choose the correct word: She swam further ____ she had ever swum before.
- ☐ A then ☐ B that ☐ C though ☐ D than ☐ E as
-
- 18 Choose the correct word: By dusk she ____ the far shore.
- ☐ A had reached ☐ B has reach ☐ C will reaching ☐ D have reached ☐ E reach
-
- 19 Which word in this sentence is an adverb? She breathed steadily between each stroke.
- ☐ A breathed ☐ B stroke ☐ C each ☐ D she ☐ E steadily
-
- 20 Which word in this sentence is a noun? Her courage grew with every length.
- ☐ A grew ☐ B courage ☐ C every ☐ D her ☐ E with
-
- 21 What is the plural of splash?
- ☐ A splashes ☐ B splashes ☐ C splashies ☐ D splash ☐ E splashes'
-
- 22 Choose the best conjunction: Keep kicking ____ you feel tired.
- ☐ A because ☐ B so ☐ C even if ☐ D and ☐ E in order that
-
- 23 Which sentence is a command?
- ☐ A She breathes on every third stroke. ☐ B Do you breathe on every stroke?
☐ C What steady breathing that is! ☐ D Breathing steadily helps a swimmer.
☐ E Breathe on every third stroke.
-

24 Which option shows the words in alphabetical order?

- ☐ A float, dive, splash, stroke ☐ B dive, splash, float, stroke ☐ C stroke, splash, float, dive
☐ D dive, float, splash, stroke ☐ E dive, float, stroke, splash
-

25 Which word in this sentence is a preposition? She swam across the chilly lake.

- ☐ A across ☐ B swam ☐ C chilly ☐ D lake ☐ E she
-

End of paper. Well done!