ENGLISH PRACTICE TEST 3 - POETRY (Allow 1 hour 15 minutes)

PART A: COMPREHENSION EXERCISE (50 marks)

The Inchcape Rock
by Robert Southey
I

1
No stir in the air, no stir in the sea,
The Ship was still as she could be;
Her sails from heaven received no motion,
Her keel was steady in the ocean.

5
Without either sign or sound of their shock,
The waves flow'd over the Inchcape Rock;
So little they rose, so little they fell,
They did not move the Inchcape Bell.

9
The Abbot of Aberbrothok
Had placed that bell on the Inchcape Rock;
On a buoy in the storm it floated and swung,
And over the waves its warning rung.

13
When the Rock was hid by the surge's swell,
The Mariners heard the warning Bell;
And then they knew the perilous Rock,
And blest the Abbot of Aberbrothok

17
The Sun in the heaven was shining gay,
All things were joyful on that day;
The sea-birds scream'd as they wheel'd round,
And there was joyaunce in their sound.

21
The buoy of the Inchcape Bell was seen
A darker speck on the ocean green;
Sir Ralph the Rover walk'd his deck,
And fix'd his eye on the darker speck.

25
He felt the cheering power of spring,
It made him whistle, it made him sing;
His heart was mirthful to excess,
But the Rover's mirth was wickedness.

29
His eye was on the Inchcape Float;
Quoth he, "My men, put out the boat,
And row me to the Inchcape Rock,
And I'll plague the Abbot of Aberbrothok."

33
The boat is lower'd, the boatmen row,
And to the Inchcape Rock they go;
Sir Ralph bent over from the boat,
And he cut the bell from the Inchcape Float.

37
Down sank the Bell with a gurgling sound,
The bubbles rose and burst around;
Quoth Sir Ralph, "The next who comes to the Rock,
Won't bless the Abbot of Aberbrothok."

II

41
Sir Ralph the Rover sail'd away,
He scour'd the seas for many a day;
And now grown rich with plunder'd store,
He steers his course for Scotland's shore.

45
So thick a haze o'erspreads the sky,
They cannot see the sun on high;
The wind hath blown a gale all day,
At evening it hath died away.

49
On the deck the Rover takes his stand,
So dark it is they see no land.
Quoth Sir Ralph, "It will be lighter soon,
For there is the dawn of the rising Moon."

53
"Canst hear," said one, "the breakers roar?
For methinks we should be near the shore."
"Now, where we are I cannot tell,
But I wish we could hear the Inchcape Bell."

57
They hear no sound, the swell is strong,
Though the wind hath fallen they drift along;
Till the vessel strikes with a shivering shock,
"Oh Christ! It is the Inchcape Rock!"

61
Sir Ralph the Rover tore his hair,
He curst himself in his despair;
The waves rush in on every side,
The ship is sinking beneath the tide.

65
But even is his dying fear,
One dreadful sound could the Rover hear;
A sound as if with the Inchcape Bell,
The Devil below was ringing his knell.

ENGLISH PRACTICE TEST 3 - COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Answer the multiple choice questions with the best answer.
Each question is worth two marks.

1. What time of year was it when Sir Ralph first came upon the Inchcape Bell?
a. spring
b. summer
c. autumn
d. winter . . . . . .

2. What were the sailing conditions like when Sir Ralph first came upon the Inchcape Bell?
a. There was a reasonable swell.
b. It was sunny, with flat seas.
c. The wind had blown a gale all day.
d. We do not know what the conditions were, exactly. . . . . .

3. What did the seamen generally do when they heard the Inchcape Bell?
a. They blessed the Bell.
b. They blessed the Abbott of Aberbrothok.
c. They asked for a blessing from the Abbott of Aberbrothok.
d. They asked for God's blessing. . . . . .

4. Why was the Inchcape Bell placed where it was?
a. to let sailors know that there was an Abbey nearby
b. to remind the sailors to say a blessing
c. because the Inchcape Rock was a danger to ships
d. because the shoreline was rugged . . . . . .

5. Which word in lines 29-40 suggest that Sir Ralph does not care for the Abbot of Aberbrothok?
a eye (line 29)
b. plague (line 32)
c. quoth (line 39)
d. bless (line 40) . . . . . .

6. Where was the Inchcape Bell?
a. It was in Aberbrothok.
b. It was attached to the Abbey of Aberbrothok.
c. It was on a rock off the coast of Scotland.
d. It was set on the coast, though it is not clear where. . . . . .

7. What was Sir Ralph's mood as he was walking the deck of his ship in lines 17-28?
a. He was feeling full of wickedness.
b. He was feeling full of good cheer.
c. He was feeling bored and listless.
d. He was feeling sorry for himself. . . . . .

8. Why did Sir Ralph interfere with the Inchcape Bell?
a. He did not like the idea of anyone praising the Abbot.
b. He did not think it would matter to anyone.
c. He thought the Abbot would replace it.
d. He thought it would be a good joke to bother the Abbot. . . . . .

9. What happened to the Bell?
a. Sir Rover took it as a souvenir.
b. The seamen put it in the boat.
c. Sir Rover sent it to the Abbot.
d. It dropped into the ocean. . . . . .

10. Did the Abbot replace the Inchcape Bell?
a. Yes.
b. No.
c. Yes, but the new bell was not as good as the old.
d. We do not know whether the Abbot replaced the bell. . . . . .

11. What had Sir Ralph done in the years between his two encounters with the Inchcape Bell?
a. He had grown more lazy.
b. He had grown more evil.
c. He had grown more kind-hearted.
d. He had become rich. . . . . .

12. What are the sailing conditions like, as Sir Ralph reaches his final destination?
a. A gale is blowing and the swell is high.
b. It is misty and dark, with a high swell.
c. It is clear and the moon is rising.
d. The sea is flat. . . . . .

13. What happens to Sir Ralph's ship?
a. It is torn apart by the sea.
b. It is brought down by the devil.
c. It hits the Inchcape Rock and capsizes.
d. It barely avoids being pulled down by the tide. . . . . .

14. Why is Sir Ralph feeling positive as they approach their final destination?
a. He thinks he knows where they are.
b. The dawn is approaching.
c. The moon is rising.
d. all of the above . . . . . .

15. What does Sir Ralph do in the last lines of the poem?
a. He curses the Inchcape Bell.
b. He curses all around him.
c. He curses the Abbot of Aberbrothok.
d. He curses himself. . . . . .

16. In the last lines of the poem, what sound does Sir Ralph believe he hears?
a. the sound of the Devil tolling a bell
b. the sound of a death-knell
c. the Inchcape Bell
d. all of the above . . . . . .

17. What happens to Sir Ralph?
a. He drowns.
b. He almost drowns.
c. He receives a very bad scare.
d. We are given no indication what finally happens to him. . . . . .

18. What meaning does the captain's name - Sir Ralph the Rover - hint at?
a. someone who wanders
b. someone who does evil deeds
c. someone whose heart is full of mirth
d. someone whose heart is full of wickedness . . . . . .

19. What is the primary literary effect found in line 19: 'The sea-birds scream'd as they wheel'd round'?
a. alliteration
b. assonance
c. metaphor
d. simile . . . . . .

20. What is the primary literary effect found in line 59: 'the vessel strikes with a shivering shock'?
a. alliteration
b. assonance
c. metaphor
d. simile . . . . . .

21. What is meant by the word 'quoth' in line 20?
a. yelled
b. laughed
c. said
d. all of the above . . . . . .

22. What is meant by the word 'knell' in line 69?
a. a sound made by the Devil
b. a sound of a ship sinking
c. a bell rung to announce a death
d. a bell rung by the Devil . . . . . .

23. What is the link between lines 37-40 and lines 65-69 in this poem?
a. both focus on the sound of the Bell
b. both focus on the message of the poem
c. both focus on what Sir Ralph is thinking
d. both focus on what Sir Ralph's is feeling . . . . . .

24. In what way do lines 37-40 anticipate lines 65-69 in this poem?
a. The earlier lines show that Sir Ralph should have expected his fate.
b. The earlier lines show that the Bell is heavy, so that it sinks to the bottom of the ocean, to be collected by the Devil.
c. The earlier lines show that the Bell is not broken, so it can still be rung later in the poem.
d. 'The next person who comes to the Rock' is Sir Ralph himself. . . . . .

25. Which of the following best describes the moral of this poem?
a. Sailing is a dangerous activity.
b. Do not do things in jest that you will regret later.
c. When the weather is fair, we do not think of the storms ahead.
d. It is best not to upset an Abbot. . . . . .

(Total marks: /50) . . . . . .

ENGLISH PRACTICE TEST 3

PART B: COMPOSITION EXERCISE (50 marks)
Answer ONE of the following questions:

EITHER
Imagine you are a seaman on the ship captained by Ralph the Rover. Having been saved from the wreckage of the ship by the monks of the Aberbrothok Abbey, you must now appear before the Abbot of Aberbrothok to explain what happened at the Inchcape Rock.
Write a passage describing your explanation to the Abbot.
OR
Write a short story with the title 'The Storm'.

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

(Total marks: /50) . . . . . .

* * END OF TEST * *

(For answers and suggested marking scheme, see English Practice Test 3.pdf)