

PRACTICE TEST 2

Comprehension

Read the instructions carefully.

- Do not begin the test or open the booklet until told to do so.
- Work as quickly and as carefully as you can.
- Each question will tell you what type of answer is required (for example, underlined, ticked or written).
- You may write your answers in pen or pencil.
- You may make notes next to the extracts or on a separate sheet of paper.
- If you make a mistake, cross it out and write the new answer clearly.
- You will have 50 minutes to complete the test. It is advisable to spend the first few minutes reading through the extracts before answering any questions.

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Name: _____

DATE		
SCORE OUT OF 50		
PERCENTAGE (%)		

Read the extract, then answer the questions that follow.

Miss Havershams had settled down, I hardly knew how, upon the floor, among the faded bridal relics with which it was strewn. I took advantage of the moment – I had sought one from the first – to leave the room, after beseeching Estella’s attention to her, with a movement of my hand. When I left, Estella was yet standing by the great chimney-piece, just as she had stood
5 throughout. Miss Havershams’s grey hair was all adrift upon the ground, among the other bridal wrecks, and was a miserable sight to see.

It was with a depressed heart that I walked in the starlight for an hour and more, about the courtyard, and about the brewery, and about the ruined garden. When I at last took courage to return to the room, I found Estella sitting at Miss Havershams’s knee, taking up some stitches in one of
10 those old articles of dress that were dropping to pieces, and of which I have often been reminded since by the faded tatters of old banners that I have seen hanging up in cathedrals. Afterwards, Estella and I played cards, as of yore – only we were skilful now, and played French games – and so the evening wore away, and I went to bed.

I lay in that separate building across the court-yard. It was the first time I had ever lain down to
15 rest in Satis House, and sleep refused to come near me. A thousand Miss Havershams haunted me. She was on this side of my pillow, on that, at the head of the bed, at the foot, behind the half-opened door of the dressing-room, in the dressing-room, in the room overhead, in the room beneath – everywhere. At last, when the night was slow to creep on towards two o’clock, I felt that I absolutely could no longer bear the place as a place to lie down in, and that I must get
20 up. I therefore got up and put on my clothes, and went out across the yard into the long stone passage, designing to gain the outer court-yard and walk there for the relief of my mind. But, I was no sooner in the passage than I extinguished my candle; for, I saw Miss Havershams going along it in a ghostly manner, making a low cry. I followed her at a distance, and saw her go up the staircase. She carried a bare candle in her hand, which she had probably taken from one
25 of the sconces in her own room, and was a most unearthly object by its light. Standing at the bottom of the staircase, I felt the mildewed air of the feast-chamber, without seeing her open the door, and I heard her walking there, and so across into her own room, and so across again into that, never ceasing the low cry. After a time, I tried in the dark both to get out, and to go back, but I could do neither until some streaks of day strayed in and showed me where to lay my hands.
30 During the whole interval, whenever I went to the bottom of the staircase, I heard her footstep, saw her light pass above, and heard her ceaseless low cry.

Charles Dickens, ‘*Great Expectations*’

1 Tick the two statements that are true:

- a The writer had never been to Satis House before.
- b Estella is not the narrator.
- c The writer is good at playing cards.
- d Miss Havershams is a ghost.
- e The writer returned to the room after an hour.

2

2 Find an example of each of the following parts of speech in this sentence:

‘When I left, Estella was yet standing by the great chimney-piece, just as she had stood throughout.’

- a a conjunction _____
- b a preposition _____
- c an adjective _____
- d a pronoun _____

4

3 Explain what is on the floor in Miss Haversham's room.

2

4 Explain the meaning of each phrase as it is used in the extract.

a 'a most unearthly object' (line 25)

b 'the mildewed air' (line 26)

c 'streaks of day strayed in' (line 29)

6

5 What do you think a sconce is? (line 25)

2

6 Find a phrase in each of the sections indicated below, which shows that this extract is not taken from a modern text.

a lines 3–4 _____

b lines 12–13 _____

c lines 14–16 _____

d lines 20–22 _____

4

7 Is the writer enjoying his stay at Satis House? Refer to the text in your answer.

10

