



**St Margaret College
Half Yearly Examinations 2013**

Year 6

English - Reading Comprehension

Time: 50 Minutes

Name: _____

Class: _____

Reading Comprehension 1

(6 marks)

Read carefully.

Sandra, Christine and Joe are taking a look at the Żabbar Sports Festival 2012 poster that is being displayed on the school noticeboard. Sandra has been practising Table Tennis for the last five years. Joe and his friends are very interested in Futsal, while Christine wants to make new friends by playing a Basketball match with them. All three children want to attend the closing talk of this festival.



10th December 2012
From To
09.00am 07.00pm
Żabbar Primary
School



Closing talk by School Sports
Coordinator at 6.00pm.



**Żabbar
Sports
Festival
2012**

Participating Fees

Futsal - € 5.00 per person
Futsal - €20.00 per team (5 players)
Basketball - € 4.00 per person
Basketball - € 15.00 per team (5 players)
Table Tennis - € 6.00 per person

Payments to be paid at the school sports office

Futsal
9.30am – 11.30am
Basketball
1.00pm – 3.00pm
Table Tennis
4.00pm – 5.30pm

Underline the correct answer.

1. The Zabbar Sports Festival is going to be held on ($\frac{1}{2}$ mark)

- (a) 20th December 2011
- (b) 10th December 2012
- (c) 10th December 2011

2. How much will it cost Joe and his friends to organise a team and participate in Futsal? (1 mark)

- (a) 20 Euro per person
- (b) 5 Euro per person
- (c) 20 Euro for the team

3. Who is giving the Sports Festival closing talk? ($\frac{1}{2}$ mark)

- (a) The school headmaster
- (b) The school sports coordinator
- (c) The school Futsal trainer

4. Choose the correct answer by checking \checkmark the box provided. (1 mark)

Sandra wants to participate in a Table Tennis match. At what time does she need to be ready to start playing?

2.00pm 4.00pm 4.00am

5. Read the following sentences. Tick (\checkmark) **T** if the sentence is true, **F** if it is false and **N** if there is no information given. (3 marks)

	T	F	N
(a) Christine is going to organise a Basketball team with her own friends.			
(b) The payments need to be paid at the office of the school headmaster.			
(c) The sports festival will start at 9.00am and finish at 7.00pm.			
(d) Christine will need to pay 4 Euro to be able to play Basketball.			
(e) Futsal training will be given by the school sports coordinator.			
(f) Joe's Futsal team will need to be ready to play at 9.30am.			

Read the following passage which is divided into two sections to help you. Then, answer the questions that follow each section.

Section 1

CRAMPED CONDITIONS

People moved into towns so rapidly and in such great numbers that there was no time to provide enough houses for them. Work in the factories began very early in the



morning. Everyone walked to work so they wanted to live as near to the factory as possible. Wages were low, so there was little money to spend on rent. Most of the 19th century families could afford to rent only one room. The cheapest were cellars. They were usually very damp and had stone or earth floors. They had little light and were dark and cold. Rented rooms were generally not large enough for a whole family who had to cook, eat, wash and sleep in the limited space. There was a single stove for heat and cooking, with candles for light. In summer it could be stifling as there was only one window. Furniture was sparse. Living in this way, it was very difficult to keep clean and tidy. **(paragraph 1)**

There were no laws to maintain standards for houses. There were no effective safeguards to ensure a supply of clean water, proper drainage and sewerage, or to maintain the cleaning of the streets. The streets were not always paved. In the centre of the street there was a gutter into which the dirty water from washing and cooking was poured. It often went stagnant and sometimes became clogged up with rotting waste. The smell was foul. **(paragraph 2)**

A few families, however, managed it. The better-off lived in large houses on the outskirts of the town. They could afford to travel into the centre to work.

(paragraph 3)

Questions on Section 1

1. Why couldn't most of the 19th century families afford to live in large houses ?
($\frac{1}{2}$ mark)

2. Which word in paragraph 1 has the same meaning as *started*?
($\frac{1}{2}$ mark)

3. Why was there no time to provide enough houses for people who were moving into towns?
($\frac{1}{2}$ mark)

4. Read the following sentences. Put a T if the sentence is true, an F if it is false and an N if there is no information given in Section 1.
($\frac{1}{2}$ mark each)

(a) Everyone used to walk to work.	
(b) During winter time all factories closed and no one went to work.	
(c) All houses were supplied with clean water.	
(d) Dirty water from washing and cooking gathered in a gutter in the centre of the street.	
(e) No one lived in the outskirts of the town.	
(f) Standards of living in the 19 th century were different to what they are today.	

5. Underline the best answer to complete the sentences. (1 mark each)

(a) Rented rooms or cellars had (ample, extra, insufficient) space for a whole family.

(b) The smell of the street gutters was (awful, sweet, pleasant).

6. Why were rented rooms stifling in summer?

(1 mark)

7. Mention two of the difficulties you would have to put up with if you lived and worked in the 19th century?

(1 mark)

8. Why were laws needed to improve the standards of living?

(1 mark)

Section 2

DIET

A week's budget for a family in 1850 was about 62 pence which would not only cover the weekly rent but also supply the family with limited portions of butter, tea, bacon, milk, meat, potatoes, sugar, pepper and salt and soap and candles. Cooking was very difficult. Bread was the staple food and was eaten with a scrape of butter or sometimes jam, with cups of tea for breakfast. No plates or cooking utensils were needed for this, which made things easier. **(paragraph 4)**



Boiled potatoes were commonly eaten for dinner, with sometimes a little cheese, bacon or occasionally an egg. If there was meat on Sunday it was cooked in one pot with vegetables over the stove fire or taken to a bakery to be cooked in an oven. There was little variety. Street sellers, such as pie-men, sellers of hot green peas, hot buns and pudding, helped to provide hot food if there was spare money to buy their wares. **(paragraph 5)**

People accepted illness and early death as natural and normal. In the past there had been serious epidemics of plague and fever. Since so many people were living together in one place such illnesses spread quickly and thousands of people died. The scale of such disasters was one reason which was to lead to improvements in public health and standards of living. **(paragraph 6)**

Adapted from *Life and work in 19th Century Britain* by Rachel Hamer

Questions on Section 2

9. Quote part of a sentence that shows that at that time bread was the most popular and essential food. (1 mark)

10. Which word found in paragraph 5 means *diversity*? (½ mark)

11. Underline the best answer to complete the sentence. (½ mark each)

- (a) Dinner consisted mainly of (pudding, boiled potatoes, meat).
- (b) Street sellers offered (hot food, fever, spare money) for sale.
- (c) The crowded conditions led to (disasters, improvements, diseases) to spread quickly.

12. Read the following sentences. Put a T if the sentence is true, an F if it is false and an N if there is no information given in Section 2. (½ mark each)

(a) In 1850 the weekly expenses were around 62 pence.	
(b) Jam or butter were eaten with bread.	
(c) Meat was always available on Sundays.	
(d) Street sellers also sold fresh milk.	
(e) One Penny in was worth about one Euro today.	
(f) Unhealthy conditions led to the spread of plague and fever.	

13. Complete the following sentence. (1 mark)

No plates or cooking utensils were _____

14. Why was meat taken to a bakery? (1 mark)

15. 'Cooking was very difficult.' Why do you think cooking was difficult?

(2 marks)

Questions on the whole passage

16. Find a phrase or sentence which shows that people in the 1850's were used to not living very long and healthy lives. (1 mark)

17. Tick 2 words in the list which best describe the living conditions in the 19th century? (1 mark each)

Needy		Prosperous	
Comfortable		poverty -stricken	

18. Write one sentence saying what you think changed in public health and standards of living nowadays. (2 marks)

END OF PAPER