

English comprehension:

Answer Key

1. **B**
2. **C**
3. **A**
4. **C**
5. **D**
6. **B**
7. **B**
8. **A**
9. **D**

Thought for 15 seconds

Poem

Read the poem below carefully at least twice.

"The Village Blacksmith"

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Under a spreading chestnut-tree
The village smithy stands;
The smith, a mighty man is he,
With large and sinewy hands;
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Are strong as iron bands.
His hair is crisp, and black, and long,
His face is like the tan;
His brow is wet with honest sweat,
He earns whate'er he can,
And looks the whole world in the face,
For he owes not any man.
Week in, week out, from morn till night,
You can hear his bellows blow;
You can hear him swing his heavy sledge,
With measured beat and slow,
Like a sexton ringing the village bell,
When the evening sun is low.
And children coming home from school
Look in at the open door;
They love to see the flaming forge,
And hear the bellows roar,
And catch the burning sparks that fly
Like chaff from a threshing-floor.
He goes on Sunday to the church,
And sits among his boys;
He hears the parson pray and preach,
He hears his daughter's voice
Singing in the village choir,
And it makes his heart rejoice.
It sounds to him like her mother's voice,
Singing in Paradise!
He needs must think of her once more,
How in the grave she lies;
And with his hard, rough hand he wipes
A tear out of his eyes.

Toiling,—rejoicing,—sorrowing,
Onward through life he goes;
Each morning sees some task begin,
Each evening sees it close;
Something attempted, something done,
Has earned a night's repose.
Thanks, thanks to thee, my worthy friend,
For the lesson thou hast taught!
Thus at the flaming forge of life
Our fortunes must be wrought;
Thus on its sounding anvil shaped
Each burning deed and thought.

Questions

1. Write a paragraph about how the poet portrays the blacksmith and why he is important in the poem.

(You are advised to write one paragraph but no more than half a side of A4 for your answer.)

2. Explain carefully what you understand by the following quotations.

(a) **"His brow is wet with honest sweat,
He earns whate'er he can,
And looks the whole world in the face,
For he owes not any man."**

(b) **"Something attempted, something done,
Has earned a night's repose."**

(You are advised to write one paragraph but no more than a quarter of a side of A4 for your answer.)

Model Answers

1.

In "The Village Blacksmith," Henry Wadsworth Longfellow portrays the blacksmith as a symbol of hard work, strength, and integrity. Described as a "mighty man" with "large and sinewy hands," the blacksmith embodies physical strength and dedication to his craft. His labor is honest, as shown by his "brow... wet with honest sweat," and he is proud and independent, owing nothing to anyone. The community respects him, and children admire him, watching him work at his forge. The blacksmith is also depicted as a caring father who finds joy in hearing his daughter sing in church, reminding him of his late wife. Through this character, the poet highlights the virtues of diligence, self-reliance, and the simple yet profound impact one person can have on their community and family.

2.

(a) The quotation describes the blacksmith's integrity and self-sufficiency. "His brow is wet with honest sweat" means he works hard and earns his living through honest means. "He earns whate'er he can" shows that he makes the most of his abilities to provide for himself and his family. "And looks the whole world in the face, For he owes not any man" suggests that he has no debts and nothing to be ashamed of, allowing him to face anyone confidently. This emphasizes his pride in his honest work and his independence.

(b) The lines "Something attempted, something done, Has earned a night's repose" mean that by working hard and accomplishing tasks each day, the blacksmith earns his rest at night. "Something attempted, something done" highlights the value of effort and achievement, while "earned a night's repose" suggests that rest is deserved after a day of honest labor. It reflects the satisfaction that comes from hard work and the natural cycle of work and rest.

Credit: "The Village Blacksmith" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was first published in 1840 and is in the public domain.

Sample Answer:

It all started when we heard that Mr. Lopez, an elderly neighbour who lived alone, had injured his leg and wouldn't be able to leave his house for weeks. Normally, he was independent and proud, always taking care of his garden and waving hello from his porch. But now, he needed help with simple things like shopping and getting around. At first, people were just talking about it, unsure of what to do, but soon my mom decided to make a plan.

Our family was the first to visit him, bringing some groceries and checking if he needed anything else. Mr. Lopez looked surprised and a little embarrassed, but he thanked us with a warm smile. Over the next few days, our neighbours started joining in, and it became a whole neighbourhood effort. Kids volunteered to mow his lawn, parents cooked meals, and some even offered to help tidy his house. It felt amazing to see everyone pitching in, even people who hardly knew Mr. Lopez.

One moment that stayed with me was when my friend Ella and I brought him a freshly baked pie that her mom had made. Mr. Lopez looked at us with a grateful expression and said, "It's been years since I've felt like I'm truly part of a community. You've all reminded me of what kindness feels like." His words made me realize how powerful even small gestures can be. Sometimes, just showing up can make a huge difference in someone's life.

As the weeks went by, it felt like we were all closer than before. Neighbours who usually only nodded politely in passing were now stopping to chat, and everyone was a little more thoughtful and aware of each other. When Mr. Lopez finally recovered, he hosted a small gathering to thank everyone, and as I looked around, I felt a sense of pride and connection that I'd never felt before. This experience taught me that a strong community is built on small acts of kindness, each one connecting us like threads in a warm, comforting blanket.

Answer Key with Solutions

Question 1 Answer:

Alice reads 10 pages per day.

Total days needed: $100 \text{ pages} \div 10 \text{ pages/day} = 10 \text{ days}$

Starting on Monday: She will finish on the 10th day.

Day 1: Monday

Day 10: Wednesday of the following week

Question 2 Answer:

Convert fractions to decimals:

A) $\frac{1}{4} = 0.25$ ✓

B) $\frac{2}{5} = 0.4$

C) $\frac{1}{3} \approx 0.333$

D) $\frac{3}{10} = 0.3$

Answer: A) $\frac{1}{4}$

Question 3 Answer:

Apples: 50%

Bananas: 25%

Oranges: $100\% - (50\% + 25\%) = 25\%$

Angle for oranges: $25\% \times 360^\circ = 90^\circ$

Answer: 25% and 90 degrees

Question 4 Answer:

Cost per kg: $\pounds 3 \div 2 \text{ kg} = \pounds 1.50 \text{ per kg}$

Cost for 5 kg: $\pounds 1.50 \times 5 = \pounds 7.50$

Answer: $\pounds 7.50$

Question 5 Answer:

Possible numbers using 2, 4, 6:

624 is divisible by 4.

642 is not divisible by 4.

Answer: 624

Question 6 Answer:

Surface area of side: Circumference \times Height

$6 \text{ cm} \times 10 \text{ cm} = 60 \text{ cm}^2$

Answer: 60 cm^2

Question 7 Answer:

$$\text{Amount eaten: } \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{4} = \frac{3}{8}$$

$$\text{Amount left: } \frac{3}{4} - \frac{3}{8} = \frac{3}{8}$$

Answer: $\frac{3}{8}$ of the chocolate bar

Question 8 Answer:

$$70 \times 8 = (7 \times 10) \times 8 = 7 \times 80 = 560$$

Answer: 560

Question 9 Answer:

Let Jerry have £x.

Tom has £2x.

$$x + 2x = \text{£}30$$

$$3x = \text{£}30$$

$$x = \text{£}10$$

Answer: £10

Question 10 Answer:

$$\text{Sum of numbers: } 10 \times 3 = 30$$

$$\text{Range: Largest - Smallest} = 8$$

Smallest number: 6

$$\text{Largest number: } 6 + 8 = 14$$

$$\text{Middle number: } 30 - 6 - 14 = 10$$

$$\text{Product: } 6 \times 10 \times 14 = 840$$

Answer: 840

Question 11 Answer:

$$\text{Total parts in ratio: } 3 + 2 = 5$$

$$\text{Each part: } 20 \div 5 = 4 \text{ squares}$$

$$\text{Shaded squares: } 3 \times 4 = 12$$

Answer: 12 squares

Question 12 Answer:

$$250,000 \div 100 = 2,500$$

Answer: 2,500

Question 13 Answer:

$$\text{Perimeter of rectangle: } 2(5 + 2) = 14 \text{ cm}$$

$$\text{Perimeter of square: } 4 \times 2 = 8 \text{ cm}$$

$$\text{Combined perimeter: } 14 + 8 - (2 \times 2) = 18 \text{ cm}$$

Answer: 18 cm

Question 14 Answer:

$$\text{Number of stamps: } \text{£}5 \div \text{£}0.50 = 10$$

Answer: 10 stamps

Question 15 Answer:

$$\text{Perimeter of one pentagon: } 5 \times 4 = 20 \text{ cm}$$

$$\text{Shared sides when joined: } 2 \text{ sides } (2 \times 4 = 8 \text{ cm})$$

$$\text{Total perimeter: } (3 \times 20) - 8 = 52 \text{ cm}$$

Answer: 52 cm

Question 16 Answer:

$$\text{Students who like at least one fruit: } 30 - 5 = 25$$

$$\text{Total likes: } 18 + 15 = 33$$

$$\text{Students who like both: } 33 - 25 = 8$$

Answer: 8 students

Question 17 Answer:

$$\text{Leaves fallen: } 10\% \times 200 = 20$$

$$\text{Leaves remaining: } 200 - 20 = 180$$

Answer: 180 leaves

Question 18 Answer:

$$3/\text{Total balls} = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\text{Total balls: } 3 \times 4 = 12$$

Answer: 12 balls

Question 19 Answer:

Time: $150 \text{ km} \div 60 \text{ km/h} = 2.5 \text{ hours}$

Answer: 2.5 hours

Question 20 Answer:

The number that looks the same in a mirror is 88.

Question 21 Answer:

Drivers: $\frac{1}{2} \times 40 = 20$

Cyclists: $\frac{1}{4} \times 40 = 10$

Walkers: $40 - 20 - 10 = 10$

Answer: 10 workers

Question 22 Answer:

Numbers divisible by both 2 and 5 between 1 and 50 are multiples of 10.

Numbers: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50

Answer: 5 numbers

Question 23 Answer:

Output: $(5 \times 3) - 2 = 13$

Answer: 13

Question 24 Answer:

Pattern of differences: +2, +3, +4, +5

Next difference: +6

Next number: $16 + 6 = 22$

Answer: 22

Question 25 Answer:

B: 2 kg

A: 1 kg

D: 4 kg

Total weight: $2 + 1 + 4 = 7 \text{ kg}$

Answer: 7 kg

Question 26 Answer:

Let width = w , length = $2w$

Area: $w \times 2w = 2w^2 = 24$

$w^2 = 12$

$w = \sqrt{12} \approx 3.46 \text{ cm}$

Length: $2 \times 3.46 \approx 6.92 \text{ cm}$

Perimeter: $2(3.46 + 6.92) \approx 20.76 \text{ cm}$

Answer: Approximately 20.8 cm

Question 27 Answer:

Rounded length: 10 meters

Each piece: $10 \div 2 = 5 \text{ meters}$

Answer: 10 meters; each piece is 5 meters long

Question 28 Answer:

The points form a square.

Question 29 Answer:

$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$

Answer: $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$

Question 30 Answer:

Sum of ratio parts: $2 + 3 = 5$

Answer: 5 flowers

So Answer Key with Solutions

Question 31 Answer:

Total marbles = 90

Red marbles: $60\% \times 90 = 54$

Blue marbles: $30\% \times 90 = 27$

Green marbles: $90 - 54 - 27 = 9$

Answer: 9 green marbles

Question 32 Answer:

Between $\frac{1}{3} \approx 0.333$ and $\frac{1}{2} = 0.5$.

Fractions with denominator 8:

$\frac{1}{8} = 0.125$ (too small)

$\frac{2}{8} = 0.25$ (too small)

$\frac{3}{8} = 0.375$ (between $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$)

$\frac{4}{8} = 0.5$ (equal to $\frac{1}{2}$)

Answer: $\frac{3}{8}$

Question 33 Answer:

We are looking for the smallest number divisible by 3, 4, and 5.

Find the least common multiple (LCM) of 3, 4, and 5.

Prime factorization:

3: 3

4: 2^2

5: 5

LCM: $2^2 \times 3 \times 5 = 60$

Answer: 60

Question 34 Answer:

We are looking for the smallest number N such that:

$N \bmod 5 = 2$

$N \bmod 4 = 1$

Numbers that leave remainder 2 when divided by 5:

2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27, 32, 37, 42, 47, 52,...

Check which of these leave remainder 1 when divided by 4:

$2 \div 4 = 0$ R2 (No)

$7 \div 4 = 1$ R3 (No)

$12 \div 4 = 3$ R0 (No)

$17 \div 4 = 4$ R1 (Yes)

Answer: 17

Question 35 Answer:

Let's find the pattern in the sequence: 2, 5, 10, 17, 26,...

Find the differences between terms:

$5 - 2 = 3$

$10 - 5 = 5$

$17 - 10 = 7$

$26 - 17 = 9$

The differences are: 3, 5, 7, 9 (increasing by 2 each time)

Next difference: 11

Next number: $26 + 11 = 37$

Answer: 37

Question 36 Answer:

Use the formula for two overlapping sets:

Total students = (Number playing football) + (Number playing basketball) - (Number playing both)

Total students = $24 + 18 - 10 = 32$

Answer: 32 students

Question 37 Answer:

Let width = w cm

Length = $2w + 4$ cm

Perimeter $P = 2(\text{length} + \text{width}) = 48$

So, $2((2w + 4) + w) = 48$

Simplify:

$2(3w + 4) = 48$

$3w + 4 = 24$

$3w = 20$

$w = \frac{20}{3} \approx 6.67$ cm

Length:

$2w + 4 = (2 \times \frac{20}{3}) + 4 = \frac{40}{3} + 4 = \frac{52}{3} \approx 17.33$ cm

Area = length \times width

$$A = (52/3) \times (20/3) = (52 \times 20)/9 = 1040/9 \approx 115.56 \text{ cm}^2$$

Answer: Approximately 115.56 cm²

Question 38 Answer:

$$\frac{2}{x} + \frac{3}{x} = 5$$

Combine fractions:

$$(2 + 3)/x = 5$$

$$5/x = 5$$

$$x = 1$$

Answer: 1

Question 39 Answer:

Let the total distance be 2d km (so each half is d km)

Time for first half: $t_1 = d/12$ hours

Time for second half: $t_2 = d/16$ hours

Total time $T = t_1 + t_2 = d/12 + d/16$

Find common denominator:

$$T = d(4/48 + 3/48) = d(7/48) \text{ hours}$$

Total distance: 2d

Average speed = Total distance/Total time

$$V_{\text{avg}} = 2d/(d \times 7/48) = 2/(7/48) = 2 \times 48/7 = 96/7 \approx 13.71 \text{ km/h}$$

Answer: Approximately 13.71 km/h

Question 40 Answer:

Let the three consecutive even numbers be n, n+2, n+4

$$\text{Sum: } n + (n+2) + (n+4) = 90$$

Simplify:

$$3n + 6 = 90$$

$$3n = 84$$

$$n = 28$$

So the numbers are 28, 30, 32

Answer: 28, 30, and 32