Complete English 6 – Comprehension suggested answers

1 The storm chasers

Retrieve and record

- 1. Tornadoes.
- 2. Because there is not another gas station for a long time.
- 3. True. The text says that they got the data.
- 4. Answers could include: A place where there are a lot of tornadoes. / A place in Kansas (note: Tornado Alley includes parts of Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kansas, South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska).
- 5. She hadn't slept in a long time. / It had been a long journey.

Inference

- 1. Answers could include: She felt an urge to drive through the storm. / She was excited. / She was scared.
- 2. There was nothing around the station for miles. / There were no people living or working for miles.
- 3. Answers could include: She was excited about finding a tornado. / She had a lot of work to do. / She had been driving for a long time.
- 4. Answers could include: A good idea, because they can get important data/information about storms that could help people. A bad idea, because they could get hurt or killed.
- 5. Answers could include: She would, because at the end of the story she was grinning and happy that they had got the data. She wouldn't, because she had the data she needed and it was hard and dangerous to chase tornadoes.

2 What Romans ate

Retrieve and record

- 1. As a sweetener because they did not know about sugar.
- 2. Bread dipped in wine, honey, olives and dates.
- 3. Triclinium
- 4. It means 'second table' because a whole new table would be brought in.
- 5. A fermented fish sauce.

- 1. Because they did not have enough money for more food.
- 2. Water was not as safe to drink. / Water could contain bacteria, but the alcohol in wine killed the bacteria. (Note: The Romans often watered down their wine by mixing it with water to make it less alcoholic).

- 3. So they could continue to eat and enjoy the taste of the food. (Note: This was actually quite rare).
- 4. Answers could include: They did not have money to buy food for lunch. / They did not have 'time off' like we do. / They were forced to work by their bosses.
- 5. Because they were expensive/rare.

3 Honey bees

Retrieve and record

- 1. Bringing something/food back up from the stomach. / Bringing nectar back up from the honey stomach.
- 2. To make things like candles, cosmetics, to help wooden drawers slide, or to use a filling in teeth.
- 3. It is like a frame or a house, made from beeswax, where the bees place their eggs and where the larvae live until they become an adult.
- 4. Nurse bee, worker bee.
- 5. About 2 weeks.

Inference

- 1. Because they are where the young are raised. / Because natural hives are often found in trees.
- 2. Flowers are where bees harvest nectar, which they use for food and to make honey.
- 3. As a place to raise their young. / As a home.
- 4. Because the bees need honey to make honeycomb, which leaves less honey for people to use. So if the comb is already there, the bees will make more honey.
- 5. Answers could include: Yes, because the bees do not need all of their honey. No, because the bees need their honey and people are stealing it.

Sequencing

c, b, d, a

4 Please sir, I want some more

Retrieve and record

- 1. The master (assisted by one or two women).
- 2. "He gazed in some astonishment on the small rebel for some seconds" "The assistants were paralysed with wonder".
- 3. In case he was splashed with gruel.
- 4. The ladle.

5. He thinks Oliver Twist will be hung.

Inference

- 1. Answers could include: Because he did not get up to ask for more until he was nudged by his neighbours. / Because he waited until the other boys were whispering.
- 2. Because he was surprised and did not respond at first. / Because the text says he gazed in "stupefied astonishment".
- 3. Because the text says that they polished their bowls clean and licked their fingers.
- 4. Answers could include: Because they were starving from not getting enough food. / Because they were afraid of the boy who said he was going to eat someone. / Because they did not all want to get into trouble, so decided only one person would ask.
- 5. Students' own answers. Answers could include: He was mean, because he would not give the boys more food. / He was not nice, because he was fat while the boys went hungry and because he hit Oliver Twist for asking for more food.

5 What is Rio de Janeiro like?

Retrieve and record

- 1. 12 million.
- 2. March 1, 1565.
- 3. Because it has nice beaches, a pleasant sub-tropical climate and dramatic scenery.
- 4. Granite.
- 5. Gold and diamonds.
- 6. River of January.

Inference

- 1. By a cluster of islands and long bays.
- 2. It is described as dominating the surrounding landscape.
- 3. Portuguese.
- 4. Sao Paulo.
- 5. Because the city became the home of the Portuguese royal family (monarchy).

6 The ghost of the dolmen

Retrieve and record

1. Two upright stones with a flat stone on top. / A Stone Age tomb.

- 2. The text says that darkness was descending, and that it was dusk.
- 3. Josh.
- 4. Scared. The text says that he tried to scream and that he was "paralysed to the spot".
- 5. A pin.

Inference

- 1. Because it seemed to be part of the landscape. / Because the text says it is from the Stone Age.
- 2. Answers could include: It looked like a pin / The ghost had a pin missing from his cloak.
- 3. Answers could include: They seemed unworldly. / Something/the ghost drew him to the stones.
- 4. Answers could include: He had a very difficult or violent life because he had wounds and scars all over his body. / He had a hard life because he was dirty and his hair was tangled and he wore animal skins. / He led a simple life, because he was dressed in animal skins and used bone for a pin.
- 5. Answers could include: Yes, because the ghost wanted his pin back/could not rest without his pin.

7 Dulce et decorum est

Retrieve and record

- 1. On the flares (gunfire).
- 2. Gas masks.
- 3. The man who died from the gas.
- 4. Into a wagon.

Inference

- 1. A soldier in WWI.
- 2. He describes them as bent double, knock kneed, coughing, trudging, marching asleep, lame, blind, blood-shod, drunk with fatigue, deaf.
- 3. He describes them as bent double, knock kneed, coughing, trudging, marching asleep, lame, blind, blood-shod, drunk with fatigue, deaf. Answers could include: It makes me feel bad for them. / It makes me feel sorry for them.
- 4. He uses the phrase "In all my dreams".
- 5. Answers could include: The narrator thinks war is awful/violent. He describes the horrors of the war and ends by saying that if we could see what he had seen, we would not urge others to go to war for glory. (Note: The poem's final line: Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori is a line from a poem called Odes by the Roman poet Horace. The line translates as: "It is sweet and fitting to die for the homeland."

8 The lost temple of the Maya

Retrieve and record

- 1. Dr Elizabeth Green.
- 2. The ancient temple of the Maya.
- 3. 4.
- 4. An arrow went through it.
- 5. A short radio message.

Inference

- 1. Answers could include: Progress slowed, the guides argued and were mad about the thick vegetation.
- 2. To get a better position for setting off the flare, and to try and get phone reception.
- 3. She hoped to find the temple / She wanted to find/help the first expedition.
- 4. Answers could include: She had also gone mad / There were other people there who attacked her.
- 5. Students' own answers. Answers could include: They also disappeared / They found the temple and the warning from Dr Green helped them avoid being killed.

9 July weather in North America

Retrieve and record

- 1. A combination of heat and moist air.
- 2. New York.
- 3. Summer fog.
- 4. 25 C / 77 F.
- 5. When the air moves inland and is warmed.

- 1. 4 months (July to October).
- 2. It is cut off by mountains, so no outside breezes reach it.
- 3. False. The text says that the southeast in July is the wettest part of the continent, but the rain falls in afternoon thunderstorms, so it is sunny the rest of the time.
- 4. Because there is no wind to disperse the pollution, so it builds up and turns into smog, which is a health hazard.
- 5. Answers could include: "This makes coastal California relatively cool for this time of the year." "But, because this air holds little moisture, the changes of rain are small."

10 The saga of Bjorn the Viking

Retrieve and record

- 1. A spear.
- 2. 15.
- 3. To become a man.
- 4. Answers could include: Because he is alone / there is no one to rescue/help him.
- 5. He would be treated as worthless / He would be treated like a slave / He would be a laughing stock/would be mocked.

Inference

- 1. Because he was the leader of the tribe and needed to treat everyone equally so they would support him.
- 2. He did not want to be treated as a laughing stock/treated badly by the tribe
- 3. Answers could include: His parents love him/care about him. The text says "I knew he [father] was proud of me" "She [mother] worried about me."
- 4. He describes the reindeer as huge and grizzled, pockmarked with scars / He says the reindeer has wild eyes and let out a blood-curdling cry, before stamping its hooves / He describes the reindeer as huge, with huge antlers.
- 5. Students' own answer.

Sequencing

c, a, d, b

11 Fire burn and cauldron bubble

Retrieve and record

- 1. A cauldron.
- 2. tooth.
- 3. Under a cold stone.
- 4. With baboon blood.
- 5. Macbeth.

- 1. To boil/bubble the potion in the cauldron.
- 2. Answers could include: By putting in a lot of odd/unnatural/scary ingredients.
- 3. Answers could include: root of hemlock (dark/night) / slip of yew (dark/night/when the moon is out).

- 4. To ask a question.
- 5. Answers could include: He does not like them because they are witches, but he needs them. / He likes them because they can help him.

12 Greek theatre

Retrieve and record

- 1. Dionysus.
- 2. In Athens.
- 3. 15,000.
- 4. Plays which made people laugh.
- 5. False. The text says that all of the actors were either men or boys, who would also play the parts of women.

Inference

- 1. By paying attention to the play, people were honouring the gods.
- 2. Because it cost a lot of money to stage the play, train the chorus and make costumes and masks.
- 3. He was the first actor to speak as though he were the character, instead of just reciting lines.
- 4. Answers could include: The instruments were different / it was on the stage near the actors instead of in a pit.
- 5. Because their works survive while the works of other playwrights were lost.

13 A land of kingdoms

Retrieve and record

- 1. The Romans.
- 2. 1,670,000 (there were 330,000 at the start and 2 million at the end).
- 3. Priests and politicians.
- 4. How to plough with an iron-tipped plough / swirling decoration (art).
- 5. When the Romans invaded / AD 43.

- 1. Because the Romans did not stay in Scotland / the Romans could not keep control in Scotland.
- 2. Because no one had tried to invade Britain before.
- 3. Because the more people there are, the more each tribe needed from its land. When they did not have enough, they tried to take over someone else's territory.
- 4. Because the Britons didn't keep any records.

5. To pass on folklore from one generation to the next / to tell stories.

Sequencing

c, d, a, b

14 The search for a super-clock

Retrieve and record

- 1. Longitude.
- 2. Degrees.
- 3. An instrument that could give a precise measurement of latitude
- 4. It was made entirely of wood.
- 5. They would use the stars / They would sail to the latitude of their destination, and turn toward the destination and sail along the line of constant latitude.

Inference

- 1. Answers could include: To win the prize / because it was interesting / he wanted to be famous.
- 2. To encourage people to create one.
- 3. Answers could include: Yes, because he made the clock.
- 4. Answers could include: He thought it would be too difficult.

15 The Lady of Shalott

Retrieve and record

- 1. She weaves.
- 2. Coal-black.
- 3. A mirror.
- 4. Shalott and Camelot.
- 5. False. The poem says the knights come riding two by two.

- 1. The poem is comparing Lancelot in his helmet riding to Camelot with a meteor in the sky.
- 2. The poem says he is only a bow-shot (the distance an arrow flies) from her bower-eaves.
- 3. Answers could include: Yes, because she watches the people pass by but never talks to anyone or goes out to see anyone.

- 4. The poem describes his clothing as brazen, sparkled, gemmy and compares him to stars and the galaxy / the poet describes what he is wearing as like jewellery and precious metals.
- 5. Answers could include: She is in a high tower.

Sequencing

b, a, d, c

16 The mystery of the great Sphinx

Retrieve and record

- 1. Ancient Greeks.
- 2. Four and a half thousand years ago.
- 3. False. It faces east. The text says that it faces the rising sun, and the sun rises in the east.
- 4. 1925.
- 5. They represented power and strength / In the New Kingdom, they were connected with the god Amun and the protection of temples / In the Old Kingdom, they were connected with the Sun god.

Inference

- 1. Answers could include: They were curious to see what it looked like.
- 2. Information about it was not passed down in hieroglyphics or by word of mouth.
- 3. There is no written evidence.
- 4. Answers could include: It became covered in sand and could not be uncovered / people forgot why it was important / the reasons why it was built was no longer important.
- 5. The pictures show the Sphinx as it was then, and it has changed since then.

17 Ships of the dead

Retrieve and record

- 1. 1939.
- 2. False. The text states that sometimes the burial ships were cast adrift in the sea and sometimes they were buried on land.
- 3. They were things the Anglo-Saxons believed they would need in the afterlife.
- 4. Women.

5. Grave robbers emptied them

Inference

- 1. Answers could include: Important people were buried in them.
- 2. Answers could include: They were expensive and hard to get, so they would have been passed down and not sold / they were valuable and were part of the wealth of the family.
- 3. To make tools and weapons with / because it was expensive and hard to come by.
- 4. Because the burial was expensive so most people could not afford it / to show how important they were.

18 Age of the hunting dinosaur

Retrieve and record

- 1. False. The text says T. rex was the **last** hunting dinosaur. / The text says that T. rex lived at the end of dinosaur times.
- 2. They lay in ambush for their prey. / They ate slow-moving prey. / Some may have eaten fish / The scavenged for dead dinosaurs.
- 3. A row of spines along its backbone, covered in skin.
- 4. Because its nostrils were high up on its nose, to keep them out of the water.
- 5. True.

Inference

- 1. Its bones were some of the first hunting dinosaur bones to be found.
- 2. There were many different kinds of them. / They lived for a long time.
- 3. They could not run fast enough to catch fast-moving or healthy prey.
- 4. Students' own answers. Possible answers include: Birds, hyenas, foxes.

19 Crossing the River Platte

Retrieve and record

- 1. Old man Evans.
- 2. They are brothers.
- 3. The sun was shining and everyone was in a good mood.
- 4. There was no way around it / There were no bridges or places to ford.

Inference

1. To find a new home. / To find land to call their own.

- 2. Students' own answers. Possible answers include: Everything they would need for a new home. / Food, clothes, household objects, materials to build houses, tools, materials for farming, seeds, animals.
- 3. Answers could include: Hostile Native Americans / wild animals / thieves.
- 4. Answers could include: He has a good job / He is waiting for his brother to find a place to live / He has to look after his parents/family / He doesn't want to go.
- 5. Answers could include: worried / scared / brave.