

All-Wales Literacy Test for Entry to Initial Teacher Education and Training Programmes

This test covers the core literacy skills needed within the professional role of a teacher, rather than the subject knowledge required for teaching. All candidates are required to pass this test before being accepted onto an initial teacher education and training programme. There are 3 sections to this test: there are 20 marks available in the spelling and punctuation section; 10 marks in the grammar section and 10 in the comprehension section.

Section One: Spelling and Punctuation

In this section, you will be tested on your ability to identify errors in a learner's writing.

A learner has written a letter to the headteacher of her school asking whether the class can go on a school visit. The letter contains spelling and punctuation errors, which you are required to identify in the questions that follow.

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|----|---|
| 01 | Dear Mrs Watkins |
| 05 | I am writing on behalf of Class 10B to ask for your permission to go on a school trip. Having taken a vote, Class 10B is unanimous that we would like to go to the centre for alternative technology. We decided to chose this so that we can learn about renewable energy; learn about growing food; and have fun in the children's play area. |
| 10 | If we were aloud to go, we think it would benefit our education and would add to the work we have already done on our topic: 'Our Fragile Environment'. Our preperation has included looking at the website were it says that there are "plenty of opportunities to find inspiration." |
| 15 | Many of us have friend's who have been there (they go to a different school) and they have told us it's great. Have you ever been |
| 20 | After our visit we will be able to advice you about improving our school environment, this will have a positive effect on the whole school. |
| 23 | We are hoping that you agree to our plan otherwise Class 10B will be very disappointed Yours sincerely Sioned Davis |

You are presented with a series of multiple choice questions. Choose the most appropriate answer.

- 1 A word may have been spelt incorrectly in line 3. The correct spelling is:
- a) permission
 - b) permission*
 - c) permiton

- 2 A word may have been spelt incorrectly in line 4. The correct spelling is:
- a) unanimous
 - b) uninimos
 - c) unanimous*
- 3 In lines 4 and 5 the use of capitals is incorrect. Choose the correct version:
- a) The Centre For Alternative Technology
 - b) The centre for alternative technology
 - c) the Centre for Alternative Technology*
- 4 A word may have been spelt incorrectly in line 5. The correct spelling is:
- a) choose*
 - b) chose
 - c) chews
- 5 The semi-colons in lines 5 and 6 are used to:
- a) separate items longer than a single word in a list*
 - b) separate a clause
 - c) to break the sentence up
- 6 There is a punctuation mark missing in line 5. Should there be:
- a) an exclamation mark
 - b) a comma
 - c) a colon*
- 7 A word may have been spelt incorrectly in line 8. The correct spelling is:
- a) aloud
 - b) alowed
 - c) allowed*
- 8 The comma in line 8 is used:
- a) to separate items in a list
 - b) to take a breath
 - c) to separate clauses*

- 9 A word may have been spelt incorrectly in line 8. The correct spelling is:
- a) benefitt
 - b) benifit
 - c) benefit*
- 10 A word may have been spelt incorrectly in line 9. The correct spelling is:
- a) preperation
 - b) prepperation
 - c) preparation*
- 11 A word may have been spelt incorrectly in line 10. The correct spelling is:
- a) where*
 - b) were
 - c) wear
- 12 There are inverted commas in lines 10 and 11 because:
- a) the words have been spoken aloud
 - b) the words are a quotation from another source*
 - c) it places emphasis on the words
- 13 A word may have been punctuated incorrectly in line 13. The correct punctuation is:
- a) friends*
 - b) friends'
 - c) friend's
- 14 Brackets have been used around some of the information in line 13 because it provides:
- a) extra detail*
 - b) very interesting information
 - c) the most important information
- 15 There is a punctuation mark missing in line 14. It is:
- a) a full stop
 - b) an exclamation mark
 - c) a question mark*

- 16 A word may have been spelt incorrectly in line 16. The correct spelling is:
- a) advice
 - b) advise*
 - c) advize
- 17 There may be a punctuation error in line 16. The correct punctuation is:
- a) environment. This*
 - b) environment! This
 - c) environment, this
- 18 A word may have been spelt incorrectly in line 17. The correct spelling is:
- a) effect*
 - b) efect
 - c) affect
- 19 A word may have been spelt incorrectly in line 19. The correct spelling is:
- a) disapointed
 - b) disappointed*
 - c) dissapointed
- 20 There is no punctuation mark at the end of line 19. There should be:
- a) an exclamation mark
 - b) a full stop*
 - c) an ellipsis

Section Two: Grammar

In this section of the test, you are required to identify the most appropriate option to compose a coherent, accurate text. In this case, a newsletter is being written.

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of the school year it is time to look back over our achievements. The Governing Body of Llanbefan is very proud of the education that is being offered to our children and is also delighted that our children make the most of their opportunities. Academic standards

- a) continue to improve every year*
- b) continues to improve every year
- c) is continuing to improve every year

and we are proud of the progress of each and every child. This year has seen the opening of our new ICT suite which includes an interactive white board and video equipment.

- a) The teachers will soon be introducing this to the children who have all been trained in its use.
- b) The teachers, who all been trained in its use, will soon be introducing this to the children.
- c) The teachers, who have all been trained in the use of the video equipment, will soon be introducing this to the children.*

Some of you

- a) may of heard of our recent successful inspection.
- b) might of heard of our recent successful inspection.
- c) may have heard of our recent successful inspection.*

This report highlighted several strengths. A particularly pleasing feature was the current attendance figure of 95% which is

- a) different from previous records*
- b) different to previous records
- c) different than previous records

This area shows the

- a) greatest improvement.*
- b) greater improvement.
- c) great improvement.

We continue to foster close links with the home so that we can understand and respond to the individual needs of each child in our care.

- a) These links is important in maintaining our school community's development
- b) These links are important in maintaining our school community's development*
- c) These links are important in maintaining our school communities development

and we are delighted to have made improvements

- a) so quick.
- b) so quickly.*
- c) quicker.

The Governing Body is committed to providing a high quality education for every child at Llanbefan and hopes you will find this newsletter both useful and informative. Finally, we are delighted to announce our new school menu will

- a) be affective from 1st September.
- b) take effect from 1st September.*
- c) take affect from 1st September.

Yours sincerely,

G. Greenfield

Chair of Governors

Section Three: Comprehension

This section of the test examines a range of comprehension skills. Read the following text carefully and choose the most appropriate answer from the multiple choice options below.

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Statement: Literacy

The Record

The Minister for Education and Skills (Leighton Andrews): In February 2011, I set out 20 priorities to tackle underperformance in education in Wales, which included a commitment to focus on literacy and numeracy. This statement provides an update on the progress of the National Literacy Programme and outlines the series of actions that the Welsh Government and its partners are taking to achieve a step change in standards of literacy over the next five years.

Our programme for government states that our aim for education is to help everyone reach their potential, to reduce inequality, and to improve economic and social wellbeing. One of the key ways to ensure that this aim is achieved is by improving education provision for all learners and specifically by improving standards of literacy. Literacy describes a set of skills, including speaking, listening, reading and writing, which enable us to make sense of the world around us. Literacy is more than decoding words on a page or writing grammatically correct sentences. Literacy is about understanding written and spoken language, interpreting what has been written or said, drawing inferences from evidence and being able to communicate effectively. The National Literacy Programme is a five-year programme of action to transform standards of literacy in Wales. It requires that every school in Wales be focused on the development of literacy skills. The groundwork for literacy skills is laid in the early years of primary school. For this reason, we need to ensure that children receive consistently high-quality teaching in the foundation phase, in order to reduce the number of pupils struggling with literacy skills later on in their education. The primary focus of the National Literacy Programme is on increasing the number of children who are taught well first time, and decreasing the number who need individual support to help them catch up or plug gaps in their knowledge and understanding. While our targeted intervention grants have already helped 7,000 primary school children, there is still much to do. To ensure that each child is given every opportunity to succeed, extra support is needed for those falling behind.

We will build on the success of current intervention programmes by exploring how they help pupils at risk of falling behind, or those not achieving their potential.

Andrews, L. (2011, November) "*Statement: Literacy*". The Record of Proceedings presented at The National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff, Wales. Available at: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber-fourth-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=225995&ds=11/2011> (accessed 27th February 2011)

1. Who is the intended audience?
 - a) Parents
 - b) Professionals *
 - c) Pupils

2. Who is delivering this speech?
 - a) Local Authority Representative
 - b) Headteacher Representative
 - c) Welsh Government Representative *

3. Which genre does this text belong to?
 - a) Information text *
 - b) Explanation text
 - c) Discussion text

4. A five year programme is being introduced to:
 - a) improve economic and social wellbeing
 - b) help everyone reach their potential
 - c) transform standards of literacy *

5. Intervention grants have been targeted at:
 - a) increasing the number of children who are taught well first time
 - b) supporting individuals who are falling behind in literacy *
 - c) ensuring children receive consistently high quality teaching

6. The National Literacy Programme is designed to be delivered in:
 - a) all schools *
 - b) targeted schools
 - c) economically deprived schools

7. 'While our targeted intervention grants have already helped 7,000 primary school children, there is still much to do.'
- a) This is a factual statement
 - b) This is an opinion*
 - c) This is a command
8. Which of the following words is a synonym for the word 'interference', as used in this text?
- a) Intervention *
 - b) Inference
 - c) Inequality
9. Decoding refers to:
- a) speaking
 - b) listening
 - c) reading*
10. In this speech, Leighton Andrews suggests that literacy provision in Wales:
- a) is underfunded
 - b) has effective intervention procedures
 - c) depends upon early years provision*