



Native English Admissions Test

Reading Comprehension

Read the extract from *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens once. The text describes an area of London known as Folly Ditch. Once you have read the text carefully, complete the questions below.

1 Near to that part of the Thames on which the church at Rotherhithe abuts, where the buildings on the
2 banks are dirtiest and the vessels on the river blackest with the dust of colliers and the smoke of
3 close-built low-roofed houses, there exists the filthiest, the strangest, the most extraordinary of the
4 many localities that are hidden in London, wholly unknown, even by name, to the great mass of its
5 inhabitants.

6 To reach this place, the visitor has to penetrate through a maze of close, narrow, and muddy streets,
7 thronged by the roughest and poorest of waterside people, and devoted to the traffic they may be
8 supposed to occasion. The cheapest and least delicate provisions are heaped in the shops; the coarsest
9 and commonest articles of wearing apparel dangle at the salesman's door, and stream from the house-
10 parapet and windows. Jostling with unemployed labourers of the lowest class, ballast-heavers, coal-
11 whippers, brazen women, ragged children, and the raff and refuse of the river, he makes his way with
12 difficulty along, assailed by offensive sights and smells from the narrow alleys which branch off on the
13 right and left, and deafened by the clash of ponderous wagons that bear great piles of merchandise
14 from the stacks of warehouses that rise from every corner. Arriving, at length, in streets remoter and
15 less-frequented than those through which he has passed, he walks beneath tottering house-fronts
16 projecting over the pavement, dismantled walls that seem to totter as he passes, chimneys half
17 crushed half hesitating to fall, windows guarded by rusty iron bars that time and dirt have almost
18 eaten away, every imaginable sign of desolation and neglect.

19 In such a neighbourhood, beyond Dockhead in the Borough of Southwark, stands Jacob's Island,
20 surrounded by a muddy ditch, six or eight feet deep and fifteen or twenty wide when the tide is in,
21 once called Mill Pond, but known in the days of this story as Folly Ditch. It is a creek or inlet from the

22 Thames, and can always be filled at high water by opening the sluices at the Lead Mills from which it
23 took its old name. At such times, a stranger, looking from one of the wooden bridges thrown across it
24 at Mill Lane, will see the inhabitants of the houses on either side lowering from their back doors and
25 windows, buckets, pails, domestic utensils of all kinds, in which to haul the water up; and when his eye
26 is turned from these operations to the houses themselves, his utmost astonishment will be excited by
27 the scene before him. Crazy wooden galleries common to the backs of half-a-dozen houses, with holes
28 from which to look upon the slime beneath; windows, broken and patched, with poles thrust out, on
29 which to dry the linen that is never there; rooms so small, so filthy, so confined, that the air would
30 seem too tainted even for the dirt and squalor which they shelter; wooden chambers thrusting
31 themselves out above the mud, and threatening to fall into it- as some have done; dirt-besmeared
32 walls and decaying foundations; every repulsive lineament of poverty, every loathsome indication of
33 filth, rot, and garbage; all these ornament the banks of Folly Ditch.

Taken from 'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens, 1838

1. Which of the following words is not an adjective? Circle one answer. (1 mark)

- a. dirtiest
- b. extraordinary
- c. garbage

2. The area described is compared to 'a maze of close, narrow, and muddy streets' (l.6). This is an example of what literary technique? Circle one answer. (1 mark)

- a. alliteration
- b. allegory
- c. metaphor

3. Circle the odd one out. (1 mark)

- a. creek
- b. house
- c. river

4. Give a reason for your answer to Question 3. (1 mark)

5. What was this area called before it came to be known as 'Folly Ditch'? (1 mark)

6. The author describes Folly Ditch as a dirty place. Write down 5 words associated with dirt from the text. (5 marks)

i) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____

iv) _____

v) _____

7. Write down two words from the text that tell the reader that Folly Ditch is near to a river. (2 marks)

i) _____

ii) _____

8. Describe three features of a typical house in Folly Ditch. Base your answers on lines 14-18. (3 marks)

i) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____

9. Imagine you were to visit Folly Ditch today and to find it unchanged since Dickens wrote *Oliver Twist*. Write a short description of this neighbourhood on the lines below. Use your own words. You should write in modern English (i.e. you should not attempt to imitate Dickens' style.) (5 marks)

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Native English Admissions Test

Grammar and Vocabulary

Complete the sentences below using the words in brackets. You can change the verbs so that the sentence makes sense. An example is done for you.

Example: I _____ in a hotel until the work on my house is finished. (*stay*)

Answer: I **am staying** in a hotel until the work on my house is finished.

1. They _____ to fix that pipe since this morning and it's still leaking. (*try*)
2. Scientists still _____ a simple solution to climate change. (*find*)
3. About one hundred people _____ outside the theatre when we got there. (*queue*)
4. The witness claimed he _____ the man before. (*see*)
5. She's a brilliant actress. By the age of thirty, she _____ many awards. (*already/win*)

Write the correct answer in the gap: A, B or C.

6. He had become a completely different person _____ he had left school.

A) during B) since C) while

7. I've been waiting for you _____ hours! Why didn't you ring?

A) for B) since C) during

8. Why don't you think of training to be a chef? You're an excellent _____!

A) cooker B) cookery C) cook

9. I wish you'd stop chatting and _____ with your work!

A) get down B) get on C) get through

10. That _____ be grandma – go and open the door for her, please.

A) can B) ought C) will

Circle the correct answer.

11. *What time/ How long does the lesson last?*
12. **You're having a week off school soon, isn't it/ aren't you?**
13. **Let's go to the seaside tomorrow, won't we/ shall we?**
14. **I have a good friend who/that lives in Nigeria.**
15. **Charles Dickens was a famous writer who/which himself experienced great hardship as a child.**

Complete the words using a prefix from the line below.

Prefixes : de - un- multi- under- mono-

16. Wait for me ! My shoe lace has come ____ done.
17. The artist paints in ____chrome. All her work is composed of black and white shapes.
18. Could I return this chicken, please? I think it is a little ____cooked.
19. We are a ____lingual school. Over thirty languages are spoken by our staff and students.
20. They managed to ____code the message and get to the scene of the crime just in time.