



ST NICHOLAS COLLEGE
HALF-YEARLY PRIMARY EXAMINATIONS
February 2014

YEAR 5

ENGLISH (Listening Comprehension) TIME: 30 minutes
TEACHER'S COPY

Guidelines for the conduct of the Listening Comprehension Examination
ALL INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO BE GIVEN IN ENGLISH

- a) 4 minutes - First reading aloud of text by teacher
- b) 4 minutes - Teacher reads out the questions
- c) 4 minutes - Second reading aloud of text by teacher
- d) 8 minutes - Students answer the questions
- e) 4 minutes - Third reading aloud of text by teacher
- f) 6 minutes - Final revision of answers by students

Resources

Teacher: Reading Text and Questions
Each student: Pen and Examination Paper

Introduction

The teacher in charge distributes the examination papers to the students and asks them to write their name, surname and class on the front cover.

THE TEACHER TELLS THE STUDENTS TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE EXAMINATION PAPER (STUDENT'S COPY) AS SHE/HE READS.

INSTRUCTIONS

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen carefully as I read a text about <i>Noah Webster</i>.• Do not answer the questions or write anything while I am reading.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open the examination paper and look at the questions.• I will read the questions to you once.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Close the examination paper and listen carefully.• I will read the text a second time.• Do not write anything while I am reading.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have eight minutes to answer questions 1 to 14.• In questions 1 to 12 tick only the correct answer.• In number 13 (a to h) tick to show whether each sentence is True or False.• In number 14 (a to d) fill in the missing words to complete each sentence.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I will read the text to you a third time.• You may complete any unanswered questions as I read.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You now have six minutes to check your answers, and complete any unanswered questions.

Noah Webster

Noah Webster was born in Connecticut, America. He attended law school for a while, and then he went home and found his family needed help. He took a job teaching school children to earn money to support his family.

The school was an old run-down building, and as the teacher, he had to do everything. He had to clean and repair the building as well as teach. But he wanted to set a good example for his students, so he did every task cheerfully. He was a good teacher. Instead of shouting at his students to get them to learn, he rewarded them.

Later when he was Headmaster, he lived with a judge who had a large library. He was able to study law using the judge's books. Eventually he became a lawyer, but what he really wanted to do was to teach others.

He decided to write a spelling book and a grammar book. More than 100 million copies of the spelling book were sold. It became known as the Blue-backed Speller.

He rode on horseback from town to town showing people his books. He called them "American books for American children". He convinced important people to say good things about his books, and then he showed these letters to schools and gave them sample copies. The schools usually ordered hundreds of the books for their students.

He had observed that the people in America spoke many languages and they could not understand each other. They often got into fights because of this *misunderstanding*.

He thought there needed to be one language; a "mother tongue", so that people could work together and be united. He made a dictionary for the people.

He changes the spellings of some words. When he started working on his dictionary, he wanted it to be accurate. He wanted everything in it to be perfect. He spent more than twenty years and thousands of dollars researching the origin of words, and how we came to use them. He visited libraries in England, France and the United States.

He did all the work himself. When the dictionary was finished, it had seventy thousand English words in it. He called it "An American Dictionary of the English Language". It has sold more copies than any other English dictionary.

(Adapted from *The Biography of Noah Webster*, by Patsy Stevens)

Tick (✓) the correct word, phrase or sentence to answer the questions.

1. Webster was born in:

a)	Maryland.	
b)	Rhode Island.	
c)	Connecticut.	
d)	California.	

2. He dropped out of law school because:

a)	he ran out of money.	
b)	the work was too hard for him.	
c)	he chose another career.	
d)	he needed to help his family.	

3. He took a job:

a)	teaching in a school.	
b)	working in a bakery.	
c)	as a lawyer.	
d)	working in a library.	

4. Besides teaching he had many responsibilities in his job which included:

a)	cleaning the judge's house.	
b)	repairing torn books.	
c)	cooking for the children.	
d)	cleaning and repairing the building.	

5. He studied law by:

a)	going to the library.	
b)	reading the judge's books.	
c)	asking his neighbour for books.	
d)	going to court every day.	

6. Webster decided to write a spelling book and a:

a)	reading book.	
b)	grammar book.	
c)	mathematics book.	
d)	Italian dictionary.	

7. His most popular book was called:

a)	'Learn to read and write'.	
b)	'The Green-backed Speller'.	
c)	'The Speller'.	
d)	'The Blue-backed Speller'.	

8. Webster sold more than:

a)	100 copies.	
b)	1000 copies.	
c)	1 million copies.	
d)	100 million copies.	

9. He went round from town to town to sell his book:

a)	on horseback.	
b)	by train.	
c)	by plane.	
d)	on foot.	

10. He noticed that the people in America had difficulty:

a)	understanding one another.	
b)	travelling.	
c)	going from one town to another.	
d)	buying new clothes.	

11. "Mother tongue" means:

a)	mothers are to teach children.	
b)	a talkative mother.	
c)	one language for the country.	
d)	a very long tongue.	

12. In order to establish a "mother tongue" Webster wrote a:

a)	book containing many languages.	
b)	song about it.	
c)	dictionary.	
d)	manual for mothers.	

(12 marks)

13. Put a tick (✓) to show whether each sentence is TRUE or FALSE.

(½ mark each x 8 = 4 marks)

		True	False
a)	Webster's name is Noah.		
b)	Webster wrote the first dictionary.		
c)	He taught in a big, beautiful school.		
d)	He convinced important people to say good things about his books.		
e)	The schools ordered hundreds of his books for their students.		
f)	In America everyone spoke the same language.		
g)	He spent two years researching the origins of words.		
h)	A lot of people helped Webster in writing his book.		

14. Fill in the blanks with a suitable **word**.

(4 marks)

a) Webster wanted to know where the first _____
came from.

b) A _____ is a place full of books.

c) When two people don't understand each other, we say there is
_____.

d) When Webster became a _____ he lived with a
judge and used his books to study law.

END OF PAPER