

Practice Questions — Story

Read this extract from a story, then answer the questions below.

The Direction Dilemma

“Right, we’d better get going,” announced Richard, swiftly draining his coffee cup and pushing back his cheap plastic chair. Beth and Ryan followed him as he marched purposefully out of the cafe.

Outside, Richard carefully extracted a map from his rucksack and spread it flat on a table. Beth and Ryan stood behind him, peering over his shoulder.

“So, we’ve walked here,” he explained, trailing his finger along a dotted line that represented a footpath. “Now we’re going to head out this way.” He gestured again at the map, eventually resting his finger on a point labelled ‘Woodland Cabins’.



“Richard,” Ryan interrupted, “I think we should take the route that we planned. We said we’d go north after the cafe, not north-west.”

“This way is better,” said Richard bluntly. “We’ll get to the cabin earlier and the route will be much more scenic.”



Beth and Ryan exchanged a concerned look, but didn’t argue. There wasn’t any point — Richard would never listen. He stowed the map in his bag and set off, holding his compass. The others followed reluctantly.

Before long, they reached a footpath that carried them higher and higher over a lonely stretch of moor. The landscape looked like a painting; they could see for miles over the heather-covered hills, and in the distance there were mountain peaks sprinkled with a dusting of snow. The midday sun shone brilliantly down on them.

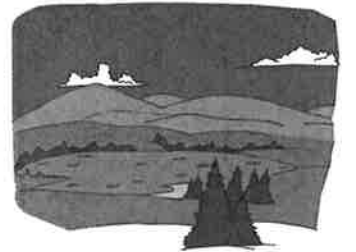
They walked for a few more hours, passing forests, lakes and mountains. Richard confidently led the way and the others trailed a few metres behind, still annoyed with their self-appointed leader but chatting happily among themselves.

Eventually, the sun began to set and darkness drew in, bringing with it an unwelcome chill that made Beth feel even more anxious than when they’d set off. She was about to call ahead to Richard when she saw him stop abruptly. He pulled out his map again and knelt on the ground, flattening the paper onto the grass. He paused for a moment, then jumped back to his feet.

Practice Questions — Story

“Excellent. The cabins should be just at the bottom of this hill,” he said proudly.

Beth and Ryan both breathed a sigh of relief — they had begun to wonder if Richard knew where he was going.



But when they finally reached the bottom of the hill, they stopped dead in their tracks. Opposite them was a cafe — the same cafe they had visited earlier that day. The sign above the door was shrouded in darkness, so another nocturnal passer-by would have no idea of the purpose of the building. And the low light had distorted the door and windows — now it looked like a laughing, mocking face. But from the bird table outside to the three chimneys on its roof, they knew that this was the cafe they had visited just hours before. Beth and Ryan looked accusingly at Richard, who stared blankly at the cafe, his mouth open.

“But... They should be here,” he said quietly, holding the map out in front of him. “I followed the map precisely...”

“Obviously not,” Beth snarled, snatching it out of his hands.

“Where are we going to sleep?” Ryan said, panic rising in his voice.

“There’s nowhere to stay for miles around here,” Beth explained, examining the map. “We can’t carry on walking — it’s too dark.”

Ryan sat down at the side of the road, exhausted. No one spoke for a while.

Finally, Beth broke the silence. “Well, we’ve got a cold night ahead of us then.”

- 1 Circle the correct option to complete the sentence below.

At the beginning of the text, Richard finishes his coffee

quickly slowly carefully noisily

- 2 ... Richard carefully extracted a map from his rucksack
Which word most closely matches the meaning of the word *extracted*?

Tick **one** box.

used	<input type="checkbox"/>
unclipped	<input type="checkbox"/>
removed	<input type="checkbox"/>
presented	<input type="checkbox"/>

Practice Questions — Story

- 3 Why did Richard want to take a different route to the one they had planned?
Tick **two** boxes.

Ryan told him to. ☐ It had a footpath. ☐

It was faster. ☐ It was prettier. ☐

It went past a cafe. ☐

- 4 Beth and Ryan were concerned about taking Richard's route.
Why didn't they tell him this?

.....

.....

- 5 Look at the paragraph beginning: *Before long, they reached a footpath...*
Why were they able to see for miles over the hills?

.....

.....

- 6 ...sprinkled with a dusting of snow.
What does this tell you about the snow?

.....

- 7 Look at the paragraph beginning: *Eventually, the sun began to set...*
What increased Beth's anxiety?

.....

Practice Questions — Story

- 8 The moods of the characters change during the story.

- a) Look at the paragraph beginning: *But when they finally reached the bottom of the hill...*
Find and copy the words that show where Richard's mood changes.

.....

.....

- b) How does Richard's mood change at this point?

.....

.....

- 9 Which of the following best describes Richard?

Tick **one** box.

He is arrogant and stubborn. ☐

He is a good friend. ☐

He is aggressive. ☐

He is kind and honest. ☐

- 10 Find and copy **two** different words that suggest Beth was angry with Richard after they arrived back at the cafe.

.....

- 11 Based on what you have read, what do you think the characters might do next?

.....

.....

Practice Questions — Non-Fiction

Read this article about the marathon, then answer the questions below.

The Marathon

The marathon is a long-distance running event that is held in countries across the globe. Although the first marathon was held in 1896, the event's origins go back thousands of years to the time of the ancient Greeks. According to legend, an ancient Greek messenger ran approximately 25 miles from the Battle of Marathon to Athens to deliver the news that the Greeks had been victorious. This story inspired the marathon that we know today.

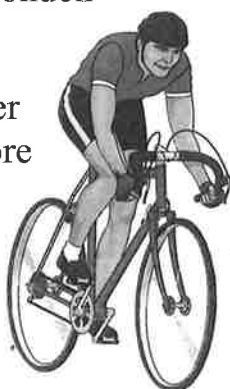


Nowadays, the marathon's distance is set at 26.2 miles. This exact distance was first run at the 1908 Olympic Games, when the race started at Windsor Castle and finished directly in front of the royal box at the Olympic stadium. This extended the course from 25 miles to 26.2 miles, which became the official marathon distance in 1921.

It is not only professional athletes at the Olympic Games who can compete in marathons; these races are often held on public roads in cities, where amateur athletes can also compete. Common reasons for running a marathon include raising money for charity or simply for a sense of achievement.

One of the world's most famous marathons is held annually on the streets of London and was first organised by athletes Chris Brasher and John Disley. They were inspired by the New York City Marathon to create their own marathon event. The first London Marathon was held in 1981, when over 6000 people completed the race. Its popularity has grown massively since then, with tens of thousands of people now running each year. The total number of race finishers in London now stands at over one million.

Many variations of the marathon have been developed over the years. Runners can choose to make the event even more gruelling by running further than the marathon distance in an ultra-marathon, or they could instead opt for a shorter 13.1 mile course: a half-marathon. Athletes can also complete a marathon as part of a triathlon, where they swim, cycle and then run.



Practice Questions — Non-Fiction

There are some less traditional marathons held around the world. The Big Five Marathon in South Africa has a course that winds through the habitat of rhinos, buffalo, lions, elephants and leopards. There is also a marathon held in China where athletes run part of the course on top of the Great Wall of China.

Training for a marathon requires dedication. It can take months for an athlete to build up the fitness needed to run such a long distance. But whether a runner completes an ultra-marathon, a regular marathon, or races alongside lions and leopards, they will no doubt find it a rewarding experience.

- 1 Look at the first paragraph.
What does the word *legend* tell you about the story of the Greek messenger?

.....

.....

- 2 Where did the marathon get its name from?

.....

- 3 How long is a marathon today?

.....

Practice Questions — Non-Fiction

4 Where did the marathon at the 1908 Olympic Games start?

.....

5 According to the text, what are two common reasons someone might want to complete a marathon? Give **two** reasons.

.....

.....

6 Look at the paragraph beginning *One of the world's...*
Find and copy one word meaning once a year.

.....

7 How many people completed the first London Marathon?

.....

Practice Questions — Non-Fiction

8 What is an *ultra-marathon*?

Tick **one** box.

A run that is half the distance of a marathon. ☐

A run that is longer than a marathon. ☐

A run that is combined with a swim and a cycle. ☐

A marathon that is completed in London. ☐

9 What makes the Big Five Marathon *less traditional*?

.....

10 Why does training for a marathon require *dedication*?

.....

11 Read each sentence and tick one box to show whether it is a **fact** or an **opinion**.

Sentence	Fact	Opinion
Chris Brasher and John Disley set up the London Marathon.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The London Marathon is famous.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The most spectacular marathon on the planet takes place in China.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People will find running a marathon rewarding.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>