



Welcome to the HRM Secondary Academy English Department! This placement test is designed to help you find the best fit for your student in our English program. If you would like help evaluating any part of this test, please reach out to us at: [HRM English Department](#).

Read the following passage and then answer the questions.

The Enchanted Forest

Once upon a time, deep within a vast and ancient forest, there lived a community of creatures who called themselves the Woodland Folk. This forest, known as the Enchanted Forest, was no ordinary woodland. Here, trees whispered secrets to one another, flowers sang lullabies in the gentle breeze, and crystal-clear streams bubbled with laughter. The creatures who lived there—rabbits, deer, owls, and foxes—lived in perfect harmony, respecting the magic that surrounded them.

Among the Woodland Folk was a clever fox named Felix, known for his curiosity and bravery. Felix loved to explore every corner of the forest, always searching for new discoveries. One day, while venturing beyond familiar paths, he stumbled upon a hidden glade bathed in golden light. In the center of the clearing stood a magnificent tree unlike any he had ever seen before. Its golden leaves shimmered as if touched by sunlight, even though no sun shone directly upon them.

As Felix drew closer, he spotted something unusual—a small, ancient-looking scroll tied carefully to one of its lower branches. His heart pounded with excitement as he untied the delicate parchment and read the words inscribed upon it:

"The heart of the Enchanted Forest lies within the spirit of its creatures. Protect and cherish it, for it holds the key to our magic."

Felix understood the importance of the message and quickly shared it with the Woodland Folk. From that day forward, they pledged to protect their home, ensuring that the charm of the Enchanted Forest remained strong for generations to come.

On the line, print in CAPITAL LETTERS the best answer for each question.

Comprehension

- _____ 1. What makes the Enchanted Forest special?
- A. It is home to many creatures. B. It has magical properties.
C. Felix the fox lives there. D. The trees are very tall.
- _____ 2. Felix goes exploring because he...
- A. is looking for lost treasure.
B. is running away from the Woodland Folk.
C. is searching for food.
D. enjoys discovering new places.
- _____ 3. What does Felix **NOT** find in the hidden glade?

- A. a treasure chest
C. an ancient scroll
- B. a marvelous tree
D. golden leaves
- _____ 4. The message on the scroll says that
A. the forest will always be magical
B. the spirit of its creatures is the heart of the forest.
C. only Felix can protect the forest.
D. the magic of the forest is fading.
- _____ 5. How do the Woodland Folk respond to Felix's discovery? They...
A. ignore the message.
B. leave the forest.
C. agree to protect the forest.
D. cut down the tree

Vocabulary

- _____ 6. What is the best synonym for **shimmered** in this sentence: "Its golden leaves shimmered as if touched by sunlight, even though no sun shone directly upon them"?
A. broke B. darkened C. froze D. glowed
- _____ 7. What is the meaning of **glade** as used in the sentence: "One day, while venturing beyond familiar paths, he stumbled upon a hidden glade bathed in golden light"?
A. thick woods B. large clearing in the forest
C. type of tree D. narrow path
- _____ 8. What does the word **inscribed** in this sentence most likely mean: "...he untied the delicate parchment and read the words inscribed upon it"?
A. written B. erased C. painted D. whispered

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics

- _____ 9. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.
A. The dogs bark at night keeps me awake.
B. The dogs barking at night keeps me awake.
C. The dog's barking at night keep me awake.
D. The dog's barking at night keeps me awake.
- _____ 10. Which of the following sentences uses correct subject-verb agreement?
A. Each of the students are responsible for their own assignments.
B. The team of scientists was presenting their research.
C. Neither the teacher nor the students were ready for the exam.
D. Both the cat and the dog enjoys playing in the yard.
- _____ 11. Select the sentence that has correct punctuation.
A. It's important to do your homework; you don't want to fall behind.
B. Its important to do your homework; you don't want to fall behind.
C. It's important to do your homework, you don't want to fall behind.
D. Its important to do your homework, you don't want to fall behind.
- _____ 12. Choose the correct form of the word to complete the sentence.

The _____ parents were very excited about the upcoming trip to the zoo.
A. childs B. children's C. childrens D. childs'

- _____ 13. Which of the following sentences is written correctly?
A. Maria enjoys painting, and she is taking classes to improve her skills.
B. Maria enjoys painting and, she is taking classes to improve her skills.

- C. Maria enjoys painting and she is taking classes to improve her skills.
- D. Maria enjoys painting, and she is taking classes, to improve her skills.

_____ 14. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- A. The book that I borrowed from the library, is due tomorrow.
- B. The book that I borrowed from the library is due tomorrow.
- C. The book, that I borrowed from the library, is due tomorrow.
- D. The book that I borrowed from, the library is due tomorrow.

_____ 15. Select the sentence that has correct capitalization.

- A. We visited the grand canyon and saw the Colorado river.
- B. We visited the Grand Canyon and saw the colorado river.
- C. We visited the Grand Canyon and saw the Colorado River.
- D. We visited the grand Canyon and saw the Colorado River.

Writing. What is your favorite pet and why? Write a 4-6 sentence paragraph describing your favorite pet. This may be a pet you have or would like to have. Include specific details so the reader can picture your pet.

Answer Key

1. B
2. D
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. D
7. B
8. A
9. D. The dogs' barking at night keeps me awake.
10. C. Neither the teacher nor the students were ready for the exam.
11. A. It's important to do your homework; you don't want to fall behind.
12. B. children's
13. A. Maria enjoys painting, and she is taking classes to improve her skills.
14. B. The book that I borrowed from the library is due tomorrow.
15. C. We visited the Grand Canyon and saw the Colorado River.

Paragraph Rubric: Choose the score (1-5) that best describes your students' writing 5 points:

- Begins with a topic sentence that addresses the prompt
- Follows a logical order throughout
- Provides specific descriptive details
- Provides enough information to create a strong mental picture of the pet
- Has few distracting usage/mechanical errors

4 points:

- Begins with a topic sentence, but it may not directly address the prompt
- Follows a logical order for most of the paragraph
- Provides some specific descriptive details
- Provides some information, but the mental picture is somewhat unclear or incomplete
- Has one or two distracting usage/mechanical errors

3 points:

- Begins with a topic sentence, but it does not address the prompt
- Follows a logical order for some of the paragraph
- Provides one or two specific descriptive details
- Provides information, but the mental picture is unclear or incomplete
- Has three or four distracting usage/mechanical errors

2 points:

- Has a weak topic sentence
- The structure is somewhat confusing
- Provides mostly vague descriptive details
- Provides little information to create a mental picture
- Has numerous distracting usage/mechanical errors

1 point:

- Has no topic sentence
- Has no sense of logical structure
- Descriptive details are lacking, unclear, or confusing
- Does not provide enough information to create a mental picture
- Has numerous distracting usage/mechanical errors

Recommended for Foundations class: 14+/20 points