1.6 Punctuation Error-Spot: 10-minute Pack

GL ASSESSMENT / CSSE 11+ Entrance English (GL Assessment / CSSE style) · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

The Night Ferry

Source written for Revision Library (original, copyright-free). This extract has been deliberately punctuated with errors in sentences [1] to [5], for editing practice in this worksheet; those five lines are not a model of correct usage. Sentences [6] to [10] are correctly punctuated and are used later in the worksheet as reference examples.

[1] Its a cold October evening and the ferry is late again.

[2] The harbour master checked his watch, then he shouted across the quay.

[3] "Wheres the ferry gone" asked Priya, staring into the fog.

[4] Layla packed her bag's: a torch, a flask of tea, and an old brass compass.

[5] The three sailor's coats were soaked through by the time they reached the pier.

[6] At last a light flickered somewhere out on the water, small and steady.

[7] The ferry was not fast, but it was reliable; nobody on the quay doubted it would arrive.

[8] Passengers needed three things: a ticket, a torch and a little patience.

[9] "Climb aboard," called the ferryman, "before the tide turns."

[10] By the time the ferry reached the harbour, the fog had lifted and the stars had returned.

1 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- ☐ A) "Come inside and wash your hands" muttered Amira.
- ☐ B) "come inside and wash your hands," muttered Amira.
- ☐ C) "Come inside and wash your hands,", muttered Amira.
- ☐ D) "Come inside and wash your hands," Muttered Amira.
- ☐ E) "Come inside and wash your hands," muttered Amira.

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2 How many words in this sentence need a capital letter?

"on saturday, grace and jack are going to the river."

- ☐ A) 6
- ☐ B) 4
- ☐ C) 3
- ☐ D) 2
- ☐ E) 5

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3 Correct the punctuation error in this sentence: "Ben asked whether the museum was open on Sundays?"

.....

.....

(2)

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4 Correct the punctuation error in this sentence: "The old lighthouse (built in 1887 was declared unsafe last year."

.....

.....

(2)

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5 Look again at sentence [7] of 'The Night Ferry': "The ferry was not fast, but it was reliable; nobody on the quay doubted it would arrive." Explain why the semicolon, rather than a comma, is the correct choice before 'nobody'.

.....

.....

.....

(2)

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6 Which sentence uses the colon correctly to introduce a list?

- ☐ A) Mr Okafor needed several tools: a hammer, nails and glue.
- ☐ B) Mr Okafor needed: several tools, a hammer, nails and glue.
- ☐ C) Mr Okafor needed several tools, a hammer: nails and glue.
- ☐ D) Mr Okafor needed several tools a hammer, nails: and glue.

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Mark scheme · 1.6 Punctuation Error-Spot: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

E) "Come inside and wash your hands," muttered Amira. - spoken words go inside inverted commas, with the punctuation inside the closing mark and a lower-case reporting verb **B1**

Answer: E) "Come inside and wash your hands," muttered Amira.

Question 2

B) 4 - the first word of a sentence and every name of a person, place, day or month needs a capital letter **B1**

Answer: B) 4

Question 3

identifies that this is a reported (indirect) question, not a direct question, so it should not end with a question mark **B1**

writes the full corrected sentence ending with a full stop: 'Ben asked whether the museum was open on Sundays.' (cao) **B1**

Answer: Ben asked whether the museum was open on Sundays.

Question 4

identifies that the opening bracket after 'lighthouse' has no matching closing bracket **B1**

writes the full corrected sentence with the closing bracket inserted after '1887': 'The old lighthouse (built in 1887) was declared unsafe last year.' (cao) **B1**

Answer: The old lighthouse (built in 1887) was declared unsafe last year.

Question 5

identifies that 'nobody on the quay doubted it would arrive' is a complete, independent clause that could stand alone as its own sentence **B1**

explains that a semicolon (not a comma) is needed to join two independent clauses that are closely related in meaning, since a comma alone would create a comma splice (oe) **B1**

Answer: A semicolon is correct because both halves of the sentence are complete clauses that could stand alone; joining them with a comma alone would be a comma splice.

Question 6

selects option A (cao) **B1**

explains that the colon correctly follows a complete independent clause ('Mr Okafor needed several tools') before introducing the list that explains it (oe) **B1**

Answer: A) Mr Okafor needed several tools: a hammer, nails and glue.

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