1.6 Punctuation Error-Spot: Test Pack

GL ASSESSMENT / CSSE 11+ Entrance English (GL Assessment / CSSE style) · about 55 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 Insert the missing pair of commas in this sentence: "Freya my best friend is moving to Cardiff next month."

(2)

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2 Which words are the fronted adverbial in this sentence?

"In the distance, the river began to rise."

- [ ] A) the
- [ ] B) the river began to rise
- [ ] C) the river
- [ ] D) In the distance
- [ ] E) In the distance the

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3 Which sentence uses capital letters correctly?

- [ ] A) Jack told me that the Beach in Bristol closes on Monday.
- [ ] B) jack told me that the beach in Bristol closes on Monday.
- [ ] C) Jack told me that the beach in Bristol closes on Monday.
- [ ] D) Jack told me that the beach in Bristol closes on monday.
- [ ] E) Jack told me that the beach in bristol closes on Monday.

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4 Which sentence uses the contraction correctly?

- [ ] A) They've moved to a new house in the next village.
- [ ] B) They'v'e moved to a new house in the next village.
- [ ] C) They've' moved to a new house in the next village.
- [ ] D) Theyve' moved to a new house in the next village.
- [ ] E) The'yve moved to a new house in the next village.

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5 Which sentence is correctly punctuated?

- [ ] A) The museum had one rule: no photography.
- [ ] B) The museum had one rule; no photography.
- [ ] C) The museum had one rule, no photography.
- [ ] D) The museum had one rule no photography.

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6 Where should the comma go in this sentence?

"After the storm Tom picked up his bag and left."

- ☐ A) after 'Tom'
- ☐ B) after 'picked'
- ☐ C) after 'After'
- ☐ D) after 'storm'
- ☐ E) after 'up'

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7 The book belongs to the men.

Which sentence uses the apostrophe correctly?

- ☐ A) The mens' book was noticed by everyone.
- ☐ B) The men's book was noticed by everyone.
- ☐ C) The men' book was noticed by everyone.
- ☐ D) The man's book was noticed by everyone.
- ☐ E) The mens book was noticed by everyone.

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8 This sentence contains two apostrophe errors: "The ladie's changing room was locked, but the mens changing room was open." Correct the sentence and explain both apostrophe corrections.

(3)

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9 Choose the correctly written contraction to complete the sentence.

"They _____ find their way back to the camp."

- ☐ A) couldn't
- ☐ B) couldn t
- ☐ C) couldnt
- ☐ D) could'nt
- ☐ E) couldn't'

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10 Which punctuation mark is missing from the gap?

"The match starts at three o'clock_____" explained the teacher.

- [ ] A) ?
- [ ] B) ;
- [ ] C) :
- [ ] D) .
- [ ] E) ,

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11 Which sentence uses capital letters correctly?

- [ ] A) callum is visiting manchester on friday.
- [ ] B) Callum is visiting manchester on Friday.
- [ ] C) Callum is visiting Manchester on Friday.
- [ ] D) Callum is visiting Manchester on friday.
- [ ] E) callum is visiting Manchester on Friday.

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12 Which letters does the apostrophe replace in 'they've'?

- [ ] A) u
- [ ] B) ha
- [ ] C) wi
- [ ] D) a
- [ ] E) no

---

13 This sentence has one comma that should not be there. Which comma is it?

"For the school fair we need, cakes, tables, balloons, posters and prizes."

- [ ] A) the comma after 'need'
- [ ] B) the comma after 'cakes'
- [ ] C) the comma after 'tables'
- [ ] D) the comma after 'balloons'

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14 Correct the punctuation error in this sentence and explain why: "The forecast promised sunshine, however the clouds refused to clear."

(3)

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15 Which sentence uses capital letters correctly?

- ☐ A) Every Tuesday, Jack walks to the station with Callum.
- ☐ B) Every Tuesday, jack walks to the station with Callum.
- ☐ C) Every tuesday, Jack walks to the station with Callum.
- ☐ D) Every Tuesday, Jack walks to the Station with Callum.
- ☐ E) Every tuesday, jack walks to the station with callum.

---

16 One word in this sentence needs an apostrophe. Which word is it?

"The mice lunch was mentioned in the story."

- ☐ A) The
- ☐ B) lunch
- ☐ C) mice
- ☐ D) story
- ☐ E) mentioned

---

17 Which sentence uses capital letters correctly?

- ☐ A) on Thursday, Leah and Freya are going to the beach.
- ☐ B) On Thursday, leah and Freya are going to the beach.
- ☐ C) On Thursday, Leah and Freya are going to the beach.
- ☐ D) On thursday, Leah and Freya are going to the beach.
- ☐ E) On Thursday, Leah and Freya are going to the Beach.

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18 Which sentence uses the contraction correctly?

- ☐ A) Id' like a glass of water, please.
- ☐ B) I d like a glass of water, please.
- ☐ C) I'd' like a glass of water, please.
- ☐ D) Id like a glass of water, please.
- ☐ E) I'd like a glass of water, please.

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19 This sentence has one comma that should not be there. Which comma is it?

"The zoo has, zebras, monkeys, penguins and lions."

- ☐ A) the comma after 'zebras'
- ☐ B) the comma after 'has'
- ☐ C) the comma after 'monkeys'

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20 This sentence contains a comma splice: "The tide was rising, we needed to leave now." Rewrite it correctly in three different ways, using a different method of correction each time.

(i) Correct the sentence using a full stop to make two separate sentences. **(1)**

(ii) Correct the sentence using a semicolon. **(1)**

(iii) Correct the sentence using a coordinating conjunction after the comma. **(1)**

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21 Which sentence uses capital letters correctly?

- ☐ A) We have a trip to wales in December.
- ☐ B) We have a trip to Wales in december.
- ☐ C) we have a trip to Wales in December.
- ☐ D) We have a trip to wales in december.
- ☐ E) We have a trip to Wales in December.

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22 Which phrase correctly shows that the bedroom belongs to the mice?

- [ ] A) the mices' bedroom
- [ ] B) the mice' bedroom
- [ ] C) the mice's bedroom
- [ ] D) the mices bedroom
- [ ] E) the mouse's bedroom

---

23 Which punctuation mark is missing from the gap?

"I left my bag on the bus_____" announced Leah.

- [ ] A) :
- [ ] B) ?
- [ ] C) .
- [ ] D) ,
- [ ] E) ;

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24 Which letters does the apostrophe replace in 'I'll'?

- [ ] A) wi
- [ ] B) o
- [ ] C) u
- [ ] D) i
- [ ] E) e

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25 Where should commas be added to this sentence?

"In the wood we spotted owls foxes squirrels woodpeckers and badgers."

- [ ] A) after 'spotted', 'owls', 'foxes' and 'squirrels'
- [ ] B) after 'owls'
- [ ] C) after 'owls' and 'foxes'
- [ ] D) after 'spotted', 'owls' and 'foxes'
- [ ] E) after 'owls', 'foxes' and 'squirrels'

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26 Which sentence uses the contraction correctly?

- [ ] A) She hadn't eaten anything since breakfast.
- [ ] B) She had'nt eaten anything since breakfast.
- [ ] C) She h'adnt eaten anything since breakfast.
- [ ] D) She hadnt eaten anything since breakfast.
- [ ] E) She hadn't' eaten anything since breakfast.

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27 Which words should go inside inverted commas in this sentence?

"Dad whispered The match starts at three o'clock."

- [ ] A) The match starts at three
- [ ] B) match starts at three o'clock
- [ ] C) Dad whispered The
- [ ] D) Dad whispered
- [ ] E) The match starts at three o'clock

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28 One word in this sentence needs a capital letter but does not have one. Which word is it?

"In December, Omar moved from london to Norfolk."

- [ ] A) from
- [ ] B) london
- [ ] C) to
- [ ] D) moved

---

29 Choose the correctly written contraction to complete the sentence.

"_____ the book you asked for."

- [ ] A) here s
- [ ] B) h'eres
- [ ] C) here's
- [ ] D) heres'
- [ ] E) her'es

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30 Which sentence has its comma correctly placed after the fronted adverbial?

- [ ] A) Meanwhile Jack began to paint the fence.
- [ ] B) Meanwhile: Jack began to paint the fence.
- [ ] C) Meanwhile Jack, began to paint the fence.
- [ ] D) Meanwhile, Jack began to paint the fence.
- [ ] E) Meanwhile Jack began, to paint the fence.

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31 Which sentence uses capital letters correctly?

- [ ] A) On Saturday, oliver and Leah are going to the farm.
- [ ] B) On saturday, oliver and leah are going to the farm.
- [ ] C) on Saturday, Oliver and Leah are going to the farm.
- [ ] D) On Saturday, Oliver and Leah are going to the farm.
- [ ] E) On Saturday, Oliver and Leah are going to the Farm.

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32 One word in this sentence needs an apostrophe. Which word is it?

"The women voice is the topic of the next lesson."

- [ ] A) women
- [ ] B) The
- [ ] C) next
- [ ] D) topic
- [ ] E) voice

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33 One word in this sentence needs a capital letter but does not have one. Which word is it?

"callum said that York is lovely in April."

- [ ] A) is
- [ ] B) that
- [ ] C) callum
- [ ] D) said
- [ ] E) lovely

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34 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- [ ] A) Every Friday, the children lined up in silence.
- [ ] B) Every, Friday the children lined up in silence.
- [ ] C) Every Friday: the children lined up in silence.
- [ ] D) Every Friday; the children lined up in silence.
- [ ] E) Every Friday the, children lined up in silence.

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35 The book belongs to the women.

Which sentence uses the apostrophe correctly?

- [ ] A) The womens' book was mentioned in the story.
- [ ] B) The women' book was mentioned in the story.
- [ ] C) The womens book was mentioned in the story.
- [ ] D) The woman's book was mentioned in the story.
- [ ] E) The women's book was mentioned in the story.

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36 Which letters does the apostrophe replace in 'wouldn't'?

- [ ] A) o
- [ ] B) u
- [ ] C) ha
- [ ] D) no
- [ ] E) a

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37 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- [ ] A) Please close the window, explained Omar.
- [ ] B) "Please close the window," Explained Omar.
- [ ] C) "Please close the window,", explained Omar.
- [ ] D) "Please close the window", explained Omar.
- [ ] E) "Please close the window," explained Omar.

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38 Correct the punctuation of this sentence, which contains a comma splice: "The rain had stopped, the pavements were still wet."

(2)

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39 Which sentence uses capital letters correctly?

- ☐ A) Priya is visiting Bristol on Wednesday.
- ☐ B) Priya is visiting Bristol on wednesday.
- ☐ C) priya is visiting bristol on wednesday.
- ☐ D) Priya is visiting bristol on Wednesday.
- ☐ E) priya is visiting Bristol on Wednesday.

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40 Which words are the fronted adverbial in this sentence?

"All of a sudden, Priya put her coat on."

- ☐ A) All of a sudden Priya
- ☐ B) Priya
- ☐ C) All of a sudden
- ☐ D) Priya put
- ☐ E) Priya put her coat on

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41 Where should commas be added to this sentence?

"On the beach we found shells seaweed feathers driftwood and pebbles."

- ☐ A) after 'found', 'shells', 'seaweed' and 'feathers'
- ☐ B) after 'shells' and 'seaweed'
- ☐ C) after 'found', 'shells' and 'seaweed'
- ☐ D) after 'shells', 'seaweed' and 'feathers'
- ☐ E) after 'seaweed' and 'feathers'

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42 One word in this sentence needs an apostrophe. Which word is it?

"The children book was noticed by everyone."

- ☐ A) noticed
- ☐ B) The
- ☐ C) children
- ☐ D) everyone
- ☐ E) book

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43 Look at sentence [2] of 'The Night Ferry': "The harbour master checked his watch, then he shouted across the quay." Identify the punctuation error and write out the sentence correctly.

(2)

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44 Look again at sentence [8] of 'The Night Ferry': "Passengers needed three things: a ticket, a torch and a little patience." A different writer suggested changing the colon to a semicolon: "Passengers needed three things; a ticket, a torch and a little patience." Explain two reasons why the original colon is the better choice.

(a) Give your first reason. **(2)**

(b) Give your second reason. **(2)**

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Mark scheme · 1.6 Punctuation Error-Spot: Test Pack

Question 1

identifies that the additional information 'my best friend' needs to be marked off from the rest of the sentence — **B1**

writes the full corrected sentence with a comma both before and after the added information: 'Freya, my best friend, is moving to Cardiff next month.' (cao) — **B1**

Answer: Freya, my best friend, is moving to Cardiff next month.

Question 2

D) In the distance - the fronted adverbial is the opening phrase that says when, where or how, followed by a comma — **B1**

Answer: D) In the distance

Question 3

C) Jack told me that the beach in Bristol closes on Monday. - capital letters are used for the start of a sentence and for names of people, places, days and months, but not for common nouns — **B1**

Answer: C) Jack told me that the beach in Bristol closes on Monday.

Question 4

A) They've moved to a new house in the next village. - 'they've' is the contraction of 'they have', with the apostrophe where the letters are missing — **B1**

Answer: A) They've moved to a new house in the next village.

Question 5

selects option A (cao) — **B1**

explains that 'no photography' is not an independent clause, so a semicolon (B) is wrong; a colon is needed because the second part explains or expands on 'one rule' (oe) — **B1**

Answer: A) The museum had one rule: no photography.

Question 6

D) after 'storm' - a comma follows a fronted adverbial at the start of a sentence — **B1**

Answer: D) after 'storm'

Question 7

B) The men's book was noticed by everyone. - the irregular plural does not end in s so 's is added — **B1**

Answer: B) The men's book was noticed by everyone.

Question 8

corrects 'ladie's' to 'ladies'' (the regular plural possessive apostrophe goes after the final 's') — **B1**

corrects 'mens' to 'men's' (an irregular plural such as 'men' takes an apostrophe plus 's', as if it were singular) — **B1**

explains the difference: regular plurals ending in 's' add the apostrophe after the 's' (ladies'), whereas irregular plurals that do not end in 's' add an apostrophe and 's' (men's) (oe) — **B1**

Answer: The ladies' changing room was locked, but the men's changing room was open.

Question 9

A) couldn't - 'couldn't' is the contraction of 'could not', with the apostrophe where the letters are missing — **B1**

Answer: A) couldn't

Question 10

E) , - a comma ends spoken words that are followed by the reporting clause — **B1**

Answer: E) ,

Question 11

C) Callum is visiting Manchester on Friday. - capital letters are used for the start of a sentence and for names of people, places, days and months, but not for common nouns — **B1**

Answer: C) Callum is visiting Manchester on Friday.

Question 12

B) ha - in 'they've' the apostrophe stands where the letters 'ha' of 'they have' were left out — **B1**

Answer: B) ha

Question 13

A) the comma after 'need' - a comma must not separate the lead-in words from the first item of the list — **B1**

Answer: A) the comma after 'need'

Question 14

identifies that a comma alone cannot join two independent clauses linked by 'however' — **B1**

gives the correction: a semicolon (or full stop) before 'however', with a comma after it: 'The forecast promised sunshine; however, the clouds refused to clear.' (cao) — **B1**

explains that 'however' is a conjunctive adverb, not a coordinating conjunction like 'but', so it cannot join two clauses with only a comma before it (oe) — **B1**

Answer: The forecast promised sunshine; however, the clouds refused to clear.

Question 15

A) Every Tuesday, Jack walks to the station with Callum. - capital letters are used for the start of a sentence and for names of people, places, days and months, but not for common nouns — **B1**

Answer: A) Every Tuesday, Jack walks to the station with Callum.

Question 16

C) mice - 'mice' names the owner of the lunch, so it is the word that needs the apostrophe — **B1**

Answer: C) mice

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Question 17

C) On Thursday, Leah and Freya are going to the beach. - capital letters are used for the start of a sentence and for names of people, places, days and months, but not for common nouns **B1**

Answer: C) On Thursday, Leah and Freya are going to the beach.

Question 18

E) I'd like a glass of water, please. - 'I'd' is the contraction of 'I would', with the apostrophe where the letters are missing **B1**

Answer: E) I'd like a glass of water, please.

Question 19

B) the comma after 'has' - a comma must not separate the lead-in words from the first item of the list **B1**

Answer: B) the comma after 'has'

Question 20

(i) 'The tide was rising. We needed to leave now.' (cao) **B1**

(i) Answer: The tide was rising. We needed to leave now.

(ii) 'The tide was rising; we needed to leave now.' (cao) **B1**

(ii) Answer: The tide was rising; we needed to leave now.

(iii) accept any sensible conjunction that keeps the original meaning, for example: 'The tide was rising, so we needed to leave now.' (oe) **B1**

(iii) Answer: The tide was rising, so we needed to leave now.

Question 21

E) We have a trip to Wales in December. - capital letters are used for the start of a sentence and for names of people, places, days and months, but not for common nouns **B1**

Answer: E) We have a trip to Wales in December.

Question 22

C) the mice's bedroom - the irregular plural does not end in s so 's is added **B1**

Answer: C) the mice's bedroom

Question 23

D) , - a comma ends spoken words that are followed by the reporting clause **B1**

Answer: D) ,

Question 24

A) wi - in 'I'll' the apostrophe stands where the letters 'wi' of 'I will' were left out **B1**

Answer: A) wi

Question 25

E) after 'owls', 'foxes' and 'squirrels' - commas separate the items in a list, but there is none before 'and' and none after the lead-in words **B1**

Answer: E) after 'owls', 'foxes' and 'squirrels'

Question 26

A) She hadn't eaten anything since breakfast. - 'hadn't' is the contraction of 'had not', with the apostrophe where the letters are missing **B1**

Answer: A) She hadn't eaten anything since breakfast.

Question 27

E) The match starts at three o'clock - inverted commas go round the exact words that are spoken, and nothing else **B1**

Answer: E) The match starts at three o'clock

Question 28

B) london - 'london' is a name of a person, place, day or month, so it needs a capital letter **B1**

Answer: B) london

Question 29

C) here's - 'here's' is the contraction of 'here is', with the apostrophe where the letters are missing **B1**

Answer: C) here's

Question 30

D) Meanwhile, Jack began to paint the fence. - a comma follows a fronted adverbial at the start of a sentence **B1**

Answer: D) Meanwhile, Jack began to paint the fence.

Question 31

D) On Saturday, Oliver and Leah are going to the farm. - capital letters are used for the start of a sentence and for names of people, places, days and months, but not for common nouns **B1**

Answer: D) On Saturday, Oliver and Leah are going to the farm.

Question 32

A) women - 'women' names the owner of the voice, so it is the word that needs the apostrophe **B1**

Answer: A) women

Question 33

C) callum - 'callum' is a name of a person, place, day or month, so it needs a capital letter **B1**

Answer: C) callum

Question 34

A) Every Friday, the children lined up in silence. - a comma follows a fronted adverbial at the start of a sentence **B1**

Answer: A) Every Friday, the children lined up in silence.

Question 35

E) The women's book was mentioned in the story. - the irregular plural does not end in s so 's is added **B1**

Answer: E) The women's book was mentioned in the story.

Question 36

A) o - in 'wouldn't' the apostrophe stands where the letters 'o' of 'would not' were left out **B1**

Answer: A) o

Question 37

E) "Please close the window," explained Omar. - spoken words go inside inverted commas, with the punctuation inside the closing mark and a lower-case reporting verb **B1**

Answer: E) "Please close the window," explained Omar.

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Question 38

identifies that a comma alone cannot join the two independent clauses **B1**

gives a valid correction (oe), for example: 'The rain had stopped; the pavements were still wet.' or 'The rain had stopped, but the pavements were still wet.' or as two separate sentences **B1**

Answer: The rain had stopped; the pavements were still wet. (or: ...stopped, but the pavements were still wet.)

Question 39

A) Priya is visiting Bristol on Wednesday. - capital letters are used for the start of a sentence and for names of people, places, days and months, but not for common nouns **B1**

Answer: A) Priya is visiting Bristol on Wednesday.

Question 40

C) All of a sudden - the fronted adverbial is the opening phrase that says when, where or how, followed by a comma **B1**

Answer: C) All of a sudden

Question 41

D) after 'shells', 'seaweed' and 'feathers' - commas separate the items in a list, but there is none before 'and' and none after the lead-in words **B1**

Answer: D) after 'shells', 'seaweed' and 'feathers'

Question 42

C) children - 'children' names the owner of the book, so it is the word that needs the apostrophe **B1**

Answer: C) children

Question 43

identifies the comma splice: two independent clauses ('The harbour master checked his watch' and 'he shouted across the quay') are wrongly joined by a comma alone **B1**

gives a valid correction (oe), for example: 'The harbour master checked his watch; then he shouted across the quay.' or 'The harbour master checked his watch, and then he shouted across the quay.' or as two sentences with a full stop **B1**

Answer: The harbour master checked his watch; then he shouted across the quay. (or: ...watch, and then he shouted...; or as two separate sentences)

Question 44

(a) identifies that 'a ticket, a torch and a little patience' is a list, not an independent clause, so it cannot stand alone as its own sentence **B1**

(a) explains that a semicolon should only join two independent clauses, so it is the wrong mark here (oe) **B1**

(a) Answer: The list 'a ticket, a torch and a little patience' cannot stand alone as a sentence, so a semicolon (which joins two independent clauses) is the wrong choice.

(b) identifies that the colon's job is to introduce an explanation, example or list that follows on from the first clause **B1**

(b) explains that 'three things' in the first clause creates an expectation that the colon then fulfils by naming the three things (oe) **B1**

(b) Answer: The colon correctly signals that a list explaining 'three things' is about to follow, doing a job a semicolon is not used for.

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