13.2 Past Continuous Tense (Year 3): 10-minute Pack

about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

The School Fete

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The whole school was buzzing with excitement on the morning of the summer fete. Miss Grant was carrying a box of raffle tickets across the playground when the bell rang for assembly. In the hall, the Year 3 children were rehearsing their song for the afternoon show, and Mr Adeyemi was tuning his guitar in the corner. Outside, some parents were setting up a cake stall while others unloaded chairs from a van. By lunchtime, the sun was shining brightly and everyone hurried outside to enjoy it. Priya and Tom were queuing for the coconut shy when the head teacher rang a bell to open the fete. Later, as families packed away their picnic blankets, the caretaker was already sweeping the playground for the next school day.

1 Tick the sentence in each pair that is written in the past continuous tense.

(a) (1)

- ☐ A) The rain fell heavily all night.
- ☐ B) The rain was falling heavily all night.

(b) (1)

- ☐ A) Jamal was eating his breakfast quickly.
- ☐ B) Jamal ate his breakfast quickly.

(c) (1)

- ☐ A) They were waiting outside the shop.
- ☐ B) They waited outside the shop.

(d) (1)

- ☐ A) The dog barked at the postman.
- ☐ B) The dog was barking at the postman.

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2 Underline the past continuous verb phrase in each sentence.

(a) The children were singing a song in assembly. **(1)**

(b) I was watching a film when the lights went out. **(1)**

(c) The wind was howling around the old barn. **(1)**

(d) We were building a sandcastle near the rock pools. **(1)**

3 Circle the sentence that correctly describes what was happening at exactly four o'clock, then explain your choice in one sentence.

- ☐ A) At four o'clock, Leah finished her homework.
- ☐ B) At four o'clock, Leah was finishing her homework.
- ☐ C) At four o'clock, Leah finishes her homework.

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4 The paragraph below has three errors in past continuous verbs. Find and correct the three errors.

Later that morning, the fair was open and the music were playing loudly across the field. Priya and Tom was queuing for the coconut shy while their parents watch from a bench nearby.

(3)

5 Complete each sentence with your own idea, using the correct tense shown.

(a) While I was walking home from school, ___ (finish the sentence using the simple past tense for what happened next). **(1)**

(b) The whole class ___ (complete with your own past continuous verb phrase) when the fire alarm rang. **(1)**

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Mark scheme · 13.2 Past Continuous Tense (Year 3): 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) B ticked cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **B) The rain was falling heavily all night.**

(b) A ticked cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **A) Jamal was eating his breakfast quickly.**

(c) A ticked cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **A) They were waiting outside the shop.**

(d) B ticked cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **B) The dog was barking at the postman.**

Question 2

(a) were singing underlined cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **were singing**

(b) was watching underlined cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **was watching**

(c) was howling underlined cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **was howling**

(d) were building underlined cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **were building**

Question 3

B circled cao **B1**

valid reason given, e.g. was finishing shows an action that was still going on at that exact moment, rather than one already completed (A) or happening now (C) (oe) **B1**

Answer: **B; was finishing shows the action was still in progress at four o'clock, whereas finished shows it was already complete and finishes is present tense.**

Question 4

the music were playing corrected to the music was playing (music is singular) cao **B1**

Priya and Tom was queuing corrected to Priya and Tom were queuing (plural subject) cao **B1**

their parents watch corrected to their parents were watching (past continuous to match the tense of the surrounding sentence; watched is also accepted) cao **B1**

Answer: **Later that morning, the fair was open and the music was playing loudly across the field. Priya and Tom were queuing for the coconut shy while their parents were watching from a bench nearby.**

Question 5

(a) a sensible ending written in the simple past tense that makes sense with the opening clause (oe) **B1**

(a) Answer: **e.g. I saw a rainbow over the park.**

(b) a sensible past continuous verb phrase (was/were + verb-ing) that agrees with the subject the whole class (oe) **B1**

(b) Answer: **e.g. was lining up for lunch**

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