

The following are all example tests which show the format of the real tests.

Mastery Curriculum – Terminology and Comprehension - Test 1 Example

Unit: Space Exploration Student Name:

Tutor Group:

Passage: Space exploration has long captured the imagination of humanity. Since the first steps on the moon, scientists have been working to push the boundaries of what we know about the universe. Spacecrafts soar like birds through the emptiness, navigating stars and planets, searching for signs of life or new worlds. The vastness of space often seems to stretch forever, as if daring us to uncover its mysteries. Astronauts must endure months of isolation in the cold, dark expanse, facing risks like radiation and equipment failure. But with each new discovery, we take one step closer to understanding our place in the cosmos. The exploration of space continues to inspire us, as scientists and astronauts demonstrate bravery, determination, and a thirst for knowledge. Through this work, humanity continues to strive for greatness beyond our planet.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is the primary goal of space exploration? [1]

2. Describe some of the dangers astronauts face during space missions. [1]

3. What does the phrase "push the boundaries" mean in the context of space exploration? [1]

4. What kinds of discoveries are scientists looking for in space? [1]

5. How do astronauts show their courage during space exploration? [1]

6. What is one reason astronauts might spend months in isolation? [1]

7. What can astronauts experience when traveling through the vastness of space? [1]

8. Why is space exploration often described as a challenging endeavour? [1]

9. How does the passage describe humanity's fascination with space? [1]

10. In what ways might scientists and astronauts demonstrate determination during space exploration? [1]

Literary Terms Questions:

11. Which term describes the use of a word or phrase to compare two things using "like" or "as"? [1]

- a) Metaphor
- b) Simile
- c) Alliteration
- d) Personification

12. What is the term for giving human characteristics to non-human things? [1]

- a) Hyperbole
- b) Metaphor
- c) Personification
- d) Juxtaposition

13. What literary device involves repeating the same consonant sound at the beginning of nearby words? [1]

- a) Alliteration
- b) Assonance
- c) Onomatopoeia
- d) Oxymoron

14. Create a simile about space. [1]

15. Create a metaphor about exploration. [1]

16. Underline where you see personification in the passage about space below. [1]

o Spacecrafts soar like birds through the emptiness, navigating stars and planets, searching for signs of life or new worlds. The vastness of space often seems to stretch

forever, as if daring us to uncover its mysteries. Astronauts must endure months of isolation in the cold, dark expanse, facing risks like radiation and equipment failure.

Mastery Curriculum – What How Why - Test 2 Example

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

As the castle of Dracula looms ahead, it rises from the jagged cliffs like a dark sentinel, its spires piercing the sky like skeletal fingers clawing at the heavens. The walls, weathered and ancient, appear as if they have grown from the rock itself, a blackened stone fortress that broods in eternal silence, its windows dark and hollow like the eyes of a forgotten beast. The castle's shadow stretches across the land like a deathly cloak, swallowing the light and leaving the air thick with dread.

Surrounding it, the forest is a sea of twisted, gnarled trees, their branches twisted like the arthritic hands of old men reaching out in warning. The leaves whisper secrets in the wind, a sound like ghostly sighs that sweep through the underbrush. The trees sway, not with the breeze, but as though they are alive, their trunks creaking with an ancient, sorrowful song. The mist crawls along the forest floor like a living thing, curling and coiling around the roots, clutching at the undergrowth with invisible hands. Shadows linger beneath every branch, deep and thick like pools of ink, hiding what the light dares not touch.

Question: How does the writer use figurative language to create a sense of fear and foreboding in the description of Dracula's castle and the surrounding forest? Write 2 WHAT-HOW-WHY paragraphs to answer. You can comment on:

-words/phrases

-language techniques

-sentence forms

Example Answer

The writer uses similes to create vivid and unsettling imagery, contributing to the overall sense of fear and foreboding. For example, the castle's spires are described as "piercing the sky like skeletal fingers clawing at the heavens." This simile compares the jagged, pointed spires to bony, deathly fingers, suggesting that the castle is something unnatural, trying to grasp or control the sky itself. This creates a sense of menace and danger, as if the castle is alive with evil intentions. The use of "skeletal fingers" evokes death and decay, reinforcing the idea that this place is a source of darkness and dread, making the reader feel uneasy and foreshadowing the dark events to come.

The writer also uses personification to make the setting feel alive and threatening, heightening the atmosphere of fear. The forest is described as if it were sentient, with its trees "swaying... as though they are alive." This personification suggests that the forest is not merely a passive background, but an active, watchful presence, almost as if it is aware of and complicit in the evil surrounding Dracula's castle. The creaking trunks and whispering leaves create an eerie, haunted feeling, as though nature itself is warning travellers to stay away. This makes the environment feel more oppressive, intensifying the reader's sense of dread as they imagine a living, breathing force that hides even darker secrets within.

Mastery Curriculum –Extended Writing - Test 3 Example

Students will be given a narrative, descriptive or non-fiction persuasive prompt and will be asked to write approximately two pages in response. Some examples are below.

Narrative Prompt: Write a story about a character who gets lost in an unfamiliar, eerie forest late at night. As they search for a way out, they begin to feel as if they are being watched or followed. Describe their growing fear and how they must confront the mysterious presence lurking in the shadows.

Descriptive Prompt: Describe an abandoned mansion perched on the edge of a cliff during a storm. Focus on creating an atmosphere of tension and unease by using vivid imagery, similes, metaphors, and personification to bring the mansion and surrounding landscape to life.

Nonfiction Persuasive Prompt: Write an essay persuading people to preserve and protect old, historical buildings in your city or town. Discuss why these structures are important to a community's culture and heritage, and argue against the trend of replacing them with modern constructions.