

The Cartographer's Apprentice

Category: Fiction - High 11+ Vocabulary & Inference | Time Allowed: 45 Minutes | Total Marks: 35

Candidate Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____

READING EXTRACT - Read carefully before answering Section A questions

- 1 Elicor had spent three laborious years painstakingly copying the masterworks of veteran guild draughtsmen before Master Renn finally permitted him to chart a virgin parchment of his own. It was not an undertaking to approach with complacency, Renn had sternly admonished him. In cartography, a single errant stroke of the quill could strand an entire merchant fleet upon phantom
5 reefs or consign a treacherous shoal to oblivion, spelling ruin for mariners.

The coastal expanse entrusted to Elicor was a northern inlet that had eluded accurate survey for nearly half a century: a labyrinth of jagged peninsulas where dense sea-fog rolled inland with unpredictable ferocity. Elicor had never laid eyes on the terrain himself. Instead, he was compelled to synthesise contradictory mariners' logs, fragmentary captain accounts, and a single waterlogged
10 parchment so faded that its coastlines were little more than speculative suggestions.

He resolved to proceed methodically, anchoring his calculations exclusively to verifiable truths: the coordinates of the ancient granite lighthouse and Admiralty depth soundings recorded forty years prior. Every contour and inlet would be triangulated meticulously from these two anchors, resisting the insidious temptation to fabricate convenient coastlines merely to fill the intimidating white voids.

11+ EXAMINER GUIDANCE & STUDY TIPS FOR THIS EXTRACT

1. Active Reading: Read the extract twice. Underline key verbs, adjectives, and character reactions.
2. VIPERS Focus: Look for context clues around unfamiliar words to deduce meanings accurately.
3. Evidence: For 2-mark and 3-mark questions, always quote directly or paraphrase specific evidence.
4. Timing: Spend ~15 minutes reading, 15 minutes on Comprehension, and 15 minutes on Creative Writing.
5. Need 1-to-1 preparation? Tailored tuition with Fiaraz Iqbal: www.themathsandsciencetutor.co.uk

Section A: VIPERS Comprehension Questions

Answer all questions in full sentences using evidence from the extract. Total: 15 Marks

[V] VOCABULARY

Question 1

[2 marks]

Explain the meanings of "complacency" and "insidious" as used in paragraphs 1 and 3.

[I] INFERENCE

Question 2

[2 marks]

What does Master Renn's warning reveal regarding the real-world stakes of inaccurate cartography?

[R] RETRIEVAL

Question 3

[2 marks]

Identify the two verified reference anchors Elior relies upon for his calculations.

[E] EXPLAIN

Question 4

[3 marks]

Analyse how the author conveys the difficulty of Elior's task in paragraph 2. Mention two specific literary techniques.

[I] INFERENCE

Question 5

[2 marks]

What qualities of character does Elior demonstrate by choosing not to "fabricate convenient coastlines"?

[S] SUMMARISE

Question 6

[3 marks]

Summarise how Elior approaches the daunting task of mapping an uncharted coastline.

Write a descriptive narrative about an expedition arriving at a coastline that contradicts their navigational charts. Demonstrate sophisticated 11+ vocabulary, varied sentence structures (subordinate clauses, semi-colons), and atmospheric tension.

Describe a master craftsman's workshop (e.g. cartographer, clockmaker, or navigator). Focus on light, textures, brass instruments, and parchment.

Aim for Band 1 (top tier) marks through sensory precision and evocative figurative language.

[] Varied Sentence Openers [] Figurative Language [] Fronted Adverbials [] Accurate Dialogue Punctuation
[] Sensory Imagery (Sight, Sound, Touch) [] Powerful Verbs [] Ambitious 11+ Vocabulary Choices

Section C: Examiner Mark Scheme & Model Answers

Comprehensive answers, acceptable variations, and 11+ mark allocation criteria.

Question 1 [V]

"Complacency": dangerous self-satisfaction without awareness of risk. "Insidious": proceeding in a gradual, subtle manner with harmful consequences.

Question 2 [I]

Mapmaking carries critical life-or-death consequences; navigational errors cause shipwrecks, economic ruin, and loss of life at sea.

Question 3 [R]

1) The coordinates of the ancient granite lighthouse; 2) Admiralty depth soundings recorded forty years earlier.

Question 4 [E]

Metaphor of "labyrinth" conveys confusion; personification of fog with "unpredictable ferocity"; cataloguing unreliable sources emphasizes lack of firm evidence.

Question 5 [I]

Intellectual integrity, patient scientific discipline, resilience, meticulousness, and refusal to compromise standards.

Question 6 [S]

Rejecting speculative hearsay, Elinor anchors his calculations solely to two verified landmarks (lighthouse and depth soundings), triangulating coordinates with mathematical rigour.

CREATIVE WRITING BAND MARKING SCHEME (20 Marks Total):

- Band 1 (16-20 Marks): Exceptional atmosphere, compelling narrative voice, sophisticated vocabulary, diverse syntax.
- Band 2 (11-15 Marks): Clear narrative structure, good descriptive detail, accurate paragraphs and punctuation.
- Band 3 (6-10 Marks): Basic story progression, simple adjectives, occasional punctuation errors.
- SPaG (5 Marks): Award up to 5 additional marks for spelling accuracy, ambitious vocabulary, and neat handwriting.

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