

An Extract from 'The War of the Worlds' by H.G. Wells

A spacecraft from Mars has crash-landed on Earth, creating a massive crater near the town of Woking. People have gathered around the edge of the pit to look at the Martians and their craft.

After the glimpse I had had of the Martians emerging from the cylinder in which they had come to the Earth from their planet, a kind of fascination paralysed my actions. I remained standing knee-deep in the heather, staring at the mound that hid them. I was a battleground of fear and curiosity.

I did not dare to go back towards the pit, but I felt a passionate longing to peer into it. I began walking, therefore, in a big curve, seeking some point of vantage and continually looking at the sand heaps that hid these new-comers to our Earth. Once a leash of thin black whips, like the arms of an octopus, flashed across the sunset and was immediately withdrawn, and afterwards a thin rod rose up, joint by joint, bearing at its apex a circular disk that spun with a wobbling motion. What could be going on there?

Most of the spectators had gathered in one or two groups — one a little crowd towards Woking, the other a knot of people in the direction of Chobham.

Evidently they shared my mental conflict. There were few near me. One man I approached — he was, I perceived, a neighbour of mine, though I did not know his name — and accosted. But it was scarcely a time for articulate conversation.

"What ugly brutes!" he said. "Good God! What ugly brutes!" He repeated this over and over again.

"Did you see a man in the pit?" I said; but he made no answer to that. We became silent, and stood watching for a time side by side, deriving, I fancy, a certain comfort in one another's company. Then I shifted my position to a little knoll that gave me the advantage of a yard or more of elevation and when I looked for him presently he was walking towards Woking.

1. Circle the correct option.
The vehicle the Martians arrive in is in the shape of a:

Cylinder

Circle

Mound

Planet

_____ 1 mark

2. Find and copy a word which tells us that the narrator cannot move.

.....

_____ 1 mark

3. What time of day is it in the extract?

.....

_____ 1 mark

4. Look at the paragraph beginning *I did not dare to go back...*
Find and copy a word or phrase from this paragraph which tells us that the narrator is curious.

.....

.....

_____ 1 mark

5. *One man I approached — he was, I perceived, a neighbour of mine...*

What does the word *perceived* mean in this sentence?

6. Write the numbers 1 to 5 in the boxes to put these events from the text into the right order. The first one has been done for you.

- The narrator speaks to his neighbour.
- A rod rises up out of the spacecraft.
- The neighbour is seen heading towards Woking.
- The narrator sees the Martians emerge.
- The narrator climbs a small hill to get a better view.

1

1 mark

7. How does this extract show that the spacecraft's crash-landing is an unusual event?
Mention **two** things from the text.

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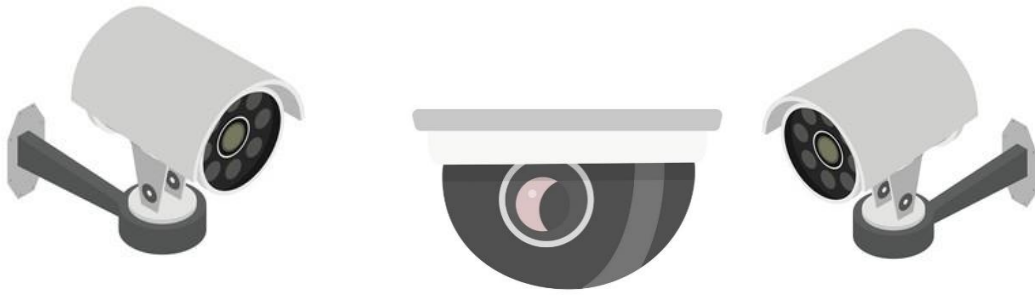
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2 marks



Only Scroll down if you have finished your homework.



Answers to be revealed on the next page!

Test 6 – Pages 17-19

1. (1 mark) Cylinder (2b)
2. (1 mark) paralysed (2a)
3. (1 mark) evening (2d)
4. (1 mark for any of the following)
'continually looking at the sand heaps'
'What could be going on there?'
'a passionate longing to peer into it.' (2g)
5. (1 mark for any sensible answer)
e.g. noticed (2a)
6. (1 mark for all correct)
The narrator speaks to his neighbour. [3]
A rod rises up out of the spacecraft. [2]
The neighbour is seen heading towards Woking. [5]
The narrator sees the Martians emerge. [1]
The narrator climbs a small hill to get a better view. [4] (2f)
7. (1 mark for one piece of supporting evidence)
e.g. "People have gathered around the pit to see what's happening." (2d)

