



Set B: Test 1

There are **6 questions** in this test.
Give yourself **10 minutes** to read the text and answer the questions.

The Sandcastle

Jake smiled as the shells on his sandcastle's turret shone in the warm sunlight. It had taken him all afternoon, but it was worth it to produce such a majestic castle.



He stood up and scanned the beach, which was peppered with rival sandcastles. His was by far the best — after all, he had been practising all summer, while he stayed with his grandparents. He knew just how damp the sand needed to be to stop the castle crumbling. He knew just where to build it so that the lapping waves could fill the moat without undermining its walls and bringing it crashing down.

A sudden cold wind made Jake shiver. He looked uneasily out to sea. The waves seemed higher now, the water darker. On the horizon, the clouds that were recently puffy and white were now a deep violet.

Gramps had warned him about the storms: they came swiftly and violently.

"Watch the clouds, my boy," he would say. "The darker they are, the quicker the storm will reach the shore."

The day-trippers had already left. Locals were packing up hastily, gathering their children. Only Jake remained, watching castles fall to the relentless waves.

Around him, the wind screamed, and rain lashed at his body. His was now the only castle standing. The walls were battered and pounded. Bravely, his little fortress defended the beach, until finally it could hold back the attack no longer. Another monstrous wave approached, and the castle was smashed to pieces. The shells he had placed not ten minutes before were now floating in the victorious waters.

"Jake!" a voice called anxiously from the road. "Come on! Leave! Now!"

Tears pricked Jake's eyes as he ran up the beach to his grandfather's waiting car.

1. How long has Jake been practising making sandcastles?
Circle the correct option.

all day all summer all week all afternoon

_____ 1 mark

2. ...without undermining its walls and bringing it crashing down.
What does the word *undermining* mean in this phrase?

Tick **one** box.

criticising	<input type="checkbox"/>
weakening	<input type="checkbox"/>
cementing	<input type="checkbox"/>
strengthening	<input type="checkbox"/>

_____ 1 mark

3. The weather changes part way through. **Find and copy** the group of words the writer uses to show the change.

.....

_____ 1 mark

Explain how the weather changes.

.....
.....

_____ 1 mark

4. How could Jake use the clouds to judge how fast the storm was coming?

.....
.....

1 mark

5. Find and copy two words which suggest that the waves are cruel.

1).....
2).....

1 mark

6. How do you think Jake felt as he ran towards his grandfather's car?
Use the text to support your answer.

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.....

2 marks

END OF TEST

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