



Set A: Test 1

There are **7 questions** in this test.
Give yourself **10 minutes** to read the text and answer the questions.

Excuses, Excuses

It was the height of the rush hour; darkness was closing in, and it was beginning to rain. Cars and lorries inched along the motorway, never quite stopping but never actually getting very far. Despairing commuters craned their necks through open windows, looking for reasons for the delay up ahead. Horns honked in frustration.

That was the mysterious thing about the traffic jams on this stretch of motorway: you could never quite work out what was going on. The commuters' children would ask them why they were late home, but the commuters never had an answer. Sometimes they tried to lighten the mood with ridiculous stories about aliens landing on the motorway or cars transforming into monsters, but the children would always look unimpressed and walk away.

Today, however, the drivers near the front of the queue had a new reason to apply their brakes. Quite suddenly, half a dozen giraffes began hurtling down the slip road at junction 27, towards the heavy traffic. These were closely followed by four zebras, three antelopes and a rather sullen warthog, all pursued by a team of frantic zookeepers.

As disaster was about to occur, a quick-thinking lorry driver began to flash his many lights, stopping the herd in its tracks. The animals milled about nervously for a moment, surveying their new surroundings. Then they edged their way towards the bank beside the motorway, and calmly began to graze on the long grass. One of the zookeepers fainted.

The lorry driver imagined explaining why he'd been late this time to his children. They would give him their usual uninterested looks and then go to bed without saying goodnight. He sighed.

Behind him, the sound of horns redoubled.



1. What time of day is it when the story takes place?

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1 mark

2. What does the word *inched* tell you about how the traffic moved?

.....

1 mark

3. Read each statement and **tick** to show whether it is true or false.

	True	False
The animals ran down the slip road at junction 37.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The animals were chased by zookeepers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There were more antelopes than zebras.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are often traffic jams on this motorway.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1 mark

4. *a rather sullen warthog*
What does the word *sullen* mean in this phrase?

Tick **one** box.

- nervous
- gloomy
- carefree
- large

1 mark

5. What do the animals do when they get to the side of the road?

.....

_____ 1 mark

6. Why does the lorry driver sigh?

.....

.....

_____ 1 mark

7. Explain how the behaviour of the lorry driver is different to the behaviour of the zookeepers.
Use the text to support your answer.

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_____ 2 marks