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GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION, SPORT, YOUTH
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
DEPARTMENT OF EXAMINATIONS

Qualifying Examination for the Post of Security Guard in the Malta Public Service

Subject: English
Date: 5th December 2023
Time: 11:00 – 12:30 (One and a half hours)

This examination paper consists of THREE sections. Candidates are requested to attempt ALL sections and to read carefully the instructions within each section.

Section A is to be written on the booklet provided.

Sections B and C are to be written on the examination paper.

Section A: Composition

(40 marks)

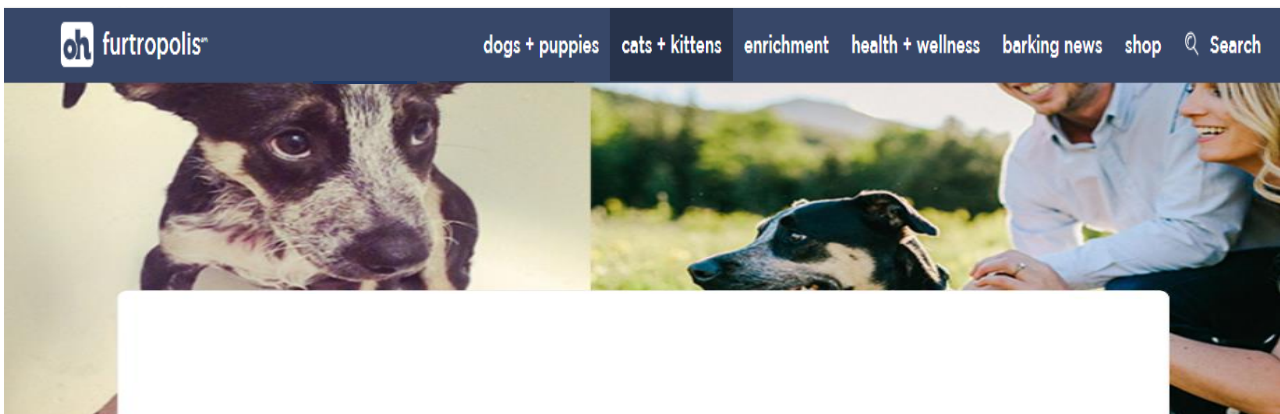
Write 200 words on ONE of the titles below.

- You are interested in participating in a local writing competition. Write your entry which starts with the following sentence: *While inspecting the building, my curiosity got the better of me and I tried opening the locked door.*
- The local council of your town is putting together a book of happy memories of the past. Write a story entitled: *A Memorable Day.*
- A famous festival is held in your town every year. You have been asked by the editor of the local magazine to describe the festival and explain why it is so popular.
- You have just returned from a holiday abroad and you lost your suitcase. Write a detailed description of this suitcase and its contents for the airline you travelled with.

Section B: Comprehension

(20 x 2 marks = 40 marks)

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions set below.



I adopted Tyler when he was 6 months old from the Humane Society where I volunteered. The shelter had very little background on him since he had been transferred there from a different place. He was very skinny and scared of **EVERYTHING**. The poor pup had to be carried out to my car after the adoption papers were complete because he was too scared to leave the building and was afraid to go outside.

Now, he's 7 years old and his favourite thing to do is hiking the mountains with my boyfriend and I. It was a long and slow process to get him to the confident, hiking companion he is today, but to see him grow and learn to trust was worth every moment. He has also become quite the snuggle monster and loves to be cuddled up into a heap of blankets. That's impressive for a pup that used to be afraid of people and the outdoors. He's a wonderful, special dog! We're so lucky to have found him!

- **Kaitlyn**

We found Hemingway at the Denver Shelter in 2019. He was an older cat and had been **there** for a while. When we visited him in the visiting room, he climbed on our lap and we knew in that instant that he was ours! He's a sweetheart who loves his treats...a bit too much!

His now best friend, Finnegan, was adopted in 2021, after a long stay in another shelter. After some initial anxiety, he has become a very social guy! He loves to play fetch and he is most happy where people are!

- Talitha

Tell us your story

Adopting a pet is a commitment but shelter workers who know the pets best can help you find the best match. Celebrate this special day by adopting a friend for life. The humans and our furry friends at Outward Hound wish you a Happy Adopt a Shelter Pet Day!

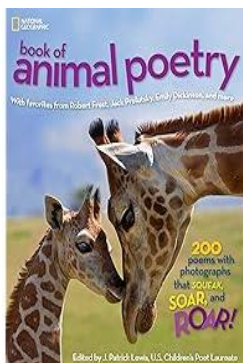
We want to hear your rescue stories too! If you want to be featured in an upcoming blog post about rescue stories, email lexi.grafe@outwardhound.com with your contribution.

Adapted from <https://outwardhound.com/>

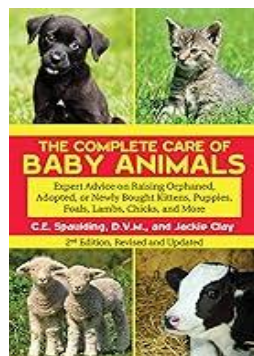
1. Underline the best title.
 - a. Celebration Day for pet owners
 - b. Two successful pet adoptions
 - c. Learn how to care for your pets
 - d. Are you a cat or a dog lover?

2. Underline the correct answer.
 - a. The text (describes a shelter, narrates stories, gives directions, gives advice).
 - b. Kaitlyn and Talitha (run a shelter, organise Adopt a Shelter Pet Day, adopted their pets, manage the website).

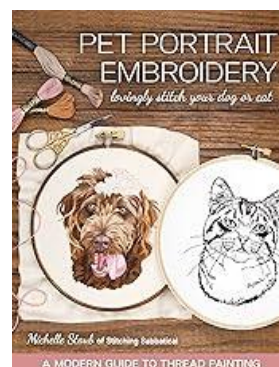
3. Tick (✓) the correct box below. Which of the following books would a reader of this website buy?



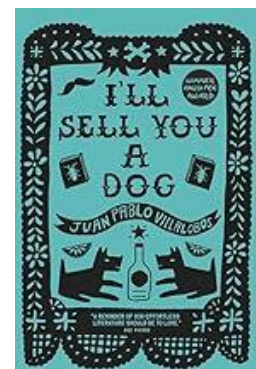
a.



b.



c.



d.

4. Where did Kaitlyn and Tyler first meet?

5. Underline the correct answer.

Kaitlyn (was employed by, paid, offered her services to, advertised) the shelter.

6. Why was Kaitlyn given little information about Tyler?

7. Why is **EVERYTHING** written in capital letters?

8. In your own words, describe what Tyler looked like when Kaitlyn took him home for the first time.

9. Underline the correct answer.

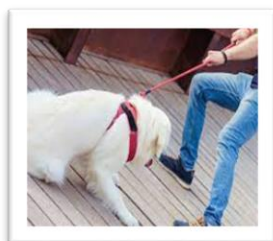
a. Tyler (tolerates, dislikes, loves, hates) walking with Kaitlyn and her boyfriend.

b. Tyler (has always been, was never, has slowly become, is going to become) confident on the mountains.

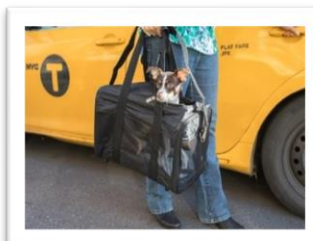
10. Tick (✓) the correct box below. Which picture shows Tyler at the time of writing?



a.



b.



c.



d.

11. Underline the correct answer.

He was an older cat and had been **there** for a while. **There** refers to the (mountains, visiting room, shelter, outdoors).

12. Where did Talitha first meet Hemingway?

13. Underline the correct answer.

Hemingway was (aggressive, shy, afraid, friendly) when Talitha first met him.

14. Which word in the text shows that Talitha likes Hemingway?

15. In your own words, explain which game Finnegan likes to play best.

16. Underline the correct answer.

- a. Lexi Grafe (published a book about, writes her own, invites readers to share, offers prizes for) rescue stories.
- b. Shelter workers give (demonstrations, advice, instructions, donations) to people to help them choose the right pet.
- c. This website allows you to (book an appointment with a vet, donate blankets and toys, read the latest information about dogs, bottle-feed the puppies).

(40 marks)

Section C: Language

1. Fill in the blanks with the correct linking word or phrase from the box below. Use each linking word or phrase only once. The first one (0) has been done for you.

next	firstly	and	therefore	too	also
similarly	following	secondly	to conclude	as well as	

On my first day at work, I was excited (0) **and** nervous at the same time. As I walked into the office, I couldn't help feeling a rush of anticipation because I was so enthusiastic about starting this new job.

Here's how the day went. **(a)** _____, I was warmly welcomed by my colleagues who put me at ease as they smiled and made me feel like I was already part of the team.

(b) _____, the manager helped me fill in all the paperwork and **(c)** _____ explained why it was so important. **(d)** _____ that, I was

shown around the office building. I was also given my company ID badge **(e)** _____ access to the various digital tools I would be using in my new role. My

first task was to learn about the company's history during an online session. Then I had to learn about the company's goals and objectives, **(f)** _____.

(g) _____ on the agenda was a team meeting during which I had the opportunity to meet my immediate colleagues. (h) _____, they got the chance to ask me questions in order to get to know me.

In the afternoon, my manager sat down with me for a one-to-one meeting to discuss my role in detail. She also provided me with a great deal of useful information and (i) _____ any nerves I had had earlier, vanished.

(j) _____, my first day was a blend of new experiences and friendly encounters. The warm welcome and important information made me look forward to the journey ahead.

(10 marks)

2. Underline the correct preposition. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Bristol is a beautiful city, a couple of hours away (0) (in, from, near) London. But you cannot visit Bristol without spending some time (a) (at, from, in) its central area, so wandering (b) (across, around, along) the Old City is sure to happen. The Old City of Bristol is the heart of the city and as the name suggests, it is full of historical buildings.

There is a lot crammed into this city, which makes it an area worth exploring. While walking (c) (over, into, along) its cobbled streets, you cannot miss interesting landmarks like the remains of Bristol Castle. Since this castle was built (d) (among, between, along) two rivers, it was surrounded by water so a tunnel had to be dug (e) (inside, beneath, over) the ground for easier access.

Georgian Queen Square is only a few minutes away and it is the perfect place to enjoy some quiet time (f) (among, along, within) the majestic trees. Until the beginning of the 17th century, the area (g) (in, under, over) which Queen Square now stands was marshland and the statue of William III and Queen Square House are both main attractions in the square.

(h) (Near, Under, Among) Queen Square, you will find a lively atmosphere thanks to the many restaurants, pubs and food stalls. Park Street is quite close, but you need to walk (i) (along, across, up) a steep hill filled with small coffee shops and pubs. At the top of Park Street, you will find the oldest park in Bristol. Here, you are free to enter inside Cabot Tower which offers breathtaking views (j) (across, around, over) the city.

(10 marks)

Total: 100 marks

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER

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