

GRADE 11 AND 12 ENGLISH

ENTRANCE EXAM

NAME

MILITARY
NUMBER

READING COMPREHENSION

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

1. Anyone who studies the history of Europe will learn about three important events that changed this region of the world. These three events are the 'Black Death', the 'Industrial Revolution', and 'The Great War'.
2. Firstly, let's examine the 'Black Death'. The bubonic plague [which was also known as the 'Black Death'] was a disease which was brought to most parts of Asia, North Africa, and Europe. The first outbreak of this plague was recorded in 1331 CE in China, and it spread rapidly from there to Europe. The plague started as a bloody swelling in the pit of the arms or in the area of the body where the legs join the front of the body. The disease was very contagious – this means that **it** spread easily from person to person, and it killed approximately seventy million to two hundred million people. Almost half the population of Europe died as a result of the Black Death. The disease probably began in Asia and then spread throughout Europe. The disease was carried by fleas which lived in the fur of the black rat. These rats lived close to humans, and thus they spread the disease. The bodies of dead people were left out in the road for people to collect. This caused the disease to spread even further. A person normally died within two to three days after contracting the disease.



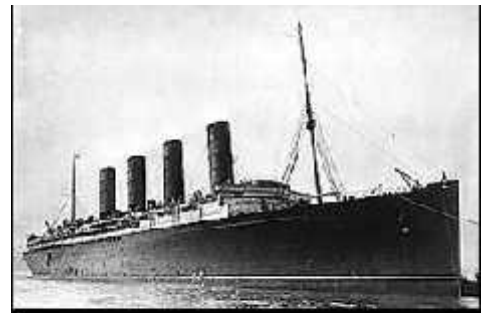
The bodies of dead people were left out in the road for people to collect.

3. Secondly, the 'Industrial Revolution' is actually one of the largest changes in the history of the world, not only in the history of Europe. It started in Britain in the 18th century CE. As the 'Workshop of the World', Britain was the first home of new machines, new types of materials, and new ways of producing power. This was the age of coal and iron, of gas and electricity, of railways and factories. These factories created millions of new jobs. As a result, many people began to leave the countryside in order to find work in the towns and cities. Houses and factories had to be built for them. By 1850, over 60% of people in Britain lived in towns and cities. Adults who worked in factories had a very hard life. They often worked for fourteen hours a day, six days a week. Often, children were used as workers in factories.



Often, children were used as workers in factories.

4. Thirdly, the 'Great War' in Europe from 1914-1918 is also known as the First World War. It is estimated that around 37 million people [soldiers and civilians] died in this war which makes this one of the deadliest wars in human history. Before this war, Germany had built up its navy to match the strength of the British Navy. From the start of the Great War, British war ships blockaded German ports. Therefore, Britain's navy prevented supplies from reaching Germany. This caused severe shortages of food and other goods. The Germans hit back with their submarines. After 1915, the German submarines attacked both warships and merchant ships that carried supplies to Britain. [Merchant ships are ships that are used for trade and business.] In May 1915, a German torpedo hit a British passenger ship called the Lusitania. This ship carried nearly 2,000 passengers. Approximately 1,200 of the people on board this ship died.



The Lusitania

SECTION 1

Say if the following statements are TRUE, FALSE, or NOT GIVEN. [Tick off the correct answer in the table below.]

	STATEMENT	TRUE	FALSE	NOT GIVEN
1	The Black Plague also spread to India.			
2	It didn't take a long time for the Black Plague to spread from China to Europe.			
3	People suffered a long and painful illness before they died of the Black Plague.			
4	The Industrial Revolution only took place in Europe.			
5	During the Industrial Revolution, many people died of hunger in Britain.			
6	As a result of the Industrial Revolution, many people moved from the countryside to cities and towns.			
7	Only children were used as workers in factories during the Industrial Revolution.			
8	The Germans did nothing when the British navy blockaded their ports during the Great War.			
9	The British had many submarines during the Great War.			
10	The German and British navies were more or less equal at the start of the Great War.			

1 MARK FOR EACH ANSWER

**SCORE
OUT OF
10**

SECTION 2

Complete each of the following sentences with no more than **THREE WORDS** from the text.

	STATEMENT	ANSWER
11	The underlined word 'it' in paragraph 2 refers to _____.	
12	The Black Death started in _____, and then it spread from there to _____.	
13		
14	During the Industrial Revolution, by 1850, more people lived in _____ than in the _____.	
15		

1 MARK FOR EACH ANSWER

**SCORE
OUT OF 5**

SECTION 3

Answer the following questions in **FULL SENTENCES**.

16 Approximately how many people died as a result of the Black Plague?

2 MARKS

17 Why did many people move to cities and towns in Britain during the Industrial Revolution?

2 MARKS

**SCORE
OUT OF 4**

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SECTION 4

Write down **ONE** linking device that is used in paragraph 4.

13

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**SCORE
OUT OF 1**

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TOTAL MARKS FOR THE READING COMPREHENSION SECTION: 20 marks

**TOTAL
SCORE
OUT OF
20**

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