



ST NICHOLAS COLLEGE
HALF YEARLY PRIMARY EXAMINATIONS

February 2017

YEAR 6

ENGLISH
(Reading Comprehension)

TIME: 50 minutes

Total:

30

Name: _____

Class: _____



Section A

(6 marks)

Read the story below, then answer the questions.

Theseus and the Minotaur

Theseus was a young boy who lived in the city of Athens. He spent his free time learning how to fight because the children of Athens were different from other children. They were afraid - and they had good reason to be. Every nine years, King Minos of Crete demanded that Athens send seven boys and seven girls to his city to be fed to a monstrous creature called the Minotaur. The



Minotaur had the body of a man and the head of a white bull. He had no natural source of nourishment so the mighty monster devoured humans to keep himself alive. The Minotaur was kept in a dizzying maze called the Labyrinth. For years the people of Athens had been forced to obey King Minos, and for years they had sent their sons and daughters to die. No child had ever returned from that fateful trip to Crete.

1. Underline the correct answer. (2 marks)

- (a) Theseus lived in (Athens, Rome, Crete).
- (b) The children of Athens were afraid of (thunder, fighting, the Minotaur).
- (c) The Minotaur was a (kind, ferocious, jolly) monster.
- (d) He enjoyed eating (babies and toddlers, animals and insects, boys and girls).

2. True (T), False (F) or No Information Given (NIG).
Read the following sentences. Tick (✓) the correct box.

(2 marks)

		T	F	NIG
a	Theseus was fifteen years old.			
b	King Minos forced the people of Crete to send their children to feed the Minotaur every nine years.			
c	The Minotaur was half man and half bull.			
d	Some children returned home from Crete.			

3. Why do you think that the city of Athens had to obey King Minos?

(2 marks)



Reading Comprehension 2

(24 marks)

Read on to find out what happened in the story. Then, answer the questions that follow.

On the day King Minos's ship came to Athens to collect seven boys and seven girls, there was great sadness. Theseus surprised **everyone** in the city by volunteering to go. His friends and family tried to make him change his mind. They feared he was welcoming an early **death**, but they did not realise that Theseus had a plan: he was going to kill the Minotaur. (paragraph 1)



When Theseus and the other children arrived in Crete, they were not met with a happy reception. After all, the people of Crete were looking forward to watching the Minotaur eat them. Everyone in the city was cruel to the children, except one. Her name was Ariadne, and she was the beautiful daughter of King Minos. Ariadne did not like to see other people suffer, especially at the hands of a monster such as the Minotaur, so she secretly gave Theseus a sword and a ball of string to **aid** him in the Labyrinth. She wanted him to succeed in his plans. (paragraph 2)

Instead of panicking when his time came to **enter** the Labyrinth, Theseus tied one end of his string to the door post. He began moving through the countless twists and turns **cautiously**, making sure to never let go of his ball of string. And then Theseus got lucky. He found the Minotaur, alone and sleeping. Theseus wasted no time, killing the monster with one strike of his sword. He then followed his string to find his way out of the maze.

(paragraph 3)

However, they were not out of danger yet. Ariadne arrived to help Theseus free the other thirteen children, and then all of them raced to escape from Crete. With King Minos and his men mere seconds behind them, the children reached a ship and sailed away to safety. King Minos, **devastated** by the death of his monster and the loss of his daughter, never terrorised Athens again. (paragraph 4)

(Adapted from <http://www.education.com/resources/Theseus+and+the+Minotaur/>)

Comprehension Questions

24 marks

1. How do you know that the people of Crete were cruel to the children? (1 mark)

2. Who was Ariadne? (1 mark)

3. What did she give Theseus? (1 mark)

4. What was the Minotaur doing when Theseus found him? (1 mark)

5. How did King Minos react when he found out that his daughter had escaped with Theseus? (1 mark)

6. Look at paragraph 1. (1 mark)

Find a word that means the same as:

a) gather _____ b) grief _____

7. Write a word that means the same for these words: (3 marks)

a) aid (par 2) _____ b) cautiously (par 3) _____

c) devastated (par 4) _____

8. Now write the opposite for these words: (3 marks)

a) death (par 1) _____ b) everyone (par 1) _____

c) enter (par 3) _____

9. Read these words. Now divide them into four different sets.

(4 marks)

Ariadne	maze	sleeping	happy	Theseus	King Minos	cruel	moving
Athens	labyrinth	beautiful	panicking	killing	Minotaur	Crete	lucky

Characters	Places	Verbs	Adjectives

Answer these questions

10. Why did Theseus volunteer to go to Crete? Why did this surprise everyone else? (2 marks)

11. What was the purpose of the ball of string? (2 marks)

12. Why did Ariadne choose to leave Crete with Theseus? (2 marks)

13. If you were to be one of the characters in the story, who would you be and why? (2 marks)

End of Paper