



Uplift. Upskill. Upgrade.

AEIS English

Comprehension Guide

Read it · prove it · answer it

Secondary 2 · Answer Key

Answer key for the LearnUp AEIS English Comprehension Guide (Secondary 2). Covers every exercise, vocabulary quiz and homework item across the three lessons. Written answers are model answers — accept any response that makes the same point from the same evidence.

Answer key · all three lessons

Aligned to MOE AEIS (Secondary) · Part 2 Comprehension & Vocabulary

Edition: 2026-08 · brainbuzz.sg

ANSWER KEY

Comprehension Guide

Secondary 2 · answers to every item

Multiple-choice answers are exact. Written answers are **model** answers: award the mark for any response that makes the same point and could be defended from the same line of the passage. Where a question is worth two marks, both points must be present and distinct.

Lesson 1 — What the page actually says

Worksheet

Exercise 1.1 — What the command word is asking for

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. State / Identify → D | 5. Quote the words that show... → A |
| 2. In your own words, explain... → E | 6. How do you know...? → F |
| 3. Why...? → C | 7. Explain what is meant by "... " → G |
| 4. What does "it" refer to? → B | 8. Sum up in one sentence → H |

Exercise 1.2 — Comprehension: "The Last Ferry"

ANSWER KEY

- [1] For three years.
- [1] Because the ferry had been so completely reliable for three years that she could not at first accept that it was not running.
- [2] The weather was violent and dangerous. The wind was driving rain sideways across the jetty and rattling the roof, and along the pontoon the fishing boats were being thrown against one another.
- [2] Fifteen hours — from four in the afternoon until seven the next morning. She could not warn her grandmother because the old woman did not own a telephone.
- [2] She was carrying a month's supply of her grandmother's blood-pressure tablets from the clinic, and her grandmother had finished the previous packet on Wednesday — so she had already been several days without her medicine.
- [1] Because in her view mentioning it would have been making an unnecessary fuss.
- [2] He had forty crates of ice on board which would have melted and been worthless by the next day. He was sailing to protect his livelihood, not because he judged the sea to be safe.
- [1] That it was old and worn, knocked about by years of hard use.
- [2] She reasoned that a man who was worried about the crossing would have tried to reassure his passenger. Because he said nothing at all, she took it that he was untroubled by the conditions.
- [2] That her grandmother's hands were trembling not because of the cold but out of fear and relief — the old woman had been far more frightened for her than she was ever going to admit.
- [2] She spoke as if the crossing were an ordinary scheduled service and the delay merely poor timekeeping. It suggests she refused to acknowledge the danger — her way of hiding how anxious she had been.
- [2] She is dutiful and quietly courageous: knowing exactly how rough the sea was beyond the headland, she still chose to board a fishing boat rather than let her grandmother go without her tablets.

Exercise 1.3 — Vocabulary in context

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. A — relied on | 5. B — worked out the hours involved |
| 2. B — temporarily stopped | 6. C — gestured towards it with his head |
| 3. C — unfavourable and harmful | 7. D — the rise and fall of the waves |
| 4. D — threw with force | 8. A — much |

Exercise 1.4 — Reference: read it back

ANSWER KEY

1. the four o'clock ferry
2. the notice / the announcement that the service was suspended
3. the fishing boats'
4. the fact that she had swallowed the last of her tablets on Wednesday
5. the old man's fingers
6. the fact that Ah Seng said nothing at all during the crossing

Exercise 1.5 — Say it in your own words

ANSWER KEY

1. new things to grumble about concerning the people living nearby
2. the notice had used a mild, polite word for what was in fact violent weather
3. the boats were being pushed about so that they bumped and pressed against each other
4. in her view, to mention it would have been to make an unnecessary bother
5. although it lasted only forty minutes, it seemed to her to last far more
6. an umbrella that had been broken and useless for a long time

Vocabulary quiz

Vocabulary Quiz 1 — Part A: closest in meaning (12 marks)

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. C — unceasing | 7. B — continued |
| 2. B — confused | 8. C — clear and lively |
| 3. A — weak and delicate | 9. A — unfriendly and aggressive |
| 4. D — leave behind | 10. D — made known |
| 5. C — certain to happen | 11. A — careful |
| 6. B — in short supply | 12. D — became less |

Vocabulary Quiz 1 — Part B: word formation (6 marks)

ANSWER KEY

1. calmness
2. dangerous
3. reliability
4. certainty
5. importance
6. disconnected

Homework

Homework 1A — Comprehension (12 marks)

ANSWER KEY

1. [1] Because it had been left uncut and undeveloped for years, so it was the only open space with enough room for a kite to gain height.
2. [1] Bamboo skewers, a rubbish bag and a spool of nylon line.
3. [2] The abruptness sets appearance sharply against performance. It shows that Arun judged the kite only by whether it worked, and that to him its looks were beside the point.
4. [2] Running drags the kite forward at low level, so it never rises into steady wind and ends by crashing into whatever is nearby.
5. [2] That it was stretched tight and vibrating, giving off a faint continuous hum in the same way a musical string sounds just after it is plucked.
6. [1] She had expected the kite-flying to be far more exciting than it was, and grew bored watching him repair and restart it.
7. [3] The kite was so high that it could not be seen from the ground, so he appeared to be standing motionless in a field, gripping a line that led to nothing. The contrast between his stillness and his real achievement makes the point that what mattered was invisible to everyone but him.

Homework 1B — Vocabulary in context (8 marks)

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. A — a reel | 5. A — reeled it back |
| 2. B — extra loose line | 6. B — look with half-closed eyes |
| 3. C — causing dismay | 7. C — willingness to wait calmly |
| 4. D — sudden rushes of wind | 8. D — weakly |

Lesson 2 — Reading between the lines

Worksheet

Exercise 2.1 — Evidence into inference

ANSWER KEY

1. She saw nothing remarkable in what she had done; to her the answer was so obvious it deserved no ceremony.
2. He was nervous and eager to make a good impression, and had time he did not know what to do with.
3. She did not want the gift; her thanks were polite rather than sincere.
4. Someone had stayed awake waiting for him, almost certainly out of worry.
5. He was trying to appear one of the group; in fact he felt self-conscious and unsure of his place in it.
6. The work was so unlike his usual standard that she suspected it was not his own.

Exercise 2.2 — Comprehension: “The Photograph”

ANSWER KEY

1. [2] Because going to the front so early burns up energy that is needed at the end, leaving the runner exposed to being overtaken near the line — which is exactly what happened to him.
2. [2] It suggests he passed the narrator calmly and easily, without any sign of strain, as though winning cost him almost no effort.
3. [2] That he felt overlooked and humiliated. The cheering belonged to the winner, and more than twenty years later he still remembers being shut out of it.
4. [2] That she was paid strictly by the hour, so every hour away from work was money genuinely lost. The three hours of unpaid leave were therefore a real sacrifice.
5. [2] To show that her sacrifice was made quietly and without any wish for credit. It reveals a woman who does things for her son and then says nothing about them.
6. [2] It reveals that she did not understand athletics at all. She had not come out of interest in the sport; she had come only because her son was running.
7. [1] Because he believed it recorded his defeat and he was ashamed to be reminded of it.
8. [2] It means the photograph never contained the podium, the medal or the defeat at all. His shame for twenty-two years had been based on what he imagined the picture showed rather than on anything in it.
9. [2] That to her the answer was so obvious it scarcely needed saying. She had kept the picture because her son looked happy in it; the result of the race had never been the point.
10. [2] He means the photograph could not judge him — the shame he had felt in front of it came entirely from himself, not from the picture.
11. [2] He has accepted the photograph, and with it his mother’s view of that afternoon. The shame is gone, and the picture now stands for happiness rather than failure.
12. [2] Admiring and quietly grateful. He notices what he once took for granted — the unpaid leave never mentioned, the clapping at the wrong moments, the frame she chose — and now understands each as an act of love.

Exercise 2.3 — Inference and purpose

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. B — he believes it records his defeat | 5. D — rarely explains or makes a fuss about what she does |
| 2. C — had come straight from work and would return to it | 6. A — show how a long-held belief was overturned |
| 3. A — the narrator's shame existed only in his own mind | 7. D — It contrasts sharply with the shame he had attached to the picture |
| 4. C — undemonstrative but devoted | 8. B — forgiving |

Exercise 2.4 — Imagery in two moves

ANSWER KEY

- The lift is given a human sound of pain or effort; it suggests the machine is old and struggling, and makes the building feel worn out.
- Her tone is compared to a door shutting; it suggests the conversation was finished and no further discussion would be allowed.
- The queue is compared to ice that moves imperceptibly; the exaggeration mocks how painfully slowly it advanced.
- His position is compared to clothing belonging to somebody else; it suggests the role did not yet feel like his own and that he seemed unconvincing in it.
- Only a machine noise is left; the detail emphasises complete emptiness and makes the silence more noticeable than silence itself would be.
- Homework is described as though it multiplied like a living thing; it suggests the pile grew faster than it could ever be cleared, and hints at the student's despair.

Exercise 2.5 — Naming the tone

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. nostalgic → E | 5. apprehensive → H |
| 2. indignant → C | 6. scornful → G |
| 3. wry → A | 7. earnest → B |
| 4. resigned → D | 8. tentative → F |

Vocabulary quiz

Vocabulary Quiz 2 — Part A: closest in meaning (12 marks)

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. B — slight and hard to notice | 7. C — of little importance |
| 2. C — very deep | 8. D — felt bitter about |
| 3. A — given unwillingly | 9. A — pausing through uncertainty |
| 4. D — intensely irritated | 10. B — make fun of |
| 5. A — sympathy for another's suffering | 11. C — calm and untroubled |
| 6. B — done on purpose | 12. D — hide from view |

Vocabulary Quiz 2 — Part B: name the feeling (6 marks)

ANSWER KEY

1. relieved
2. apprehensive
3. indignant
4. nostalgic
5. remorseful
6. envious

Homework

Homework 2A — Comprehension (12 marks)

ANSWER KEY

1. [2] An understudy learns a role in full and stands ready to perform it, but normally does not appear on stage, because another actor plays the part.
2. [2] She was trying to convince herself, as much as them, that being passed over did not disappoint her.
3. [2] That he was brisk and matter-of-fact, treating the emergency as routine and making no attempt to mark the moment as special for her.
4. [2] She had expected to be terrified, but realised that she knew the script better than anyone in the building, and that knowledge steadied her.
5. [2] She had always believed her worth depended on being applauded. She discovered that the satisfaction of knowing she could do the work mattered more to her than the audience's approval.
6. [2] She had proved to herself that she was capable of the role. That private certainty belonged to her, and could no longer be taken away by not being chosen.

Homework 2B — Inference and vocabulary (8 marks)

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. B — at the side of the stage, out of sight | 5. D — fuss and formality |
| 2. C — fell ill with a fever | 6. A — show that Priya's success changed nothing outwardly |
| 3. A — determinedly cheerful | 7. D — disturb or overturn |
| 4. C — unexpectedly composed | 8. B — recognition matters less than knowing your own ability |

Lesson 3 — The AEIS paper itself

Worksheet

Exercise 3.1 — Name the distractor

ANSWER KEY

1. Too broad → **D**
2. Half true → **C**
3. True but not the answer → **A**
4. Right words, wrong link → **B**
5. Outside knowledge → **E**

Exercise 3.2 — AEIS Part 2 comprehension: 15 questions

ANSWER KEY

1. **B** — They were heavily polluted with waste
2. **C** — left because their food supply had gone
3. **C** — Ten years
4. **A** — finished on schedule
5. **D** — the arrival of the otters
6. **C** — It lives alone
7. **A** — In mangroves across the Strait and along the northern coast
8. **C** — the otters use them to travel quickly across the island
9. **A** — how far otters can travel in a single day
10. **D** — people welcome the otters, but their presence causes problems
11. **B** — dryly humorous
12. **C** — managing them where they are, and moving them only in emergencies
13. **D** — Their survival shows that the water is healthy
14. **A** — wildlife will return by itself once conditions allow
15. **B** — explain how a river clean-up led to the return of a wild animal, and what that has meant

Exercise 3.3 — The same passage, in writing

ANSWER KEY

1. [2] Waste from unregulated industry, boatyards, pig farms and street hawking had built up in the water until it was too polluted to support any life.
2. [2] Any two of: squatters and polluting trades were relocated; sewers were laid; the riverbeds were dredged of a century's accumulated rubbish.
3. [2] They were built to carry stormwater quickly to the sea, but their fast, connected routes also allow otters to move rapidly from one part of the island to another.
4. [2] Any two of: they eat valuable ornamental carp from private ponds; they cross roads; they take up residence in drains beneath housing blocks.
5. [2] As predators at the top of the freshwater food chain, otters can only thrive if there are plentiful fish and therefore clean water beneath them. Their visible success is public evidence that a decade-long, very expensive clean-up worked.
6. [2] If people restore the environment, wildlife will re-establish itself without any further help or planning.
7. [2] The writer is quietly approving, and wry about the inconvenience: "A wild animal that has decided a city is a suitable place to live does not consult the residents first" admits the trouble while treating it with humour rather than complaint.

Vocabulary quiz

Vocabulary Quiz 3 — Part A: words from the passage (12 marks)

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. B — not controlled by rules | 7. D — kept for decoration |
| 2. C — moved elsewhere | 8. B — keeps watch over |
| 3. A — cleared of material from the bottom | 9. A — refuse to feed them |
| 4. D — living and interacting in groups | 10. C — growing well |
| 5. B — nearly disappeared | 11. D — attractive in photographs |
| 6. C — not bothered by | 12. B — in reality, though not officially |

Vocabulary Quiz 3 — Part B: word formation (6 marks)

ANSWER KEY

- cooperation
- adaptable
- observation
- cleanliness
- dependent
- success

Homework

Homework 3A — Comprehension MCQ (10 marks)

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. B — means the teenager is not simply to blame | 6. A — lost sleep builds up night after night |
| 2. C — light | 7. C — weaker eyesight |
| 3. A — signals the body to prepare for sleep | 8. B — attendance and grades generally improved |
| 4. D — happens later, often by one to two hours | 9. C — make the problem worse and, unlike biology, can be controlled |
| 5. B — teenagers still need a great deal of sleep despite the later clock | 10. D — sympathetic and well informed |

Homework 3B — Vocabulary in context (10 marks)

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. A — controls | 6. A — results |
| 2. B — fully awake and attentive | 7. C — connected |
| 3. C — the stage of becoming physically adult | 8. D — not following a fixed pattern |
| 4. D — young people between childhood and adulthood | 9. A — unimportant |
| 5. B — builds up | 10. C — in every case |

Worked questions (Section 3 notes)

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Worked 1: B | Worked 3: C |
| Worked 2: B | |