

Points:

Number:

Time:

Classroom:

Combination:

A ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2016 – READING TEST

Read an article about H. G. Wells.¹ Then answer the questions below the text.

1 H. G. Wells was born in 1866 in Bromley. He claimed to have a very ordinary brain, but in fact he predicted air attacks and atomic bombs long before they existed. He took no pleasure in being right though. Instead it just added to his growing feeling of pessimism. His last book was *Mind at the End of its Tether*, a work full of despair. In his final year he spent his time painting a mural in his home which showed the process of evolution, ending with the figure of Man. Beneath this figure he wrote “*Time to Go*”.

2 Wells’ parents were, at various times, shopkeepers and servants. Wells was destined to become a shop assistant, but after suffering an accident as a child he was forced to spend a long time in bed. This period of inactivity gave him a love of reading which developed his imagination. After leaving school he first worked in a curtain shop, then trained as a teacher and biologist, but after this decided to write books for a living. At the age of 27, working by candlelight in a room in Kent (his landlady complained he used too many candles), he wrote the book that made his name, *The Time Machine*. It is the story of an unnamed time traveler who meets strange people in the future and witnesses the end of the world. It was a great success with Victorian readers.

3 Wells went on to produce “scientific romances” and short stories which were serialized in publications like the *Strand Magazine*. Many science fiction themes – aliens coming to earth, planetary disasters and so on – were dealt with in these early stories. Wells’ ability to create such original work was amazing. He turned everyday events into incredible fantasies: a conversation about colonialism became *The War of the Worlds* and a walk round London was turned into the *Invisible Man*. Some of the predictions made in his books included the use of aeroplanes and tanks in war, the rise of the middle class, the liberation of women and the need for a world state.

4 His own background gave him the basic materials for his best novels, which were realistic comedies of lower-middle-class life. In these he was at his peak as an artist. Though he continued to write novels, his talent as a fiction writer was gradually overwhelmed by his enthusiasm for scientific knowledge and social change. His idea was that civilization was “a race between education and catastrophe”, and though the catastrophe of the First World War damaged his optimism, he continued to fight for social change.

5 Wells’ most important act is probably his least known. At the start of World War II, Wells produced a statement of human rights and formed a committee to work on this. The Declaration of the Rights of Man was published in many different languages and stimulated discussion worldwide. After the War, this document greatly influenced the wording of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

¹ (Adapted from Evans, V. & J. Dooley. 1998. *Practice Tests 1*. Swansea: Express Publishing.)

A. For questions 1-8 choose (**circle**) the answer **A, B, C** or **D** which you think fits best according to the text.

(4 points each)

1. What made Wells become displeased in later life?

- A having an ordinary brain
- B making wrong predictions
- C being right about the future
- D being a pessimist

2. What type of work was Wells originally destined to do?

- A administration
- B writing
- C cleaning
- D sales

3. What helped his imagination to grow?

- A reading
- B listening to his parents
- C making predictions
- D writing books

4. Wells' first book

- A was based on his own experience.
- B was written in London.
- C did not interest readers.
- D gained him popularity.

5. What sort of stories did Wells write at first?

- A romantic
- B futuristic
- C war
- D mystery

6. Wells' "incredible fantasies" were developed from

- A alien invasions of earth.
- B exploring planets.
- C ordinary incidents.
- D scientific predictions.

7. In the sentence 'In these he was at his peak as an artist.' in paragraph 4, what does 'these' refer to?

- A novels
- B basic materials
- C social classes
- D backgrounds

8. How did the First World War affect Wells?

- A It changed his writing style.
- B He became more hopeful.
- C He stopped writing novels.
- D He became less positive.

B. Circle the answer A, B, C or D that best fits the usage of the word or phrase in the text. The words are underlined in the text. (3 points each)

1. 'a mural'

- A an attic
- B a diagram
- C an inscription
- D a large picture on the wall

2. 'destined'

- A intended for
- B trained for
- C accepted to
- D discouraged

3. 'incredible'

- A senseless
- B really true
- C unbelievable
- D awful

4. 'at his peak'

- A beyond his strengths
- B of the best quality
- C reputable
- D disreputable

5. 'over-whelmed'

- A influenced
- B full of
- C defeated completely
- D disappointed

6. 'worldwide'

- A global
- B round table
- C verbal
- D on-line