



ST NICHOLAS COLLEGE  
HALF YEARLY PRIMARY EXAMINATIONS  
February 2012

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YEAR 6

ENGLISH

TIME: 50min

(Reading Comprehension)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Mark

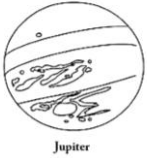
Total: 30 marks



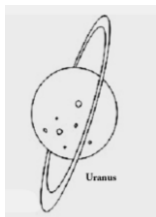
## Reading Comprehension 1

(6 marks)

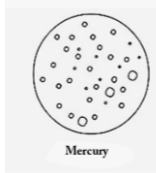
Read the following information about the Solar System then answer the questions that follow.



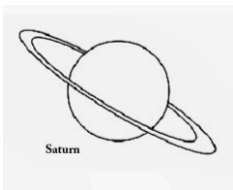
Jupiter is the fifth planet. It is the largest planet in our solar system. This giant planet has many moons.



Uranus is the seventh planet. It is the coldest and the third largest planet. This planet has a faint ring around it and many moons.



Mercury is the closest planet to the sun and also the smallest. It has a cratered surface with very little atmosphere and no moons.



After Jupiter comes Saturn. It is the second largest planet in our solar system with huge rings.



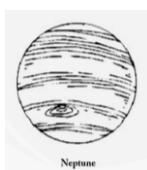
The earth is our home. It is the third planet and it has only one moon.



Mars is also known as the red planet. It lies between our planet and Jupiter. It has two tiny moons and a thin atmosphere.



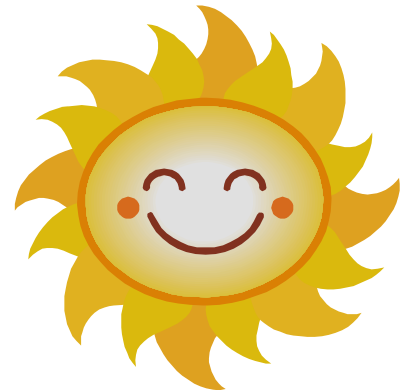
Venus is the second planet from the sun. It is the hottest and has a dense atmosphere. Like Mercury it has no moons.



Neptune has many moons and it is the furthest planet from the sun.

1. Put the planets in order starting from the one closest to the sun. (2 marks)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_
- g. \_\_\_\_\_
- h. \_\_\_\_\_



2. Two features found around some planets are: (1 mark)

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ and b) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Jupiter and Saturn are similar because: (1 mark)

\_\_\_\_\_

4. In what ways are Uranus and Venus different? Name two. (2 marks)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read the following passage then answer the questions below.

### The Story of Tea

As every tea-lover will tell you, there is only one way of drinking tea: that's hot. (par. 1)

There is a very simple principle to the making of tea. In order to get the proper flavour of tea, the water must be boiling when it hits the tea leaves or teabags. Experts recommend using two separate pots when making tea. The first is used to boil the water and the second is used to brew the tea in. It is very important that the second pot is warmed up to make sure that the hot water used to brew your tea stays hot. (par. 2)



The first reference to people drinking tea is found around 600BC in China. However, it was mostly used as a medicinal **beverage**. It wasn't until 1200 years later that tea became a popular drink throughout China. Until the sixth century, tea was largely a Chinese drink. Then from China it spread to Japan and eventually to other countries. Within just one hundred years, tea was being grown in Japan and it became as popular here as it was in China. (par. 3)



The truth is very difficult to establish owing to the many legends about the discovery of tea. Perhaps the most common legend is that in 2737BC, leaves from a tea tree fell into Emperor Shen Nung's cup of water that a servant was boiling. Being a scientist, the emperor was curious and decided to try some of this new liquid. He found the liquid aromatic and refreshing. Since that strange beginning, tea has been part of many cultures throughout the years. (par. 4)

## The Teabag

Until 1908 tea was much more expensive and only a few could afford it. Tea traders awaited their cargo from India and China eagerly. It was habitual for a sample of the new tea to be sent to customers in small metal tins. Thomas Sullivan became very annoyed at the high cost of the tin boxes and in 1908 switched to small hand-sewn silk bags. Confused clients who were unsure of the instructions apparently dipped **them** into hot water. Realising how convenient a simple disposable bag could be, his customers started requesting the tea in this new packaging, much to Mr Sullivan's surprise. However the teabag had to undergo several changes and it was only after World War II that it was mass produced by Joseph Tetley and Co. (par.5)



Today tea is the second most popular drink in the world, in large part due to the teabag! (par.6)

1. **Underline the best answer to complete the sentences.** (3marks)

- a) Japan was the (first, second, third) country to grow tea.
- b) Metal tins were (more expensive, cheaper, more convenient) than the small hand-sewn silk bags.
- c) Thomas Sullivan started using hand-sewn silk bags to distribute tea samples (in, on, at) 1908.

2. **Answer these questions.** (7 marks)

- a) The word **beverage** in paragraph 3 means: \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Which paragraph talks about the discovery of tea? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Which word in paragraph 4 means sweet-smelling? \_\_\_\_\_
- d) In which year were teabags invented? \_\_\_\_\_
- e) When were teabags mass produced? \_\_\_\_\_

f) Which company mass-produced teabags first? \_\_\_\_\_

g) In line 7 of paragraph 5 the word **them** refers to: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read the following sentences. Write **T** if the sentence is true, **F** if it is false or **N** if there is no information about it. (8 marks)

a)	Tea is brewed in warm water.	
b)	The Chinese used tea to cure people.	
c)	There are many legends about the discovery of tea.	
d)	Shen Nung was an inquisitive person.	
e)	In 1908 tea was only imported from China.	
f)	Thomas Sullivan was an English gentleman.	
g)	The production of teabags dropped after World War II	
h)	Tea was always taken with sugar and milk.	

4. How do we know that Sullivan's customers preferred the teabags to the loose tea leaves? (2 marks)

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5. From the passage find the words which show that teabags today are very different from the hand-sewn silk bags. (2 marks)

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6. In your own words, explain the difference between **boil** and **brew**. (2 marks)

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END OF PAPER