

Sample of texts on which Tests A and B were based

Passage 1 (Test A)

Come on, man! Let's sing and clap!

O Let's all dance to the Medieval Rap!
O Knights, crusaders, astronomers,
the start of voyages by explorers;
O trade with the East and some wonderful inventions'
much more chorus ever mentions.
O, They're all here, so let's sing and clap!
O, Let's all dance to the Medieval Rap!
Up till now, you've been learning how people grew

O But what about the changes in the Middle Ages?
Market places grew to towns, towns became cities
needed better transport than horses, carts and litters,
We talk about that now because you'll learn about it later; but,
ships improved, commerce and trade progressed and merchants became richer;
They wanted to trade more than across the Mediterranean Sea
And what they did in those far-off days is helping you and me:
they expanded trade towards the East for spices, silks and jewellery
And so today, I have to say, there's one thing about which you'll agree:
If you want to eat well or you want to look good, with your friends or even solo,
drop what you've got, and bop to the shop, and say: Respect to Marco Polo!
He started it all can you recall? when he travelled from Venice through Asia to India, to China to the
city of Peking and he saw things that would amaze ya
Meanwhile, people learned to improve what they earned
through better drainage of marshes. Agricultural methods too
were improving through and through and other sciences were studied
like algebra, astronomy but the Church unfortunately disagreed:
they thought experiments came from the devil. The scientist, Roger Bacon would
have found he was mistaken if he thought that being a monk would protect him.

Happily, I'll confess, art and music did progress, with
many a fine composition.
Ask your teacher, mom or aunt all about the Gregorian chant
I am so surprised to say they're still popular today.
mystery plays

Franciscan or not, they disliked his work a lot.
Won't you try? find out why he upset them.

What came true? His worst fears: he was jailed for 18 years
Useful things? Let's think fast! Oh the magnifying glass!
Sadly, too, from this time life was louder:
this was when bitter cup we learnt
to blow each other up because somebody discovered
gunpowder.

Painting, sculpture, architecture literature that still affects your
mind and heart: works by Chaucer or by Dante, for a start. Everyman,
that were acted out in cycles, tales of martyrs and of saints, plays in churches
each one paints quite a picture of the people, of their lives and of their
thinking.

And what's more, you can be sure that in each and every nation
all their art and what they learnt laid a very firm foundation for
our world of today.

Best of all, I can recall it was in the later stages
of those unpolluted, harsh but simpler medieval ages
that ideas of freedom, human rights and Christian values grew;
so now you know what makes me me, and what makes you well, you!

So come on, man! Let's sing and clap!

Let's all dance to the Medieval Rap!

Knights, crusaders, astronomers,
the start of voyages by explorers;
trade with the East and some wonderful inventions
and much more than this chorus ever mentions.

They're all here, so let's sing and clap!

Let's all dance to the Medieval Rap!

Idaho, I think he's getting too big for his boots. Perhaps I ought to have him serviced. Idaho? Idaho!

Passage 2 (Test B)

The Cape Colony (1701-1795)

The development and way of life of the inhabitants of the Cape. Look at this drawing of Cape Town in about the year 1750. Can you see that there are a number of different people in the drawing? Who are they? What were their lives like? Can you see that people from many different cultures and walks of life lived at the Cape? At first, each different group of people had a different role to play, but every group was important to the history and development of the Cape Colony.

Basically, there were four different groups of people at the Cape:
the Company officials
the free burghers
the Khoikhoi
the slaves.

Here is a short history of a member of each of these different groups. Please read each history carefully. Don't forget if there are any words that you do not understand, look in the glossary ask your teacher or use a dictionary!

Ryk Tulbagh, Governor of the Cape Colony from 1751 to 1771

My name is Ryk Tulbagh. I was employed by the Dutch East India Company. In 1751, the DEIC sent me to the Cape as its Governor. They chose me because I had worked for the company for a number of years, and had worked hard and been loyal. At first, I was only a junior official at the Cape in fact, I was a clerk and when I knew everything about that job, I was given the job of Secretary to the Council of Policy. This was a very important job and I felt very proud to say that I was the secretary to this group of officials who made laws for the Cape Colony and governed it. Later, I was given the post of a merchant and then (what a great day it was!) I was appointed as Secunde. To be Secunde meant that I was the deputy-governor - I was second in command at the Cape. Then, as I've already said, I was appointed Governor of the Cape Colony. I realise what an honour and what a responsibility this is, as I am now the most important official here at the Cape Colony.

Now for some action! List all the jobs Ryk Tulbagh had in the service of the Dutch East India Company. We call this tracing his career. Let me tell you more about my job. I work at the Castle, together with my deputy and other important officials. I have a lot of work to do as I am the chairman of the Council of Policy (which governs the Cape) and I am the chairman of the Council of Justice

(which hears court cases). I am very upset because it has come to my attention that some of my officials are being very dishonest and are taking part in illegal farming and private businesses. I know that the officials do not earn a large salary, but there is no excuse for being dishonest! I know that many of these corrupt officials have their own private farms, which is not allowed. Worse, they are using their privileged position as officials of the Dutch East India Company to sell their produce to the passing ships before the farmers can sell their own. How do they expect the free burghers to make a living? I am even more upset because I believe some officials are blackmailing the free burghers by making them pay money to the officials, who will then make sure that the DEIC will buy the produce. This has got to stop! Who do these officials think they are? I think that they have forgotten that they are employed by the DEIC and they must obey the Company's rules. It seems that the Independent Fiscal is finding it difficult to keep an eye on the activities of the officials! (He was appointed to look after the Colony's money matters, and is directly responsible to the Council of 17 of the DEIC so he is not controlled by me the Governor.)

(From Marzo and Stokes, 1997)

