

SAMPLE
READING COMPREHENSION TEST
INSTRUCTION

TIME – 20 mins

1. Read the passage then answer the questions.
2. For each question there are four possible answers given.
3. Select the BEST answer **a**, **b**, **c** or **d** in the test which you consider correct and put an **X** in the correct box on the answer sheet:

	a	b	c	d
1.		X		

4. Only **ONE** choice is possible.
5. You have 20 minutes to complete this test.

Measuring Mount Everest

Everyone knows that Mount Everest, in the Himalayas, is the highest point above sea level in the world but how high is it?

In 1953, on the Coronation Day of Queen Elizabeth II in the UK, two men, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, became the first men to reach the summit of the mountain. Newspapers at that time reported that the men had climbed 29,002 ft. This was the agreed height of the mountain in 1953. The mountain had remained at this height since it was first measured in the 1850s by the British Surveyor-General in India, Sir Andrew Waugh. It was this man who gave the mountain the name Mount Everest. It was named after Sir George Everest who had been the British Surveyor-General in India before Sir Andrew Waugh.

Sir George Everest and Sir Andrew Waugh worked together on a project called the Great Arc. The Great Arc Project had been started by Colonel William Lambton in 1802. He was a surveyor and mathematician. His aim was to measure the length of India, from Madras in the South to the Himalayas in the North, so that the position of important places in India could be established. The work was carried out using a chain made up of 40 bars. Each bar was two and a half feet long. The men also used a machine called a theodolite. This was used to map vertical and horizontal lines. In the 1800s, at the time of the project, there were only two such machines in the world. The one used on the project in India was as big as a tractor and weighed half a tonne. It took sixteen men at a time to carry the machine from Madras to the Himalayas. It was in 1841, using this basic equipment, Sir George Everest officially recorded the location of Mount Everest and called it Peak XV. In 1852, Sir Andrew Waugh calculated the height of Peak XV to be 29,002 ft and it became recognised as the highest mountain in the world. Before this time, a mountain peak called Chimborazo in South America was considered to be the highest mountain.

In 1954 an Indian survey team re-measured the mountain. This team went nearer the mountain and with more modern equipment, Everest was declared to be 29,028 ft.

For 45 years this became the agreed height of Mount Everest but an American expedition placed a Global Positioning System on the summit of the mountain and declared that the mountain was actually 29,035ft. Up to now, this has remained the agreed height.

Yet again, the mountain is on the move. The Chinese are now claiming that due to global warming the mountain is now four feet smaller than it was when it was measured by the Americans.

No matter how big it really is, Mount Everest's height will always change. Although global warming may be shrinking the mountain, the movement of the earth is forcing the Himalayas upwards and it is calculated to grow by about a centimetre every year.

1. The mountain was named by
 - a. Queen Elizabeth II.
 - b. Edmund Hillary.
 - c. Sir Andrew Waugh.
 - d. Sir George Everest.
2. The mountain was named after
 - a. Queen Elizabeth II.
 - b. a British Surveyor-General.
 - c. Colonel Lambton.
 - d. Sir Andrew Waugh.
3. What did Colonel Lambton want to do?
 - a. Find places in India.
 - b. Measure Mount Everest.
 - c. Measure India from North to South.
 - d. Measure India from South to North.
4. How long was the measuring chain?
 - a. 40 ft long.
 - b. 100 ft long.
 - c. 2 ½ ft long.
 - d. 80 ft long.
5. A theodolite was
 - a. difficult to transport.
 - b. a tractor.
 - c. in use all over the world.
 - d. easy to move.
6. Peak XV was
 - a. near Mount Everest.
 - b. in the Himalayas.
 - c. in South America.
 - d. another name for Chimborazo.
7. Chimborazo is
 - a. higher than Mount Everest.
 - b. smaller than Mount Everest.
 - c. the same height as Mount Everest.
 - d. near Mount Everest.
8. In which year was Mount Everest declared to be 29,002 ft?
 - a. 1852.
 - b. 1999.
 - c. 1945.
 - d. 2003.
9. How high do the Chinese claim Mount Everest is now?
 - a. 29,002 ft.
 - b. 29,035 ft.
 - c. 29,031 ft.
 - d. 29,004 ft.
10. Mount Everest may be getting smaller because
 - a. of the movement of the earth.
 - b. of the Global Positioning System.
 - c. it was measured by the Chinese.
 - d. of global warming.

READING COMPREHENSION TEST – SAMPLE ANSWER SHEET

NAME: _____

BIB NO: _____

	a	b	c	d
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

ANSWERS

1. C
2. B
3. D
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. A
9. C
10. D