

# English Language test

This extract is from the opening of a story, *The Princess and the Pea*.

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Once upon a time there was a prince who wanted to marry a princess; but she would have to be a *real* princess. He travelled all over the world to find one, but there was always something wrong. There were princesses enough, but he found it difficult to make out whether they were *real* ones. There was always something about them that was not quite right. So he came home again and was sad, for he would have liked very much to have a real princess.

One evening a terrible storm came on; there was thunder and lightning, and the rain poured from the sky in sheets. Everywhere the world was wet: the roads were like rivers. An angry wind shook the windows. It was truly dreadful!

Suddenly a knocking was heard at the city gate, and the old king himself went to open it.

It was a princess standing out there in front of the gate. But, good gracious! what a sight she was after all the rain and the dreadful weather! The water ran down from her hair and clothes; it ran down into the toes of her shoes and out again at the heels.

And yet she said that she was a real princess.

'Well, we'll soon find that out,' thought the old queen.

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1. a) What had the prince done to find a princess? [1]  
b) Why was the prince left sad? [1]  
c) Where was the knocking sound heard? [1]  
d) Why wasn't the king sure that this was a real princess? [1]
  
2. How does the writer use language here to describe the effects of the weather? [8]  
You could include the writer's choice of:
  - words and phrases
  - language features and techniques
  - sentence forms.
  
3. You now need to think about the whole of the Source. [8]  
This text is from the opening of a story.  
How has the writer **structured** the text to interest you as a reader?  
You could write about:
  - what the writer focuses your attention on at the beginning
  - how and why the writer changes this focus as the Source develops
  - any other structural features that interest you.