

National Assessments  
5 -14

English language

Reading - Level C  
(Information)

RNLI

Name .....

Date.....



*Assessment is for Learning*

AssessmentID: 000 - TaskID: 000

Lifeboats are used to rescue people who are in danger at sea. They are owned by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. People shorten this name to RNLI.

The people who belong to the lifeboat crew do not work for the RNLI all the time. They have other jobs to do but they are always ready to go out in the lifeboat if someone needs help. They are called volunteers. Although the job is often dangerous and tiring, they work on the lifeboats without being paid.

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There are different kinds of lifeboats. People can get into danger even when they are quite close to land. Then an inshore lifeboat can be used to rescue them. It is small and does not need deep water to be launched. It is very fast and can speed off quickly to help someone who is trapped on the rocks.

Further out at sea a larger lifeboat may be needed. The coastguard service receives reports of ships and people that are in danger at sea and sometimes asks the RNLI to send a lifeboat to help. When they hear the signal, the crew members all leave their jobs and make their way to the lifeboat station as quickly as possible. The lifeboat station is built out over the sea where the water is deep enough to launch the big lifeboat.

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Lifeboat crews wear special clothes. The lifeboat often has to go out in stormy weather so the crew wear waterproof clothes to keep them dry. It is very important for every crew member to wear a lifejacket. If anyone falls into the sea, the lifejacket will keep them afloat until someone rescues them.

Sometimes the lifeboat can be at sea for hours looking for survivors. At other times she may be at sea in terrible storms and gales. However, no matter how exhausted the crew may be, once the lifeboat returns to station she must be rehoused, washed down and refuelled. This job must be done immediately whatever the time of day or night, so that the lifeboat is ready for action whenever the call comes.

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**Lifeboats:** an adapted extract from “People who help us – Lifeboats”  
by Alison Cooper and Diana Bentley (Wayland Publishers Ltd.)

## Section A

Look at these sentences about the passage. Decide whether each sentence is **True** or **False** or whether you **Can't Tell** from the passage. **Tick ONE box beside each sentence.**

		<b>True</b>	<b>False</b>	<b>Can't Tell</b>
1.	It can be dangerous to work on a lifeboat.			
2.	There are ten crew members on a lifeboat.			
3.	The lifeboat crew is well paid.			
4.	All the crew members are tall.			
5.	Rescuing people can often be exhausting.			
6.	The lifeboat crew owns the lifeboat.			

## Section B

Read the **second part** of the passage.

Some of the words are missing. Fill in the gaps, using **one word** or **two words** in each space. You may use words from the passage or your own words.

There are different kinds of lifeboats.

- An \_\_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub> lifeboat is used when people near the \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> are in \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub>.
- This small lifeboat is very \_\_\_\_\_<sub>4</sub> and it is easy to use because it can be \_\_\_\_\_<sub>5</sub> in \_\_\_\_\_<sub>6</sub> water.
- When a ship out at sea is in danger the RNLi will send a \_\_\_\_\_<sub>7</sub> lifeboat to \_\_\_\_\_<sub>8</sub>.
- This lifeboat is kept at the \_\_\_\_\_<sub>9</sub> which is built over deep seawater so it is easy to \_\_\_\_\_<sub>10</sub>.
- When they hear the \_\_\_\_\_<sub>11</sub>, the crew members hurry to the \_\_\_\_\_<sub>12</sub>.

## Section C

Choose the correct word or phrase to complete each sentence.

**Underline** your answer.

1. Lifeboat crews wear 

raincoats
boots
lifejackets

 to help them float.
2. Lifeboats may search for 

fish.
survivors.
lifejackets.
3. It is important that the lifeboat has plenty of 

stations.
fuel.
action.
4. The crew wear waterproof clothing to keep 

dry.
afloat.
warm.
5. The lifeboat 

often
never
always

 goes out in a bad storm.
6. When the crew return to the station they 

dry their clothes.
go to bed.
finish their duties.

## **Last Page**

This is the last page of the Assessment.

It can be discarded.