



Set C: Test 3

There are **6 questions** in this test.
Give yourself **10 minutes** to read the text and answer the questions.

Orville and Wilbur Wright were the inventors of the first successful aeroplane. This is the story of how the brothers took to the skies.

The Wright Brothers

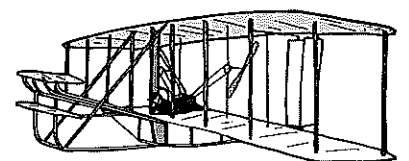
The Wright brothers had always loved building things. As children, they would repair toys and even try building their own. When they grew up, they turned their interest in mechanics into a career. In 1892, inspired by the fashion for cycling, they opened a bike shop together, where they designed and built bicycles.

A few years later, in 1896, the brothers' attention was caught by stories of men attempting to build flying machines. Adventurous inventors were trying to design gliders that would allow men to fly. However, these gliders were difficult to control, and one man even died when his glider crashed. Orville and Wilbur believed that their experience with bicycles could help them to build a safe, successful glider. They soon began spending their time testing gliders of their own.

By 1902, the brothers believed they had perfected a system of steering and controlling a glider. The next step was to add power. The mechanic from their bike shop, Charlie Taylor, helped them to build an engine for their plane. The next year, they were ready to test their flying machine.

On December 17th 1903, with some apprehension, Orville and Wilbur tested their plane for the first time. The first, exhilarating flight only lasted twelve seconds. By the end of the day, they could stay in the air for almost a minute. It does not seem impressive by today's standards, but the triumphant brothers had made the history books with their first powered flight.

Over the next few years, the Wright brothers worked on their plane. In 1908, the brothers performed in their flying machine in America and France before huge crowds. People could hardly believe their eyes. Finally, man's dream of flight had come true.



1. Find and copy one word from the second paragraph that suggests that the inventors of gliders were brave.

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1 mark

2. Who was Charlie Taylor?

.....

1 mark

3. How long did the brothers' first flight last?

.....

1 mark

4. Draw a line to match each date to the event.

1892

The Wrights are happy with the steering method of their glider.

1896

The Wrights demonstrate their plane across the world.

1902

The brothers make their first flight in a powered plane.

1903

The brothers become interested in gliders.

1908

The brothers open a bicycle shop.

1 mark

5. What does the writer think about the Wright brothers?

.....

1 mark

6. How do you think the brothers felt the first time they flew their aeroplane?

Use the text to support your answer.

You should think about:

- how they felt before the flight
- how they felt during the flight
- how they felt after the flight.

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3 marks

END OF TEST

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