

TEST A

THE OLD TOYSHOP



Did you know that before computer games, there were plastic toys with batteries... and... before that... there were toys that you had to wind up? I've still got some in my toyshop. I know they're not as thrilling as computer games, but I like them.

Monkey



This is special. It's clockwork. Yes, you wind it up with a key and it spins two balls on plates. Also, it moves

its head as if watching them. It has a metal mechanism inside, but it has a soft face made of fabric and it has a shirt, trousers and jacket as well as a hat. He's about the same age as me now. I'd never sell him. Hah! There I go again, referring to it as 'him'!

Juggling Elephant

I call this a juggling elephant, though it doesn't actually juggle. When you turn the key, the flaps at the top of its trunk spin around. At the same time, four coloured balls travel up the wire spiral on the right, slide down the little chute and fall into the round tub held by the elephant. Ingenious. don't you think? Yet, if you look underneath, you can see how a coiled spring (common to wind-ups) is tightened when wound up. Then, as it uncoils, it turns a rod concealed inside the elephant's trunk and also rotates the wire spiral.



Clown



This clown is just one example of comical characters you might

come across riding a three-wheeled bike. The clever thing about it, however, is that it doesn't just scoot off in one direction. It stops and starts and changes direction when you least expect it. Little kids are fascinated by it. Me too.

Russian Princess

What you can't see in this photograph are the tiny wheels that protrude from the bottom of this tin-plate dress. This enables it to move and spin around like a dancer, as if she had a mind of her own. She is often decorated in what looks like traditional Russian or Eastern European colours and patterns. A collector on the lookout for this sort of toy would find lots of colour variations.



I don't know what to call this car made by a boy in South Africa. He made it by collecting old food cans, flattening them and cutting them to shape to fit the parts together. It's not clockwork, but it moves and the boot and bonnet open up. Brilliant!

1. Look at the introduction in the form of Tim's speech bubble.
What is the main point he is making? **Tick one box.**

He owns a toyshop

Computer games are thrilling

There are different types of toys

1 mark

2. Which toy do you think is Tim's favourite?

1 mark

3. What do you have to do to a clockwork toy to make it move?

1 mark

4. Tim talks about two of his toys as if they were people.
Which **two**?

2 marks

5. In his description of the Juggling Elephant, Tim explains how it works. Number the different steps in the correct order.

the spring uncoils

flaps spin and balls move up wire spiral

coiled spring tightens

you wind it up

the spring turns a rod

2 marks

6. In the description of the Juggling Elephant, the word **rotates** is used. Circle a word that has a similar meaning.

bends

turns

tightens

1 mark

7. Tim mentions **two** sorts of customers who would be interested in his toys. Who are they?

2 marks

8. Compare the information about the Clown and the Russian Princess. Tim points out that you might find similar toys that look a bit different.
What differences might you come across?

Clown: _____

Russian Princess: _____

2 marks

9. More than once, Tim hints at how much he likes these toys. Write down **two** things he says that show you how he feels.

2 marks

10. Which **two** toys move in unexpected directions?

1 mark

11. Tim points out that he and the Monkey have something in common. What is it?

1 mark

12. a) What can you tell about the boy from South Africa who made the car?

1 mark

b) What makes you think that?

2 marks

13. Help Tim out by thinking of an appropriate name or title for the car.

1 mark