# Treasure Island

These questions will help you practise:

- ★ summarising main ideas
- ★ identifying and explaining how language choices enhance meaning
- ★ making inferences
- ★ identifying the sequence of events
- ★ explaining how narrative content contributes to meaning
- ★ explaining inferences.

The next morning we fell early to work, for the transportation of this great mass of gold near a mile by land to the beach, and thence three miles by boat to the *Hispaniola*, was a considerable task for so small a number of workmen. The three fellows still **abroad** upon the island did not greatly trouble us; a single sentry on the shoulder of the hill was sufficient to insure us against any sudden onslaught, and we thought, besides, they had had more than enough of fighting.

Therefore the work was pushed on briskly. Gray and Ben Gunn came and went with the boat, while the rest, during their absences, piled treasure on the beach. Two of the bars, slung in a rope's-end, made a good load for a grown man – one that he was glad to walk slowly with. For my part, as I was not much use at carrying, I was kept busy all day in the cave, packing the minted money into bread-bags.

It was a strange collection, like Billy Bones's hoard for the diversity of **coinage**, but so much larger and so much more varied that I think I never had more pleasure than in sorting them. English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, **Georges** and **Louises**, doubloons and double guineas and **moidores** and sequins, the pictures of all the kings of Europe for the last hundred years, strange Oriental pieces stamped with what looked like wisps of string or bits of spider's web, round pieces and square pieces, and pieces bored through the middle, as if to wear them round your neck – nearly every variety of money in the world must, I think, have found a place in that collection; and for number, I am sure they were like autumn leaves, so that my back ached with stooping and my fingers with sorting them out.

Robert Louis Stevenson

## Glossary

- **abroad** on the run
- **coinage** coins
- **Georges** gold coins with the head of King George
- **Louises** gold coins with the head of King Louis
- **moidores** 18th-century Portuguese gold coins

**1** Write a suitable heading for the first two paragraphs of the text.

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1 (1 mark)

**2** a) Towards the end of the text what does the writer compare the coins to?

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2a (1 mark)

b) How is this an effective way to describe the coins?

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2b (2 marks)

**3** Number the events involved in moving the gold **1** to **5** in the order in which they happen in the story.

3 (1 mark)

Treasure was put into piles. ☐

The coins were sorted out. ☐

Two men sailed the boat to the ship and back. ☐

The coins were put into bread-bags. ☐

A soldier kept watch on the hill. ☐

**4** Explain in **one** sentence what the description of the coins tells you about the origin of the coins.

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4 (1 mark)

**5** Was moving the gold an easy task?

Explain fully, referring to the text in your answer.

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5 (3 marks)

/ 9

Total for this text