

» EXAM HELPLINE

Part 2: Open cloze

- » After reading the text through quickly, read it again carefully sentence by sentence (not line by line) to get an idea of what the missing words might be.
- » Be careful of spelling, but don't worry about using capital letters.
- » Check your completed text by reading for overall sense.

OPEN CLOZE

- 1 Read the text, ignoring the gaps. Find out why the natural disaster occurred and how the emergency services managed to rescue people.
- 2 For questions 1–12, read the text again and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

EMERGENCY SERVICES WIN THROUGH

Exhausted and soaking wet, but able to joke ⁰about their ordeal, several local families were recovering at a local school last night ¹ _____ being rescued from rising flood waters by a coastguard helicopter. ² _____ was the end of a 12-hour operation to lift people ³ _____ safety, and residents were full of praise for the emergency services ⁴ _____ had rescued them. After four days of torrential rain in southern England, the River Severn finally overflowed ⁵ _____ banks, effectively cutting ⁶ _____ any means of escape. Some residents scarcely had time to climb onto their rooftops to get away from the water swirling around the ground floors of their homes.

They could do little else ⁷ _____ wait for the emergency services to arrive. One by ⁸ _____, people were lifted into a helicopter overhead. The rescue attempt was made even ⁹ _____ dangerous by strong winds. The area around Tewkesbury is well-known for flooding ¹⁰ _____ it is low-lying, but the floods were much worse than forecasters had predicted. The problem now will be ¹¹ _____ to house local residents while the damage is being assessed. Some residents may have to live in caravans ¹² _____ they have their houses repaired and redecorated. It may be some time before they are able to return to them.

