# Teacher's Key

**Hogwarts Houses and Personality: What Does Science Say?** (Level B1)

## Vocabulary Matching

1 belong = **N**
2 fictional = **A**
3 brave = **H**
4 loyal = **L**
5 curious = **G**
6 ambitious = **M**
7 trait = **I**
8 slightly = **E**
9 pattern = **D**
10 accurate = **O**
11 vague = **J**
12 random = **K**
13 treat = **B**
14 tradition = **C**
15 compete = **F**

## Fill in the Blank

1 belong
2 fictional
3 brave
4 loyal
5 curious
6 ambitious
7 trait
8 slightly
9 accurate
10 vague
11 random
12 treat
13 tradition
14 compete

## True or False

1 **True.** The hat listens to him.
2 **False.** It has sold more than 600 million copies.
3 **True.** It has ten questions.
4 **True.** Then they gave the fans personality tests.
5 **False.** They were only slightly more outgoing.
6 **False.** For them, most of the links disappeared.
7 **True.** They gave it an average score of 4.26 out of 5.
8 **False.** Every student got the same text.
9 **False.** The groups were random.
10 **True.** A school in New Zealand names its houses after local trees.

## Language Focus: Comparative Adjectives and Adverbs

Example answer: A lion is **much braver than** a mouse. A real personality test is **more accurate than** a fun quiz.

## Comprehension Questions: Model Answers

**1** It looks inside each new student's mind and chooses one of the four houses for the student.

**2** He asks the hat not to put him in Slytherin, and the hat listens to him.

**3** Gryffindor is known for bravery, Hufflepuff for hard work and loyalty, Ravenclaw for being clever and curious, and Slytherin for ambition and getting what it wants.

**4** They asked 236 fans for their quiz results, and then they gave the fans standard personality tests.

**5** Hufflepuffs were friendlier and more helpful, Ravenclaws enjoyed hard thinking more, and Slytherins scored higher on selfish traits. The Gryffindor result was weak: Gryffindors were only slightly more outgoing, and there was no test for bravery.

**6** For the 578 readers, the quiz matched some traits. For the 99 people who had not read the books, most of the links disappeared.

**7** He gave every student the same description, mostly taken from a book about star signs, and the students still rated it 4.26 out of 5. It showed that people believe vague descriptions that could fit almost anyone.

**8** They gave more reward points to boys in their own group, even though they did not know who was in it.

**9** In real schools, students usually join a house when they start school. No hat or personality test chooses the house. At Hogwarts, the Sorting Hat looks inside the student's mind and chooses.

**10** False. For the 578 readers the quiz matched some traits, but for the 99 non-readers most of the links disappeared.

**11** No. The writer says the quiz can be fun, but it is not a real personality test.

**12** To explain why quiz results can feel accurate even when they are not: people believe vague descriptions that could describe almost anyone.

## Notes on the Evidence

- Sources checked (September 2026). Scholastic press materials (February 2023 release and press kit): more than 600 million copies, 85 languages. Crysel, Cook, Schember, and Webster (2015), Personality and Individual Differences, read through the Stetson University release, Mental Floss (236 participants), and the BPS Research Digest: Hufflepuffs more agreeable, Ravenclaws higher need for cognition, Slytherins higher on the Dark Triad, Gryffindors only marginally more extraverted; no bravery measure was available. Jakob, Garcia-Garzon, Jarke, and Dablander (2019), Collabra: Psychology, abstract only: similar results, small effect sizes, and the effect vanished for people who wanted a house but were not sorted into it. Baran, Flakus, and Stefanek (2025), PLOS One, read through the PsyPost report (February 6, 2026) and the abstract: 677 Polish-speaking adults, 578 readers and 99 non-readers; the ten-question quiz; links largely absent among non-readers. Forer (1949), Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology, from secondary sources: 39 students, same sketch mostly from an astrology book, mean rating 4.26 on a 0 to 5 scale. Tajfel (1970) and Tajfel, Billig, Bundy, and Flament (1971), from textbook summaries: Bristol schoolboys aged 14 and 15, groups said to be based on Klee or Kandinsky preferences but actually random.
- Details and limits. 'Friendlier and more helpful' simplifies agreeableness; 'thinking only about themselves and using other people' simplifies narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy, and the psychopathy label is not used, given the Elementary age group. The Jakob team is described as 'a team in Europe' because the authors come from several institutions; the sample size was not checked. Tajfel's studies are reported with different group sizes (48 or 64 boys) in secondary sources, so no number is given. The Forer experiment took place in 1948 and was published in 1949. School examples: a New Zealand school (native tree names) and a New South Wales school (Darug language names), from school websites; the claim that houses help belonging is attributed to schools, not to research. The reading's closing question is not answered by any source found.
- Revision (September 2026). Rebuilt from a fan guide to the four houses into a reading on what research says about the Sorting Hat quiz, the Forer effect, and minimal groups. Corrections: sales raised from 'more than 500 million' to 'more than 600 million' (Scholastic); the old True/False/Not Given item on whether the hat always decides quickly was keyed Not Given, but the reading answered it (False); the Language Focus called a non-defining clause ('which is another word for snake') and a non-relative sentence defining relative clauses; the IELTS set lacked the Yes/No/Not Given and author's-purpose items. The quiz warning, previously an unsupported statement, is now backed by named studies. Vocabulary dropped: founder, argue, values, qualities, symbol, ghost, award, similar. Added: trait, slightly, pattern, accurate, vague, random, treat, tradition. Language Focus changed to comparatives. Arabic for curious changed from a word that can mean nosy. Age group and scope: Elementary; the unit does not discuss the author's public statements. Harry Potter names and marks belong to their owners; the unit is not official. The Hindi and Arabic translations have not been checked by a native speaker.