



ELITE BRITISH ADMISSIONS

The Complete Guide to 11+ Entrance Exams

Sample Paper

AGE GROUP	Age 10–11 (Year 6)
ENTRY	Year 7 at grammar schools and leading independent schools
DURATION	Approx. 2.5–3 hours total (varies by board)
FORMAT	Multiple choice + Written tasks
SECTIONS	5 — English Comprehension · Creative Writing · Mathematics · Verbal Reasoning · Non-Verbal Reasoning

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Instructions & Paper Overview

- This sample paper covers all five sections typically found in an 11+ entrance examination.
- For multiple choice questions, choose the **one best answer** from the options given.
- For written tasks, write your answer clearly in the space provided.
- Work carefully and manage your time across all sections.
- The 11+ is set by GL Assessment, CEM, or individual schools — this paper reflects the most common combined format.

SECTION	SUBJECT	QUESTIONS	TIME
1	English Comprehension	10 questions (A–E)	30 min
2	English: Creative Writing	1 written task	25 min
3	Mathematics	12 questions (A–D)	40 min
4	Verbal Reasoning	10 questions (A–D)	25 min
5	Non-Verbal Reasoning	8 questions (A–D)	20 min

Section 1 — English Comprehension 10 questions · 30 minutes

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions. Choose the one best answer (A–E) for each question.

The Last Lighthouse Keeper

An original passage for practice purposes

- 1 Old Thomas had kept the lighthouse for forty years. Every evening, without fail, he climbed the
 2 one hundred and twelve steps to the lamp room, polished the great lens until it gleamed like a
 3 captured star, and lit the flame that would guide ships safely past the treacherous rocks below.
 4 The sea was his companion, his adversary, and his oldest friend. He knew its moods as well as
 5 he knew his own. On calm days, it lay flat and silver, like a mirror left out in the sun. On stormy
 6 nights, it roared and threw itself against the base of the lighthouse as if trying to reclaim the
 7 tower for itself. Thomas never feared it. He respected it, which was, he believed, the wiser choice.
 8 The letter had arrived three weeks ago. The lighthouse was to be automated. A machine would
 9 replace him. He had read the words twice, then folded the letter neatly and placed it under his
 10 coffee mug, as if the weight of the cup might somehow press the news out of existence. But the
 11 words remained, and so did the date: the fifteenth of October, his last day. He did not feel angry.
 12 He felt something quieter and more difficult to name, a kind of grief for a life that had been
 13 perfectly shaped to fit him, and which was now being taken away. On his final evening, he climbed
 14 the steps one last time. His hand trailed along the curved wall, feeling every crack and groove
 15 he had memorised over decades. At the top, he lit the lamp for the last time, and stood watching
 16 the beam sweep out across the dark water. Somewhere out there, a ship was passing safely.
 17 That was enough. That had always been enough.

1. How long had Thomas been the lighthouse keeper?**A** Twenty years**B** Thirty years**C** Forty years**D** Fifty years**E** The text does not say**2. Why did Thomas place the letter under his coffee mug?****A** To keep it safe**B** To hide it from visitors**C** As if to deny the news**D** He had no desk**E** He planned to reply to it

3. What does the phrase “his adversary” (line 4) suggest about Thomas’s relationship with the sea?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| A He hated the sea. | B The sea was sometimes his enemy. | C He was afraid of the sea. |
| D The sea was always calm. | E He had never seen a storm. | |

4. “Like a mirror left out in the sun” (line 5) is an example of:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| A Metaphor | B Personification | C Simile |
| D Alliteration | E Onomatopoeia | |

5. What was the date of Thomas’s last day?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A The first of October | B The fifteenth of September | C The fifteenth of October |
| D Three weeks from the letter | E The text does not say | |

6. How did Thomas feel when he received the letter?

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A Angry and resentful | B Relieved and happy | C A quiet, unnamed grief |
| D Confused and frightened | E Excited about retirement | |

7. What does the word “treacherous” (line 3) most nearly mean?

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| A Beautiful | B Distant | C Dangerous |
| D Familiar | E Enormous | |

8. Why did Thomas “respect” the sea rather than fear it?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| A He was too old to be afraid. | B He believed respect was wiser than fear. | C He had never seen a dangerous storm. |
| D The sea was always calm near the lighthouse. | E He had a machine to protect him. | |

9. “A life that had been perfectly shaped to fit him” (lines 12–13) suggests that Thomas:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| A Had chosen the wrong career. | B Found his work deeply meaningful. | C Was too old to change jobs. |
| D Had no other skills. | E Disliked working alone. | |

10. What is the main theme of this passage?

A The danger of the sea

B The importance of technology

C Duty, loss, and quiet dignity

D The beauty of lighthouses

E The unfairness of retirement

Section 3 — Mathematics 12 questions · 40 minutes

Choose the one correct answer (A–D) for each question. No calculator permitted.

1. What is 15% of 240?

A 24

B 36

C 48

D 30

2. A shirt costs £24. In a sale it is reduced by 25%. What is the sale price?

A £6

B £16

C £18

D £20

3. Simplify the fraction $36/48$.

A $2/3$

B $3/4$

C $4/5$

D $5/6$

4. What is $2/5 + 3/4$? Give your answer as a fraction in its simplest form.

A $5/9$

B $23/20$

C $1/2$

D $5/20$

5. A rectangle has a length of 12 cm and a width of 7 cm. What is its area?

A 38 cm^2

B 76 cm^2

C 84 cm^2

D 19 cm^2

6. A triangle has a base of 10 cm and a height of 6 cm. What is its area?

A 60 cm^2

B 16 cm^2

C 30 cm^2

D 20 cm^2

7. What is the next term in the sequence: 2, 6, 18, 54, ___?

A 108

B 162

C 72

D 216

8. What is the n th term of the sequence: 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, ...?

A $3n + 2$

B $2n + 3$

C $3n + 5$

D $n + 4$

9. Solve for x : $4x - 7 = 17$.

A $x = 4$

B $x = 5$

C $x = 6$

D $x = 10$

10. Solve for y : $3(y + 4) = 27$.

A $y = 5$

B $y = 7$

C $y = 9$

D $y = 11$

11. A bag contains 5 red, 3 blue, and 2 green marbles. What is the probability of picking a blue marble at random?

A $1/5$

B $3/10$

C $1/3$

D $3/7$

12. A pie chart shows: 40% cats, 30% dogs, 20% rabbits, 10% other. In a survey of 200 people, how many chose dogs?

A 30

B 40

C 60

D 80

Section 4 — Verbal Reasoning 10 questions · 25 minutes

Choose the one best answer (A–D) for each question.

1. FAST is to SLOW as LIGHT is to:

A Bright

B Dark

C Lamp

D Sun

2. TEACHER is to SCHOOL as SURGEON is to:

A Scalpel

B Medicine

C Hospital

D Patient

3. Find the next letters in the sequence: AC, CE, EG, GI, ____

A HJ

B IJ

C IK

D JK

4. Find the next letters: ZA, YB, XC, WD, ____

A VE

B VF

C UE

D UF

5. If RAIN is coded as SBJO, how is SNOW coded?

A TOPX

B TNPX

C TOPW

D TNPW

6. If CLOUD is coded as DMQVE, how is STORM coded?

A TUPSO

B TUPSN

C TVQSO

D TVQSN

7. Find the hidden 4-letter word: "The stamp is on the parcel."

A TAMP

B AMPS

C STAMP

D ISLE

8. Find the hidden 3-letter animal: "The map is on the table."

A APE

B CAT

C RAT

D EWE

9. Which word can be added to the end of 'OVER' and the start of 'BOARD' to make two new words?

A CARD

B SEAS

C LOOK

D COME

10. Which word can follow 'RAIN' and precede 'FALL'?

A COAT

B BOW

C DROP

D WATER

Section 5 — Non-Verbal Reasoning 8 questions · 20 minutes

Look at each pattern or sequence carefully and choose the one best answer (A–D).

1. A sequence shows: 1 black square, 2 black squares, 3 black squares, 4 black squares. What comes next?

A 4 white squares

B 5 black squares

C 5 white squares

D 6 black squares

2. A sequence shows shapes: large circle, large circle with one line through it, large circle with two lines through it. What comes next?

A Large circle with two lines

B Small circle with three lines

C Large circle with three lines

D Large square with three lines

3. In a 2×2 matrix: Top-left = white circle, Top-right = black circle, Bottom-left = white square. What is Bottom-right?

A White circle

B White square

C Black square

D Black circle

4. In a 3×3 matrix, each row contains a small, medium, and large shape. Row 3 has: medium triangle, large triangle, _____. What is missing?

A Large triangle

B Medium triangle

C Small triangle

D Small circle

5. Which shape is the odd one out? Equilateral triangle, Isosceles triangle, Right-angled triangle, Square

A Equilateral triangle

B Isosceles triangle

C Right-angled triangle

D Square

6. A shape is reflected in a horizontal mirror line. Which statement is true?

A The shape is rotated 90° .

B The top and bottom are swapped.

C The left and right are swapped.

D The shape becomes smaller.

7. A square piece of paper is folded in half horizontally, then folded in half again vertically. Two holes are punched in the centre. How many holes appear when fully unfolded?

A 2

B 4

C 6

D 8

8. A cube net has 6 squares. Face A is at the top of a vertical column of 4. Face B is to the right of the second square in the column. Which face is opposite Face A?

A The second square in the column

B Face B

C The bottom square in the column

D The third square in the column

— END OF QUESTIONS —

Answer Key

Sections 1, 3, 4 & 5

SECTION 1 — ENGLISH COMPREHENSION

Q1 C	Q2 C	Q3 B	Q4 C	Q5 C
Q6 C	Q7 C	Q8 B	Q9 B	Q10 C

SECTION 3 — MATHEMATICS

Q1 B	Q2 C	Q3 B	Q4 B	Q5 C
Q6 C	Q7 B	Q8 A	Q9 C	Q10 A
Q11 B	Q12 C			

SECTION 4 — VERBAL REASONING

Q1 B	Q2 C	Q3 C	Q4 A	Q5 A
Q6 A	Q7 A	Q8 A	Q9 B	Q10 C

SECTION 5 — NON-VERBAL REASONING

Q1 B	Q2 C	Q3 C	Q4 C	Q5 D
Q6 B	Q7 D	Q8 C		

Section 2 (Creative Writing) is assessed holistically on vocabulary, structure, imagination, and written expression.