



ELITE BRITISH ADMISSIONS

# The Complete Guide to 16+ Entry

*Sample Paper*

<b>AGE GROUP</b>	Age 15–16 (Year 11)
<b>ENTRY</b>	Year 12 / Sixth Form at leading independent schools
<b>DURATION</b>	Approx. 4 hours (varies by school)
<b>FORMAT</b>	Written essays + Multiple choice + Reasoning
<b>SECTIONS</b>	4 — English Literary Analysis · Mathematics · Critical Thinking · Extended Writing

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## Instructions & Paper Overview

- This sample paper covers all four sections typically found in a 16+ entrance examination.
- For multiple choice questions, choose the **one best answer** from the options given.
- For extended writing tasks, write structured, well-argued responses in the space provided.
- Work carefully and manage your time. The extended writing section carries the most marks.

SECTION	SUBJECT	QUESTIONS	TIME
1	English: Unseen Literary Analysis	10 questions (A–E)	45 min
2	Mathematics (GCSE to A-Level bridge)	12 questions (A–D)	60 min
3	Critical Thinking & Reasoning	10 questions (A–D)	30 min
4	Extended Writing	1 essay task	45 min

**Section 1 — English: Unseen Literary Analysis** 10 questions · 45 minutes

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions. Choose the one best answer (A–E) for each question. Focus on language, structure, and effect.

**The Return**

*An original passage for practice purposes*

1 The iron gate groaned, a sound she hadn't heard in fifteen years, yet it resonated in the hollow of her chest  
2 as if it were the ticking of a clock she'd never managed to wind. Clara stepped onto the gravel path,  
3 her heels crunching with a startling finality. The house stood before her, a silent sentinel draped in ivy  
4 that looked more like a shroud than a decoration. It was smaller than she remembered, the grand  
5 oak doors now appearing weathered and weary, as if the weight of the memories within had caused  
6 the very timber to sag. A single lace curtain fluttered in an upstairs window, a ghostly movement in  
7 the stagnant afternoon air. She wondered if the dust still danced in the shafts of light that used to  
8 pierce the library at noon, or if the shadows had finally claimed every corner. The scent of damp  
9 earth and rotting leaves rose to meet her, a familiar perfume of neglect. Every step forward felt like  
10 wading through thick water, the air heavy with the unsaid words of a thousand childhood arguments.  
11 She reached for the brass knocker, her fingers trembling. It was cold, biting into her skin with a  
12 sharp, metallic indifference. Behind the door, she could almost hear the echo of her father's footsteps,  
13 rhythmic and certain, though she knew the hallway was empty. The silence of the house was not  
14 a void; it was a presence, a thick, velvet pressure that demanded recognition. She took a breath,  
15 the air tasting of copper and old paper. This was the place that had shaped her, the crucible of  
16 her earliest joys and deepest shames. To return was to confront the girl she had been, a ghost  
17 more real than the one she imagined behind the curtain. She hesitated, the key in her handbag  
18 suddenly feeling like a leaden weight. Was some doors better left closed? The sun dipped below  
19 the treeline, casting long, skeletal shadows across the porch. The house seemed to lean toward  
20 her, an ancient relative waiting for a long-overdue apology. She turned the handle. The click  
21 was small, but in the stillness of the garden, it sounded like a gunshot. The darkness of the  
22 interior spilled out, cool and smelling of lavender and cedarwood. She crossed the threshold,  
23 and for a moment, the fifteen years vanished, replaced by the overwhelming sensation of being  
24 home. But home was a word that had lost its meaning, a vessel that had been shattered and  
25 glued back together, the cracks showing in the dim light of the foyer.

1. What does the description of the iron gate in line 1 suggest about Clara’s return?

- |  |                                       |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>A</b> She is physically exhausted.      | <b>B</b> The house is welcoming.      | <b>C</b> Her return is emotionally heavy. |
| <b>D</b> The gate is broken beyond repair. | <b>E</b> She has forgotten the sound. |   |

2. The phrase “a silent sentinel draped in ivy” (line 3) primarily serves to:

- |   |  |                                      |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <b>A</b> Describe the beauty of the garden. | <b>B</b> Characterize the house as watchful. | <b>C</b> Show the house is in ruins. |
| <b>D</b> Suggest the house is hidden.       | <b>E</b> Emphasize the age of the plants.    |                                      |

3. In line 4, the ivy is compared to a “shroud.” What is the effect of this metaphor?

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>A</b> It suggests the house is a place of death. | <b>B</b> It implies the house is cold.        | <b>C</b> It indicates the house is being protected. |
| <b>D</b> It shows the house is very old.            | <b>E</b> It highlights the colour of the ivy. |   |

4. What is the primary tone established in lines 8–10?

- |                               |                                 |                                      |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>A</b> Nostalgic and warm.  | <b>B</b> Bitter and aggressive. | <b>C</b> Melancholic and oppressive. |
| <b>D</b> Curious and excited. | <b>E</b> Indifferent and bored. |                                      |

5. The “thick, velvet pressure” (line 14) suggests that the silence is:

- |                                 |                                   |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>A</b> Soft and comforting.   | <b>B</b> Expensive and luxurious. | <b>C</b> Tangible and overwhelming. |
| <b>D</b> Artificial and forced. | <b>E</b> Temporary and fleeting.  |                                     |

6. Clara’s reaction to the brass knocker (lines 11–12) suggests:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>A</b> She is surprised by its temperature.  | <b>B</b> She is eager to enter.           | <b>C</b> It is a symbol of her wealth. |
| <b>D</b> The house is hostile to her presence. | <b>E</b> She has forgotten how to use it. |  |

**7. What is the significance of the “crucible” in line 15?**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>A</b> It refers to a literal object in the house. | <b>B</b> It suggests the house was a place of testing. | <b>C</b> It implies the house was a place of safety. |
| <b>D</b> It indicates her interest in science.       | <b>E</b> It shows she is a religious person.           |  |

**8. The comparison of the click to a “gunshot” (line 21) emphasizes:**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>A</b> The violence of her childhood. | <b>B</b> The loudness of the mechanism.  | <b>C</b> The irreversible nature of her entry. |
| <b>D</b> Her fear of intruders.         | <b>E</b> The poor condition of the lock. |  |

**9. In the final paragraph, “home” is described as a “shattered” vessel. This suggests:**

- |                                     |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>A</b> The family has moved away. | <b>B</b> The physical structure is falling down. | <b>C</b> The emotional foundation is broken. |
| <b>D</b> She is in the wrong house. | <b>E</b> Everything is exactly as she left it.   |  |

**10. The overall structure of the passage moves from:**

- |                                |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>A</b> Action to reflection. | <b>B</b> External observation to internal realization. | <b>C</b> Past memory to present reality. |
| <b>D</b> Hope to despair.      | <b>E</b> Mystery to resolution.                        |  |

**Section 2 — Mathematics** 12 questions · 60 minutes

Choose the one correct answer (A–D) for each question. A calculator is permitted for questions 7–12 only.

1. Solve the quadratic equation by factorising:  $x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0$ .

**A**  $x = 2, x = 3$

**B**  $x = -2, x = -3$

**C**  $x = 1, x = 6$

**D**  $x = -1, x = -6$

2. Factorise and solve:  $2x^2 + 7x + 3 = 0$ .

**A**  $x = -3, x = -0.5$

**B**  $x = 3, x = 0.5$

**C**  $x = -1, x = -6$

**D**  $x = 1, x = 6$

3. Solve the simultaneous equations:  $3x + 2y = 13$  and  $x - y = 1$ .

**A**  $x = 3, y = 2$

**B**  $x = 2, y = 3$

**C**  $x = 4, y = 0.5$

**D**  $x = 5, y = -1$

4. Solve:  $5x - 2y = 11$  and  $2x + 3y = 12$ .

**A**  $x = 3, y = 2$

**B**  $x = 2, y = 3$

**C**  $x = 1, y = -3$

**D**  $x = 4, y = 1$

5. In a right-angled triangle, the hypotenuse is 10 cm and one angle is  $30^\circ$ . Find the length of the opposite side.

**A** 5 cm

**B** 8.66 cm

**C** 7.07 cm

**D** 5.77 cm

6. Find the angle  $\theta$  if  $\sin(\theta) = 0.8$  and  $\theta$  is obtuse.

**A**  $53.1^\circ$

**B**  $126.9^\circ$

**C**  $143.1^\circ$

**D**  $36.9^\circ$

7. A bag contains 3 red balls and 7 blue balls. Two balls are picked without replacement. What is the probability both are red?

A  $9/100$

B  $6/90$

C  $3/45$

D  $1/15$

8. Two fair dice are rolled. What is the probability that the sum of the numbers is 10?

A  $1/12$

B  $1/6$

C  $3/36$

D  $5/36$

9. In a circle, a chord AB subtends an angle of  $40^\circ$  at the circumference. What is the angle subtended by the same chord at the centre?

A  $20^\circ$

B  $40^\circ$

C  $80^\circ$

D  $140^\circ$

10. A cyclic quadrilateral has one interior angle of  $75^\circ$ . What is the size of the opposite interior angle?

A  $75^\circ$

B  $105^\circ$

C  $15^\circ$

D  $285^\circ$

11. Find the derivative  $dy/dx$  of the function  $y = 3x^3 - 5x^2 + 2x - 7$ .

A  $9x^2 - 10x + 2$

B  $3x^2 - 5x + 2$

C  $9x^3 - 10x^2 + 2x$

D  $6x^2 - 10x + 2$

12. Evaluate the definite integral of  $(2x + 3)$  with respect to  $x$  from  $x = 1$  to  $x = 3$ .

A 10

B 14

C 12

D 16

**Section 3 — Critical Thinking & Reasoning** 10 questions · 30 minutes

Choose the one best answer (A–D) for each question. These questions test logical reasoning, argument analysis, and data interpretation.

1. All cats are mammals. Some mammals are nocturnal. Therefore, some cats are nocturnal. This argument is:

A Logically valid

B Logically invalid

C Factually true but invalid

D Factually false but valid

2. “If it rains, the ground gets wet. The ground is wet. Therefore, it rained.” This is an example of:

A Modus Ponens

B Modus Tollens

C Affirming the consequent

D Denying the antecedent

3. “We should not listen to the Mayor’s plan for the new park because he was once caught speeding.” This is which logical fallacy?

A Straw man

B Ad hominem

C Slippery slope

D Red herring

4. Identify the hidden assumption: “The company’s profits will increase because they have just hired a new CEO.”

A The new CEO is more experienced than the old one.

B A new CEO is sufficient to cause a profit increase.

C The company was previously failing.

D Profits are the only measure of success.

5. Which of the following, if true, most weakens the argument that “strict dress codes improve student grades”?

A Students dislike wearing uniforms.

B Schools with dress codes also have more funding.

C Uniforms are expensive for parents.

D Some high-performing schools have no dress code.

6. “Every time I wear my lucky socks, my team wins. Therefore, my socks cause the team to win.” This is:

A Correlation implying causation

B Hasty generalisation

C Circular reasoning

D Appeal to authority

7. A table shows sales: Jan (£10k), Feb (£12k), Mar (£15k). What is the percentage increase from Jan to Mar?

A 50%

B 33.3%

C 5%

D 150%

8. If the total sales for the quarter were £37k, what percentage of the total occurred in February?

A 25%

B 32.4%

C 40.5%

D 27.1%

9. A cube is rotated  $90^\circ$  clockwise around its vertical axis, then  $180^\circ$  around its horizontal axis. If the front face was originally ‘A’, where is ‘A’ now?

A Top

B Back

C Bottom

D Left

10. A net of a cube consists of a central row of 4 squares and one square on either side of the second square. Which face is opposite the first square in the row?

A The second square

B The third square

C The fourth square

D The side square



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**— END OF QUESTIONS —**

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# Answer Key

Sections 1, 2 &amp; 3

## SECTION 1 — ENGLISH LITERARY ANALYSIS

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

## SECTION 2 — MATHEMATICS

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

## SECTION 3 — CRITICAL THINKING & REASONING

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

Section 4 (Extended Writing) is assessed holistically on argument quality, use of evidence, counterargument handling, and written expression.