



ELITE BRITISH ADMISSIONS

The Complete Guide to 8+ Entrance Exams

Sample Paper

AGE GROUP	Age 7–8 (Year 3)
ENTRY	Year 4 at leading independent schools
DURATION	Approx. 2.5 hours (varies by school)
FORMAT	Written tasks + Multiple choice
SECTIONS	6 — English Comprehension · Creative Writing · Dictation · Mathematics · Verbal Reasoning · Non-Verbal Reasoning

**Is your child ready for 8+ entry?
Let our specialists guarantee their place.**

98% Pass Rate · 500+ Students Helped · 90+ Schools · ★★★★★

EMAIL US TODAY FOR A FREE CONSULTATION

harris@elitebritishadmissions.com

We respond within 24 hours · No obligation · Personalised advice for your child

elitebritishadmissions.com · Expert Preparation for the UK's Leading Independent Schools

Instructions & Paper Overview

- This sample paper covers all six sections typically found in an 8+ entrance exam.
- For multiple choice questions, choose the **one best answer** from the options given.
- For written tasks, write your answer clearly in the space provided.
- For the dictation, listen carefully and write exactly what you hear, including punctuation.
- Work through each section carefully. If you are unsure, move on and return to it.

SECTION	SUBJECT	QUESTIONS	TIME
1	English Comprehension	10 questions (A–E)	30 min
2	English: Creative Writing	1 written task	25 min
3	Dictation	1 passage	10 min
4	Mathematics	12 questions (A–D)	35 min
5	Verbal Reasoning	8 questions (A–D)	20 min
6	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 Cave at the End of the Beach

An original passage for practice purposes

1 The morning sun glinted off the wet pebbles as Leo scrambled along the shoreline. High above,
 2 gulls wheeled and cried, their voices lost in the rhythmic boom of the crashing surf. He had
 3 explored this beach a thousand times, but today was different. The tide had retreated further
 4 than he had ever seen, revealing a dark, jagged opening in the cliff face that was usually
 5 submerged beneath the churning grey waves. Heart pounding like a drum, Leo crept closer.
 6 The air near the opening grew cold and smelled of salt and ancient secrets. He took a deep
 7 breath, adjusted his backpack, and stepped into the gloom. Inside, the walls were slick with
 8 emerald moss, and the only sound was the steady drip-drip-drip of water from the ceiling.
 9 As his eyes adjusted, he noticed something shimmering in the far corner. It wasn't the
 10 sparkle of wet rock; it was a steady, golden glow. "Could it be?" he whispered, his voice
 11 echoing strangely in the hollow space. He moved forward, his boots crunching on sand
 12 that hadn't felt the sun in centuries. The cave seemed to stretch back forever, a silent
 13 cathedral carved by the sea. Suddenly, a shadow flickered across the wall. Leo froze.
 14 He wasn't alone. A soft, rhythmic whistling reached his ears, coming from behind a large
 15 boulder. Taking a courageous step, he peered around the edge. There, nestled in a bed
 16 of dried seaweed, lay an old wooden chest, its lid slightly ajar. The golden light was
 17 pouring from within, illuminating the dusty air like a thousand tiny stars. Leo reached out
 18 a trembling hand, his fingers brushing the cold iron lock. This was the start of an adventure
 19 he would never forget, a discovery that would change his life and the history of the
 20 small fishing village forever.

1. What revealed the opening in the cliff face?

A A heavy storm

B The tide retreating

C A rockfall

D Leo digging

E The sun's heat

2. Where was the opening usually located?

A High on the cliff

B Behind a house

C Under the water

D In the village

E Near the forest

3. What was the first thing Leo heard inside the cave?

A Gulls crying

B Crashing surf

C Drip of water

D His own voice

E Whistling

4. How does Leo feel when he gets closer to the opening?

A Bored

B Nervous and excited

C Angry

D Sleepy

E Disappointed

5. Why did the sand not feel the sun in centuries?

A It was always night

B It was deep inside the cave

C It was covered in moss

D It was under a rock

E It was magic sand

6. What does the “golden glow” suggest about the chest?

A It is empty

B It is on fire

C It contains treasure

D It is a lamp

E It is painted gold

7. What does the word “submerged” mean in line 5?

A Floating

B Hidden

C Under water

D Frozen

E Broken

8. Which word is a synonym for “courageous” in line 15?

A Careful

B Brave

C Fast

D Quiet

E Scared

9. “Heart pounding like a drum” (line 5) is an example of a:

A Simile

B Metaphor

C Personification

D Alliteration

E Onomatopoeia

10. “The cave ... a silent cathedral carved by the sea” (lines 12–13) uses which technique?

A Simile

B Personification

C Metaphor

D Rhyme

E Hyperbole

Section 4 — Mathematics 12 questions · 35 minutes

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

1. Sarah has 45 stickers. She gives 12 to Tom and then buys a pack of 20 more. How many stickers does she have now?

A 33

B 53

C 65

D 77

2. A box contains 8 red balls and 12 blue balls. If James takes out 5 balls and none are red, how many blue balls are left?

A 7

B 8

C 15

D 20

3. What is $342 + 589$?

A 831

B 921

C 931

D 1031

4. Multiply 14 by 6.

A 74

B 84

C 94

D 64

5. Which fraction is equivalent to $\frac{2}{4}$?

A $\frac{1}{3}$

B $\frac{1}{2}$

C $\frac{3}{4}$

D $\frac{2}{3}$

6. Compare $\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$. Which is true?

A $\frac{3}{8} > \frac{5}{8}$

B $\frac{3}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$

C $\frac{3}{8} < \frac{5}{8}$

D $\frac{3}{8} + \frac{5}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$

7. A rectangle has a length of 8 cm and a width of 5 cm. What is its perimeter?

A 13 cm

B 26 cm

C 40 cm

D 20 cm

8. What is the area of a square with side length 6 cm?

A 12 cm^2

B 24 cm^2

C 36 cm^2

D 48 cm^2

9. Complete the sequence: 4, 9, 14, 19, ____

A 23

B 24

C 25

D 29

10. Complete the sequence: 100, 91, 82, 73, ____

A 64

B 65

C 66

D 54

11. Find the missing number: $15 + ? = 42$

A 27

B 37

C 23

D 57

12. A bar chart shows: 5 students have dogs, 8 have cats, and 3 have rabbits. How many students have cats or rabbits?

A 8

B 11

C 13

D 16

Section 5 — Verbal Reasoning 8 questions · 20 minutes

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

1. Find the next letters in the sequence: AB, CD, EF, GH, ___

A HI

B IJ

C JK

D KL

2. Find the next letters: AZ, BY, CX, DW, ___

A EV

B EU

C FU

D FV

3. Which word can be added to the end of 'FOOT' and the start of 'BALL' to make two new words?

A STEP

B PRINT

C NOTE

D FIRE

4. Which word can follow 'SUN' and precede 'LIGHT'?

A SET

B DAY

C FLOWER

D SHINE

5. If CAT is coded as DBU, how is DOG coded?

A EPH

B FPH

C EPH

D DPH

6. If HELLO is coded as IFMMP, how is WORLD coded?

A XPSME

B VPSME

C XQSME

D YPSME

7. Find the hidden 4-letter word in: "The thick forest was dark."

A HICK

B REST

C DARK

D TICK

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

A CAT

B DOG

C RAT

D PIG

Section 6 — Non-Verbal Reasoning 8 questions · 20 minutes

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

1. A square contains one dot in the top left. The next has the dot in the top right. The third has it in the bottom right. Where is the dot in the fourth square?

A Top left

B Bottom left

C Center

D Bottom right

2. A large circle contains a small triangle. The next figure shows a large triangle containing a small circle. The third is a large square containing a small star. What is the fourth?

A Large star, small square

B Large square, small circle

C Large star, small circle

D Large circle, small star

3. A pattern shows: 1 arrow pointing Up, 2 arrows pointing Right, 3 arrows pointing Down. What is next?

A 4 arrows pointing Up

B 4 arrows pointing Left

C 3 arrows pointing Left

D 5 arrows pointing Right

4. A sequence of shapes: Triangle (3 sides), Square (4 sides), Pentagon (5 sides). What is the next shape?

A Circle

B Hexagon

C Octagon

D Rectangle

5. Which shape is the odd one out? Square, Rectangle, Diamond, Circle

A Square

B Rectangle

C Diamond

D Circle

6. Figure A is a black square. Figure B is a white square. Figure C is a black circle. What is Figure D?

A White circle

B Black triangle

C White square

D Black star

7. A grid shows: Top-left = X, Top-right = O, Bottom-left = O. What should be in the Bottom-right to complete the diagonal pattern?

A O

B X

C Triangle

D Empty

8. If a shape is folded in half and a small hole is punched in the center, how many holes will there be when it is unfolded?

A 1

B 2

C 3

D 4

— END OF QUESTIONS —

Answer Key

Sections 1, 4, 5 & 6

SECTION 1 — ENGLISH COMPREHENSION

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

SECTION 4 — MATHEMATICS

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

SECTION 5 — VERBAL REASONING

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

SECTION 6 — NON-VERBAL REASONING

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

Sections 2 (Creative Writing) and 3 (Dictation) are assessed holistically by the examiner on accuracy, vocabulary, and expression.