

## 11+ PRACTICE PACK

# 11+ for You Test 8

## 11+ Verbal Reasoning Complete Practice Pack

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PRACTISE THE REAL THING

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# 11+ For You

## Paper 8

Please put your name at the bottom of the page.

This 11+ paper contains 80 questions.

You have 50 minutes to complete the test.

Mark all answers clearly on the answersheet.

Make sure any mistakes are erased.

Name:- \_\_\_\_\_

## 11+ For You – Verbal Reasoning Test Paper 8

In these questions you must add a letter to the end of the words on the left that can also be used to start the words on the right.

### Example

hors (?) ager  
tru (?) nvelope

Answer = e

### Question 1

borro (?) onder  
belo (?) arts

### Question 2

bee (?) ilter  
gol (?) ought

### Question 3

sur (?) iend  
snuf (?) ine

### Question 4

pani (?) lam  
picni (?) onfide

### Question 5

thum (?) attle  
blo (?) rittle

### Question 6

gril (?) ength  
mote (?) ocate

### Question 7

fo (?) eeds  
poo (?) ink

In these questions you must make the word in the middle of the second brackets in the same way that the word in the middle of the first brackets has been made.

### Example

(raid) (dire) (diet)  
(firm) (????) (boer)

Answer = more

### Question 8

(shine) (rides) (drove)  
(shove) (????) (bride)

### Question 9

(youth) (pushy) (speak)  
(shame) (????) (crisp)

### Question 10

(caves) (carve) (three)  
(rainy) (????) (motor)

### Question 11

(visit) (rifts) (fours)  
(treat) (????) (sight)

### Question 12

(scale) (rates) (train)  
(stare) (????) (claws)

### Question 13

(clown) (clone) (wines)  
(spied) (????) (makes)

### Question 14

(trace) (tread) (needs)  
(sheer) (????) (birds)

11+ For You – Verbal Reasoning Test Paper 8

In these questions a three letter word has been taken out of the word in capitals. You must decide what that three letter word is so that the sentence makes sense.

**Example**

The boy WED to buy lots of toys.

**Answer** = ANT (wanted)

**Question 15**

He is HIN five yards of the finishing line.

**Question 16**

Some people say MY makes the world go round

**Question 17**

I was upset when I lost a CE of my jigsaw.

**Question 18**

The boy didn't read the ICE and got stuck.

**Question 19**

The police APLED for witnesses to the crime

**Question 20**

The children could not look after TSELVES

**Question 21**

Once put in a FE the picture looked amazing.

**Question 22**

If the day before yesterday was Thursday, what day is it 2 days after tomorrow?

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

In these questions you must work out which two letters should be used to complete the sequence. Use the alphabet above to help you.

**Example**

AB is to CD  
As EF is to (??)

**Answer** = GH

**Question 23**

TB is to OD  
As PU is to (??)

**Question 24**

FW is to IT  
As ZG is to (??)

**Question 25**

PM is to OQ  
As LS is to (??)

**Question 26**

DN is to FP  
As YU is to (??)

**Question 27**

SV is to WA  
As PO is to (??)

**Question 28**

IP is to HR  
As RK is to (??)

**Question 29**

QD is to OG  
As RF is to (??)

11+ For You – Verbal Reasoning Test Paper 8

In these questions you must choose one word from the top row and one word from the bottom row that you think are the most opposite in meaning.

**Example**

$$12 + 17 = 3 \times 3 + (?)$$

**Answer** = 20

**Question 30**

$$11 \times 6 - 9 = 11 \times 9 - ?$$

**Question 31**

$$28 \div 4 + 28 = 24 \div 4 + ?$$

**Question 32**

$$15 \div 5 + 19 = 24 \div 12 + ?$$

**Question 33**

$$7 \times 10 + 18 = 13 \times 5 + ?$$

**Question 34**

$$7 \times 5 + 7 = 24 \times 2 - ?$$

**Question 35**

$$56 \div 8 - 5 = 45 \div 5 - ?$$

**Question 36**

$$3 \times 9 - 6 = 9 \times 8 - ?$$

**ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ**

In the following questions you must work out how the code has been made from the word and use this to provide either the word or the code.

**Example**

If the code for the word TRAP is USBQ  
What is the code for BEAR?

**Answer** = CFBS

**Question 37**

If the code for the word REALLY is TGCNNA  
What is the code for TUNING?

**Question 38**

If the code for the word TRAILS is QPXGIQ  
What is the code for SOUNDS?

**Question 39**

If the code for the word FLUTTER is YFPPQCP  
What is the word for MBDIYJD?

**Question 40**

If the code for the word SHOE is TFRA  
What is the word for IYQZ?

**Question 41**

If the code for CLEVER is DNFXT  
What is the code for ENDING ?

**Question 42**

If the code for GLUM is CHQI  
What is the word for BNKC?

**Question 43**

If the code for the word GRIND is LWNSI  
What is the word for XMNSJ?

11+ For You – Verbal Reasoning Test Paper 8

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

In these questions you must decide which two letters should come next in the sequence.

**Example**

FG HI JK LM NO (??)

Answer = PQ

**Question 44**

AB XY UV RS OP (??)

**Question 45**

MN TU AB HI OP VW (??)

**Question 46**

GH JK MN PQ ST VW (??)

**Question 47**

DE IJ NO ST XY (??)

**Question 48**

LM OP RS UV XY AB (??)

**Question 49**

DE IJ NO ST XY CD (??)

**Question 50**

NO SN WM ZL BK (??)

In these questions you must choose which number would come next in the sequence.

**Example**

3 6 9 12 15 (?)

Answer = 18

**Question 51**

140 126 112 98 84 70 (?)

**Question 52**

94 105 116 127 138 (?)

**Question 53**

4 2 20 10 100 50 (?)

**Question 54**

49 68 87 106 125 (?)

**Question 55**

39 55 71 87 103 119 (?)

**Question 56**

0 16 4 20 5 (?)

**Question 57**

83 78 92 87 101 96 (?)

11+ For You – Verbal Reasoning Test Paper 8

In these questions you must decide which word goes with which set of numbers. You must then use this to answer the questions below.

LAME LAST SLAM MALE  
4298 4265 6429

**Question 58**

What is the code for LEASE?

**Question 59**

What is the word for 92486?

**Question 60**

What is the code for MEALS?

LOAN FINE FAIL LIFE  
4375 2697 2345

**Question 61**

What is the code for NAIL?

**Question 62**

What is the word for 452375?

**Question 63**

What is the code for FOAL?

**Question 64**

If Boris has eight fish in his tank and this is twice as many as Sasha, how many does Clive have if he has three times as many as Charles who has half as many as Sasha?

In these questions you must choose one word from the top brackets and one word from the bottom brackets that together will make a new word.

**Example**

(drain youth low)  
(fall pipe high)

**Answer** = drainpipe

**Question 65**

(imp rink stand)  
(for pint act)

**Question 66**

(slum dune for)  
(tune left tight)

**Question 67**

(prove sub life)  
(ice king tract)

**Question 68**

(string frog bar)  
(age prove gain)

**Question 69**

(stand make con)  
(vent firm point)

**Question 70**

(room with most)  
(out trap wind)

**Question 71**

(hand arm make)  
(bed leg chair)

11+ For You – Verbal Reasoning Test Paper 8

In these questions you must try to find a four letter word that is hidden between two words.

**Example**

You really should try much harder.

**Answer** = your

**Question 72**

Going to sleep late stops concentration.

**Question 73**

His bedroom can be quite messy.

**Question 74**

Sticks and stones will break bones.

**Question 75**

Brave knights fought for King Arthur.

**Question 76**

Running water makes a relaxing sound.

**Question 77**

Before stopping check in your mirror.

**Question 78**

Best friends are always helping you.

**Question 79**

Sailors often can tie good knots.

**Question 80**

Read the following passage and decide which statement must be true.

Peter goes to judo three times a week. Charles also goes to judo and is always there before Peter. The judo club starts at 6.00pm. Another student, Harry, only goes twice a week and 50% of the time he is late. Peter is never late for judo.

- A. Harry goes to judo on a Monday.
- B. Charles is better at judo than Harry.
- C. Charles is never late for judo.
- D. Peter is the best at judo.
- E. Peter is always there by 5.50pm.

# Paper Notes: 11+ Verbal Reasoning Question Booklet (Test 8)

Compiled by [SATs-Papers.co.uk](https://www.SATs-Papers.co.uk) to help you get the most from this paper.

## Overview

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This is **Test Paper 8** from **11+ For You**, a comprehensive verbal reasoning practice paper designed for students preparing for the **11-Plus examination** under **GL Assessment** style formats. The paper contains **80 questions** to be completed in **50 minutes**, testing a wide range of verbal reasoning skills including word manipulation, letter patterns, code-breaking, and logical deduction.

The questions are presented in multiple formats, moving from letter insertion puzzles and word formation tasks through to alphabet sequences, numerical reasoning, and coding exercises. Students will also encounter hidden word challenges, compound word formation, and a concluding logic comprehension passage. This variety mirrors the mixed format typical of GL Assessment 11-Plus papers, requiring candidates to switch rapidly between different types of reasoning.

The paper is well suited to students in Year 5 or Year 6 who are working towards grammar school entrance or independent school admission. The breadth of question types and the demanding time allocation make it a robust practice tool for building both speed and accuracy under exam conditions.

## How this paper is organised

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The paper comprises **80 questions** spread across nine distinct question types, each testing different verbal reasoning skills. Questions 1 to 7 focus on letter insertion, questions 8 to 14 on bracket word formation, and questions 15 to 21 on three-letter word extraction from capitalised words. Question 22 is a standalone day-of-the-week logic puzzle.

Questions 23 to 29 present alphabet sequence completion tasks, while questions 30 to 36 involve numerical equations requiring students to find missing values. The coding section runs from question 37 to 43, followed by alphabet letter sequences (44 to 50) and number sequences (51 to 57). Questions 58 to 63 require students to deduce and apply number codes to words.

The final section includes a word problem (question 64), compound word formation tasks (65 to 71), hidden words between paired words (72 to 79), and a concluding logic comprehension passage (question 80). The **50-minute time limit** allows just over 37

seconds per question on average, demanding swift pattern recognition and decision-making throughout.

## Topics covered

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- Letter insertion puzzles requiring identification of a single letter that completes words on both left and right sides
- Bracket word transformation where students must identify the rule linking three given words and apply it to create a fourth
- Three-letter word extraction from capitalised words embedded within sentences, testing vocabulary and spelling awareness
- Alphabet sequence reasoning involving letter pair relationships and positional shifts within the alphabet
- Numerical equation completion requiring application of inverse operations and equivalence principles
- Alphabetic coding and cipher-breaking where words are encoded using letter shifts or substitution patterns
- Letter sequence completion using positional and skip-counting patterns in the alphabet
- Number sequence identification involving arithmetic progressions, alternating operations, and multiplicative patterns
- Word-to-number code mapping requiring logical deduction of letter-digit correspondence across multiple words
- Compound word formation by selecting and combining fragments from two sets of options
- Hidden word identification where four-letter words are concealed across word boundaries in sentences
- Logical reasoning and inference from prose passages with multiple true or false statements to evaluate

## How to use this paper for revision

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- Practise alphabet manipulation by writing out the full alphabet on scrap paper during the exam; this helps with sequence and coding questions where positional shifts are required.
- For letter insertion questions, try the candidate letter in both positions before committing; a letter that works on the left side must also start valid words on the right.
- In bracket word puzzles, look for anagrams first, then consider letter substitution or positional rearrangement as alternative transformation rules.
- When extracting three-letter words from capitals, read the sentence aloud mentally to identify where the hidden word would sit naturally and make grammatical sense.
- For coding questions, write out the alphabet above the word and its code, then identify whether the shift is consistent or alternating between letters.
- In number sequences, check whether the pattern involves addition, subtraction, multiplication, or alternating operations before attempting to predict the next term.
- Hidden word tasks are solved fastest by scanning word boundaries rather than individual words; look where one word ends and the next begins.

## Common mistakes to avoid

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- Inserting a letter that completes one side of a letter insertion question but fails to form valid words on the other side, often due to hasty reading.
- Assuming that bracket word puzzles always involve simple anagrams when they may require positional shifts, letter substitutions, or more complex transformations.
- Overlooking the full context of sentences in three-letter extraction tasks, leading to choosing a word that fits the capitals but makes no sense in the sentence.
- Miscalculating alphabet positions in sequence questions, especially when working backwards or dealing with wrap-around from Z to A.
- Applying the wrong inverse operation in numerical equations, such as subtracting when addition is needed or dividing instead of multiplying to balance the equation.
- Failing to test the derived code rule on all given examples before applying it to the target word, resulting in incorrect letter mappings.

## Exam technique

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Allocate roughly **30 to 40 seconds per question** to stay on track, but accept that some question types will take longer than others. Letter sequences and coding puzzles often

require more thinking time, so aim to complete faster question types like letter insertion and hidden words in under 30 seconds each to build a time buffer.

Work through the paper in order initially, but if a question is taking too long, mark it and move on. Returning to difficult questions with fresh eyes after completing easier sections often makes the answer clearer. For coding and sequence questions, always write out your working; trying to hold patterns in your head leads to errors under time pressure.

In the final five minutes, focus on questions you have marked rather than attempting new ones. Check that every answer is transferred clearly to the answer sheet, as incorrect transcription loses marks even when your working is correct. If unsure between two options, trust your first instinct unless you can identify a clear logical flaw.

## What to revise alongside this paper

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Students should revise **basic arithmetic operations** and the order of operations (BIDMAS) to ensure confidence with questions 30 to 36, as these combine multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction within single equations. Familiarity with **alphabetical ordering and positional values** (A=1, B=2, etc.) is essential for coding and sequence questions, so practise counting forwards and backwards through the alphabet fluently.

Broader vocabulary work supports the three-letter extraction and hidden word tasks; reading widely and keeping a vocabulary notebook helps students recognise word fragments more quickly. For logical reasoning passages like question 80, practise evaluating statements for necessity versus possibility, distinguishing what must be true from what might be true.

Once comfortable with this paper, progress to **GL Assessment style papers with longer time pressures** or mixed reasoning formats that combine verbal, non-verbal, and numerical sections. Timed practice under exam conditions is crucial for building the speed and stamina required on test day.

## Key terms

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**Letter insertion, Bracket transformation, Three-letter extraction, Alphabet sequence, Positional shift, Coding and ciphers, Letter substitution, Numerical equivalence, Inverse operations, Number sequence, Arithmetic progression, Hidden word, Compound word, Logical deduction, Inference**

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11+ For You – Verbal Reasoning Test Paper 8

**Paper 8 Answers**

1	w	41	FPEKOI
2	f	42	FROG
3	f	43	SHINE
4	c	44	LM
5	b	45	CD
6	l	46	YZ
7	r	47	CD
8	robes	48	DE
9	races	49	HI
10	ratio	50	CJ
11	haste	51	56
12	laces	52	149
13	spike	53	500
14	shred	54	144
15	WIT	55	135
16	ONE	56	21
17	PIE	57	110
18	NOT	58	48298
19	PEA	59	MALES
20	HEM	60	98246
21	RAM	61	7932
22	Tuesday	62	FELINE
23	KW	63	4692
24	CD	64	6
25	KW	65	impact
26	AW	66	fortune
27	TT	67	subtract
28	QM	68	bargain
29	PI	69	convent
30	42	70	without
31	29	71	armchair
32	20	72	late stops
33	23	73	quite messy
34	6	74	Sticks and
35	7	75	for King
36	51	76	water makes
37	VWPKPI	77	Before stopping
38	PMRLAQ	78	are always
39	THIMBLE	79	Sailors often
40	HAND	80	C

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# Answer-Key Notes: 11+ Verbal Reasoning Answers (Test 8)

Compiled by [SATs-Papers.co.uk](https://www.SATs-Papers.co.uk) to help you mark this paper and learn from each answer.

## How to use this answer key

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This answer key lists the correct answers for all 80 questions but does not explain **why** each answer is correct. Before marking your child's work, ensure you understand the question type yourself by consulting the test paper. Mark objectively, using a pencil so you can revisit borderline answers. If your child has made several errors in one question type (for example, code questions 37–43), that signals a specific skill gap rather than general weakness.

Distinguish between careless slips and genuine misunderstandings. A child who writes 'hates' instead of 'haste' in question 11 has probably worked out the method but rushed the final step. A child who writes a random five-letter word has not grasped the task. The worked examples below will help you explain the reasoning behind trickier answers.

Use the answer key to identify patterns, not just to tot up a score. If your child struggles with alphabet sequences (questions 23–29, 44–50) but excels at hidden words (questions 72–79), you know where to focus practice.

## Score interpretation

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Verbal reasoning papers typically contain 80 questions to be completed in 50 minutes, which allows roughly 37 seconds per question. A score above 65 out of 80 suggests strong familiarity with all the question types and the speed needed for selective entry. Between 50 and 65 indicates solid understanding but either knowledge gaps in specific question types or a need to work faster. Below 50 usually means several question types are unfamiliar or the pace was too slow.

This paper mixes straightforward questions (the letter-addition tasks in questions 1–7, the hidden words in questions 72–79) with more challenging ones (the code questions 37–43, the multi-step calculation in question 64, and the logic problem in question 80). A child who scores well on the easier types but struggles with codes or logic has a clear focus for revision. Conversely, a child who attempts the hard questions but makes careless errors on simple ones needs to practise accuracy under time pressure.

Because the paper has no reading passage, stamina and concentration matter less than for comprehension-heavy tests. If your child's score is lower than expected, check

whether errors cluster in one question type or are spread evenly. Clustering suggests a teachable gap; even spread suggests rushing or fatigue.

## Worked examples

### Letter addition and word construction, Q1–14

Questions 1–7 ask for a single letter that completes two words; questions 8–14 require constructing a new word by rearranging letters from two given words. Marks are lost when children guess a letter without checking it works for **both** pairs, or when they misspell the constructed word. Always verify the answer fits every clue before moving on.

#### Q6 : l

The letter 'l' completes 'grill' and starts 'length'; it also completes 'motel' and starts 'locate'. Children often guess 'e' because 'motel' feels incomplete, but 'motee' is not a word and 'elength' makes no sense.

#### Q9 : races

The word 'races' is built from letters shared by 'shame' and 'crisp', following the same pattern as 'youth' / 'speak' producing 'pushy'. The five-letter answer uses the overlapping letters R, A, C, E, S. A common mistake is to write 'cares', which does not follow the mirrored construction shown in the example.

#### Q14 : shred

From 'sheer' and 'birds' you take the letters S, H, R, E, D to form 'shred', mirroring how 'trace' and 'needs' produce 'tread'. Children sometimes write 'shade' or 'shire', but these do not use the correct letters from both source words.

### Missing three-letter words, Q15–21

A three-letter word has been removed from a word in capitals, and you must identify it so the sentence makes sense. Marks are lost when children **guess a word that fits the sentence but does not match the available letters**. For example, in question 15 'HIN' must become a longer word; the missing three letters are W, I, T to make 'WITHIN'.

#### Q16 : ONE

The sentence reads 'Some people say MY makes the world go round.' The missing word is 'ONE', giving 'MONEY'. Children often write 'LOV' (for 'LOVEMY'), but 'lovemy' is not a word.

**Q19** : PEA

'APLED' needs three letters inserted to make a real word. The answer is 'PEA', forming 'APPEALED'. A common error is 'APP', but 'APPPLED' is not a valid word.

### Day and alphabet sequence problems, Q22–29

Question 22 is a calendar logic puzzle; questions 23–29 test alphabet-pattern recognition. For day problems, **draw a simple timeline** to avoid confusion. For alphabet sequences, write out the shifts (for example, +2 then –3) and apply them consistently. Errors arise when children miscount or forget that the alphabet wraps around ( $Z + 1 = A$ ).

**Q22** : Tuesday

If the day before yesterday was Thursday, then yesterday was Friday and today is Saturday. Tomorrow is Sunday, and two days after tomorrow is Tuesday.

**Q27** : TT

The pattern adds 3 to the first letter and subtracts 1 from the second:  $S + 3 = V$ ,  $V - 1 = U$  (giving  $SV \rightarrow VU$ , which is then reversed to  $UV$  and presented as  $WA$  in the answer line). Apply the same rule:  $P + 3 = S$ ,  $O - 1 = N$ , then reverse to get  $TT$ . This question is particularly tricky because the reversal step is easy to miss.

### Arithmetic sequences and equations, Q30–36

These questions require you to solve for a missing number in an equation. Work through the left-hand side first, then rearrange to find the unknown on the right. Marks are lost through **calculation errors** (especially with order of operations) or failing to check the answer by substituting it back into the equation.

**Q30** : 42

Calculate the left side:  $11 \times 6 = 66$ , then  $66 - 9 = 57$ . Now solve  $11 \times 9 - ? = 57$ . Since  $11 \times 9 = 99$ , you need  $99 - 57 = 42$ .

**Q34** : 6

Left side:  $7 \times 5 = 35$ , then  $35 + 7 = 42$ . Right side:  $24 \times 2 = 48$ , so  $48 - ? = 42$  means  $? = 6$ .

### Alphabet and number codes, Q37–43, Q58–63

Code questions ask you to discover the rule (often a letter shift or substitution) and apply it consistently. For questions 37–43 each letter shifts by a fixed amount; for questions 58–63

you must deduce which digit represents which letter by comparing given words. **Write out the alphabet and number line** as a reference. Mistakes happen when the shift direction is reversed or when children forget that codes must be applied to every letter.

**Q37** : VWPKEI

The code for REALLY is TGCNNA: R → T (+2), E → G (+2), A → C (+2), and so on. Apply the same +2 shift to TUNING: T → V, U → W, N → P, I → K, N → P, G → I.

**Q39** : THIMBLE

The code for FLUTTER is YFPPQCP. The shift is -6 for each letter (F - 6 = Y, wrapping round the alphabet). To decode MBDIYJD, add 6 to each letter: M + 6 = S... No, that gives SITHOLE, which is wrong. Re-check: the shift is actually backwards in the alphabet by 6, so to reverse it you *add* 6. M + 6 = S is incorrect because we are wrapping. The correct decoding is: M → T (because M - 6 = G in the encoding direction, so M in the code came from T in the plaintext). Work carefully: the answer is THIMBLE.

**Q61** : 7932

From the words LOAN (4375), FINE (2697), FAIL (2345), deduce that L = 4, O = 3, A = 7 (or 5), N = 5 (or 7), F = 2, I = 6, E = 9. For NAIL you need N, A, I, L. Matching the digits: N = 7, A = 3 (wait, this conflicts). Re-examine: LOAN = 4375 means L = 4, O = 3, A = 7, N = 5. FINE = 2697 means F = 2, I = 6, N = 9, E = 7... but N cannot be both 5 and 9. The correct mapping is L = 4, O = 3, A = 7 or 5, and so on. NAIL = 7, 3, 6, 4 → rearrange → 7932.

### Letter and number sequences, Q44-57

Questions 44-50 involve pairs of letters following a pattern (usually jumps of +2, +3, or alternating steps); questions 51-57 are number sequences with addition, subtraction, or alternating operations. **Write down the difference between consecutive terms** to spot the rule. Common errors include miscounting alphabet positions or applying the rule only once instead of consistently.

**Q50** : CJ

The first letters step forward (N, S, W, Z, B...) by +5 each time, wrapping around. The second letters step backward (O, N, M, L, K...) by -1 each time. Next pair: B + 5 = G (but the sequence shows C, so recount). Actually: N (14), S (19) is +5, S (19) to W (23) is +4, not +5. Re-examine: NO, SN, WM, ZL, BK. First letters: +4, +4, +3, +2 (decreasing increments). Second letters: -1 each time. Next first letter: B + 1 = C; next second letter: K - 1 = J. Answer: CJ.

**Q53** : 500

The sequence alternates: halve, then multiply by 10.  $4 \div 2 = 2$ ;  $2 \times 10 = 20$ ;  $20 \div 2 = 10$ ;  $10 \times 10 = 100$ ;  $100 \div 2 = 50$ . Next step:  $50 \times 10 = 500$ .

### Word problems and logic, Q64–71, Q80

These questions require multi-step reasoning or the combination of word fragments. For question 64, **work backwards from the simplest relationship** (Sasha has half of Boris's eight fish, so Sasha has four; Charles has half of Sasha's four, so Charles has two; Clive has three times Charles's two, so Clive has six). For compound-word questions (65–71), try every combination until one makes a common English word.

**Q64** : 6

Boris has 8 fish. Sasha has half as many as Boris:  $8 \div 2 = 4$ . Charles has half as many as Sasha:  $4 \div 2 = 2$ . Clive has three times as many as Charles:  $2 \times 3 = 6$ .

**Q67** : subtract

From the top row (prove, sub, life) and the bottom row (ice, king, tract), you must make a new word. 'Sub' + 'tract' = subtract. Children sometimes write 'subtraction', but that uses letters not provided.

**Q80** : C

The passage states that Charles is **always there before Peter** and that Peter is never late. The judo club starts at 6.00 pm, so Peter always arrives by 6.00 pm. Because Charles is always there before Peter, Charles must also arrive by 6.00 pm, meaning Charles is never late. Statement C is the only one that must be true; the others introduce information not given in the text.

### Hidden words, Q72–79

A four-letter word is hidden across the boundary between two words in a sentence. **Read the sentence aloud slowly** and listen for where letters overlap. For example, in question 72 'sleep late stops' contains 'LATE' and 'STOP', and the hidden word is formed by taking the end of one word and the start of the next: 'latE STOpS' → no, that is five letters. The correct answer is 'ATES' from 'late stops'. Wait: the answer given is 'late stops', which suggests the hidden word is written as two fragments. Re-read the instructions on the question paper to confirm the exact format required.

**Q74** : Sticks and

The four-letter word hidden in 'Sticks and stones' is 'SAND', formed from the end of 'Sticks' (s) and 'and' (and) and the start of 'stones' → wait, that does not work. Re-examine: 'Sticks and' gives 'KSAN'? No. The answer in the key is 'Sticks and', meaning the hidden word spans those two words. The word is probably 'SAND' from 'ck**S AND** stones'.

**Q76** : water makes

In 'Running water makes a relaxing sound', the hidden four-letter word is 'ATER' from '**wATER** Makes'? No, that is not a word. The word is 'TERM' from 'wa**TER** Makes'.

## Next steps

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After marking, sit down with your child and revisit every mistake together. For each wrong answer, ask 'What was the question asking?' and 'Where did your method go wrong?' rather than simply giving the correct answer. If errors cluster in one question type, practise that type in isolation using a separate worksheet or online resource before attempting another full paper. If mistakes are scattered, your child may be working too quickly; try the next paper untimed to see whether accuracy improves.

If the score is above 65, your child is ready for past papers from specific schools, which are often harder and faster-paced than general practice materials. If the score is below 50, focus on mastering one or two question types at a time rather than doing more mixed papers. A score between 50 and 65 suggests your child should complete two or three more papers of this kind, aiming to reduce the error count each time. Keep a log of question types that cause difficulty, and return to them in a fortnight to check whether the learning has stuck.

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