English
Parent's Guide

Familiarisation

GL Assessment

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English

The real 11+ English tests assess English in line with the new National Curriculum taught in schools up to the start of Year 6. The areas assessed typically include aspects of reading comprehension, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

About the Familiarisation Papers

The English Familiarisation papers are designed to familiarise your child with the type of content in the real 11+ tests. The papers are presented in a similar way to many of the test papers used for selection at 11+. They provide practice in answering different types of English questions used in real 11+ tests and practice recording answers on the separate answer sheet. The papers may not be exactly the same difficulty level as the real tests, as the difficulty level varies between schools.

Resources

Your child will need the following materials:

- **English Familiarisation 1 or 2 booklet**
- **English Familiarisation 1 or 2 answer sheet**
- **A pencil**: for the real 11+ tests, the answer sheets will need to be completed in pencil (not ink, felt-tip etc.) so they can be read by the computer.
- **A rubber** to change answers. Crossing out or placing an X next to the unintended answer on the answer sheet cannot be computer-marked.

Working through the Papers

For the real 11+ tests, your child will need to: listen carefully to the instructions read out by the invigilator; read the instructions on the front of the test paper and the instructions at the top of each exercise; observe the messages at the bottom of the test paper telling them to go on to the next page or stop; and check/fill in the details at the top of the separate answer sheet.

Give your child the paper at an appropriate time, when they are both physically and mentally alert. Choose a suitable area for them to work in – make sure they can work comfortably and are free from any distractions.

Before your child takes a familiarisation paper, discuss with them the reasons they are doing the paper. Also, explain that they might find some of the questions difficult but that they should work as quickly and as carefully as they can. If they get stuck on a question, they should not waste too much time on it but move on to the next one. Encourage your child to work through each question independently. In the real 11+ tests, your child will work through each exercise without a break, however, for familiarisation purposes, you may wish to work through each exercise in separate sessions with your child.

Your child should mark their answers on the separate answer sheet provided. The real 11+ test will be marked by a computer, but it is important for your child to learn how to use the answer sheet properly in preparation for the real test. They should mark their answer in the appropriate box by drawing a clear line through it with a pencil. Mistakes should be rubbed out carefully, **not** crossed out, since in the real test this would not be recorded correctly by the computer. You can ignore the boxes at the top of the answer sheet marked 'Pupil Number', 'School Number' and 'Date of Birth'. Your child will be required to fill in or check these details in the real test, but it is not necessary for familiarisation purposes.

Note: For the spelling and punctuation exercises your child will be required to identify whether a question has either one error or no error. Where there is no error, option 'N' should be selected on the answer sheet.

Timing the Papers

The real 11+ tests are timed but, for familiarisation purposes, give your child as much time as they need to complete each paper. If you do wish to time your child, however, allow 50 minutes to complete the whole paper.

Marking and Feedback

The correct answers to the English Familiarisation Papers are provided on the following pages. Only these answers are allowed. One mark should be given for each correct answer–half marks should not be given. When you mark the paper you will be able to see how many questions your child got right overall. This will give you a good indication of their strengths and weaknesses. You may wish to go back over any questions your child got wrong and work through them together.

Answer Keys

English Familiarisation 1

The Swiss Family Robinson

1. B
2. C
3. E
4. A
5. D
6. C
7. C
8. E
9. D
10. B
11. B
12. E
13. D
14. D
15. C
16. B
17. A
18. B
19. C
20. D
21. C
22. C
23. B
24. B
25. E
26. E
27. D
28. D

Spelling Exercise

29. D
30. A
31. B
32. B
33. N
34. C
35. D
36. B
37. A

Hippos

38. D
39. B
40. N
41. C
42. A
43. B
44. A
45. C
46. N

Performance Time

47. D
48. C
49. B
50. E
51. A
52. C
53. B
54. A

English Familiarisation 2

The Secret Garden

1. D
2. D
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. E
7. C
8. D
9. B
10. A
11. C
12. A
13. D
14. B
15. A
16. E
17. E
18. A
19. C
20. B
21. D
22. D
23. B

Punctuation Exercise

24. C
25. C
26. N
27. D
28. C
29. B
30. A
31. D

A Ghostly Encounter

32. B
33. C
34. A
35. B
36. C
37. A
38. N
39. C
40. C

Caught Out?

41. D
42. A
43. B
44. E
45. C
46. B
47. C
48. A
49. D

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Published by GL Assessment, 1st Floor, Vantage London, Great West Road, Brentford TW8 9AG.

Printed in Great Britain.

Code 6853 914
1(06.17) PF

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