

CEM

English Comprehension & Writing

**11+
Practice
Papers**

Victoria Burrill

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Contents and progress record

How to use this book 5

Preparing for each paper 9

Section	Page	Length (no. Qs)	Timing (mins)	Question type	Score	Time
Paper 1 Foundation level Representing a CEM test at an average level of challenge for grammar and independent schools.						
Comprehension (fiction): <i>There May Be a Castle</i>	10	10	10	Multiple choice	/ 10	:
Spelling, punctuation and grammar	14	10	6	Multiple choice	/ 10	:
Cloze	16	24	14	Multiple choice	/ 24	:
Writing: Composition	19	1	20	Standard	/ 15	:
				Total	/ 59	:
Paper 2 Standard level Representing a CEM test at a medium level of challenge for grammar and independent schools.						
Cloze	20	12	6	Multiple choice	/ 12	:
Comprehension (fiction): <i>The Hawkweed Legacy</i>	22	20	15	Multiple choice	/ 20	:
Spelling, punctuation and grammar	28	12	6	Standard	/ 12	:
Writing: Composition	31	1	30	Standard	/ 30	:
				Total	/ 74	:
Paper 3 Standard level Representing a CEM test at a medium level of challenge for grammar and independent schools.						
Spelling, punctuation and grammar	32	12	6	Multiple choice	/ 12	:
Cloze	35	18	9	Multiple choice	/ 18	:
Comprehension (non-fiction): <i>Around India in 80 Trains</i>	38	15	13	Multiple choice	/ 15	:
Writing: Composition	44	1	40	Standard	/ 40	:
				Total	/ 85	:

Section	Page	Length (no. Qs)	Timing (mins)	Question type	Score	Time
Paper 4 Advanced level						
Representing a CEM test at a high level of challenge for independent schools.						
Comprehension 1 (poetry): 'The Sea'	45	10	7	Standard	/ 21	:
Comprehension 2 (fiction): <i>Soul Eater</i>	48	15	12	Standard	/ 28	:
Spelling, punctuation and grammar	52	10	9	Standard	/ 10	:
Writing: Composition	53	2	50	Standard	/ 50	:
Total					/ 109	:

Answers and

Writing guidance grids 55

Go to the Galore Park website to download the free PDF answer sheets to use and re-use as many times as you need: galorepark.co.uk/answersheets

How to use this book

Introduction

These practice papers have been written to provide final preparation for your CEM 11+ test, targeting all English subject areas included as part of the verbal ability assessments within the CEM 11+ papers. To give you the best chance of success, Galore Park has worked with 11+ tutors, independent schools' teachers, test writers and specialist authors to create these practice papers.

The actual CEM 11+ test you are going to take will include some or all of these subject areas as well as other small tests covered in the Maths, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning Practice Papers in this series.

Each book concentrates on a single subject so that you can focus your revision on specific skills, brush up on any areas where you may need a little help and then shine in the tests!

This book includes four model papers. Each paper is made up of four parts, the first three of which are: **Comprehension**; **Spelling, punctuation and grammar**; and **Cloze** (filling in the blanks where words have been missed out of a text). Each paper ends with a **Writing task**.

So that you experience how the CEM tests work, we have included a few key elements to help you become familiar with what to expect:

- Not all of these subject areas will appear in each paper and some may occur more than once.
- Each test lasts between 50 and 90 minutes (CEM tests are typically 60 minutes though there are often many questions that you may not complete in the time given).
- The sections (or **parts**) within each paper are short and of unpredictable length.
- Each part begins with an untimed introduction and a training question to explain the question format.

Although the CEM 11+ test does not include a writing element, many schools do ask you to complete a separate writing task, so we would suggest you complete these sections to help you fully prepare for the challenges ahead.

The papers increase in difficulty from Paper 1 to Paper 4. This is because CEM tests can change in difficulty both from year to year and from school to school. You will also find that the tests get faster to prepare you for the most challenging tests you may face.

It is important to read the instructions carefully as you will be asked to record your answers in a variety of ways:

- choosing a multiple-choice option using a separate answer sheet
- choosing a multiple-choice option, writing this on the paper itself
- writing a complete answer on the paper itself.

These different styles are included because the online tests expect you to be able to adapt to different question formats quickly as you move on from one part of a paper to the next. These formats can also change from year to year.

As you mark your answers, you will see references to the Galore Park *11+ English Revision Guide*. These references have been included so that you can go straight to some useful revision tips and find extra practice questions for those areas where you would like more help.

Working through the book

The **Contents and progress record** on pages 3–4 helps you to track your scores and timings as you work through the papers.

You may find some of the questions hard, but don't worry – these tests are designed to make you think. Agree with your parents on a good time to take the test and follow the instructions below to prepare for each paper as if you are actually going to sit your Pre-test/11+ English test.

- 1 Read the instructions on page 9 before you begin each practice paper.
- 2 Mark the test using the **Answers and Writing guidance grids** at the back of the book.
- 3 Go through the paper again with a friend or parent, talk about the difficult questions and note which parts of the revision guide you are going to review.
- 4 Discuss how successful you felt you were in the writing task and go through your marks together to find out whether your discussion partner agrees with your assessment, based on the guidance in the **Writing guidance grids**.

The **Answers** can be cut out so that you can mark your papers easily. Do not look at the answers until you have attempted a whole paper.

When you have finished a complete paper, turn back to the **Contents and progress record** and fill in the boxes. Make sure to write your total number of marks and time taken in the **Score and Time** boxes.

If you would like to take further CEM-style papers after completing this book, you will find more papers in the *Pre-test/11+ English Practice Papers 1 and 2* (see *Continue your learning journey* on page 8).

Test day tips

Take time to prepare yourself on the day before you go for the test. Remember to take sharpened pencils, an eraser and, if you are allowed, water to maintain your concentration levels and a watch to time yourself.

... and don't forget to have breakfast before you go!

Pre-test and the 11+ entrance exams

This title is part of the Galore Park *Pre-test 11+* series and there are three further *English Practice Paper* titles (see **Continue your learning journey** on page 8).

This series is designed to help you prepare for Pre-tests and 11+ entrance exams if you are applying to independent schools. These exams are often the same as those set by local grammar schools.

As well as the general CEM test covering more than one subject, Pre-tests and 11+ English tests appear in a variety of formats and lengths and it is likely that if you are applying for more than one school, you will encounter more than one of style of test. These include:

- Pre-test 11+ entrance exams in different formats from GL, CEM and ISEB
- Pre-test 11+ entrance exams created specifically for particular schools.

As the tests change all the time it can be difficult to predict the questions, making them harder to revise for. If you are taking more than one style of test, review the books in the **Continue your learning journey** section to see which other titles could be helpful to you.

For parents

- For your child to get the maximum benefit from these papers, they should complete them in conditions as close as possible to those they will face in the actual test, as described in the **Working through the book** section on page 6.
- Working with your child to follow up the revision work suggested in the answers can improve their performance in areas where they are less confident and boost their chances of success.

For teachers and tutors

- The timing becomes increasingly challenging as the pupils work through these papers to prepare them for the rigours of the CEM tests.
- In advance of pupils reading through the comprehension passage in each test, explain that they will meet some high-level vocabulary, and that these extracts serve as a good guide to the level of spelling and vocabulary that should be met for the real tests.
- The variety of answering methods is intended to build your pupils' skills in working with different question formats. Some question styles reflect the 'drag and drop' approach of a number of online questions. The standard-format test includes questions that require lateral thinking, typical of the most challenging assessments.
- In preparing pupils for the writing tasks, highlight the different types of writing demanded in these papers and encourage pupils to be aware of their conventions and styles before attempting the practice paper.
- Remediation suggested in the answers, referencing the *Revision Guide*, can be helpful for follow-up revision having completed the paper.

Continue your learning journey

When you have completed these *Practice Papers*, you can carry on your learning right up until exam day with the following resources.



The *Revision Guide* (referenced in the answers to this book) reviews basic skills in all areas of English, and guidance is provided on how to improve in this subject.

Pre-test/11+ Practice Papers 1 and *2* are designed to provide a complete revision experience across the various test styles you may encounter. Between the two titles there are twelve model papers, each followed by writing tasks, and answers.

- *Book 1* begins with training tests, and contains a series of short papers designed to develop your confidence and speed.
- *Book 2* contains GL-style tests and bespoke papers intended for pupils taking the most advanced tests delivered at independent schools.

GL 11+ English Comprehension & Writing Practice Papers contains four practice papers designed to prepare you for the GL-style tests. Each paper is divided into two tests – reading and writing – in line with the actual GL test format.

The four *Workbooks* (*Grammar and Punctuation*, *Reading and Comprehension*, *Spelling and Vocabulary* and *Writing*) will further develop your skills with 25 activities to work through in each book. These titles include more examples of the different types of questions you meet in these *Practice Papers* – the more times you practise answering the questions, the better equipped for the exams you will be.

Use Atom Learning to improve familiarity with online tests: the online learning platform adapts to your ability to ensure you are always working on your optimal learning path and the adaptive, mock-testing facility looks and scores in the style of the pre-tests.

galorepark.co.uk/atomlearning

Preparing for each paper

Read these instructions before you begin each practice paper.

- 1 Take the test in a quiet room. Have your timer ready.
- 2 Check at the beginning of **Part 1** if you will be recording your answers on an **answer sheet**. If a sheet is required, download it from galorepark.co.uk/answersheets and print it out before you begin.
- 3 The test is made up of four Parts, 1–4. You should complete all four parts of the paper.
- 4 Each part begins with an introduction and a training question. These pages are untimed and you should read these instructions carefully, then complete the training question before beginning the timed questions.
- 5 Start the timer *after* completing the introduction to each part and *before* you look at the timed questions.
- 6 Stop the timer at the end of each part, as instructed.
- 7 For Parts 1–3:
 - a aim for the time given
 - b complete all the questions
 - c note the actual time you have taken at the end of each part.
- 8 Aim to complete Part 4 (the writing task) to the length you are advised after you have completed Parts 1–3 and before taking a break.
- 9 Answer the questions as described in the introduction at the beginning of each part, using a pencil.
- 10 If you want to change an answer as you work through a part, rub your answer out and rewrite it. You cannot change an answer after you have completed a part.
- 11 Work as quickly and efficiently as you can. If a question is difficult to answer, come back to it after finishing the other questions in that part.
- 12 Aim to answer each question before you finish, even if you are not completely sure of the answer.
- 13 *Do not look at the answers before completing the entire paper.* The instructions in **Working through the book** on page 6 explain how to review your answers.

Always read the instructions on exam papers carefully and make sure you understand exactly what you need to do to answer the questions.

Paper 3

Download and print the answer sheet from galorepark.co.uk/answersheets before you start this paper.

Complete all four parts of this paper to the timings given at the start of each set of questions. Stop the timer after completing each part and start it again after answering the training question.

Part 1: Spelling, punctuation and grammar

Section time: 6 minutes

How to answer these questions

Read the example question then complete the training question before beginning the test. Do not begin timing yourself until you have finished this page.

Example question

Which of these words is closest in meaning to 'ravines'?

ivers

mountains

valleys

paths

hillsides

A

B

C

D

E

A

B

C

D

E

Answer: C valleys – like a ravine, a valley is a low area of land beneath two higher areas of land

Now answer the training question.

Training question

Draw a rule next to your chosen letter, as shown in the example. The correct answer is at the bottom of this page.

Which of these words is spelled incorrectly?

hoping

hopping

writing

choosing

diveing

A

B

C

D

E

A

B

C

D

E

Use the downloaded answer sheet to record your answers for the questions that follow. You will see the example and training questions have already been recorded.

Check your answers only after completing all of Paper 3. The answers are in a cut-out section at the end of the book. Complete the 'results' boxes at the end of this part when you have added up your score. If you run over the time given, complete the questions and note the time you have taken.

Training question answer: E diving – the rule is that 'e' at the end of the verb 'dive' is removed before adding -ing

You now have 6 minutes to complete the following 12 questions.

- 1 Which of these words is closest in meaning to 'contempt'? (1)
 disdain honour neglect comprehension regard
 A B C D E
- 2 Which of these words is spelled incorrectly? (1)
 necessary successful approached dissappear musically
 A B C D E
- 3 Which prefix gives the opposite meaning to 'comprehensible'? (1)
 im- un- dis- de- in-
 A B C D E
- 4 Which of the following words is spelled incorrectly? (1)
 beginning business environment imediately millennium
 A B C D E
- 5 Which of these words is closest in meaning to 'perplexing'? (1)
 worrying demanding complicated confusing difficult
 A B C D E
- 6 Identify the phrase below with the incorrect punctuation. (1)
 A 'Where's Maisie?' he asked.
 B She responded, 'No idea.'
 C 'She was in the garden,' he said.
 D 'The gate's open!' she shouted.
 E 'Perhaps she's gone out,' He replied.
- 7 In the phrase 'her homework', what kind of word is 'her'? (1)
 possessive relative proper adjective adverb
 pronoun pronoun noun D E
 A B C
- 8 Which suffix would turn the verb 'encourage' into a noun? (1)
 -ing -ment -ness -ed -ship
 A B C D E
- 9 What part of speech is the word 'Paris'? (1)
 verb abstract noun proper noun adjective pronoun
 A B C D E
- 10 Which of the following words is spelled correctly? (1)
 aproaching assesment accidentally calender disasterous
 A B C D E
- 11 Identify the phrase below with the incorrect punctuation. (1)
 A I couldn't see
 B He would've understood
 C The dogs' played
 D The boy's football
 E The girls' books

12 Which of the following words is a homophone for 'colonel'?

(1)

colony

A

kernel

B

colliery

C

collar

D

colonial

E

Now move on to Part 2.

Record your results for *Spelling, punctuation and grammar* here *after* you have completed the rest of *Paper 3*.

Score

/ 12

Time

:

Part 2: Cloze

Section time: 9 minutes

How to answer these questions

Read the sample text below and look at the examples. Then complete the training questions before beginning the test. **Do not begin timing yourself until you have finished this page.**

Example questions

Looking after our planet is becoming increasingly important for its 1 **A conservation** **B convection** **C concentration** **D consent**. We are rapidly 2 **A deleting** **B depleting** **C delighting** **D displacing** our natural resources like oil and gas. Recycling is an easy way to 3 **A contribute** **B attribute** **C contrite** **D contract** to global efforts to save our environment. Just 4 **A reassure** **B assure** **C ensure** **D assert** that you know what can and cannot be recycled where you live.

1 **A** ☒ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐

2 **A** ☐ **B** ☒ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐

Answers: 1 **A conservation** 2 **B depleting**

Now answer the training questions.

Training questions

Choose the most suitable words in bold to make the last two sentences above make sense. Draw rules next to your chosen letters, as shown in the example. The correct answers are at the bottom of this page.

3 **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐

4 **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐

Use the downloaded answer sheet to record your answers for the questions that follow. You will see the example and training questions have already been recorded.

Check your answers only after completing all of Paper 3. The answers are in a cut-out section at the end of the book. Complete the 'results' boxes at the end of this part when you have added up your score. If you run over the time given, complete the questions and note the time you have taken.