

GL

English Comprehension & Writing

11+
Practice
Papers

Victoria Burrill

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Comprehension
& Writing

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Contents and progress record

How to use this book

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Section	Page	Length (no. Qs)	Timing (mins)	Question type	Score	Time
Paper 1 Foundation level						
Representing a GL test at an average level of challenge for grammar and independent schools.						
Reading (fiction): <i>The Railway Children</i>	8	50	50	Multiple choice	/ 50	:
Writing: Composition and photograph	17	1	20	Standard	/ 15	:
Total					/ 65	:
Paper 2 Standard level						
Representing a GL test at a medium level of challenge for grammar and independent schools.						
Reading (fiction): <i>The Sea-Wolf</i>	18	50	50	Multiple choice	/ 50	:
Writing: Story and diary entry	26	2	45	Standard	/ 30	:
Total					/ 80	:
Paper 3 Standard level						
Representing a GL test at a medium level of challenge for grammar and independent schools.						
Reading (non-fiction): <i>One Flew into the Cuckoo's Egg</i>	27	50	50	Multiple choice	/ 50	:
Writing: Article and review	35	2	40	Standard	/ 30	:
Total					/ 80	:
Paper 4 Advanced level						
Representing a GL test at a high level of challenge for independent schools.						
Reading (fiction): <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>	36	50	70	Standard	/ 67	:
Writing: Photograph and continue a story	43	2	45	Standard	/ 30	:
Total					/ 97	:

Answers and Writing guidance grids

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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 GL 11+ English test. 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.

This book includes four model papers. Each paper is made up of two parts: **reading** and **writing**. Although the GL paper does not include a writing element, many schools do ask you to complete a separate writing task, so we would suggest you complete both parts of these papers to help you fully prepare for the challenges ahead.

The **reading paper** includes:

- a comprehension exercise to test your understanding of a passage of text
- questions to test your spelling skills
- questions to test your punctuation skills
- sentences with missing words to test your grammar skills.

The **writing paper** asks you to create your own text. This task may link to the comprehension passage you have already read or be on a completely different topic.

The papers increase in difficulty from Paper 1 to Paper 4 and all work to a timing that has been typical of GL tests in the past. This is because GL tests can change in difficulty both from year to year and from school to school.

You will find that you are asked to record your answers to the reading parts 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.

You are being given practice in working with these different styles since the tests may come in any of these formats or as an online test. The styles used in the multiple-choice tests are similar to the question styles you will find in the online tests.

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 page 3 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 Check at the beginning of the paper if you will be recording your answers on an **answer sheet**. If a sheet is required, download it from www.galorepark.co.uk/answersheets and print it out before you begin.
- 2 Take the test in a quiet room. Set a timer and record your answers as instructed.
- 3 Note down how long the reading test takes you (you should complete all questions even if you run over the time suggested) and aim to complete the writing tasks to the length you are advised. If possible, complete both tests in one session.
- 4 Mark the test using the **Answers** and **Writing guidance grids** at the back of the book.
- 5 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.
- 6 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 paper (both reading and writing tests), 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 GL-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 7).*

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 7).

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.

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 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 5.

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 of all non-writing elements of the papers is the same in this *Practice Paper* book since fast timing isn't generally a feature of GL-style papers.

In advance of pupils reading through the comprehension passage in each test, it is recommended that you remind them that the blocks of questions will focus on meaning or grammar and vocabulary; spelling; and punctuation and that they will act as a guide for the level that should be met.

The answer sheets provide helpful practice in recording answers on a separate document.

The standard-format test includes questions that require lateral thinking, typical of the most challenging assessments.

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.

CEM 11+ English Comprehension & Writing Practice Papers contains four practice papers designed for preparation for the CEM-style tests. Each paper is split into short tests in comprehension; spelling, punctuation and grammar; cloze procedure; and writing. The tests vary in length and format and are excellent for short bursts of timed practice.

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 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.

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- 21 The narrator describes being 'in the midst of a grey primordial vastness' (lines 50–51). What does this tell you about the ocean? (1)
- A It is dark and cold.
 - B It is dangerous and cold.
 - C It is beautiful and deep.
 - D It is misty and rough.
 - E It is enormous and ancient.
- 22 'I shrieked aloud' (lines 51–52). What type of word is 'aloud'? (1)
- A adverb
 - B adjective
 - C noun
 - D preposition
 - E pronoun
- 23 'I confess that a madness seized me' (line 51). Which are the pronouns in this sentence? (1)
- A I and a
 - B I and me
 - C I, a and me
 - D a and me
 - E that and me
- 24 'How long this lasted I have no conception' (line 53). Why was this the case? (1)
- A He fell asleep.
 - B He was unconscious.
 - C He was in too much pain.
 - D It was too dark.
 - E It was too foggy.
- 25 What did the narrator see when he regained consciousness in the water? (1)
- A Nothing as it was too dark
 - B Nothing as it was too foggy
 - C Three boats in the water ahead
 - D The back of a ship heading away from him
 - E The front of a ship heading towards him
- 26 Which two of the following feelings does the narrator experience at the end of the passage? (1)
- i happiness
 - ii fear
 - iii desperation
 - iv anger
 - v amazement
- A i and ii
 - B ii and iii
 - C ii and v
 - D iii and iv
 - E i and v

Spelling

Some of these sentences contain spelling mistakes. Look at each question numbered 27–34 and decide whether each contains a mistake. Find the group of words that contains the mistake and mark its letter on your answer sheet. *If there is no mistake, mark 'N'.*

27 (1)

In poor weather conditions,	life on the ocean	can be exhilarating	or it can be terrifying.	
A	B	C	D	N

28 (1)

In principal, sailing	is a simple way to travel	from place to place although	it requires skilful manoeuvres.	
A	B	C	D	N

29 (1)

Sailing around the world	is an ambitious undertaking	that takes commitment,	knowledge, confidence and bravery.	
A	B	C	D	N

30 (1)

The coastguard is frequently	called to the assistance	of various vessels facing	possible disaster at sea.	
A	B	C	D	N

31 (1)

On foggy days it is	difficult to perceive distances	accurately so precede	with adequate caution.	
A	B	C	D	N

32 (1)

The bright flashes of	lightning and the uneven	rhythmn of the thunder	frightened the sailors.	
A	B	C	D	N

33 (1)

Many different vehicles	transport people and products	at sea including yachts,	cruise liners and cargo ships.	
A	B	C	D	N

34 (1)

Sailing is an excellent way to	occupy yourself on holiday	but don't fall overboard as	it would prove embarassing.	
A	B	C	D	N

Punctuation

Some of these sentences contain punctuation errors. Look at each question numbered 35–42 and decide whether it contains a mistake. Find the group of words that contains the mistake and mark its letter on your answer sheet. *If there is no mistake, mark 'N'.*

Sailing solo

35 (1)

An internationally known sportswoman,	dame Ellen MacArthur	is a female yachtswoman	who	
A	B	C	D	N

36 (1)

broke the world record	for the fastest solo	circumnavigation of the world.	She did this in	
A	B	C	D	N

37 (1)

February 2005,	although the record was broken again	three years later.	Her boat was called the	
A	B	C	D	N

38 (1)

castorama and	she completed the journey	in 71 days and 14 hours.	During that time she had	
A	B	C	D	N

39 (1)

no more than	20 minutes sleep at a time;	as she had to be on constant lookout.	So why would	
A	B	C	D	N

40 (1)

anyone want to take on	such an enormous challenge.	In an interview,	she told a reporter,	
A	B	C	D	N

41 (1)

'Its about going out there	and competing.' It was a trip	on her aunt's sailing boat	aged four years old	
A	B	C	D	N

42

that sparked her interest	in sailing she spent some of her	pocket money on sailing magazines	and saved the rest to buy a boat.	
A	B	C	D	N

(1)

Cloze

Choose the word or group of words that completes each sentence (numbered 43–50) so that it makes sense and is written in correct English. Mark the box next to the letter of your chosen answer on the answer sheet.

- 43 The largest ship in the world A was built B built C was building D has been built E had been built in 1979 and was called *Seawise Giant*. (1)
- 44 To follow in Ellen MacArthur's footsteps, you A might B should C would D must E can need to sail over 50,000 km. (1)
- 45 British sailors A win B are winning C has won D wins E have won a number of medals in sailing at the last two Olympic Games. (1)
- 46 The sailors didn't know A if B weather C whether D which E where or not to return to port when the storm began. (1)
- 47 My brother is afraid of the water so Mum asked if I could fetch A her B his C my D him E its toy boat from the sea. (1)
- 48 The boat was prevented from coming to shore A although B when C due to D but E as the high winds. (1)
- 49 When we saw the bad weather forecast, we shouldn't A of B have C not D has E off continued our journey. (1)
- 50 We have been rowing this boat A from B since C for D near E in two hours. (1)

Part 2: Writing

Test time: 45 minutes

Complete both writing tasks in this section on a separate sheet of paper. Mark your test using the Writing guidance grids on pages 49–50.

- 1 Write a story about being at sea during a storm. Use all of your senses to bring the weather to life. (15)
- 2 Write a diary entry about making a journey across or through water. Choose which character you will be – the ship's captain, a sailor, a passenger or even a stowaway. (15)