FREE SAMPLE

Birmingham and West Midlands (GL style): four-test pack

Four full mock tests based on the published two-paper format, with answer sheets, explanations and a parent guide.

In this sample

- The first 5 pages of Test 1 (Question Paper)
- The first 2 pages of the Test 1 answers

In the full pack

- Four complete mock tests (Tests 1 to 4)
- Answer sheets (where the test uses them), answers and explanations or mark schemes
- A parent guide to the format, timings and how to use the tests

Original practice material, written for NITU. Not an official paper and not produced by any school, council, consortium or test provider. Where the real test's details are not published, the papers say so and label our choice as an assumption. Practice cannot predict a result and does not guarantee a place.

You may print this sample for use in your own household.

NITU · Next Intake Test Uplift · Digichange Publication

NITU · NEXT INTAKE TEST UPLIFT · WEST MIDLANDS GRAMMAR SCHOOLS TEST STYLE · ORIGINAL PRACTICE MATERIAL

Birmingham and West Midlands-style Entrance Mock Test 1

Two papers · for entry to Year 7 in September 2028

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

How to use this test

1. Do **Paper 1** and **Paper 2** on the same day with a break between them, as in the real test, or on separate days if your child tires easily.
2. Use a clock or timer. Allow about **50 minutes** of working time for each paper (assumed), inside a session of about 60 minutes as reported. No calculator.
3. Answer on the **separate answer sheet**. Draw a single line through the box beside the answer you choose, as on a machine-read answer sheet. For the one question that says “Mark TWO boxes”, mark both.
4. There is no penalty for a wrong answer, so answer every question. Move on if stuck.

Structure of this test

Paper	Section	Questions	Share of score (reported)
1	English: comprehension, cloze, technical English	25	50%
	Verbal reasoning	30	
2	Maths	25	25%
	Non-verbal reasoning	20	25%

What this paper is based on. The structure follows the published format of the test arranged by the King Edward VI Foundation for the Birmingham grammar schools and used by other West Midlands grammar schools, as publicly reported for 2027 entry: two multiple-choice papers of about 60 minutes each, sat on one day with a break, individually timed sections in English comprehension, verbal reasoning, maths and non-verbal reasoning, a separate answer sheet, English and verbal reasoning together making half of the score, and maths and non-verbal reasoning a quarter each. The test was produced by GL Assessment for 2027 entry; the provider for 2028 entry has not been confirmed. **Our assumptions:** which sections go in which paper, the number of questions, the section timings and the number of answer options (five here), because they are not published. All questions are original. Content is Key Stage 2. Raw scores cannot be turned into an official standardised score or compared with any school’s pass mark.

Original mock test, not an official paper and not produced by the King Edward VI Foundation, GL Assessment or any school.

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Paper 1 · English

Questions 1–25

Part A: Comprehension (questions 1–10)

Read the passage, then answer the questions.

The Jewellery Quarter

A short walk from the centre of Birmingham lies the Jewellery Quarter, a maze of narrow streets lined with red-brick workshops. For more than two hundred years, skilled workers here have made rings, brooches, medals and badges. Even today, many of the country's jewellers are based in these few streets.

In the nineteenth century, the Quarter was also famous for something much smaller than a ring: the steel pen nib. Before cheap nibs were made, people wrote with quills cut from feathers, which wore out quickly and had to be sharpened again and again. Birmingham factories learned to stamp out thousands of metal nibs a day, and at one time most of the pen nibs used in the world were made in the city.

Much of the work was done by women and girls, who sat in long rows at machines called presses. It was fiddly, tiring work, and the noise of the presses could be heard in the street outside. Wages were low, but for many families the money was vital.

Walking through the Quarter now, visitors can still spot clues to its busy past. Tall chimneys rise above the rooftops, and some buildings have painted signs that have faded to ghosts of their original colours. In one old workshop, the tools were left exactly where they lay when the owners locked the door for the last time, and it has been preserved as a museum.

1. What are the workshops in the Jewellery Quarter built from?

A Grey stone
B Red brick
C Wood
D Steel
E Glass

2. For how long have workers made jewellery in the Quarter?

A About fifty years
B Exactly one hundred years
C Less than a century
D More than two hundred years
E Since last year

3. What did people write with before cheap steel nibs were made?

A Quills cut from feathers
B Pencils
C Ballpoint pens
D Chalk
E Brushes

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4. Why were quills a problem?

A They were too heavy
B They could not hold ink
C They wore out and needed sharpening
D They were made of metal
E They were too expensive to buy

5. Which statement is supported by paragraph 2?

A Birmingham invented the quill
B Nibs were made by hand one at a time
C Birmingham stopped making nibs in 1800
D Nibs were bigger than rings
E At one time most of the world's pen nibs came from Birmingham

6. In paragraph 3, "vital" most nearly means

A very small
B very important
C very noisy
D rather boring
E quite rare

7. Which word best describes the work at the presses?

A Relaxing
B Silent
C Well paid
D Tiring
E Dangerous

8. Why does the writer describe the faded signs as "ghosts of their original colours"?

A The colours are now very pale and hard to see
B The signs are haunted
C The signs glow at night
D The signs have been repainted
E The signs were always white

9. Why has one old workshop become a museum?

A It was the largest factory
B It still makes nibs today
C Its tools were left exactly where they were
D It was built by a famous jeweller
E It has the tallest chimney

10. What is the main purpose of the passage?

A To sell jewellery
B To complain about low wages
C To tell a story about a girl
D To explain how to make a quill
E To inform readers about the history of the Jewellery Quarter

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Part B: Cloze (questions 11–15)

Read the paragraph. For each numbered gap, choose the word that fits best.

> The market opened at dawn, and the traders (1) their stalls before the first customers arrived. A woman selling flowers (2) her buckets in a neat row. The smell of fresh bread (3) from the baker’s van. By nine o’clock the square was (4) with shoppers, and the noise was (5).

11. Gap 1: choose the word that fits.

- **A** sets up
- **B** set up
- **C** setting up
- **D** set ups
- **E** to set up

12. Gap 2: choose the word that fits.

- **A** arrange
- **B** arranging
- **C** arrangement
- **D** arranged
- **E** arranges

13. Gap 3: choose the word that fits.

- **A** drifted
- **B** drift
- **C** drifting
- **D** drifts
- **E** drifter

14. Gap 4: choose the word that fits.

- **A** crowd
- **B** crowds
- **C** crowded
- **D** crowding
- **E** crowdedly

15. Gap 5: choose the word that fits.

- **A** deafen
- **B** deafened
- **C** deafness
- **D** deafeningly
- **E** deafening

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Part C: Technical English (questions 16–25)

16. Choose the word that is spelt correctly.

A neccessary
B necessary
C necessery
D nesessary
E neccesary

17. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

A “Where are you going,” asked Mum.
B “Where are you going?” Asked Mum.
C “Where are you going”? asked Mum.
D “Where are you going?” asked Mum.
E Where are you going? “asked Mum.”

18. Choose the word that completes the sentence. The dog wagged ___ tail.

A its
B it’s
C its’
D it is
E it

19. Which word is closest in meaning to FRAGILE?

A heavy
B strong
C delicate
D colourful
E ancient

20. Which word is opposite in meaning to GENEROUS?

A kind
B giving
C large
D gentle
E mean

21. Which word is an adverb? The children whispered quietly in the library.

A children
B quietly
C whispered
D library
E the

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Birmingham and West Midlands-style Entrance Mock Test 1

Answers and explanations

Every question was written for this product. Maths, verbal reasoning and non-verbal answers were checked by script (arithmetic, letter patterns, hidden words, anagrams and every figure) before printing; English answers were checked against the passage and the grammar rules. If you spot a mistake, tell us and we will correct it. Answer positions are balanced across A–E in each section. Reported weighting: English and verbal reasoning 50%, maths 25%, non-verbal 25%; your raw scores cannot be converted to an official standardised score.

English

Q	Ans	Skill	Why
1	**B**	Comprehension: retrieval	The first paragraph describes red-brick workshops.
2	**D**	Comprehension: retrieval	The passage says for more than two hundred years.
3	**A**	Comprehension: retrieval	The second paragraph says people wrote with quills.
4	**C**	Comprehension: retrieval	Quills wore out quickly and had to be sharpened again and again.
5	**E**	Comprehension: retrieval	The paragraph says most of the world’s pen nibs were once made in the city.
6	**B**	Vocabulary in context	The money mattered a great deal to the families.
7	**D**	Comprehension: inference	The passage calls the work fiddly and tiring; it does not say dangerous.
8	**A**	Language: figurative	Ghosts are pale and faint, like the faded paint.
9	**C**	Comprehension: inference	The tools were left in place when the owners locked up, so it was preserved.
10	**E**	Comprehension: purpose	It gives facts about the area’s past and present.
11	**B**	Cloze: tense	Past tense is needed to match “opened”.
12	**D**	Cloze: tense	Past tense verb to match the passage.
13	**A**	Cloze: tense	Past tense: the smell drifted.
14	**C**	Cloze: word forms	“Was crowded with” needs an adjective.
15	**E**	Cloze: word forms	An adjective describes the noise.
16	**B**	Spelling	necessary has one c and double s.
17	**D**	Punctuation: speech	The question mark goes inside the speech marks and “asked” stays lower case.
18	**A**	Grammar: homophones	“Its” without an apostrophe shows possession.
19	**C**	Vocabulary: synonyms	Fragile means easily broken.
20	**E**	Vocabulary: antonyms	A generous person gives freely; a mean one does not.
21	**B**	Grammar: word classes	“Quietly” describes how they whispered.

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22	**D**	Grammar: passive voice	In the passive, the thing affected comes first and “by” names who did it.
23	**A**	Spelling: plurals	Many nouns ending in -fe change to -ves.
24	**C**	Vocabulary: suffixes	hopeful
25	**E**	Grammar: conjunctions	“Although” joins the two clauses.

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