FREE SAMPLE

Essex and Southend (CSSE format): four-test pack

Four full mock tests with written English (comprehension and writing) and maths papers, mark schemes and a parent guide.

In this sample

- The first 5 pages of Test 1 (English 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

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NITU · NEXT INTAKE TEST UPLIFT · CSSE FORMAT · ORIGINAL PRACTICE MATERIAL

Essex and Southend-style Entrance Mock Test 1

English paper · for entry to Year 7 in September 2028

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Instructions

1. Spend the first **10 minutes** reading the passage carefully. You may underline or make notes on it.
2. You then have **1 hour** for Section A and Section B. Suggested split: about 35 minutes for Section A and 25 minutes for Section B.
3. Write your answers in the spaces in this booklet. Use full sentences where a question asks you to explain.
4. The number of marks for each question is shown in brackets. Use it as a guide to how much to write.
5. Crossing out is fine. Check your work if you have time.
6. Ask an adult to time you. Paragraph numbers in the passage help you find your place.

Structure of this paper · about 1 hour 10 minutes (including 10 minutes' reading time)

Section	What you do	Marks
A	Read the passage and answer the questions in the spaces	40
B	Continuous writing: choose ONE task	20

What this paper is based on. The structure follows the published format of the CSSE test as publicly reported: two written papers, English and maths, sat on the same day, with no verbal or non-verbal reasoning. English is about 1 hour plus 10 minutes' reading time and includes comprehension of an unseen text and a continuous writing task; maths is about 1 hour, no calculator. Each paper is reported to be marked out of 60. **Our assumptions:** the number of questions, the split of the English marks (40 comprehension, 20 writing), the marks for each maths question and the page layout. These are not published. All questions are original. Raw marks cannot be converted to a standardised score or compared with any qualifying score.

Original mock test, not an official paper and not produced by the Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex (CSSE) or any school.

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Section A · Reading

Fiction · 40 marks

In this story, Isla finds something unexpected inside an old book.

The Map in the Atlas

1 The charity shop on Quay Street smelled of dust and lavender, and Isla loved it for both. While her dad argued gently with the owner about the price of a lamp, she drifted to the back, where the books leaned against one another like tired passengers on a late bus.

2 The atlas was the heaviest thing on the shelf. Its cover had once been green; now it was the colour of pond water, and the gold letters on the spine had worn away to a ghostly shine. Isla hauled it onto her knees and let it fall open where it wanted to.

3 It wanted to open at the North Sea. Tucked between the pages was a sheet of thin, yellowed paper, folded four times. Isla unfolded it with the care of someone handling a moth’s wing. It was a map, drawn by hand in brown ink: a stretch of coastline, a church with a crooked spire, a path marked with tiny dashes and, at the end of the path, a small, neat X.

4 Underneath, in looping writing, someone had added a single line: “For whoever is patient enough to look.”

5 Isla’s heart thudded. She knew that spire. Everyone in Saltholme knew it; it leaned over the harbour like an old man trying to read a newspaper over your shoulder. The map was not of some faraway island. It was of here.

6 “Dad,” she called, trying to sound calm and failing completely. “How much is this atlas?”

7 The owner peered over her glasses. “That old thing? Take it. Nobody has opened it in years.”

8 Nobody, Isla thought, except one person: the person who had drawn the X. She pressed the map flat against the atlas and held it there all the way home, as if it might fly away. That night, she lay awake listening to the wind worrying at the window, and for the first time in a long while she could not wait for morning.

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Section A · Questions

Answer in the spaces

1. Where did Isla find the atlas? Give two details. **(2 marks)**

2. What was Isla's dad doing while she looked at the books? **(1 mark)**

3. Look at paragraph 1. The books "leaned against one another like tired passengers on a late bus". What does this simile suggest about the books? **(2 marks)**

4. Find and copy one phrase from paragraph 2 that shows the atlas was very old. **(1 mark)**

5. Why do you think the atlas fell open at the North Sea? **(2 marks)**

6. Isla unfolded the map "with the care of someone handling a moth's wing". What does this tell you about how she felt about the map? **(2 marks)**

7. List three things that were drawn on the map. **(3 marks)**

8. Explain what the line "For whoever is patient enough to look" might mean. **(2 marks)**

9. Look at paragraph 5. Find and copy the sentence that tells you the map shows Isla's own town. **(1 mark)**

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10. The spire “leaned over the harbour like an old man trying to read a newspaper over your shoulder”. Explain why this is an effective description. **(3 marks)**

11. Why is the sentence “It was of here.” so short? What effect does it have? **(2 marks)**

12. Isla called to her dad “trying to sound calm and failing completely”. What does this show about her feelings? **(2 marks)**

13. Give the meaning of the word “peered” as it is used in paragraph 7. **(1 mark)**

14. The owner says, “Nobody has opened it in years.” Why is this important to Isla? **(2 marks)**

15. Read the sentences below. Write T (true) or F (false) for each. **(4 marks)**

(a) The atlas was light and easy to carry.

(b) The map was drawn in brown ink.

(c) Isla had to pay a lot for the atlas.

(d) Isla held the map flat all the way home.

16. “the wind worrying at the window”. Which word in this phrase makes the wind seem like a living thing? Explain your choice. **(2 marks)**

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17. How do Isla's feelings change from the start of the passage to the end? Use evidence to support your answer. **(4 marks)**

18. Rewrite this sentence in the present tense:
She pressed the map flat against the atlas. **(1 mark)**

19. What do you think Isla will do the next morning? Use evidence from the passage to explain your prediction. **(3 marks)**

END OF SECTION A

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Mark scheme and explanations

Every question was written for this product. Maths answers were computed and re-checked by script before printing. English answers are a guide: accept other sensible answers that show the same understanding and are supported by the passage. Where a question has more than one mark, give credit for each valid point. If you spot a mistake, tell us and we will correct it. Raw marks are not standardised scores and cannot be compared with any qualifying score.

English · Section A: Reading (40 marks)

Q	Marks	Answer	Skill
1	2	On a shelf / at the back of the charity shop on Quay Street. 1 mark for the charity shop (or Quay Street); 1 mark for at the back / on the shelf.	Retrieval
2	1	Arguing (gently) with the owner about the price of a lamp.	Retrieval
3	2	They are old, worn or untidy and slumped/leaning, as if exhausted. 1 mark for a basic point (leaning/untidy); 2 marks for explaining the impression of age or tiredness linked to the passengers.	Language: simile
4	1	Any one of: “once been green”; “the colour of pond water”; “worn away to a ghostly shine”.	Retrieval: find and copy
5	2	The map had been kept there, so the pages were used to opening there / the folded paper made the book open at that page. 1 mark for linking to the folded map; 1 mark for explaining the effect on the book.	Inference
6	2	She thought it was precious or fragile and was afraid of damaging it. 1 mark for careful/gentle; 2 marks for linking to how valuable or delicate she felt it was.	Inference
7	3	Any three of: a coastline; a church with a crooked spire; a path (marked with dashes); an X. 1 mark each.	Retrieval
8	2	The X/treasure will only be found by someone who takes time and does not give up / it is a message to the person who finds the map. 1 mark for a simple point; 2 marks for a developed explanation.	Inference
9	1	“It was of here.” (Accept “The map was not of some faraway island. It was of here.”)	Retrieval: find and copy
10	3	Shows the spire leans/bends; makes it seem human and nosy or familiar; adds humour. 1 mark for each valid point, up to 3, with at least one linked to the words used.	Language: personification
11	2	It creates a moment of surprise or excitement; it makes the key fact stand out. 1 mark for the effect; 1 mark for linking to Isla’s realisation.	Structure: sentence length
12	2	She was very excited or nervous and could not hide it. 1 mark for the feeling; 1 mark for explaining that she tried to hide it.	Inference: character
13	1	Looked closely or with difficulty / squinted.	Vocabulary
14	2	It means the map has not been found by anyone else, so the X might still be there / she is the first to find it. 1 mark for a simple point; 2 marks for linking to the secret still being waiting.	Inference
15	4	(a) F (b) T (c) F (d) T. 1 mark each.	Retrieval: true or false

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16	2	“worrying”. 1 mark for the word; 1 mark for explaining it suggests an animal or person tugging, scratching or fretting at the window.	Language: word choice
17	4	Start: relaxed, content, enjoying the shop (she ‘loved it’). Middle: shocked/excited (heart thudded). End: eager, hopeful, impatient (could not wait for morning). Up to 4 marks: 1 per valid feeling, 1 per supporting quotation, maximum 4.	Inference: change across the text
18	1	She presses the map flat against the atlas.	Grammar: tense
19	3	Sensible prediction, e.g. follow the path from the church to the X. 1 mark for a prediction; up to 2 more marks for evidence (she knows the spire; she could not wait for morning; the map shows a path).	Prediction

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