FREE SAMPLE

Independent School 11+ (written English and maths): four-test pack

Four full mock tests for schools that set their own papers: unseen texts (story, article, older-style extract, poem) with written questions, creative writing, written maths, 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

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 · INDEPENDENT SCHOOL 11+ STYLE · ORIGINAL PRACTICE MATERIAL

Independent School 11+ 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. Most independent schools set their own 11+ English and maths papers rather than a shared test. In our research into 100 large independent schools that take pupils at 11 (November 2026), 78 were reported to use school-set papers, typically an unseen text with written comprehension questions, a creative writing task, and a written maths paper without a calculator. This paper practises that general format. It is **not** based on any one school's paper: each school sets its own length, timing, marks and question style, so check your chosen school's admissions page. **Our assumptions:** the timings (English about 1 hour 10 minutes, maths about 1 hour), the marks (English 40 + 20, maths 60) and the question types. All questions are original.

Original mock test, not an official paper and not produced by or for any school. It is general practice for school-set 11+ papers.

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Section A · Reading

Fiction · 40 marks

In this story, Priya borrows something from her elderly neighbour.

The Borrowed Telescope

1 Mr Lindqvist’s telescope lived in a long wooden box under his stairs, and it had not been out of the box for eleven years. “My eyes are no good for it now,” he said, sliding the box across the hall carpet towards Priya. “But the sky is still up there. Somebody ought to be looking at it.”

2 That night, Priya and her dad carried it to the top of the playing field, where the streetlights gave out and the dark began. The telescope stood on three thin legs like a heron. Dad read the instructions by torchlight while Priya turned the little brass wheels and saw nothing at all except a smudge of black.

3 It took forty minutes and a great deal of muttering. Then, quite suddenly, something swam into view: a pale, creamy ball with a thin ring tilted around it, so neat that it looked drawn with a compass. Priya forgot to breathe. She had seen pictures of Saturn a hundred times, in books and on screens. She had never once believed it was real in the way that a football is real, or a front door.

4 She made Dad look. Then she made Dad look again. Then she wrote everything down in the back of her maths book: the time, the date, which way the telescope was pointing, and a small, careful drawing with the ring exactly the right width.

5 The next morning she knocked on Mr Lindqvist’s door and held out the page without saying a word. He put on his reading glasses, studied the drawing for a long time and then laughed, a short, surprised laugh, like a door being unstuck. “Saturn,” he said. “Well, well. It’s been a while.” He handed the page back. “You’d better keep the telescope a bit longer. I think it prefers you.”

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Section A · Questions

Answer in the spaces

1. How long had the telescope been in its box? **(1 mark)**

2. Why had Mr Lindqvist stopped using the telescope? **(1 mark)**

3. Explain what Mr Lindqvist means by “Somebody ought to be looking at it.” **(2 marks)**

4. Why did Priya and her dad go to the top of the playing field? **(2 marks)**

5. “The telescope stood on three thin legs like a heron.” Explain what this simile suggests about the telescope. **(2 marks)**

6. Find and copy a phrase from paragraph 2 that shows the first attempts were unsuccessful. **(1 mark)**

7. What do the words “a great deal of muttering” suggest about how the setting-up went? **(2 marks)**

8. Describe Saturn as Priya first saw it. Use your own words. **(2 marks)**

9. “Priya forgot to breathe.” What does this tell you about her reaction? **(2 marks)**

10. Explain the comparison Priya makes with “a football” and “a front door” in paragraph 3. **(3 marks)**

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11. Why does the writer repeat “She made Dad look” in paragraph 4? **(2 marks)**

12. List three things Priya recorded in her maths book. **(3 marks)**

13. What does Priya’s careful note-taking show about her character? **(2 marks)**

14. Why do you think Priya held out the page “without saying a word”? **(2 marks)**

15. “a short, surprised laugh, like a door being unstuck”. What does this simile suggest about Mr Lindqvist? **(3 marks)**

16. What does Mr Lindqvist mean by “I think it prefers you”? How does he feel about Priya? **(3 marks)**

17. How do Priya’s feelings change through the story? Refer to the beginning, middle and end. **(4 marks)**

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18. In paragraph 4, the drawing is described as “small, careful”. What word class is “careful”? **(1 mark)**

19. Suggest a different title for the story and explain your choice. **(2 marks)**

END OF SECTION A

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Independent School 11+ Mock Test 1

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	1	Eleven years.	Retrieval
2	1	His eyes were no longer good enough.	Retrieval
3	2	The sky is worth seeing/wonderful, and it would be a waste if nobody enjoyed it; he wants someone else to carry on. 1 mark for a simple point; 2 for a developed explanation.	Inference
4	2	It was dark there because the streetlights stopped, so they could see the stars better. 1 for darkness/no streetlights; 1 for linking to seeing the sky.	Inference
5	2	Tall, thin, spindly legs; standing very still and upright, perhaps a little awkward. 1 mark per valid point linked to a heron.	Language: simile
6	1	“saw nothing at all except a smudge of black”.	Retrieval
7	2	It was difficult/frustrating; they grumbled to themselves; it took a long time. 1 + 1.	Inference
8	2	A pale, cream-coloured ball/planet with a thin, neat ring tipped at an angle. 1 for the ball; 1 for the ring. Own words required for full marks.	Summary: own words
9	2	She was amazed/astonished and completely absorbed. 1 for the feeling; 1 for the explanation of why breathing is mentioned.	Inference
10	3	These are ordinary, solid, everyday things; until now Saturn had seemed unreal, like a picture; seeing it herself made it feel real and solid. Up to 3 marks.	Language: comparison
11	2	To show how excited she was / that she wanted to share it; adds humour. 1 + 1.	Structure: repetition
12	3	Any three of: the time; the date; which way the telescope was pointing; a drawing (of Saturn). 1 each.	Retrieval
13	2	She is careful, precise or scientific; she takes it seriously. 1 for a trait; 1 for evidence.	Inference: character
14	2	She wanted the drawing to speak for itself / to surprise him / she was too proud or excited to explain. 1 for a sensible reason; 1 for explaining it.	Inference
15	3	He has not laughed (or felt this joy) for a long time; the moment opens up something in him; it is sudden. Up to 3 marks.	Language: simile
16	3	He is joking that the telescope likes her; he is pleased and proud she is using it; he trusts her. 1 for the joke/meaning; up to 2 for his feelings with evidence.	Inference: character
17	4	Beginning: curious/eager; middle: frustrated then amazed; end: proud, quietly delighted. 1 per stage with evidence (up to 3), plus 1 for clearly explaining how her feelings develop; maximum 4.	Inference: change
18	1	Adjective.	Grammar: word class
19	2	Sensible title (1) with a reason linked to the story (1).	Evaluation

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English · Section B: Continuous writing (20 marks)

Mark against the five areas below. The criteria and mark split are our own assumption; schools use their own mark schemes.

Area	Marks	What to look for	Score
Content and ideas	5	Ideas are relevant to the title and suit the purpose and reader (for example, a letter or speech persuades); developed with detail and interesting to read.	
Organisation	4	Clear opening and ending; paragraphs used to move the piece on; ideas linked.	
Sentence structure	4	A range of sentence types and lengths; varied openings; control of tense.	
Vocabulary	4	Precise, ambitious word choices; figurative language used with purpose.	
Spelling and punctuation	3	Accurate spelling of common and harder words; full range of punctuation used correctly.	

Overall band check

Band	Description
Band 4 (17–20)	Confident and controlled throughout; reads like a polished piece.
Band 3 (12–16)	Mostly secure; some ambitious choices; minor slips.
Band 2 (6–11)	Some organisation and detail; simple sentences dominate; several errors.
Band 1 (0–5)	Brief or hard to follow; little organisation; frequent errors.

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