FREE SAMPLE

Independent School 11+ (written English and maths): Set 2 (Tests 5 to 8)

Four more full mock tests in the same format as Set 1, with new questions throughout, answer sheets, answers and the parent guide.

In this sample

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

In the full set2

- Four complete mock tests (Tests 5 to 8)
- 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 5

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.

© 2026 Digichange Publication. For use by the purchaser's own household only; not for resale or sharing.

Section A · Reading

Fiction · 40 marks

In this story, Ruby and her grandad prepare for a playground conker match.

The Honest Conker

1 Every October, the horse chestnut by the school gate dropped its conkers onto the pavement, brown and glossy as polished shoes, and every October, Year 6 went to war. The rules were old and strict: one string, one knot, three swings each, and no swapping conkers once a battle had begun. The champion of the playground was whoever owned the conker with the most victories, and this year that was Callum Pryce, whose conker had won thirty-one.

2 Callum's conker was small, dark and wrinkled, and it hit like a hammer. Nobody could prove anything, but everyone had heard the rumours: that he had baked it in the oven, that he had soaked it in vinegar for a week, that it had been kept in a drawer since last autumn. When Ruby asked him about it, he only tapped the side of his nose.

3 Ruby's grandad had been a conker champion himself, in 1967, and he was delighted to help. At dawn they went to the park, where conkers lay split open in their spiky green cases, and chose one that was round, heavy and the colour of strong tea. "No tricks," said Grandad, making the hole with a skewer as carefully as a surgeon. "A conker should win because it's a good conker. Anything else is just cooking."

4 The match took place at lunchtime on Friday, with half the school pressed round in a tight, shoving circle. Callum went first. Crack! Ruby's conker spun wildly on its string, but it held. Ruby struck back, and missed. Callum struck again, and a thin white line appeared across her conker's shine, like a crack in ice. Then Ruby took a breath, steadied her arm, and brought her conker down with everything she had.

5 There was a sound like a walnut being stepped on. Callum's champion burst apart, and small hard pieces skittered across the tarmac. For a moment nobody spoke. Then Callum bent down, picked up one of the fragments and turned it over in his fingers. "Oven," he admitted, with a lopsided grin. "Gas mark four. Serves me right." That evening, Ruby hung her conker from the hook by the back door, where Grandad would see it every time he went out: cracked, scarred, and completely, stubbornly honest.

© 2026 Digichange Publication. For use by the purchaser's own household only; not for resale or sharing.

Section A · Questions

Answer in the spaces

1. In which month did the horse chestnut drop its conkers? **(1 mark)**

2. “brown and glossy as polished shoes”. What does this simile tell us about the conkers? **(2 marks)**

3. The writer says that “Year 6 went to war”. What does this suggest about the conker contest? **(2 marks)**

4. List three rules of the conker contest. **(3 marks)**

5. How many victories had Callum’s conker won? **(1 mark)**

6. What does “it hit like a hammer” suggest about Callum’s conker? **(2 marks)**

7. Give two of the rumours about how Callum made his conker hard. **(2 marks)**

8. When Ruby asked Callum about his conker, “he only tapped the side of his nose.” What does this suggest? **(2 marks)**

9. Why do you think Grandad was “delighted to help”? **(2 marks)**

© 2026 Digichange Publication. For use by the purchaser’s own household only; not for resale or sharing.

10. Describe the conker that Ruby and Grandad chose. Use your own words. **(2 marks)**

11. Grandad made the hole “as carefully as a surgeon”. What does this simile show about him? **(2 marks)**

12. Explain what Grandad means when he says, “Anything else is just cooking.” **(3 marks)**

13. “pressed round in a tight, shoving circle”. What does this phrase suggest about the crowd? **(2 marks)**

14. Find and copy one example of onomatopoeia from paragraph 4 and explain its effect. **(2 marks)**

15. How does the writer build tension in paragraph 4? Refer to the text in your answer. **(3 marks)**

16. Why do you think “For a moment nobody spoke”? **(2 marks)**

17. What does Callum’s reaction at the end show about his character? Use evidence from the text. **(3 marks)**

© 2026 Digichange Publication. For use by the purchaser’s own household only; not for resale or sharing.

18. In the final sentence, what word class is “stubbornly”? **(1 mark)**

19. Why does Ruby hang up her conker, and why does the writer describe it as “completely, stubbornly honest”? **(3 marks)**

END OF SECTION A

© 2026 Digichange Publication. For use by the purchaser’s own household only; not for resale or sharing.

Independent School 11+ Mock Test 5

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	October.	Retrieval
2	2	They are a rich brown colour (1) and very shiny/smooth (1).	Language: simile
3	2	The children took it extremely seriously / it was fierce and competitive; a playful exaggeration. 1 for the idea of seriousness or fierceness; 1 for explaining the exaggeration.	Language: figurative
4	3	Any three of: one string; one knot; three swings each; no swapping conkers once a battle had begun. 1 each.	Retrieval
5	1	Thirty-one.	Retrieval
6	2	It was very hard and struck with great force; it was dangerous to play against. 1 + 1.	Language: simile
7	2	Any two of: baked it in the oven; soaked it in vinegar for a week; kept it in a drawer since last autumn. 1 each.	Retrieval
8	2	He was keeping it a secret / would not tell her (1), hinting that he did have a trick, and perhaps enjoying the mystery (1).	Inference
9	2	He had been a conker champion himself (in 1967), so he knew a lot and enjoyed sharing it with Ruby / it brought back happy memories. 1 for the reason from the text; 1 for explaining his feelings.	Inference
10	2	Any two of: a perfectly round shape; weighty/solid; a deep reddish-brown colour like tea. Own words required for full marks.	Summary: own words
11	2	He was extremely precise and careful (1), and he took the job very seriously, as if it really mattered (1).	Language: simile
12	3	He is saying that tricks such as baking or soaking a conker are cheating (1); a conker should win because it is naturally good (1); he is also making a joke, because “cooking” links to baking it in the oven (1).	Inference: humour
13	2	There were lots of children crowded close together (1), pushing to see because they were excited about the match (1).	Inference
14	2	“Crack!” (1); it lets the reader hear the sudden, sharp sound of the conkers hitting and makes the moment dramatic (1).	Language: onomatopoeia
15	3	e.g. short sentences such as “Callum went first.”; the near-miss when Ruby’s conker “held” and when she “missed”; the white line “like a crack in ice” suggests her conker could break at any moment; the pause as she “took a breath”. 1 per valid point with evidence, up to 3.	Structure: tension
16	2	Everyone was shocked/amazed that the champion conker had been beaten (1), because no one expected Ruby to win against it (1).	Inference
17	3	He is a good loser / honest / good-humoured (1); he admits the truth with “Oven” and “Serves me right” (1); his “lopsided grin” shows he can laugh at himself (1).	Inference: character

© 2026 Digichange Publication. For use by the purchaser’s own household only; not for resale or sharing.

18	1	Adverb.	Grammar: word class
19	3	She is proud of it and wants Grandad to see that his way worked (1); it is “honest” because it won without tricks (1); “stubbornly” suggests it refused to break even when cracked, just as they refused to cheat (1).	Inference: theme

© 2026 Digichange Publication. For use by the purchaser’s own household only; not for resale or sharing.