FREE SAMPLE

Online Pre-Test Practice (ISEB Common Pre-Test, Quest, CEM, CAT4 style): four papers

Paper practice for the online first-round tests many independent schools use: English, verbal reasoning, maths and non-verbal booklets with answer sheets, explanations and a parent guide.

In this sample

- The first 5 pages of Test 1 (PreTest Practice 1 1 English)
- 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 ONLINE PRE-TEST PRACTICE · ORIGINAL PRACTICE MATERIAL

Online Pre-Test Practice Paper 1

English booklet

25 questions · about 40 minutes (assumed) · for entry to Year 7 in September 2028

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Instructions

1. Answer on the **English** answer sheet, not in this booklet. Draw **one horizontal line** through the box beside the answer you choose. Do not tick, shade or cross.
2. To change an answer, rub it out completely and mark the new box. Check that the question number on the sheet matches the question you are answering.
3. Choose one answer for each question unless the question tells you to mark two.
4. No calculator. You may write in the margins of this booklet. There is no penalty for a wrong answer.
5. The real tests are taken on a computer and get harder or easier depending on your answers. Here every child sees the same questions on paper, so focus on the question types and on working steadily.

What this paper is based on. Many independent schools use an online first-round test before their own papers or interviews. The ISEB Common Pre-Test is reported to have four timed sections (English 40 minutes, maths 40, non-verbal reasoning 30, verbal reasoning 25), multiple choice and adaptive; Quest, CEM and GL's CAT4 tests cover similar ground. This booklet practises those question types on paper, using the reported ISEB timings. **It cannot copy the real experience:** the real tests are on screen and adapt to each answer. **Our assumptions:** the number of questions and five answer options. All questions are original. Raw scores cannot be converted to the standardised scores schools see.

Original practice material, not an official paper and not produced by ISEB, Quest Assessments, Cambridge (CEM), GL Assessment or any school.

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English · Part A: Comprehension

Questions 1–10

Read the passage, then answer the questions.

Treasure in the Mud

Twice a day, as the tide goes out, the River Thames in London draws back to reveal a strip of grey mud and pebbles along its banks. For nearly two thousand years, people have dropped, thrown and lost things in the river, and the mud has kept them safe.

In Victorian times, poor children called mudlarks waded into the cold, filthy shallows looking for anything they could sell: lumps of coal, scraps of rope, copper nails from ships. It was miserable, dangerous work, and many of the children had no shoes.

Today, mudlarking is a hobby rather than a way to survive. Anyone who wants to search the foreshore must first get a permit, and some areas are closed completely to protect them. Mudlarks have found Roman coins, medieval pilgrim badges, clay pipes and even children's toys hundreds of years old. Important finds are reported so that museums can record them.

Experienced mudlarks say the most exciting objects are often the most ordinary: a thimble, a button, a marble. Each one was held, used and then lost by someone whose name nobody remembers. The river, they say, is the longest museum in London, and it reopens every day at low tide.

1. How often does the tide go out, according to the passage?

A Once a day
B Twice a day
C Once a week
D Twice a month
E Only in winter

2. Why have objects survived in the Thames mud?

A They were made of gold
B People buried them deliberately
C The water is very warm
D The mud has kept them safe
E Museums put them there

3. Who were the Victorian mudlarks?

A Poor children searching the river for things to sell
B Rich collectors
C Museum workers
D Sailors on ships
E Fishermen

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4. Which of these did Victorian mudlarks look for?

A Roman coins
B Pilgrim badges
C Copper nails
D Clay pipes
E Marbles

5. Which word best describes the Victorian mudlarks' work?

A Relaxing
B Well paid
C Safe
D Fashionable
E Miserable

6. What must people do before searching the foreshore today?

A Pay a museum
B Get a permit
C Wear special boots
D Join a club
E Wait for summer

7. In paragraph 3, "foreshore" most nearly means

A a type of boat
B the deepest part of the river
C a museum shop
D the strip of shore uncovered at low tide
E a riverside road

8. Why are important finds reported?

A So that museums can record them
B So that finders can be fined
C So the tide can be measured
D So the area can be closed
E So they can be thrown back

9. Why do experienced mudlarks find ordinary objects exciting?

A They are worth a lot of money
B They are very rare
C Each was used by a real person long ago
D They are easy to find
E They can be sold to tourists

10. What does the writer mean by calling the river "the longest museum in London"?

A It has the biggest building
B It charges the most money
C It is open all night
D It was built in Victorian times
E Its banks are full of historical objects that anyone can see

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Part B: Vocabulary in context (questions 11–15)

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

> The old lighthouse keeper (1) the stairs every evening to light the lamp. The climb was steep, and by the top he was always (2) of breath. From the gallery he could see the whole bay (3) out below him. On stormy nights he stayed awake until dawn, watching (4) for ships in trouble. In forty years, not a single vessel was (5) on the rocks.

11. Gap 1: choose the word that fits.

- **A** climb
- **B** climbed
- **C** climbing
- **D** climbs
- **E** climber

12. Gap 2: choose the word that fits.

- **A** off
- **B** up
- **C** full
- **D** out
- **E** over

13. Gap 3: choose the word that fits.

- **A** spread
- **B** spreads
- **C** spreading out of
- **D** spreaded
- **E** spreader

14. Gap 4: choose the word that fits.

- **A** careful
- **B** care
- **C** carefully
- **D** careless
- **E** carefulness

15. Gap 5: choose the word that fits.

- **A** wreck
- **B** wrecking
- **C** wrecks
- **D** wreckage
- **E** wrecked

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Part C: Grammar, spelling and vocabulary (questions 16–25)

16. Choose the word that is spelt correctly.

A archeaology
B archaeology
C arcaeology
D archaeolgy
E arkaeology

17. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

A Mudlarks have found, coins badges pipes and toys.
B Mudlarks have found coins badges, pipes, and, toys.
C Mudlarks, have found coins badges pipes and toys.
D Mudlarks have found coins, badges, pipes and toys.
E Mudlarks have found coins; badges; pipes, and toys.

18. Choose the word that completes the sentence. The tide went out ___ the afternoon.

A during
B dureing
C duraing
D durring
E jurring

19. Which word is closest in meaning to REVEAL?

A hide
B flood
C uncover
D damage
E cover

20. Which word is opposite in meaning to ORDINARY?

A usual
B common
C plain
D everyday
E extraordinary

21. Which word is an adjective? The cold, grey mud stuck to their boots.

A mud
B grey
C stuck
D boots
E to

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Online Pre-Test Practice Paper 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 booklet. Schools see age-standardised (and often adaptive) scores; these raw scores cannot be converted to them. Use them to find question types to practise.

English

Q	Ans	Skill	Why
1	**B**	Comprehension: retrieval	The first sentence says twice a day.
2	**D**	Comprehension: retrieval	Paragraph 1 says the mud has kept them safe.
3	**A**	Comprehension: retrieval	Paragraph 2 describes poor children.
4	**C**	Comprehension: retrieval	Paragraph 2 lists coal, rope and copper nails.
5	**E**	Comprehension: retrieval	The passage calls it miserable, dangerous work.
6	**B**	Comprehension: retrieval	Paragraph 3 says they need a permit.
7	**D**	Vocabulary in context	The foreshore is the mud and pebbles shown when the tide goes out.
8	**A**	Comprehension: retrieval	Paragraph 3 explains this.
9	**C**	Comprehension: inference	Each was held, used and lost by someone.
10	**E**	Language: metaphor	The river holds history along its whole length.
11	**B**	Cloze: tense	Past tense to match the passage.
12	**D**	Cloze: word choice	“Out of breath” is the fixed phrase.
13	**A**	Cloze: verb forms	“The bay spread out below him.”
14	**C**	Cloze: word forms	An adverb describes how he watched.
15	**E**	Cloze: verb forms	“Was wrecked” uses the past participle.
16	**B**	Spelling	archaeology: arch-ae-ology.
17	**D**	Punctuation: commas	Commas separate list items, with “and” before the last.
18	**A**	Spelling	during: d-u-r-i-n-g.
19	**C**	Vocabulary: synonyms	To reveal is to uncover.
20	**E**	Vocabulary: antonyms	Ordinary means normal; extraordinary means remarkable.
21	**B**	Grammar: word classes	“Grey” describes the mud.
22	**D**	Punctuation: semicolons	A semicolon joins two linked main clauses.
23	**A**	Grammar: agreement	Plural subject: were.

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24	**C**	Vocabulary: prefixes	pre- means before.
25	**E**	Grammar: passive voice	The thing found comes first, with “by” naming the finder.

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