FREE SAMPLE

Plymouth, Torbay and Devon style (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 (1 English)
- 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.

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NITU · NEXT INTAKE TEST UPLIFT · PLYMOUTH, TORBAY AND DEVON STYLE · ORIGINAL PRACTICE MATERIAL

Plymouth, Torbay and Devon Style Mock Test 5

English booklet

25 questions · about 40 minutes (assumed) · for entry to Year 7 in September 2028 · use the booklets your school's test covers

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. Check the parent guide for how long to allow for your school's papers.

What this paper is based on. The Plymouth grammar schools are reported to use multiple-choice English and maths papers of about 40 minutes each from Quest Assessments (Devonport High School for Boys reportedly adds its own writing paper), the Torbay grammar schools a GL-style English and maths test of about 50 minutes per paper, and Colyton its own English and maths test with a short piece of extended writing. This booklet practises those papers. **Our assumptions:** the number of questions, the time allowed and five answer options, because these are not published. All questions are original. Raw scores cannot be converted to the standardised scores schools use.

Original practice material, not an official paper and not produced by Quest Assessments, GL Assessment or any school.

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English · Part A: Comprehension

Questions 1–10

Read the passage, then answer the questions.

Seat Three

Kezia had been rowing with the junior gig club for a whole year, but she had only ever been the reserve. Every Saturday she carried oars, coiled ropes and watched the others slide the long, narrow boat down the slipway at Salt Quay. The gig was called Curlew. She was painted blue and white, with her name in curling gold letters along the bow.

Then, two days before the harbour race, Ellis sprained his wrist falling off his skateboard. Mrs Penhallow, the coach, found Kezia by the boathouse. “You’re in,” she said simply. “Seat three. Don’t look at the other boats. Look at the back in front of you.” Kezia nodded so hard that her ponytail whipped her cheek.

On the morning of the race, the harbour glittered and the quay was crowded with families waving flags. Six rowers took their seats, with Tamsin the cox crouched at the stern, ready to steer and call the rhythm. When the starting horn blared, Kezia’s first stroke went far too deep. Her oar caught in the water and jolted her backwards. Panic fizzed through her like lemonade shaken in a bottle.

“Back in front of you,” she muttered. She fixed her eyes on Jago’s shoulders and matched him, stroke for stroke: reach, pull, lean back, recover. Gradually the noise of the crowd faded until there was only Tamsin’s voice and the steady creak of the oars. Her palms burned and her legs ached, but she did not break the rhythm.

Curlew crossed the line fourth out of seven boats. It was not a medal, but as they glided back towards the slipway, Tamsin grinned at her. “Not a single splash after the start,” she said. That evening, Mrs Penhallow wrote Kezia’s name on the crew list for the next race, this time in pen rather than pencil.

1. What was the name of the gig?

A Kestrel
B Curlew
C Salt Quay
D Seagull
E Penhallow

2. Before the harbour race, what had Kezia’s place in the club been?

A She had been the cox
B She had been the coach
C She had always rowed in seat three
D She had always been the reserve
E She had only just joined

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3. Why was Kezia given a place in the crew?

A Ellis had sprained his wrist
B Tamsin wanted to row instead of steer
C She had won a trial race
D Jago was ill
E Mrs Penhallow needed a seventh rower

4. ‘Kezia nodded so hard that her ponytail whipped her cheek’ suggests that she was

A bored and unwilling
B confused about what to do
C eager and determined
D angry with the coach
E worried about Ellis

5. Who called the rhythm during the race?

A Mrs Penhallow
B Jago
C Ellis
D Kezia
E Tamsin

6. ‘Panic fizzed through her like lemonade shaken in a bottle’ suggests that Kezia’s panic

A was slow and calm
B rushed suddenly through her whole body
C made her feel thirsty
D disappeared at once
E made her sleepy

7. In paragraph 3, “jolted” most nearly means

A lifted gently
B pushed slowly
C rocked to sleep
D jerked suddenly
E turned round

8. Why did Kezia mutter “Back in front of you”?

A To remind herself of her coach’s advice
B To tell Jago to move
C To ask Tamsin to steer
D To warn the crowd
E To complain about her seat

9. Why did the noise of the crowd seem to fade?

A The crowd had gone home
B The boat had sailed out to sea
C Kezia was concentrating hard on rowing
D The starting horn was too loud
E Kezia had fallen asleep

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10. Why is it important that Kezia’s name was written ‘in pen rather than pencil’?

A It shows Mrs Penhallow had lost her pencil
B It shows Kezia had won a medal
C It shows Kezia is leaving the club
D It shows Ellis will take his seat back
E It shows she now has a definite place in the crew

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

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

> Our village holds a duck race on the river every Easter Monday. Hundreds of yellow plastic ducks are (1) off the bridge at exactly twelve o’clock. The current carries them (2) downstream, and the crowd runs along the bank to cheer. Some ducks get stuck in the reeds, and volunteers in long boots (3) them free with nets. The first duck to reach the finishing line wins a (4) for its owner. Last year mine came (5), just behind a duck wearing a tiny crown.

11. Gap 1: choose the word that fits.

A drop
B dropped
C dropping
D drops
E dropper

12. Gap 2: choose the word that fits.

A gentle
B gentler
C gentleness
D gently
E gentlest

13. Gap 3: choose the word that fits.

A pull
B pulls
C pulled
D pulling
E puller

14. Gap 4: choose the word that fits.

A prizes
B prized
C prize
D prizing
E prizewinner

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15. Gap 5: choose the word that fits.

A two
B twice
C seconds
D secondly
E second

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Plymouth, Torbay and Devon Style Mock Test 5

Answers and explanations

Every question was written for this product. Maths answers were checked by script 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 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	Paragraph 1: “The gig was called Curlew.”
2	**D**	Comprehension: retrieval	Paragraph 1 says she had only ever been the reserve.
3	**A**	Comprehension: retrieval	Paragraph 2: Ellis sprained his wrist falling off his skateboard.
4	**C**	Comprehension: inference	Nodding so hard shows how keen she was to say yes.
5	**E**	Comprehension: retrieval	Paragraph 3: Tamsin the cox was ready to steer and call the rhythm.
6	**B**	Language: simile	Shaken lemonade fizzes up quickly and fills the bottle, as her panic did.
7	**D**	Vocabulary in context	Her oar caught and she was jerked backwards.
8	**A**	Comprehension: inference	Mrs Penhallow had told her to look at the back in front of her.
9	**C**	Comprehension: inference	She focused so hard on the rhythm that she stopped noticing the crowd.
10	**E**	Comprehension: inference	Pen cannot easily be rubbed out, so her place is now firm.
11	**B**	Cloze: verb forms	“Are dropped” needs the past participle.
12	**D**	Cloze: word forms	An adverb is needed to describe how the current carries them.
13	**A**	Cloze: agreement	The paragraph is in the present tense and “volunteers” is plural: they pull.
14	**C**	Cloze: word forms	After “a”, a singular noun is needed: a prize.
15	**E**	Cloze: word choice	We say a duck “came second” in a race.
16	**B**	Spelling	accommodation: double c and double m.
17	**D**	Punctuation: colons	The colon comes after the complete opening and introduces the list.
18	**A**	Spelling: homophones	Place means position; plaice is a fish.
19	**C**	Vocabulary: synonyms	To glide is to move smoothly, like sliding.
20	**E**	Vocabulary: antonyms	Crowded means full of people; empty is the opposite.
21	**B**	Grammar: word classes	“Narrow” describes the boat.
22	**D**	Punctuation: apostrophes	For a plural ending in s, the apostrophe goes after the s: rowers’.

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23	**A**	Grammar: tense	“Had put” shows something that happened before another past event.
24	**C**	Vocabulary: suffixes	-less means without.
25	**E**	Grammar: conjunctions	“But” joins two main clauses.

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