

Buckinghamshire Secondary Transfer Test



Style practice paper • 30 multiple-choice questions • about 35 minutes

Pupil's name

School

Date

Age (years / months)

This paper is **weighted like the real Secondary Transfer Test Score (STTS)**: verbal skills count for half the marks, with maths and non-verbal reasoning making up a quarter each. Section A has 15 questions, Section B has 8 and Section C has 7.

Read carefully

Before you begin

- This is a multiple-choice paper. Mark **one** answer for each question on the answer sheet on the next page, except questions 11 and 12, where you mark **two**.
- Mark each box with a thin horizontal line like this , the same way you will on the real test.
- If you change your mind, rub it out as completely as you can. Do not cross answers out.
- Work through the questions in order. If one is tricky, leave it and come back at the end.
- You may do rough working on this paper, but not on the answer sheet. You may not use a calculator or a ruler.
- You have **about 35 minutes** for the 30 questions.



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Answer sheet

Mark boxes with a thin horizontal line. Questions 11 and 12 need **two** marks: one letter from each column.

Section A Verbal skills Questions 1 to 15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
E	E	E	E	E	N	E	E	E	E

11	12	13	14	15
A	A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B	B
C	C	C	C	C
X	X	D	D	D
Y	Y	E	E	E
Z	Z			

Section B Mathematics Questions 16 to 23

16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E

Section C Non-verbal reasoning Questions 24 to 30

24	25	26	27	28	29	30
A	A	A	A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B	B	B	B
C	C	C	C	C	C	C
D	D	D	D	D	D	D
E	E	E	E	E	E	E

Scoring: one mark per correct answer, 30 in total. Questions 11 and 12 need both parts right for the mark. Around 22 or more is a strong score on this paper.

**Section A** Verbal skills: English Questions 1 to 8

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

The Bell That Would Not Ring

Every village in the valley had a bell, and every bell had a job. Some rang for weddings, some for warnings, and one, in the little village of Ashcombe, rang for nothing at all.

It had hung in the crooked tower for ninety years without making a sound. Visitors were told it was cracked. Older residents knew better: the rope had snapped long ago, and nobody had been brave enough to climb up and replace it.

Nell was eleven, and had never once believed the story about the crack. She had studied the bell through her grandfather's field glasses and could see no fault in it whatsoever. What she could see was a frayed end of rope, curling in the wind like a question nobody wished to answer.

On the morning of the flood, the river rose so quickly that the low road vanished before breakfast. The warning bell in the next village was too far off to be heard. Nell did not stop to ask permission. She climbed.

The tower was colder than she expected and the ladder complained at every rung, but the bell, when she reached it, was perfect: smooth, heavy and waiting. She hauled on the frayed rope with both hands. Nothing happened. She hauled again, and the sound that broke over Ashcombe was so enormous that birds lifted from every roof in the valley.

- 1 Why had the bell in Ashcombe not been rung for ninety years?**
A The rope had snapped and nobody had replaced it **B** The tower was too dangerous to enter
C The village had agreed to keep it silent **D** It had been sold to the next village
E It was cracked beyond repair
- 2 What does the description of the rope "curling in the wind like a question nobody wished to answer" suggest?**
A The rope was dangerous to touch **B** The villagers were avoiding a problem they knew about
C The wind was unusually strong that year **D** Nell could not reach the rope
E The rope was decorative rather than useful
- 3 Which word is closest in meaning to "enormous" as it is used in the final paragraph?**
A sudden **B** pleasant **C** vast **D** gentle **E** brief
- 4 What does the passage suggest about Nell's character?**
A She was frightened of heights **B** She disliked living in Ashcombe
C She was reckless and enjoyed danger **D** She preferred evidence to accepted stories
E She wanted the villagers to admire her



- 5 In this sentence there is either one spelling mistake or no mistake. Mark the letter of the group of words containing the mistake, or N for no mistake.

The librarian recommended a definite improvement in the standard of his handwriting.

A

B

C

D

N No mistake

- 6 In this sentence there is either one spelling mistake or no mistake. Mark the letter of the group of words containing the mistake, or N for no mistake.

Although the weather was disappointing, the whole family thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

A

B

C

D

N No mistake

- 7 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- A "Are you coming with us?" asked Priya. B "Are you coming with us?" Asked Priya.
C "Are you coming with us?", asked Priya. D Are you coming with us? asked Priya.
E "Are you coming with us" asked Priya.

- 8 Choose the word that best completes the sentence. Despite the noise from the building site, the cat remained completely _____ on the windowsill.

- A furious B undisturbed C audible D reluctant E temporary

- 9 A four-letter word is hidden across the end of one word and the start of the next. Find the pair of words that contains it.

We should clean early in the morning.

- A We should B should clean C clean early D early in E in the

- 10 A four-letter word is hidden across the end of one word and the start of the next. Find the pair of words that contains it.

She could not help landing awkwardly on the mat.

- A She could B could not C not help D help landing E landing awkwardly

**Section A** Verbal reasoning Questions 11 to 15

- 11** Find the two words, one from each bracket, that best complete the sentence.

Hot is to (cold steam kettle) as dry is to (desert wet towel).

- A cold X desert
B steam Y wet
C kettle Z towel

Mark one answer from each column.

- 12** Find the two words, one from each bracket, that best complete the sentence.

Author is to (novel library reader) as composer is to (orchestra symphony audience).

- A reader X audience
B novel Y orchestra
C library Z symphony

Mark one answer from each column.

- 13** A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Find the pair of letters that continues the series.

BD CF DH EJ [?]

- A EL B FM C GL D FK E FL

- 14** A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Find the pair of letters that continues the series.

ZA YC XE WG [?]

- A VI B WI C VH D UI E VJ

- 15** A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Find the pair of letters that continues the series.

AC EG IK MO [?]

- A PR B QS C QT D RS E PS

**Section B** Mathematics Questions 16 to 23

You may do rough working on this paper. You may not use a calculator.

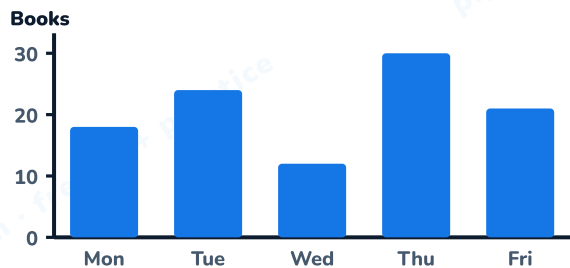
16 A school hall holds 384 chairs arranged in rows of 24. How many rows are there?

- A 14 B 15 C 16 D 17 E 18

17 Which of these numbers is the smallest?

- A 0.516 B 0.56 C 0.6 D 0.06 E 0.61

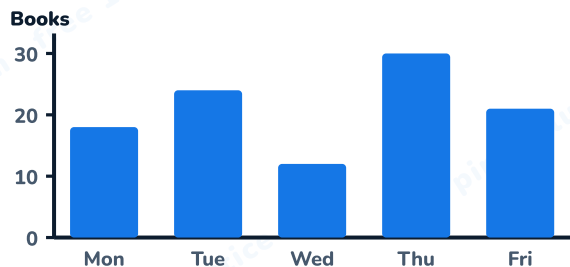
18



The bar chart shows how many books a class read each day. How many more books were read on Thursday than on Wednesday?

- A 20 B 22 C 12 D 16 E 18

19



Using the same bar chart, what is the mean number of books read per day across the five days?

- A 21 B 22 C 25 D 19 E 20

20 A tap fills a 45 litre tank in 9 minutes. At the same rate, how long would it take to fill a 75 litre tank?

- A 14 minutes B 15 minutes C 16 minutes D 12 minutes E 13 minutes



21 Three fifths of a class of 30 pupils walk to school. How many pupils do NOT walk to school?

- A 20 B 10 C 12 D 15 E 18

22 A rectangle has a perimeter of 34 cm. Its length is 10 cm. What is its area?

- A 80 cm squared B 68 cm squared C 48 cm squared D 70 cm squared E 60 cm squared

23 A film starts at 18:45 and lasts 2 hours and 35 minutes. What time does it finish?

- A 21:25 B 20:80 C 20:20 D 21:10 E 21:20



Section C Non-verbal reasoning Questions 24 to 30

24 Which figure completes the series?



A

B

C

D

E



25 Which figure completes the series?



A

B

C

D

E



26 Which figure on the right is most like the two on the left?



A

B

C

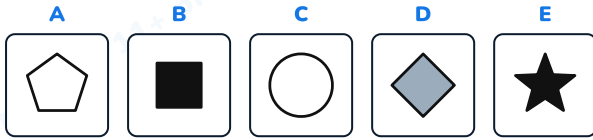
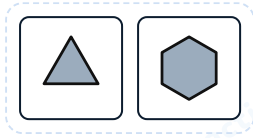
D

E

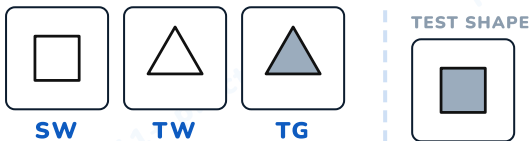




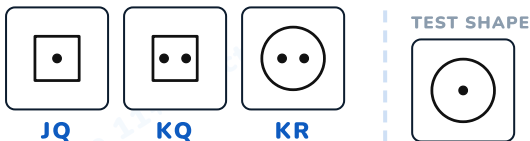
27 Which figure on the right is most like the two on the left?



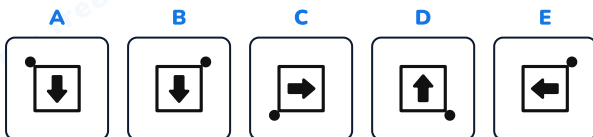
28 Which code goes with the test shape?



29 Which code goes with the test shape?



30 Which figure is the one on the left turned round, not mirrored?



Answers and explanations

One mark per correct answer, 30 in total. Every non-verbal answer in this paper is machine-checked to have exactly one defensible solution.

Section A Verbal skills Questions 1 to 15

- Q1 • A** The third sentence of paragraph 2 says older residents knew the rope had snapped and nobody was brave enough to replace it. The crack was only what visitors were told.
- Q2 • B** A question nobody wished to answer is an image of avoidance: the villagers knew the rope was the real problem and chose not to deal with it.
- Q3 • C** Enormous describes the size of the sound. Vast is the closest match. Sudden and brief describe timing, not size.
- Q4 • D** She had never believed the crack story, studied the bell herself through field glasses, and trusted what she could see. That is a preference for evidence over accepted explanation.
- Q5 • E** Definate is misspelled. The correct spelling is definite. Recommended, standard and handwriting are all correct.
- Q6 • N** Every word is spelled correctly, including disappointing and thoroughly, which are both commonly misspelled. The answer is N.
- Q7 • A** The question mark belongs inside the speech marks, no comma is needed after it, and asked continues the same sentence so it stays lower case.
- Q8 • B** Despite signals contrast: the noise did not affect the cat. Undisturbed gives that contrast. Furious and reluctant describe the wrong reaction, and audible and temporary do not fit the sense.
- Q9 • C** The end of clean and the start of early join to make a word: clea|n ear|ly gives NEAR. No other pair in the sentence hides a four-letter word.
- Q10 • D** The end of help and the start of landing join to make a word: hel|p lan|ding gives PLAN. None of the other pairs hides a four-letter word.
- Q11 • A + Y** The relationship is opposites: the opposite of hot is cold, so the opposite of dry is wet. Mark cold in the first column and wet in the second.
- Q12 • B + Z** The relationship is maker to the thing made: an author creates a novel, so a composer creates a symphony. Mark novel in the first column and symphony in the second.
- Q13 • E** The first letters advance by one each time: B, C, D, E, so next is F. The second letters advance by two: D, F, H, J, so next is L. The answer is FL.
- Q14 • A** The first letters move backwards through the alphabet: Z, Y, X, W, so next is V. The second letters advance by two: A, C, E, G, so next is I. The answer is VI.
- Q15 • B** Each pair starts four letters after the previous pair: A, E, I, M, so next is Q. Within each pair the second letter is two on from the first, so Q gives S. The answer is QS.

Section B Mathematics Questions 16 to 23

- Q16 · C** 384 divided by 24 = 16. Checking: $24 \times 16 = 384$.
- Q17 · D** Compare tenths first: 0.06 has 0 tenths, every other option has 5 or 6 tenths, so 0.06 is smallest.
- Q18 · E** Thursday is 30 and Wednesday is 12. $30 - 12 = 18$.
- Q19 · A** Total = $18 + 24 + 12 + 30 + 21 = 105$. 105 divided by 5 days = 21.
- Q20 · B** 45 divided by 9 = 5 litres per minute. 75 divided by 5 = 15 minutes.
- Q21 · C** Three fifths of 30 = 18 walk. $30 - 18 = 12$ do not walk.
- Q22 · D** Perimeter = $2(\text{length} + \text{width})$, so $34 = 2(10 + w)$, giving $17 = 10 + w$ and $w = 7$. Area = $10 \times 7 = 70$ cm squared.
- Q23 · E** 18:45 plus 2 hours = 20:45. 20:45 plus 35 minutes = 21:20.

Section C Non-verbal reasoning Questions 24 to 30

- Q24 · A** Each figure in the series has one more side than the one before: 3, 4, 5, 6. The next figure must have seven sides, with nothing added inside it.
- Q25 · B** The arrow turns one quarter turn clockwise each time while the square stays white, so the next figure continues that turn in a plain white square.
- Q26 · C** Both figures on the left contain exactly two dots, whatever their outline shape. Only the hexagon with two dots shares that feature.
- Q27 · D** Both figures on the left are shaded grey. Only the grey diamond is also grey: the others are white or black.
- Q28 · E** The white square and white triangle share the second letter W, so the second letter must be the shading and the first must be the shape. The two triangles share the first letter T, which confirms it. The test shape is a grey square, so it takes S for square and G for grey: SG.
- Q29 · A** The two squares JQ and KQ differ only in their dot count, so the first letter must count the dots (J one, K two). KQ and KR differ only in outline, so the second letter must be the shape (Q square, R circle). The test figure is a circle with one dot: JR.
- Q30 · B** Only one option is the same figure turned round. The other four are mirror images: the dot and the arrow have swapped sides, which a turn alone can never do.



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