

FSCE 11+ Style Practice Papers



English (11), Creative Writing (3 prompts) and Maths (10) • content to Year 5

Name

Primary school

Date

Date of birth

How the real FSCE 11+ works. FSCE (Future Stories Community Enterprise) is a not-for-profit test designer linked to Reading School, used by a small but growing group of grammar schools instead of GL or CEM. It tests **English**, a dedicated **Creative Writing** paper and **Maths**, with instructions delivered by pre-recorded audio, and content limited to what children have been taught by the end of Year 5.

Section	What it tests	Included here
English	Comprehension, grammar, vocabulary	11 questions
Creative Writing	An original written response	3 prompts
Mathematics	Numeracy and problem solving to Year 5	10 questions

What this paper does not cover. Unlike GL and CEM, FSCE has no standalone verbal or non-verbal reasoning paper at all, so none is included here. If your child is also sitting a GL or CEM style test, see our full [Verbal Reasoning paper](#) and [Non-Verbal Reasoning paper](#) instead.

Please read. This is an original Pip practice paper written to match FSCE's own published test framework. It is not a past paper, and FSCE's exact question types are not published. Pip is not affiliated with, endorsed by or connected to Future Stories Community Enterprise.



English

11 questions

COMPREHENSION

The Lighthouse Keeper's Log

1. Nobody had asked Femi to keep the light burning that night, but the ferry from the mainland was two hours late and the fog had rolled in thick as wool, so he climbed the spiral stairs anyway. His grandmother had kept this lighthouse for thirty years before him, and her logbook still sat on the shelf, its pages soft 5. and salt-stained from decades of damp air. Femi lit the lamp, checked the mechanism twice, and settled into the old chair to wait. Somewhere out in the grey nothing, a horn sounded once, faint and uncertain, and he felt his shoulders relax. Whoever was out there had seen the beam. He picked up the logbook, found the next blank line, and wrote the date carefully, the way his 10. grandmother had taught him: steady hands make a steady record.

An original passage written for this practice paper.

1 Why did Femi climb the stairs to light the lamp that night?

- ☐ A He was told to by his grandmother ☐ B The ferry was late and fog had rolled in
☐ C It was his usual daily routine ☐ D A storm warning had been issued ☐ E He wanted to read the old logbook

2 Whose logbook does Femi find on the shelf?

- ☐ A His own, started that year ☐ B A stranger's, left behind by accident
☐ C His grandmother's, from her thirty years keeping the lighthouse ☐ D The ferry captain's
☐ E An unnamed previous keeper's

3 Which of these is closest in meaning to "settled" as used in line 6 ("settled into the old chair to wait")?

- ☐ A Argued ☐ B Made himself comfortable ☐ C Fell asleep ☐ D Stood up quickly ☐ E Grew angry

4 What can be inferred from Femi's shoulders relaxing when he hears the horn?

- ☐ A He had been tense, worried the ferry would not see the light
☐ B He was cold and the horn signalled the fog clearing ☐ C He disliked the sound and was relieved it stopped
☐ D He was bored and the horn woke him up ☐ E He was frightened of the dark

5 What does the final line, "steady hands make a steady record," mainly suggest about how Femi was taught to do this job?

- ☐ A Speed matters more than accuracy ☐ B Care and calm attention matter more than speed
☐ C The logbook does not need to be accurate ☐ D Only his grandmother could write in the logbook
☐ E Lighthouse keeping requires no real skill

GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION

6 Which sentence uses the correct form of the verb?

- ☐ A The class of children were lining up outside. ☐ B The class of children was lining up outside.
☐ C The class of children is lining up outside, were they not? ☐ D The class of children have been line up outside.
☐ E The class of children be lining up outside.

7 Which sentence is correctly punctuated?

- ☐ A The captains cabin was locked. ☐ B The captain's cabin was locked. ☐ C The captains' cabin was locked.
☐ D The captain's' cabin was locked. ☐ E The captains cabins' was locked.

8 Which word correctly completes the sentence? "The old door creaked ____ as the wind pushed against it."

- ☐ A loud ☐ B loudly ☐ C loudness ☐ D louder than ☐ E loudening

9 Which of these is a complete, grammatically correct sentence?

- ☐ A Waiting quietly by the door. ☐ B Although the ferry was delayed. ☐ C The fog rolled in slowly over the harbour.
☐ D Whenever the horn sounds twice. ☐ E The horn, which was faint, and distant.

10 Which word is spelled correctly?

- ☐ A Nessecary ☐ B Necessary ☐ C Neccessary ☐ D Necesary ☐ E Neccesary

11 Which sentence uses formal language most appropriate for a letter asking permission to visit a lighthouse?

- ☐ A Hiya, mind if we pop by sometime? ☐ B Can we come round, it would be great!
☐ C I am writing to ask whether my class might visit the lighthouse. ☐ D Fancy letting us in for a look?
☐ E We really want to see it, cheers.

Creative Writing

Choose one prompt • 35 minutes suggested timing

How to use this paper. Choose one prompt below. Spend 5 minutes planning, 25 minutes writing, then 5 minutes proofreading. Marking rewards ideas, structure, description and technical accuracy, not a single "correct" answer.

Prompt 1. A locked door appears overnight in a familiar place. Write the opening of a story in which your character decides whether to open it.

- Describe the setting before the character notices the door, so the discovery feels like a real interruption.
- Show how the character feels through their actions, not just by naming the feeling.
- End your opening at a decision point, not a resolution.

Prompt 2. Write a description of a busy market from the point of view of someone who has never seen one before.

- Use at least two senses beyond sight, such as smell or sound.
- Choose a small, specific detail to focus on rather than describing everything at once.
- Keep the unfamiliar viewpoint consistent throughout.

Prompt 3. Write the story of the last five minutes before something important happens, from the character who is most nervous about it.

- Slow the pacing down; five minutes can fill a whole page if the detail is right.
- Use short sentences to build tension where it matters.
- Avoid stating "I was nervous" directly; show it through small physical details.

Mathematics

10 questions • no calculator

1 What is the value of the 3 in 36,542?

- ☐ A 3 ☐ B 30 ☐ C 300 ☐ D 3,000 ☐ E 30,000

2 Work out: $6 + 5 \times 7 - 4$

- ☐ A 73 ☐ B 37 ☐ C 32 ☐ D 41 ☐ E 42

3 Work out $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{8}$, giving your answer as a fraction in its simplest form.

- ☐ A $\frac{19}{24}$ ☐ B $\frac{3}{11}$ ☐ C $\frac{17}{24}$ ☐ D $\frac{5}{8}$ ☐ E $\frac{2}{11}$

4 Find 25% of 96.

- ☐ A 18 ☐ B 24 ☐ C 29 ☐ D 35 ☐ E 36

5 How many millilitres are there in 2.3 litres?

- ☐ A 23 ☐ B 230 ☐ C 2,300 ☐ D 2.3 ☐ E 0.23



- 6 Three angles on a straight line measure 48° , 65° and an unknown angle. What is the unknown angle?
☐ A 59 ☐ B 67 ☐ C 79 ☐ D 113 ☐ E 180
- 7 Find the mean of these numbers: 14, 9, 20, 11, 16
☐ A 11 ☐ B 14 ☐ C 16 ☐ D 20 ☐ E 70
- 8 Pencils cost £2.8 each. Tomas buys 5 of them, then gets 20% off the total for buying in bulk. How much does he pay?
☐ A £14.00 ☐ B £11.20 ☐ C £15.00 ☐ D £13.80 ☐ E £16.80
- 9 Green and yellow beads are mixed in the ratio 3:4. There are 56 beads altogether. How many are yellow?
☐ A 24 ☐ B 32 ☐ C 28 ☐ D 8 ☐ E 56
- 10 If a number machine squares the number you put in and then adds 3, what comes out if you put in 5?
☐ A 24 ☐ B 28 ☐ C 33 ☐ D 25 ☐ E 18

Answer sheet

Circle or mark your chosen letter for each question. Creative Writing is marked separately, not on this sheet.

English 1 to 11

1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
2	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
3	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
4	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
5	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
6	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
7	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
8	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
9	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
10	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
11	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H

Maths 1 to 10

1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
2	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
3	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
4	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
5	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
6	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
7	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
8	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
9	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
10	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H

English answers

- Q1 • B** The passage says the ferry "was two hours late and the fog had rolled in thick as wool, so he climbed the spiral stairs anyway."
- Q2 • C** The text states "His grandmother had kept this lighthouse for thirty years before him, and her logbook still sat on the shelf."
- Q3 • B** To "settle into" a chair means to sit down and get comfortable, which fits the calm, waiting mood of the scene.
- Q4 • A** His relief comes from realising "Whoever was out there had seen the beam", showing he had been anxious about the ferry's safety until then.
- Q5 • B** The phrase links careful, unhurried hands to a reliable, careful record, showing that his grandmother taught him to value care over haste.
- Q6 • B** "Class" is a singular collective noun here, so it takes the singular verb "was", even though it refers to many children.
- Q7 • B** "Captain's" correctly shows singular possession (the cabin belonging to the captain) with the apostrophe before the s.
- Q8 • B** The word describes how the door creaked, so it needs to be an adverb: "loudly", not the adjective "loud".
- Q9 • C** Only "The fog rolled in slowly over the harbour" has a subject and a full verb and expresses a complete thought. The others are sentence fragments.
- Q10 • B** Necessary has one "c" and two "s"s: ne-ces-sary.
- Q11 • C** A permission-request letter calls for formal register. "I am writing to ask whether my class might visit the lighthouse" avoids slang and informal phrasing.

Mathematics answers

- Q1 • E** 3 is in the ten-thousands column of 36,542, so its value is 30,000.
- Q2 • B** Multiplication is done before addition and subtraction: $5 \times 7 = 35$. Then $6 + 35 - 4 = 37$.
- Q3 • A** A common denominator of 24 gives $\frac{16}{24} + \frac{3}{24} = \frac{19}{24}$, which is already in simplest form since 19 and 24 share no common factor.
- Q4 • B** 25% is a quarter, so $96 \div 4 = 24$.
- Q5 • C** 1 litre = 1,000 ml, so $2.3 \text{ l} = 2.3 \times 1,000 = 2,300 \text{ ml}$.
- Q6 • B** Angles on a straight line total 180° . $180 - 48 - 65 = 67^\circ$.
- Q7 • B** Add the numbers: $14 + 9 + 20 + 11 + 16 = 70$. Divide by how many there are (5): 14.
- Q8 • B** $5 \times \text{£}2.8 = \text{£}14.00$. A 20% discount means he pays 80%: $\text{£}14.00 \times 0.8 = \text{£}11.20$.
- Q9 • B** 56 shared into $3 + 4 = 7$ parts is 8 per part. Yellow is the larger share, 4 parts: $4 \times 8 = 32$.
- Q10 • B** 5 squared is 25, then $25 + 3 = 28$.



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