Sutton SET (Stage One) Style Practice Papers

27-question sampler: English (17) and Maths (10) · multiple choice, lozenge answer sheet

Name	Primary school
.....	.....
Date	**Date of birth**
.....	.....

How the real SET works. The Selective Eligibility Test is shared by six schools: Greenshaw High School, Sutton Grammar School, Wallington County Grammar School, Wallington High School for Girls, Nonsuch High School for Girls and Wilson's School. Stage One is two multiple choice papers, English and Maths, each 40 to 50 minutes, marked on a lozenge answer sheet. Doing well enough leads to an invitation to a Stage Two test, or in Greenshaw's case, direct consideration for an ability place.

Paper	Time	Questions	Format
English	about 50 min	17	Multiple choice: single answer, select two, select all, or NOT correct
Mathematics	40 to 50 min (real paper)	10 here	Multiple choice, single best answer, A to E

The single most important fact about SET. Sutton Grammar School states plainly that **the SET does not include verbal reasoning or non-verbal reasoning**. There is no separate VR or NVR paper. This is the biggest difference between SET and tests like the Kent Test or GL-based papers, and it should change how you spend your child's practice time.

Please read. This is an original Pip practice paper written to match the question TYPES shown in Sutton Grammar School's own official sample documents. It is not a past paper, and Sutton states plainly that its own samples do not represent every question type used in recent years. Pip is not affiliated with, endorsed by or connected to any of the six SET schools.

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English Paper

About 20 minutes · 17 questions · the real SET English paper is 40 to 50 minutes and longer than this sample

1. All questions are multiple choice. Read the instruction line above each question carefully: some ask for one answer, some for exactly two, and some for all that are correct.
2. You may spend as much of the section time as you like on any question, and return to a question later.
3. For "select two" questions you must mark exactly two answers to score. One correct answer alone scores nothing.
4. For "select all that are correct" questions, the answer is never all five options.
5. Work through the sections in order: A Spelling (5 min), B Text 1 (25 min), C Text 2 (10 min), D Comparing the texts (10 min).

Why this matters more than it looks. A child who is only used to "pick the one right answer" papers will lose easy marks here on habit alone, ticking just one box on a "select two" question. Reading the instruction line is not optional on this paper: it is the paper.

SECTION A Spelling 5 minutes

1 Which of these is the correct spelling?

A Definately B Definitly C Definitely D Deffinitely E Definitaly

2 Which of these is the correct spelling?

A Reccommend B Recommend C Recomend D Reccomend E Reckommend

3 Which of these is the correct spelling?

A Embarrassment B Embarassment C Emberrassment D Embarrasment E Embarrasement

4 Which of these is the correct spelling?

A Occassion B Ocasion C Occasion D Occassionn E Ocassion

5 Which of these is the correct spelling?

A Priviledge B Privilege C Privelege D Privilage E Priviledje

SECTION B **Text 1** 25 minutes

The Last Lighthouse Keeper

Nine miles off the coast, the light on Corran Skerry had turned every night for one hundred and forty years, and for the last eleven of those, Isla Ferguson had been the one to wind it. She was the last keeper on the register. Everywhere else the lamps had been automated, run by a computer in an office on the mainland that nobody ever visited, but Corran Skerry's mechanism was too old and too particular to trust to a machine, and so Isla stayed.

The rock itself was barely large enough for the tower and a single stone cottage, and in a bad storm the spray came clean over the roof. Isla had grown used to the sound of it: not a crash, exactly, more a long continuous roar that she stopped noticing after the first winter, the way you stop noticing your own heartbeat. What she had not grown used to was the loneliness, though she would not have called it that herself. She called it quiet.

Supplies came once a fortnight by boat, weather allowing, and twice that autumn the boat had failed to come at all, the sea too rough even for Malcolm, who had been bringing her flour and paraffin for a decade and was not a man easily frightened by weather. On those weeks Isla rationed carefully and told herself it was no different from any other kind of housekeeping. She did not mention it in her log. The log was for the light, not for her.

The letter arrived on the boat in November, official and stiff in its envelope, and she knew before she opened it what it would say. Corran Skerry was to be automated in the spring. She read it once, standing on the jetty with the wind taking the edges of the paper, and then she folded it and put it in her coat and went up to check the mechanism, because it was nearly dusk and the light did not care what was written in letters.

An original passage written for this practice paper.

6 How long had the light on Corran Skerry been turning when the passage begins?

A Eleven years B One hundred and forty years C One hundred and fifty-one years D A decade
E Nobody knows

7 Why does Corran Skerry still have a human keeper when other lighthouses do not?

A Isla refused to leave B The Corporation could not afford automation
C Its mechanism is too old and particular to trust to a machine D It has no electricity
E It is the tallest lighthouse in the country

8 SELECT ALL THAT ARE CORRECT.

What difficulties does Isla face living on Corran Skerry? Select all that are correct.

A The rock is barely large enough for the tower and a cottage B Storm spray comes over the roof
C Supplies sometimes fail to arrive D She has no source of food at all E She is required to entertain visitors

9 SELECT THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.

Select the TWO words that best describe how Isla responds to the storms and the failed supply boats.

A Frightened B Practical C Resigned D Panicked E Resourceful

10 SELECT THE ONE THAT IS NOT CORRECT.

Which of these statements is NOT correct, based on the passage?

A Isla records her own hardships in the ships log B The letter about automation arrived by boat
C Isla read the letter on the jetty D The light was due to be automated in the spring
E Malcolm had supplied Isla for about ten years

11 What does the final sentence, "the light did not care what was written in letters", mainly suggest?

A Isla could not read the letter properly B The lighthouse light was broken
C Isla's duty to the light continues regardless of the news she has just received
D The Corporation had sent the wrong letter E The light would be automated immediately

SECTION C **Text 2** 10 minutes

The Starling Murmuration

Every evening in late autumn, just before the light went, the starlings arrived over the old pier in their thousands, and for perhaps four minutes they became something that was not quite a flock and not quite a single creature: a shape that folded and stretched and poured itself through the sky like smoke deciding, moment to moment, what it wanted to be.

Nobody fully agrees on why they do it. Some say it confuses the peregrine falcons that hunt them, because a single bird is an easy target but ten thousand moving as one is not. Others say it is simply warmth, that flying close together at dusk keeps the cold off before they drop, all at once, into the reeds to roost. Watching from the pier, it was hard to believe either explanation was the whole of it. It looked, more than anything, like joy.

An original passage written for this practice paper.

12 **How long does the murmuration typically last, according to the passage?**

A A few seconds B About four minutes C All evening D An hour E It is not stated

13 SELECT ALL THAT ARE CORRECT.

What explanations does the passage give for why starlings form a murmuration? Select all that are correct.

A To confuse hunting falcons B To stay warm before roosting C To attract a mate D To find food in the reeds E Because it is simply joy

14 SELECT THE ONE THAT IS NOT CORRECT.

Which of these is NOT correct, based on the passage?

A The starlings roost in reeds B Peregrine falcons hunt the starlings C The narrator is certain the explanations given are complete D The murmuration happens at dusk E The starlings arrive in their thousands

SECTION D Comparing Text 1 and Text 2 10 minutes

15 SELECT ALL THAT ARE CORRECT.

Think about Isla and the starlings. From the two texts, which of these statements are true about BOTH? Select all that are correct.

A They are affected by the weather
B They are found near the coast
C Their routines unfold around dusk
D They deliberately avoid other creatures
E They are shown to be afraid

16 **What is the main similarity in tone between the two passages?**

A Both are comic
B Both are quietly admiring of something difficult to explain
C Both are angry
D Both are frightening
E Both are purely factual, with no description

17 SELECT THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.

Select TWO words: one that best describes Text 1's focus and one that best describes Text 2's focus.

A Duty
B Danger
C Movement
D Money
E Machinery

Mathematics Paper

About 10 minutes · 10 questions · single best answer · the real SET maths paper is 40 to 50 minutes and longer than this sample

1. Calculators are **not** allowed.
2. Every question has one correct answer from five options, A to E.
3. You do not need to work every question out in full: look for a reason to rule options out first.
4. If you cannot do a question, go on to the next one and come back to it.

How Sutton Grammar's own sample paper explains its questions. Their worked examples do not show long calculations. They show what you can rule out before you calculate: which options end in the wrong digit, which are too big or too small to be plausible, which use the wrong operation. This paper is written the same way. Read the explanation for each question afterwards, not just the answer.

1 Work out 38 × 24

A 891 B 900 C 915 D 912 E 927

2 Zara and Yusuf are splitting the cost of a £35 present in the ratio 3:4. How much does Yusuf pay?

A £15 B £12.50 C £20 D £17.5 E £17

3 Find $\frac{2}{5} \times \frac{4}{9}$ and give your answer as a simplified fraction.

A $\frac{8}{45}$ B $\frac{8}{14}$ C $\frac{6}{45}$ D $\frac{2}{9}$ E $\frac{1}{5}$

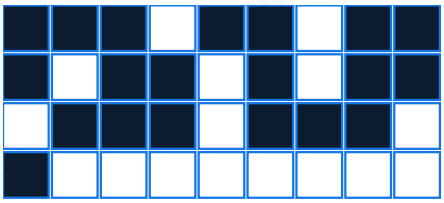
4 In a right-angled triangle, one of the other two angles is 37°. What are the two remaining angles?

A 53° and 37° B 53° and 90° C They are both 37° D 90° and 90° E It is not possible to say

5 Work out: 64.8 − (18.35 − 9.6)

A 36.85 B 46.05 C 56.05 D 66.05 E 76.05

6 Work out what fraction of the grid below is shaded black, and give your answer in its simplest form.



A $\frac{5}{9}$ B $\frac{7}{12}$ C $\frac{4}{7}$ D $\frac{10}{18}$ E $\frac{3}{4}$

7 A jacket costs £45. The price is first increased by 20%, then the new price is reduced by 10%. What is the final price?

A £45 B £49.50 C £48.60 D £49.68 E £58.50

8 A cyclist rides 18 km in 24 minutes at a steady speed. What is her speed in km/h?

A 30 B 45 C 50 D 18 E 24

9 A sequence starts at 5. Each term is found by doubling the term before it and then subtracting 3. What is the 5th term?

A 19 B 32 C 35 D 31 E 38

10 Which of these numbers is a multiple of both 4 and 6, and lies between 20 and 40?

A 28 B 30 C 32 D 24 E 40

Lozenge style answer sheet

Fill the lozenge for your answer, the same way as the real SET answer sheet. Some English questions need two lozenges filled.

English 1 to 17

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
12	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
13	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
14	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
15	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
16	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
17	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 · C	Definitely is often misspelled because it is said quickly. It comes from "definite", which has no "a".
Q2 · B	Recommend has one c and two m letters, the opposite of the mistake most people make.
Q3 · A	Embarrassment has two r letters and two s letters.
Q4 · C	Occasion has two c letters and one s letter.
Q5 · B	Privilege has no "d" anywhere in it, which is the mistake almost everyone makes.
Q6 · B	The passage states the light "had turned every night for one hundred and forty years", and separately that Isla had kept it for the last eleven of those years.
Q7 · C	The passage says directly that the mechanism "was too old and too particular to trust to a machine, and so Isla stayed."
Q8 · A + B + C	The first three are stated directly: the tiny rock, the storm spray, and the boat failing to come in bad weather. She is not shown to have no food at all (she "rationed carefully"), and nothing suggests visitors.
Q9 · B + E	She "rationed carefully" and told herself it was "no different from any other kind of housekeeping", which is practical and resourceful. Nothing in the passage shows fear or panic.
Q10 · A	The passage says the opposite: "She did not mention it in her log. The log was for the light, not for her." The other four statements are all directly supported.
Q11 · C	It shows that however significant the letter is to Isla personally, her responsibility to keep the light going does not change until the change actually happens.
Q12 · B	The passage states "for perhaps four minutes they became something that was not quite a flock".
Q13 · A + B	The passage gives two proposed scientific explanations: confusing predators and staying warm. "Joy" is offered as the narrator's own impression, not stated as a scientific explanation, and mates or food are never mentioned.
Q14 · C	The passage says the opposite: "it was hard to believe either explanation was the whole of it", meaning the narrator is doubtful, not certain.
Q15 · A + B + C	Both face the weather (storms for Isla; cold for the starlings), both are by the coast (a lighthouse rock and a pier), and both follow a routine near dusk (Isla checks the light; the birds arrive before dark). Neither text says they deliberately avoid other creatures or shows them as afraid.
Q16 · B	Both passages linger on something the narrator cannot fully explain (Isla's quiet, the murmuration's cause) and describe it with care rather than alarm or humour.
Q17 · A + C	Text 1 is centred on Isla's sense of duty to the light. Text 2 is centred on the starlings' movement through the sky. Neither passage is mainly about danger, money or machinery.

Mathematics answers

Q1 · D 38 ends in 8 and 24 ends in 4, so 8 × 4 = 32 means the answer must end in 2. Only one option ends in 2, so there is no need to multiply the whole thing out: the answer is 912.

Q2 · C £35 shared into 3 + 4 = 7 parts is £5 per part. Yusuf takes the larger share, 4 parts, so £20. You can rule out the £17.50 option immediately: that is only correct for a 1:1 split, not 3:4.

Q3 · A Multiply straight across: 2 × 4 = 8 and 5 × 9 = 45, giving $^{8}/_{45}$. 8 and 45 share no common factor, so that is already in simplest form. The $^{8}/_{14}$ option is a classic trap: it multiplies the numerators but wrongly adds the denominators instead of multiplying them.

Q4 · B Angles in a triangle total 180°, and one angle is already 90° because it is right-angled. That leaves 180 − 90 − 37 = 53° for the last angle, so the two remaining angles are 53° and 90°. The "90° and 90°" option can be ruled out at a glance: two right angles would leave nothing for the third.

Q5 · C Brackets first: 18.35 − 9.6 = 8.75. Then 64.8 − 8.75 = 56.05. A common trap is subtracting both numbers in the bracket instead of finding their difference first, which is the 36.85 option.

Q6 · A There are 36 squares and 20 are shaded, giving $^{20}/_{36}$. Both share a factor of 4, which simplifies to $^{5}/_{9}$. The $^{10}/_{18}$ option is a common trap: it is numerically equal but is not fully simplified, so it does not answer the question as asked.

Q7 · C £45 × 1.2 = £54.00, then × 0.9 = £48.60. You can rule out £45 straight away: a 20% rise and a 10% fall never cancel out exactly, they leave a net rise.

Q8 · B 24 minutes is 0.4 of an hour. Speed = distance ÷ time = 18 ÷ 0.4 = 45 km/h. The 18 and 24 options merely repeat the numbers in the question without converting the time to hours or finding a rate.

Q9 · C The sequence runs 5, 7, 11, 19, 35. Doubling the 4th term (19) and subtracting 3 gives 35. The option "38" is a common trap: it doubles the previous term but forgets to subtract 3.

Q10 · D A number that is a multiple of both 4 and 6 must be a multiple of 12. Among the listed options, only 24 fits and lies between 20 and 40. You can rule out 30 immediately: it is a multiple of 6 but not of 4.

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