Verbal Skills
Parent's Guide

Familiarisation

GL Assessment

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English

The real 11+ Verbal Skills test assesses English in line with the current English National Curriculum. The areas assessed typically include aspects of reading comprehension, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Verbal Reasoning

Verbal Reasoning (VR) mainly involves reasoning with words. This includes the production of words, use of words and relationships between words. Some VR item types also involve reasoning with letters and numbers; these question types are not testing mathematics, but use letters and numbers as symbols to predict, for example, a sequence or relationship.

About the Familiarisation Test

The Verbal Skills Familiarisation Test is designed to familiarise your child with the type of content in the real 11+ test. The test is presented in a very similar way to many of the test papers used for selection at 11+. It will provide practice in answering different types of questions used in real 11+ tests (although these may not necessarily be exactly the same question types that will come up in the real test your child will sit) and practice in recording answers on the separate answer sheet. The papers may not be exactly the same difficulty level as the real tests, as the difficulty level varies between schools.

Resources

Your child will need the following materials:

- **a Verbal Skills Familiarisation booklet**
- **a Verbal Skills Familiarisation answer sheet**
- **a pencil**: the answer sheet will need to be completed in pencil (not ink, felt-tip etc.)
- **an eraser** to change answers. Crossing out or placing an X next to the unintended answer on the answer sheet cannot be computer-marked.
- **a spare sheet of paper** for rough working (or this can be done on the test booklet if preferred).

Note: calculators must **not** be used for questions involving numbers (use of a calculator is **not** allowed in the real 11+ tests).

Working through the Test

For the real 11+ test, your child will need to: read the instructions on the front of the test booklet; listen carefully to the instructions read out by the invigilator; observe the instructions at the bottom of each page telling them to go on to the next page or to stop; and check/fill in the details at the top of the answer sheet.

Give your child the test at an appropriate time, when they are both physically and mentally alert. Choose a suitable area for them to work in – make sure they can work comfortably and free from any distractions.

Before your child takes the familiarisation test, discuss with them the reasons why they are doing the test. Also explain that they might find some of the questions difficult. If they get stuck on a question they should not waste time on it, but move on to the next one. At the beginning of each section, the solution to the example question has been provided, so you may work through the question with your child, so they understand how to answer the particular question type and mark their answer on the answer sheet. Where there is more than one question in a section, your child may then work through the remaining questions in each section independently.

Your child should mark their answers on the separate answer sheet provided. The real 11+ test will be marked by computer, but it is important for your child to learn how to use the answer sheet properly in preparation for the real test. They should mark their answer in the appropriate box by drawing a clear line through it with a pencil, like this . Mistakes should be rubbed out completely, **not** crossed out, since in the real test this would not be recorded correctly by the computer. You can ignore the boxes at the top of the answer sheet marked CANDIDATE NUMBER, SCHOOL NUMBER, DATE OF BIRTH and DATE OF TEST. Your child will be required to fill in or check these details in the real test, but it is not necessary for familiarisation purposes.

Timing the Test

The familiarisation test should take around an hour to complete. The real 11+ test is timed, but for familiarisation purposes, it is important that you work through the solutions to the example questions in each section with your child prior to them completing the remaining questions within a section. The time taken will be dependent on your child.

Marking and Feedback

The correct answers to the Verbal Skills Familiarisation Test are provided on the following pages. Only these answers are allowed. One mark should be given for each correct answer – half-marks should not be given. When you mark the test you will be able to see how many questions your child got right in each section and overall. This will give you a good indication of their strengths and weaknesses. You may wish to go back over any questions your child got wrong and work through them together.

Answer Key

English

The Swiss Family Robinson

1. B
2. C
3. E
4. D
5. C
6. B
7. C
8. B
9. E
10. D
11. A
12. C
13. C
14. B

Spelling Exercises

15. D
16. A
17. N
18. C
19. B
20. A

Performance Time

21. D
22. C
23. B
24. E
25. C
26. B

Verbal Reasoning

27. d
28. p
29. k
30. t
31. r
32. n

33. 3

34. hit, miss
35. modern, old
36. close, distant
37. stiff, flexible
38. approximate, precise
39. clear, vague

40. YL
41. NC
42. IA
43. XU
44. QV
45. SC

46. D

47. BAG
48. KID
49. EGG
50. EAR
51. JOY
52. GEM
53. let
54. like
55. counter
56. spring
57. passage
58. plot

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