


Familiarisation Test

Verbal Skills

Read the following with your child:

1. This is a multiple-choice test in which you have to mark your answer to each question on the separate answer sheet.
3. There are two parts in this test, English and Verbal Reasoning.
4. The English section consists of a passage to read and then there are some questions about it. After this there are some exercises in grammar and spelling.
5. In the Verbal Reasoning section, each question type starts with an explanation of what to do, usually followed by a worked example with the answer marked on the answer sheet. Some questions require more than one answer to be marked.
6. Draw a firm line clearly through the rectangle next to your answer, like this . If you make a mistake, rub it out as completely as you can and put in your new answer.
7. Be sure to keep your place on the answer sheet. Mark your answer in the box that has the same number as the question in the booklet.
8. You may find some of the questions difficult. If you cannot do a question, do not waste time on it but go on to the next. If you are not sure of an answer, choose the one you think is best.
9. You may do any rough working in the booklet or on a separate sheet of paper.
10. **Work as quickly and as carefully as you can..**

English – Section 1

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

The Swiss Family Robinson

by Johann David Wyss

This story is told by a father who has been shipwrecked on an island along with his wife and sons, Jack and Fritz, and their pet dogs. They have spent the winter safely in Falconhurst which is the home that they built. The weather has recently improved, and it is time to find out what effect the winter storms have had on their tree house and tents.

1. The winds at length were lulled, the sun shot his brilliant rays through the clouds, the rain ceased to fall – spring had come. No prisoners set free could have felt more joy than we did as we stepped out from our winter home, refreshed our eyes with the pleasant greenery around us, and our ears with the merry songs of a thousand
5. happy birds, and drank in the pure air of spring.

Our tree house was our first care; filled with leaves, and broken and torn by the wind, it looked indeed dilapidated. We worked hard, and in a few days it was again habitable. I was anxious to visit the tent, for I feared that much of our precious stores might have suffered. The damage done to Falconhurst was as nothing

10. compared to the scene that awaited us. The tent was blown to the ground, the canvas torn to rags, and the provisions soaked. We immediately spread the things that we hoped to preserve in the sun to dry.

The irreparable damage we had suffered made me resolve to find some safer and more stable winter-quarters before the arrival of the next rainy season. Fritz

15. proposed that we should hollow out a cave in the rock, and though the difficulties such a task would present appeared almost insurmountable, I was determined to make the attempt; we might not, I thought, cut out a cavern of sufficient size to serve as a room, but we might at least make a cellar for the more valuable and perishable of our stores.

20. Some days afterwards we left Falconhurst with the cart laden with a cargo of spades, hammers, chisels, pickaxes and crowbars, and began the work. On the smooth face of the rock I drew out in chalk the size of the proposed entrance, and then, with minds bent on success, we battered away.

Six days of hard and incessant toil made but little impression; I do not think that the
25. hole would have been a satisfactory shelter for even our smallest dog; but we still
did not despair, and were soon rewarded by coming to softer and more yielding
substance; our work progressed, and our minds were relieved.

On the tenth day, as our persevering blows were falling heavily, Jack, who was
working hard with a hammer and crowbar, shouted:

30. 'Gone, father! Fritz, my bar has gone through the mountain! It went right through the
rock; I heard it crash down inside. Oh, do come and see!'

We sprang to his side, and I thrust the handle of my hammer into the hole. I could
turn it in any direction I chose. Fritz handed me a long pole; I tried the depth with
that. Nothing could I feel. A thin wall, then, was all that stood between us and a
35. great cavern.

With a shout of joy, we battered vigorously at the rock; piece by piece fell, and soon
the hole was large enough for us to enter.

Fritz and I enlarged the opening, while Jack, springing on his horse, thundered
away to Falconhurst to bear the great and astonishing news to his mother.

40. He soon returned, quickly followed by the rest of our party in the cart.

All were in the highest state of excitement. Jack had stowed in the cart all the
candles he could find, and we now, lighting these, entered. I led the way. Silently
we marched – my wife, the boys, and even the dogs seeming overawed with the
grandeur and beauty of the scene. We were in a cave of diamonds – a vast cave
45. of glittering crystal; the candles reflected on the walls a golden light, bright as the
stars, while great crystal pillars rose from the floor like mighty trees, mingling their
branches, which sparkled and glittered with all the colours of the rainbow.

The floor of this magnificent palace was formed of hard, dry sand, so dry that I saw
at once that we might safely make our home inside it.

Please answer these questions. (Look at the passage again if you need to.) You should choose the **best** answer and mark its letter on your answer sheet.

1

At what time of year is the passage set?

- A winter
- B spring
- C rainy season
- D mid-summer
- E autumn

2

The father compares himself and his family to prisoners set free.
(lines 2–3) **Why?**

- A They had been held hostage by pirates.
- B They had been trapped in their cave.
- C They had been trapped in their house due to stormy weather.
- D They had been caught in heavy rain which had finally stopped.
- E They had been unfairly accused of crimes but the accusations had been dropped.

3

How did the family attempt to rescue their supplies?

- A They shook all of the water off them.
- B They fetched new materials to mend them.
- C They took them to the tree-house instead of the tent.
- D They made a fire to dry them out.
- E They placed them out in the sun to dry.

4

If they only managed to carve out a smaller cave, what did the father hope to use it as?

- A a shelter for emergencies
- B a house for their dog
- C a playroom for the children
- D a storage space for supplies
- E a shelter for rain showers

5

'... with minds bent on success...' (line 23)

What does this imply about their attitude to the work?

- A They were indifferent as to whether they succeeded.
- B They wanted to succeed but struggled to believe they could.
- C They were absolutely determined to see it through.
- D They were so confident they felt they had already succeeded.
- E They worked cautiously because there was a high chance they wouldn't succeed.

6

Why did the family feel 'relieved' after they had started their work?
(line 27)

- A They knew they couldn't get any further and could stop working.
- B They had finally begun to make progress.
- C Somebody rewarded them for their six days of work.
- D They realised they could fit their dog in the hole.
- E They had learned from the experience so it hadn't been a complete waste of time.

7

What was the reaction when Jack lost his crowbar?

- A Jack's father was angry because Jack had lost one of their tools.
- B Jack was embarrassed because he looked incompetent.
- C Jack was excited because of what it implied about the rock.
- D Jack and his father were relieved because it meant they could stop work.
- E Jack and his father were nervous because they didn't know what to expect.

8

What did Jack do while Fritz and his father enlarged the opening of the cave?

- A Jack went for a ride on his horse to celebrate the work was over.
- B Jack went to inform his mother.
- C Jack shouted loudly.
- D Jack went to collect more tools.
- E Jack had a rest so that he could take over next.

9

What was the family's reaction to the cave?

- A They thought it was so beautiful they couldn't possibly make a home inside.
- B They were excited but fearful about what was inside.
- C They couldn't see much because it was so dark.
- D The cave was as they had expected and they immediately felt at-home.
- E They were overwhelmed at the dazzling appearance.

10

Why was the cave considered suitable as a home?

- A because it resembled the family's previous home
- B because it was high and hidden from animals
- C because the crystal made it brighter inside
- D because the hard, dry sand would protect against damp
- E because it was warm inside

11

What would be another word for 'impression' on line 24?

- A impact
- B dent
- C consequence
- D trouble
- E achievement

12

'... we battered vigorously at the rock...' (line 36)

Which of the following words is closest in meaning to 'vigorously'?

- A painfully
- B rebelliously
- C energetically
- D carefully
- E powerlessly

13

What type of word is 'persevering' on line 28?

- A noun
- B verb
- C adjective
- D adverb
- E preposition

14

What type of words are the following? resolve (line 13), **sprang** (line 32), **thrust** (line 32), **enlarged** (line 38), **thundered** (line 38)

- A nouns
- B verbs
- C adjectives
- D adverbs
- E prepositions

English – Section 2

In these sentences there are some **spelling** mistakes. On each numbered line there is either **one** mistake or **no** mistake. Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark its letter on your answer sheet. **If there is no mistake, mark N.**

Spelling Exercises

15 The local county's superior players dominated the tennis tournament.
A B C D

16 I recieved an elaborate invitation to an exclusive party next week.
A B C D

17 Julia regretted postponing her annual expedition to Norway.
A B C D

18 Attendance at the secret meeting was compulserly and critical.
A B C D

19 Sam enjoyed climing mountains and spending time in the countryside.
A B C D

20 Consistant hard work has contributed to significant improvements.
A B C D

English – Section 3

In this passage you have to choose the **best** word, or **group of words**, to complete each numbered line so that it makes sense and is written in correct English. Choose the **best** answer and mark its letter on your answer sheet.

Performance Time

Waiting in the wings, the students' nerves soared as they listened to the

21 whispers from
A B C D E

the audience.

22 All of friends and family had
A B C D E

come to see them perform in the end-of-year show.

But what they were about to see was not what you

23
A B C D

a normal show.
E

Whilst the curtain was still down, Jamie and Farooq heaved the three boxes into the centre of the stage.

One of the boxes

24

will open

A

was opened

B

would open

C

won't open

D

had opened

E

slightly so they hastily slammed it shut.

The noise from the audience was getting louder.

25

'Who

has missed

A

misses

B

is missing

C

will miss

D

does miss

E

their goggles?' asked their teacher in an urgent whisper.

Sara rushed forward to grab them and almost tripped on the ropes

26

next to

A

to which

B

onto

C

in between

D

from

E

three of the students

were harnessed.

Verbal Reasoning

In these questions, the **same** letter must fit into **both** sets of brackets to complete the word in front of the brackets and begin the word after the brackets.

Find this letter and mark it on your answer sheet.

Example mea [?] able si [?] op

A p **B** n **C** f **D** t **E** c

Answer **t** (The four words are **meat, table, sit, top.**)

27 wor [?] en fin [?] ice

A m **B** t **C** d **D** s **E** n

28 loo [?] eak wee [?] ull

A b **B** k **C** m **D** p **E** s

29 roo [?] ick oa [?] ind

A t **B** r **C** m **D** f **E** k

30 car [?] ip fac [?] rust

A t **B** d **C** p **D** c **E** e

31 chee [?] ang spea [?] ide

A s **B** r **C** b **D** p **E** k

32 pe [?] et cla [?] umber

A w **B** g **C** p **D** l **E** n

Read the following information, then find the correct answer to the question and mark it on your answer sheet.

33

At the shops Darren bought 8 oranges.
Laura bought 3 oranges fewer than Chris.
Rosario bought 3 oranges fewer than Darren and 1 fewer than Chris.

How many oranges did Laura buy?

- A** 1 **B** 9 **C** 3 **D** 5 **E** 2
-

In these questions, find **two** words, **one** from each group, that are **most opposite in meaning**.

Mark **both** words on your answer sheet.

Example (morning early wake) (late shop dark)

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| A morning | X late |
| B early | Y shop |
| C wake | Z dark |

Answer **early late**

Solution The two words, one from each group, that are **most opposite in meaning** are '**early**' from group one and '**late**' from group two.

34

(break ignore hit) (poke miss aim)

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| A break | X poke |
| B ignore | Y miss |
| C hit | Z aim |

35

(complex superior modern) (old new fresh)

A complex

B superior

C modern

X old

Y new

Z fresh

36

(lock close away)

(key distant shut)

A lock

B close

C away

X key

Y distant

Z shut

37

(heavy glow stiff)

(shine hard flexible)

A heavy

B glow

C stiff

X shine

Y hard

Z flexible

38

(approximate true close)

(broad precise rough)

A approximate

B true

C close

X broad

Y precise

Z rough

39

(transparent clear hollow)

(empty vague glass)

A transparent

B clear

C hollow

X empty

Y vague

Z glass

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

The alphabet is here to help you with these questions.

Find the next pair of letters in the series and mark it on your answer sheet.

Example CQ DQ EP FP [?]

A GP B GO C HO D GR E GQ

Answer **GO**

Solution The letters are grouped into pairs. The first letter in each pair is in alphabetical order: C, D, E, F. The second letter in each pair features twice in the series, and appears in reverse alphabetical order: Q, Q, P, P. Following this pattern, the next pair of letters after FP must be **GO**.

40 UD VF WH XJ [?]

A ZL B YL C YK D ZK E YM

41 ZO WL TI QF [?]

A NC B OD C MC D ND E OB

42 AQ CM EI GE [?]

A JB B IB C HE D IA E JA

43 HQ LR PS TT [?]

A WV B UV C XU D XT E UX

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

44

KM LL ML NM OO PR [?]

A QU B RU C RV D QV E QW

45

CQ BL ZH WE [?]

A SC B RC C TD D TC E SD

Read the following information, then find the correct answer to the question and mark it on your answer sheet.

46

A cinema is open every night from 7 pm.

The latest time a film begins is 11 pm.

Films start at 7.15 pm, 8.15 pm and 9.15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

On Mondays and Wednesdays films start on the hour, every hour.

At the weekend, films start every half-hour from 7 pm.

If these statements are true, only one of the sentences below **must** be true.

Which one?

- A No films start at 9.30 pm.
- B On Tuesday, a film starts at 9 pm.
- C Films start at 9.15 pm three days each week.
- D A film starts at 9 pm on Monday, Wednesday and at the weekend.
- E All films finish before 11 pm.

In these sentences, the word in capitals has had three letters next to each other taken out.

These three letters will make one correctly spelt word without changing their order.

The sentence that you make must make sense.

Mark the correct three-letter word on your answer sheet.

Example The cat scratched him with his **CS**.

A LAD **B** LAW **C** HAD **D** RAW **E** RED

Answer **LAW**

Solution The three-letter word that has been removed from CS is 'LAW'. If we place this three-letter word between C and S, it makes the word **CLAWS** and thus completes the sentence.

47 His favourite food was **CABE**.

A BAG **B** GET **C** EVE **D** SAG **E** BAT

48 The cars **SDED** in the bad weather.

A DEN **B** KID **C** PAR **D** RAN **E** LAD

49 He **BED** for more space in the room.

A EGG **B** LAB **C** ONE **D** TUG **E** RIP

50 The morning was spent **CLING** the garden.

A ROE **B** AFT **C** APE **D** EAR **E** OWE

51

They were **OVERED** at the news.

- A GAP B NIL C JOY D TON E POT

52

He gave his final **JUDENT**.

- A HUM B GEM C ACE D TEN E TRY

In these questions, there are two pairs of words.

Only one of the five possible answers will go equally well with **both** of these pairs.

Mark it on your answer sheet.

Example (world globe) (soil ground)

- A ball B dirt C plant D earth E universe

Answer **earth**

Solution The word 'earth' goes equally well with both pairs of words because, just as it can refer to the planet Earth (world, globe), it can also refer to the ground beneath us (soil, ground).

53

(permit allow) (rent hire)

- A grant B let C agree D use E loan

54

(resemble similar) (fond admire)

- A please B copy C enjoy D like E same

55

(token disc) (worktop surface)

- A flat B voucher C counter D sideboard E coin

56

(jump leap) (well water)

A hop **B** flow **C** move **D** source **E** spring

57

(chapter paragraph) (corridor alley)

A book **B** path **C** walk **D** read **E** passage

58

(allotment patch) (conspire plan)

A plot **B** scheme **C** garden **D** land **E** conceive

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