

Guidance Notes Middles (year 10) Entrance Examinations

There are four examination papers: Mathematics, English, Verbal Reasoning (VR) and Non Verbal Reasoning (NVR).

MATHEMATICS

The examination is 50 minutes in length, and is designed to assess a candidate's basic numeracy skills, their understanding of algebra and their ability to work logically to solve problems. Candidates sitting the exam should expect to be asked to complete tasks from the lists below. This is offered as a guide; it is not an exhaustive list and not all topics will be tested. The exam is set at (approximately) Common Entrance Level 2, which equates to National Curriculum levels 5-7.

- Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of integers and fractions (to be performed without a calculator)
- Working with ratios
- Percentages
- Averages; mean, median, mode
- Direct proportion
- Simplifying algebraic expressions; collecting like terms, substitution, expanding brackets, factorising, applying rules of indices
- Solving linear equations
- Forming and solving equations from word problems
- Areas (rectangles, triangles, parallelograms)
- Application of angle facts

Use of a bilingual dictionary is only allowed in the Mathematics examination for EFL candidates.

ENGLISH

The Middles examination is 50 minutes in length and is based on an extract from an autobiography. Candidates are required to read the extract and answer the questions which follow. The first two questions will require shorter answers, assessing comprehension and summary writing skills, whilst the third question will require the candidate to write at length about the Author's craft, using quotations from the passage.

The second section of the paper is linked to the extract but, requires the candidate to write persuasively on a particular topic: it is worth around one third of the total marks for the paper. This part will be assessed for its impact on the reader and for the quality of its grammar, spelling, vocabulary and punctuation.

Marks will be awarded for using relevant quotations where necessary, neat handwriting, accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.

REASONING PAPERS

Verbal Reasoning

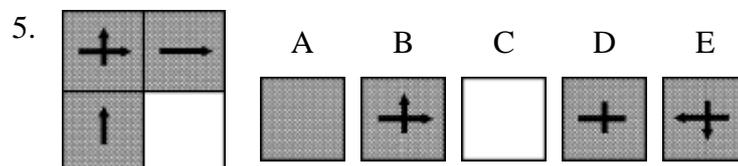
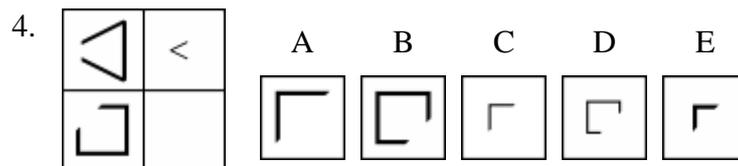
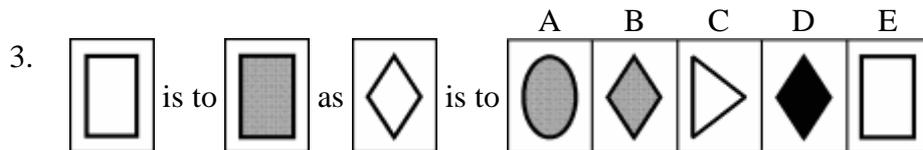
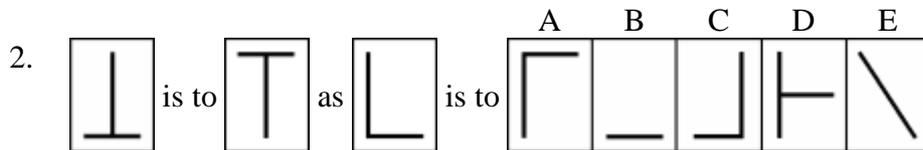
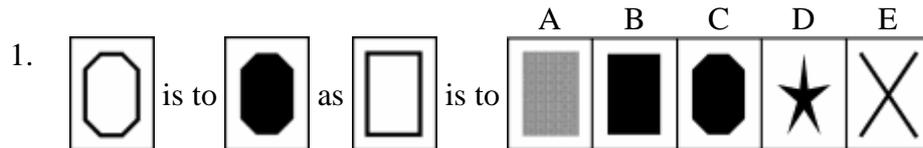
This examination is 45 minutes in length and assesses a candidate's verbal skills in the widest sense, beyond their formal literacy ability. The paper requires candidates to identify patterns, similarities and differences between words and demonstrate their ability in language. They indicate how your child deals with new information and indicates the likely ease with which they acquire new concepts.

Non-Verbal Reasoning

This paper is 30 minutes in length and assesses a candidate's ability to recognise similarities, analogies and patterns in unfamiliar designs. It asks them to make sense of unfamiliar information. It does not require any language skills so is particularly good for those who struggle with the written word or those with English as a Second Language. The results help to evaluate how a candidate acquires new concepts and masters new material in a wide range of school subjects.

The following Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning examples are designed to give you an idea of what the papers will look like. Do visit websites such as Athey Educational www.athey-educational.co.uk or GL Assessment (www.gl-assessment.co.uk) who have a large collection of Verbal and Non Verbal Reasoning practice papers.

Non Verbal Reasoning Examples



Verbal Reasoning Examples

Read each question carefully and then answer it in the way it tells you.

The alphabet is printed here to help you:

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

BEGIN HERE:

- 1. **Which letter in the word BEGIN occurs latest in the alphabet?**
Write your answer in the brackets (.....)
- 2. **Which letter occurs most often in the word MATTER?**
Write your answer in the brackets (.....)

In the next question find in the brackets a word which is *OPPOSITE* in meaning to the word printed in capital letters and underline it. Here is an example.

BAD (happy | pretty | sweet | good | red)
“Good” is underlined because it is the opposite of “bad”.

Now do question 3. Remember you have nothing to write, only *UNDERLINE* what you think is the right answer.

- 3. **FAT (rough | heavy | thin | wet | soft)**

Look at this example.

Table is to Wood as Knife is to (tar | bread | chair | spoon | steel)
“Steel” is underlined because just as a table is made of wood, so a knife is made of steel.

Now do question 4. Underline the correct answer in the brackets.

- 4. **Boy is to Girl as Man is to (sailor | woman | child | teacher | queen)**

- 5. **In the following list of words, four of the words are alike in some way, and one is different. Underline the different one.**

potato | carrot | cabbage | cake | turnip

- 6. **The following numbers can be arranged in the order of their size. Underline the FIRST and the LAST numbers in the new order. Be sure to underline two, and only two, numbers.**

7 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 9

Look at this example.

horse | cow | dog | cat | animal

“Animal” has been underlined , as all the other words are names of animals.

- 7. **Underline that word which tells you what all the others are.**

coat | clothes | stockings | shirt | trousers

- 8. **In the following sentence underline that word in the brackets which is correct or makes best sense:-**

If yesterday was Thursday, tomorrow will be

(Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Friday | Saturday)