

PPTC

Post Primary Transfer Consortium

English

PRACTICE PAPER

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY.
SAMPLE NOT TO BE USED.**

Introduction

In this booklet there are some stories and passages from different types of book. We hope you will find them interesting and informative. You will be asked some questions on the passages.

As you work through the booklet, refer to the Glossary and Contents pages whenever you wish.

Contents

	Page
Practice test	
Caves	4
Punctuation Exercise	6
Spelling Exercise	7
Main test	
Comprehension 1	8
Punctuation Exercise – Hippos	14
Comprehension 2	16
Spelling Exercise	21
Glossary	22
Index	22

Practice Test

Read this passage through to yourself.

Caves

1. Caves are holes in the ground that are big enough to accommodate a person. To be called a cave, the hole should be deeper than it is wide. If it isn't deeper than it is wide, it is called a rock shelter. Caves come in lots of different shapes and sizes. Some caves are long, narrow passages and others are large rooms called caverns.
5. Through the ages, caves have been used as shelters since they provide protection from severe weather and dangerous animals.

We know that people lived in caves because of pictures drawn on the walls, which also provide an insight into the lives of the people who drew them. In France, a cave now called the Lascaux cave contains drawings from 15,000 years ago of animals

10. such as bulls, bison and horses, which help to confirm that the people who lived there at that time were hunters. Many caves around the world have been explored and documented, but it is thought that there are many more still to be discovered.

Answer these questions about the passage. For each question, choose one answer from the options below and mark it on your answer sheet. The first one has been done for you.

1

What is the defining feature of a cave?

- A People hide in them.
- B The depth is greater than the width.
- C They all have passageways.
- D They are all about the same size.
- E They have paintings on the walls.

2

What did historians learn about the earliest people who lived in the Lascaux cave?

- A They were often under attack.
- B They were artistic.
- C They liked animals.
- D They were hunters.
- E They were often bored.

3

Which of the following is closest in meaning to 'accommodate'?

(line 1)

- A scare
- B lose
- C trip
- D entertain
- E fit

Punctuation Exercise

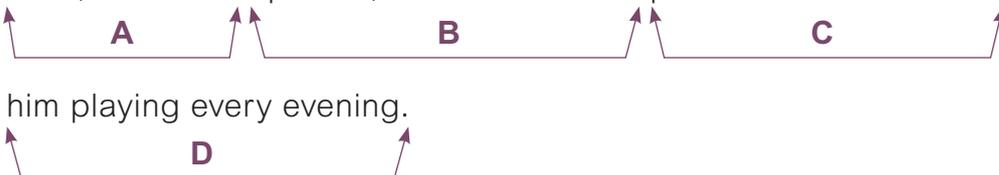
In these sentences there are some mistakes with **punctuation** or the use of **capital letters**. On each numbered line there is either **one** mistake or **no** mistake. Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark its letter on your answer sheet. **If there is no mistake, mark N.**

4 “Why don’t you play outside today,” suggested Tom’s aunt.



A B C D

5 Mick, who lived upstairs, was an excellent pianist – we could hear him playing every evening.



A B C

D

6 We were lucky to win tickets to see a show at the theatre this Winter.



A B C D

Spelling Exercise

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 the letter for it on your answer sheet. **If there is no mistake, mark N.**

7 Tom thought that the lavender feilds were pungent and aromatic.
A B C D

8 The triumphant astronaut returned to a resounding round of applawse.
A B C D

9 At the aquarium, Dan saw a magnificent selection of wildlife.
A B C D

10 The atmosfere on the aeroplane was tense through the turbulence.
A B C D



Main Test

Read this passage through, then answer the questions on the following pages. If there are any words you don't understand, you may find them in the Glossary on page 22.

Comprehension 1

While walking in the garden Mary watched a robin and, after following it, discovered a key on the ground.

1. She looked at the key quite a long time. She turned it over and over, and thought about it. All she thought about the key was that if it was the key to the closed garden, and she could find out where the door was, she could perhaps open it and see what was inside the walls, and what had happened to the old rose-trees.
5. It was because it had been shut up so long that she wanted to see it. It seemed as if it must be different from other places and that something strange must have happened to it during ten years. Besides that, if she liked it she could go into it every day and shut the door behind her, and she could make up some play of her own and play it quite alone, because nobody would ever know where she was, but
10. would think the door was still locked and the key buried in the earth. The thought of that pleased her very much.

Living in a house with a hundred mysteriously closed rooms and having nothing whatever to do to amuse herself, had set her inactive brain to working and was actually awakening her imagination.

15. She put the key in her pocket and walked up and down her path. No one but herself ever seemed to come there, so she could walk slowly and look at the wall, or, rather, at the ivy growing on it. The ivy was the baffling thing. Howsoever carefully she looked she could see nothing but thickly growing, glossy, dark green leaves. She was very much disappointed as she paced the path and looked over it at the tree-
20. tops inside. It seemed so silly, she said to herself, to be near it and not be able to get in. She took the key in her pocket when she went back to the house, and she made up her mind that she would always carry it with her when she went out, so that if she ever should find the hidden door she would be ready.

* * *

The skipping-rope was a wonderful thing. The sun was shining and a little wind
25. was blowing – not a rough wind, but one which came in delightful little gusts and
brought a fresh scent of newly turned earth with it.

Mary skipped round all the gardens and round the orchard, resting every few
minutes. At length she went to her own special path and made up her mind to try if
she could skip the whole length of it. It was a good long skip and she began slowly,
30. but before she had gone half-way down the path she was so hot and breathless that
she was obliged to stop. She did not mind much, because she had already counted
up to thirty. She stopped with a little laugh of pleasure, and there, lo and behold,
was the robin swaying on a long branch of ivy. He had followed her and he greeted
her with a chirp. As Mary had skipped toward him she felt something heavy in her
35. pocket strike against her at each jump, and when she saw the robin she laughed
again.

“You showed me where the key was yesterday,” she said. “You ought to show me the
door today; but I don’t believe you know!”

The robin flew from his swinging spray of ivy on to the top of the wall and he
40. opened his beak and sang a loud, lovely trill, merely to show off. Nothing in the
world is quite as adorably lovely as a robin when he shows off – and they are nearly
always doing it.

One of the nice little gusts of wind rushed down the path, and it was a stronger one
than the rest. It was strong enough to wave the branches of the trees, and it
45. was more than strong enough to sway the trailing sprays of untrimmed ivy hanging
from the wall. Mary had stepped close to the robin, and suddenly the gust of wind
swung aside some loose ivy trails, and more suddenly still she jumped toward it and
caught it in her hand. This she did because she had seen something under it – a
round knob which had been covered by the leaves hanging over it. It was the knob
50. of a door.

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

For how many years had the secret garden been locked?

- A seven
- B eight
- C nine
- D ten
- E eleven

2

Which of the following facts do we know about the secret garden from the passage?

- A It receives a lot of sunlight.
- B There is lots of space for playing.
- C There is a pond.
- D There are trees inside.
- E There is a gardener.

3

What word best describes Mary as she ‘turned it [the key] over and over’? (line 1)

- A regretful
- B frustrated
- C pensive
- D frightened
- E ecstatic

4

Mary was keen to keep the garden a secret even if she found the entrance. Why?

- A Mary didn’t like spending time with other people.
- B People had warned her that she shouldn’t go into the garden.
- C Mary wanted to play by herself.
- D Mary found it thrilling to keep secrets.
- E Mary had promised a friend that she would keep it a secret.

5

According to the first paragraph, where had the key been hidden?

- A on the wall
- B next to a flower pot
- C in the earth
- D in a bird's nest
- E on the window-sill

6

According to the passage, what accounted for Mary's particularly strong imagination?

- A Mary had been brought up with no toys.
- B Mary had always been a very creative child.
- C Mary's school encouraged imaginative activities.
- D Mary had nothing to entertain her at home.
- E Mary's parents had instilled in Mary a love of imaginative games.

7

According to the passage, what impression do we get of the house in which Mary lived?

- A It was an inviting place.
- B The house contained many secrets.
- C The house was an old, dilapidated building.
- D The people who lived there were very posh.
- E All the neighbours were in awe of the house.

8

Why was it particularly hard to see if there was a door to the garden?

- A The garden walls were covered in thick ivy.
- B The garden was so large it was hard to get all the way around it.
- C There were trees obscuring the garden walls.
- D Mary only ever looked for the door after dark, when no one was around.
- E The house towered over the garden so the walls were in shadow.

9

Why did Mary decide to keep the key on her at all times?

- A She didn't trust anyone else to keep it safe.
- B She had nowhere to store it in her house.
- C She wanted to be able to open the door whenever she found it.
- D She often lost things, even if they were important.
- E It might get lost amongst the other keys.

10

What best describes the wind that blew along the path?

- A gentle gust
- B strong wind
- C stiff breeze
- D gale-force
- E high wind

11

What else did Mary skip around other than the gardens?

- A the old rose trees
- B the summerhouse
- C the stables
- D the boating lake
- E the orchard

12

What challenge did Mary set herself as she played in the gardens?

- A Mary decided to run from one side to the other.
- B Mary wanted to skip all the way down the path.
- C Mary aimed to do more than thirty skips.
- D Mary aimed to exercise for thirty minutes without getting out of breath.
- E Mary wanted to run up and down the path to find her friend, the robin.

13

What happened just before Mary's discovery of the key AND the hidden door?

- A Mary came across the robin.
- B Mary played with her skipping rope.
- C The winds increased.
- D Mary felt breathless.
- E Mary started laughing.

14

What was the significance of the wind in the story?

- A The wind filled the silence.
- B The wind stopped Mary doing what she wanted to do.
- C The wind brushed aside the earth to uncover the key.
- D The wind propelled the robin to Mary.
- E The wind blew the ivy to reveal the doorknob.

15

Which of the following is closest in meaning to 'inactive'? (line 13)

- A still
- B lazy
- C quiet
- D bored
- E clever

16

What type of words are the following?

mysteriously (line 12) **carefully** (line 17) **thickly** (line 18)
adorably (line 41)

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

Punctuation Exercise – Hippos

In this passage there are some **punctuation** 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.**

17 Mention a hippopotamus and you will probably think of a cute but robust animal

A B C D

18 How accurate is that. Hippos look like they have tough skin
when, in fact, their

A B C D

19 skin is highly sensitive and susceptible to burn in the sun. Hippo
sweat even has special

A B C D

20 properties to protect the skin from the sun's harmful rays. The same fluid, red in

A B C D

21 colour also moisturises and serves as an antibiotic. Imagine using hippo sweat

A B C D

22 as a cosmetic or a medicine! Its true that hippos are omnivores
but don't let yourself

A B C D

23 be fooled they are not gentle creatures and can be quite dangerous,
A B C
especially given the
D

24 speed they can run (up to 30 kilometres per hour. Hippos typically do their
A B C D

25 running at night whilst hunting for food. During the day, they stay in the water.
A B C D

Read this passage through, then answer the questions on the following pages. If there are any words you don't understand, you may find them in the Glossary on page 22.

Comprehension 2

1. There was something different about the school playground today: not the usual lull before exams or anticipation before sports day. This was a one-off, whatever it was. One thing you couldn't fail to notice on entering the school gates was a sea of hats, as far as the eye could see: not the usual peaked caps but wide-brimmed hats with
5. feathers. There were also helmets (not the bicycle kind) and even some crowns. No-one was wearing modern clothes either; the usual sportswear was nowhere in sight. The vast majority of children wore robes, some adorned with jewels and others very plain. You could say it was an attempt by the school to bring the past to
10. life. In spite of their altered appearance, pupils lined up as normal and Class 5B waited for Mr Holterson to take the register. The only difference on this morning, however, was that pupils answered to the name of their chosen person from history.

"Cleopatra! Gandhi! Einstein!... Einstein?"

After a slight delay, a mumbled response emerged from the line of pupils.

"Wow, Johnny, that's a really good impersonation. You even sound German!"

15. "That's because I am Albert Einstein."

"Very good, Johnny!" the teacher laughed.

But Einstein did not laugh and, instead, started to cough: an old-man's cough that couldn't possibly come from a ten-year-old – could it?

20. Mr Holterson looked worried for a moment, then shepherded the pupils, or rather the phantoms of the past, inside.
-

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.

26

'not the usual lull' (line 1)

What other word could be used to replace 'lull'?

- A worry
- B rhythm
- C hope
- D moment
- E calm

27

How did pupils *usually* feel before sports day?

- A different
- B expectant
- C happy
- D altered
- E competitive

28

This school day is described as a 'one-off'. (line 2)

This means that the day was

- A the first day of the week
- B a less usual event in the playground
- C a unique experience for the pupils
- D one of many similar days
- E a day the pupils could not fail to notice

29

Why do you think the writer describes the playground as a 'sea of hats'? (line 3)

Choose the most appropriate answer.

- A Some pupils were wearing naval caps.
- B Hats stretched and bobbed across the playground.
- C It was a school rule that pupils had to wear hats.
- D The hats were wide-brimmed and feathered and blew in the wind.
- E It was difficult to see across the playground.

30

What type of hat did the pupils *normally* wear to school?

- A peaked caps
- B helmets
- C feathered hats
- D crowns
- E wide-brimmed hats

31

What were *most* children wearing on this special day?

- A sportswear
- B jewels
- C robes
- D modern clothes
- E plain clothes

32

What was the school's intention in allowing the children to dress up?

- A It wanted to take a register of pupils.
- B It wished to give the pupils a sense of freedom.
- C It tried to alter the appearance of the pupils.
- D It was trying to create the appearance of a sea of hats.
- E It wished to allow the pupils to recreate historical figures.

33

What was different about taking the register on this occasion?

- A The pupils wore hats.
- B Class 5B waited until Mr Holterson called their names.
- C The pupils lined up.
- D The pupils did not answer to their own names.
- E Mr Holterson had a changed appearance.

34

Why does Mr Holterson think that Johnny's impersonation is good?

- A Johnny hesitates before answering.
- B Johnny sounds German.
- C Johnny claims to be Albert Einstein.
- D Johnny's response is mumbled.
- E Johnny looks like Albert Einstein.

35

What was strange about Johnny's cough?

- A It sounded German.
- B It was a particularly good impersonation.
- C It made Johnny sound like an old man.
- D It sounded like laughter.
- E It was mumbled.

36

Why does Mr Holterson become worried?

- A He thinks Johnny may be ill.
- B Johnny does not laugh with him.
- C He cannot believe that a ten-year-old boy could cough as Johnny does.
- D He imagines that Johnny may be Albert Einstein.
- E He is not used to shepherding the pupils inside.

37

Why does the writer ask the question "could it?" in line 18?

- A The writer wants to make us think that Johnny might really be Albert Einstein.
- B The writer is not sure that a ten-year-old could cough like an old man.
- C The writer is saying there is no way Johnny might really be Albert Einstein.
- D The writer is showing that Johnny's impersonation is particularly good.
- E The writer wants to show that the cough could not have come from Johnny.

38

Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for this passage?

- A Albert Einstein
- B The German Student
- C Lull Before the Exams
- D A Ghostly Encounter
- E Another Day in the School Playground

39

Which of the following is closest in meaning to 'adorned'? (line 7)

- A heavy
- B covered
- C weighed down
- D overwhelmed
- E decorated

40

What type of word is 'shepherded'? (line 19)

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

41

What type of word is 'past'? (line 20)

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

Spelling Exercise

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.**

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

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

44 The telephone company persued the customers that did not pay.
A B C D

45 Oli asked his mum for permission to attend the charity concert.
A B C D

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

47 Attendance at the secret meeting was compulsery and critical.
A B C D

48 Ezra's adorable new puppy was obedient but also enthusiastic and playfull.
A B C D

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

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

Glossary

aromatic	having a pleasant, distinctive smell
Cleopatra	a ruler of the kingdom of Egypt before Roman times
dilapidated	in a state of ruin or serious neglect
Einstein	a famous German scientist
Gandhi	an Indian lawyer and peace protestor who led India to independence from Britain
omnivore	a creature that eats both plants and animals
pungent	having a sharply strong taste or smell
turbulence	violent or unsteady movement of air or water

Acknowledgements

Extract from *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, first published in book form 1911 by Frederick A. Stokes, New York.

Index

crowns	16
helmets	16
hippos	14
ivy	8, 9
jewels	16
orchard	9
phantom	16
robe	16
robin	9
rose-trees	8
skipping-rope	9

Copyright © GL Assessment, 2021.

GL Assessment owns all intellectual property rights in the publication.
GL Assessment reserves all of its rights in the publication, including translation.

You are only allowed to use the publication in an exam environment in accordance with the Declaration of Use.

You are not allowed to do any of the following without GL Assessment's permission:

- make a copy of it in any way (for example by hand, a photocopy or a photo on your phone)
- store a copy of it in any way (whether as a hard copy or electronic copy)
- send a copy of it in any way (whether as a hard copy or electronic copy)

The above restrictions apply to the publication as a whole or any part/section of it.

There is no arrangement in place with the Copyright Licensing Agency Limited (CLA) which would allow you to make a copy.

Confidentiality of these exam materials is key to preserving the integrity of the GL Assessment 11+. Any breach of the above, copying or other attempts to disseminate the test content will be actively pursued by GL Assessment through legal channels if necessary.

GL Assessment® is a registered trademark of the GL Education Group.

Published by GL Assessment, 1st Floor, Vantage London, Great West Road, Brentford TW8 9AG.

Typeset and printed in Great Britain.