

Tiffin School 11+ Stage One and Stage Two Tests: English - Illustrative questions

Tiffin School does not publish its own past papers. We have, however, provided below some illustrative test questions for you and your son to go through so you can get a feel for the format and level of difficulty of the questions in the Stage One and Stage Two English tests.

The papers change significantly from year to year; changes usually include the number of questions on each paper, the time allocated for the different papers, and the types of questions assessed. Every year completely new papers are written.

There are many past 11+ papers from other selective schools and other sources freely available on the internet. Although some exam paper practice may be helpful, we do not recommend any particular papers or providers.

When setting the admissions tests for English, Tiffin School assumes that those sitting the tests will have completed the National Curriculum in English for Year 5 students when they sit the tests. Tiffin School does not expect students to have covered topics beyond this. However, the admissions tests will include some questions in unfamiliar formats that will provide boys with the opportunity to demonstrate their adaptability. The tests identify boys who enjoy and are confident reading and writing, as well as thinking creatively.

Illustrative Stage One English questions to be answered on the OMR sheet

Select the word that is the odd one out.

Q1.

- A) joyous B) majestic C) happy D) ecstatic E) jubilant

Select the word that is closest in meaning from the example word.

Q2. Example word: contemporary

- A) angry B) new C) old-fashioned D) different E) modern

Complete the sentence with the most appropriate word.

Q3. We will be able to leave on time _____ the taxi arrives as expected.

- F) only
G) than
H) whenever
J) although
K) as long as

Read the following extract carefully and then choose one word from the 5 possible options which you think best fits the gap in the text.

The extract is from the novel War and Peace. Leo Tolstoy's grand masterpiece, is a timeless saga of family, love and loss in Russia surrounding the War of 1812.

Anna Pavlovna had been **Q4.** _____ for the last few days; she had an attack of *la grippe*, as she said—*grippe* was then a new word only used by a few people. In the notes she had sent round in the morning by a footman in red livery, she had written to all indiscriminately:

“If you have nothing better to do, count (or prince), and if the prospect of spending an evening with a poor invalid is not too **Q5.** _____ to you, I shall be charmed to see you at my house between 7 and 10. Annette Scherer.”

Q4. V) happy W) coughing X) exterminated Y) gripped Z) present

Q5. A) alarmism B) alarmful C) alarming D) alarmed E) alarm

Read the extract below carefully and answer the question that follows.

The extract is from Teens by Paul Böhre (translation David Shaw)

1 Nothing — and I mean really nothing — is as confusing as the many different social
groups in my school. Most adults, when they think of their children’s school, imagine a
group of happy boys and girls frolicking through the corridors or playing football out in the
4 playground. But that’s just a tiny part of what goes on behind those walls.

Q6. Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the extract?

- V) Most adults think my school is a happy place.
- W) My school is co-educational.
- X) Most adults do not know what happens at my school.
- Y) I feel confused about some things at school.
- Z) Students don’t play football in my school.

Choose the meaning of the prefix.

Q7. anti – as used in the word antibacterial

- A) joined B) against C) not D) angry E) separate

How many punctuation mistakes are in the following sentence?

Q8. Let us try to pick up as many twig’s as we can and look for charlies missing Hat.

- A) none B) 1 C) 2 D) 3 E) 4

Choose the word which is correctly spelled.

Q9.

- A) accommodate B) ackomodate C) accommadate D) acommodate E) akomodate

Illustrative Stage Two English questions requiring written answers

Example sentence: “The two friends went for a walking tour through France on foot.” In this sentence the words “on foot” are not necessary because this is already implied in “walking tour”. The new sentence would look like this after the unnecessary words are crossed out:

The two friends went for a walking tour through France ~~on foot~~.

The following sentences contain more words than are necessary to express the meaning.

Cross out the unnecessary word or words in each sentence.

1. The reluctant boy travelled unwillingly to school.
2. They made their way downward along a narrow descending footpath.

Read the extract below *from Rice without Rain* by *Minfong Ho* and answer the questions which follow.

- 1 Heat the colour of fire, sky as heavy as mud, and under both the soil - hard, dry, unyielding.
It was a silent harvest. Across the valley, yellow rice fields stretched, stooped and dry. The sun glazed the afternoon with a heat so fierce that the distant mountains
- 5 shimmered in it. The dust in the sky, the cracked earth, the shrivelled leaves fluttering on brittle branches - everything was scorched.
A single lark flew by, casting a swift shadow on the stubbled fields. From under the brim of her hat, Jinda saw it wing its way west.
- 9 A good sign, Jinda thought. Maybe the harvest won't be so poor after all. She straightened up, feeling prickles of pain shoot up her spine, and gazed at the brown fields before her. In all her seventeen years, Jinda had never seen a crop as bad as
- 12 this one.
The heads of grain were so light the rice stalks were hardly bent under their weight. Jinda peeled the husk of one grain open: the rice grain inside was no thicker than a fingernail.

You are going to **comment on the effectiveness of the descriptions.**

Complete these sentences:

3. In Rice without Rain, the sky is described as being 'as heavy as mud'. This makes me imagine the sky to be like

because

4. The writer's choice of the adjectives hard, dry and unyielding, tell me that the soil is

5. In line 3 the harvest is described as 'silent' which could mean that

For questions 6 - 7, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the keyword given. Do not change the keyword given. You must use between two and five words, including the keyword given.

Example

'I'll look after the children,' said Maria.

Keyword: **responsibility**

Maria _____ looking after the children.

Answer: Maria took responsibility for looking after the children.

6. They performed the experiment successfully.

Keyword: **carried**

They _____ successfully.

7. Teachers are said to be worried about exam grades

Keyword: **concern**

There _____ amongst teachers about exam grades.

For Questions 8 to 9 explain in your own words, the meanings of the sentences given.

8. All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players.

9. Hope is the thing with feathers.

On the next page is an excerpt from the opening of *The Lie Tree* by Frances Hardinge. In this part of the story, a family is traveling by boat to their new home on an island.

Read the excerpt and answer the questions which follow.

1 The boat moved with a nauseous, relentless rhythm, like someone chewing on a rotten tooth. The islands just visible through the mist also looked like teeth, Faith decided. Not fine, clean Dover teeth, but jaded, broken teeth, jutting crookedly amid the wash of the choppy grey sea. The mailboat chugged its dogged way through the waves, greasing the sky with smoke.

‘Osprey,’ said Faith through chattering teeth, and pointed.

Her six-year-old brother Howard twisted round, too slow to see the great bird, as its pale body and dark-fringed wings vanished into the mist. Faith winced as he shifted his weight on her lap. At least he had stopped demanding his nursemaid.

10 ‘Is that where we are going?’ Howard squinted at the ghostly islands ahead.

‘Yes, How.’ Rain thudded against the thin wooden roof above their heads. The cold wind blew in from the deck, stinging Faith’s face.

In spite of the noise around her, Faith was sure that she could hear faint sounds coming from the crate on which she sat. Rasps of movement, breathy slithers of scale on scale. It pained Faith to think of her father’s little Chinese snake inside, weak with the cold, coiling and uncoiling itself in panic with every tilt of the deck.

Sneaking a quick glance over her shoulder, Faith saw her mother, Myrtle waving her arms like a conductor while two deckhands moved the Sunderly trunks and crates into place. Today Myrtle was waxen with tiredness and shrouded to the chin with shawls, but as usual she talked through and over everybody else, warm, bland and unabashed, with a pretty woman’s faith in others’ helpless chivalry.

‘Thank you, there, right there – well, I am heartily sorry to hear that, but it cannot be helped – on its side, if you do not mind – well, your case looks very durable to me – I am afraid my husband’s papers and projects will not endure the weather so – the Reverend Erasmus Sunderly, the renowned naturalist – how very kind! I am so glad that you do not mind . . .’

Beyond her, round-faced Uncle Miles was napping in his seat, blithely and easily as a puppy on a rug. Faith’s gaze slipped past him, to the tall, silent figure beyond. Faith’s father in his black priestly coat, his broad-brimmed hat overshadowing his high brow and hooked nose.

He always filled Faith with awe. Even now he stared out towards the grey horizons with his unyielding basilisk stare, distancing himself from the chilly downpour, the reek of bilge and coal-smoke and the ignominious arguing and jostling. Most weeks she saw more of him in the pulpit than she did in the house, so it was peculiar to look across and see him sitting there. Today she felt a prickle of pained sympathy. He was out of his element, a lion in a rain-lashed sideshow.

On Myrtle’s orders, Faith was sitting on the family’s largest crate, to stop anybody dragging it out again. Usually she managed to fade into the background, since nobody had attention to spare for a fourteen-year-old girl with wooden features and a mud-brown plait. Now she winced under resentful glares, seared by all the embarrassment that Myrtle never felt.

10. What do the similes comparing the islands to teeth suggest about the islands?

11. What kind of relationship do you think Faith has with her younger brother, Howard? Give some evidence from the text to support your answer.

12. Why do you think Faith feels embarrassed at the end of this extract?

My friend thinks he's smart, he said onions are the only food that make you cry.



So I threw a coconut at his face.

13. Explain the joke above.

14. Imagine you are travelling to a location which you have never been to before. Write the opening of a story describing why you are travelling, who you are travelling with and what your feelings are.

English Test Practicalities:

In the Stage One English Test, you must answer carefully on an OMR sheet which will then be automatically marked by a computer. Examples of this are shown below.

In the Stage Two English Test you write out your answers alongside each question in a booklet. The questions require written answers and some questions on the English paper will require longer written answers. You will have extra space in the booklet for planning your answers, but this planning will not be checked or marked.

Explanation of how the OMR sheet for the Stage One English Test works:

For all questions you will choose the answer from some options (multiple choice questions). Below are two examples of how you should would mark your answer:

In the first example, the answer selected is the third option H. For the second example, the answer selected is the last option P.

A line is drawn through the letter. It may go outside the red brackets but **MUST NOT** cross the outer blue line.

All the best!

