



**13+ Advice  
For the  
English Entrance Papers  
(2025)**

## **Introduction**

This booklet will help you prepare for the 13+ English entrance papers.

The paper will last 60 minutes and is made up of two sections, as follows:

- Section A: Comprehension (20 marks)
- Section B: Creative Writing (30 marks).

You should spend about **30 minutes** on each section.

**10 minutes** should be spent planning your response to Section B.

**5 minutes** should be spent checking the accuracy of your writing at the end.

Further advice on the content and how to approach it can be found below.

## **Section A:**

### **What will be required?**

You will be given an unseen extract from a work of fiction. You will then be asked three questions, using the following format:

- Question 1: This tests your ability to **select relevant information** from a section of the text. All you need to do is write down your three pieces of evidence in bullet points on your answer paper (worth 3 marks).
- Question 2: This asks you to **pick out evidence from the text to explain** how a character might be feeling, or possibly to explain what the atmosphere is like. The key word is 'explain'. All you need to do is identify a feeling and support it with a quotation as evidence. You need to make five different points (worth 5 marks).

- **Question 3:** This is a slightly longer question that asks you to **analyse the effects of language and structure**. You should aim to pick out three or more different quotations and explore the writer's use of language and structure, and the effect this has on the reader – like PEE (worth 12 marks).

Some question stems for this paper are below:

**Section A: Comprehension Questions** (Total: 20 marks)

1. In lines a-b, find/identify what **three** words or phrases create/indicate/show \_\_\_\_\_?

*You can write this as bullet point answers.*

**(3 marks)**

2. Reread lines c-d. *Explain* how \_\_\_\_\_ are feeling or Explain what \_\_\_\_\_ is thinking ... .

*Support your answer with brief quotations.*

**(5 marks)**

3. Reread lines e-f. Using brief quotations, *explore* how the writer creates \_\_\_\_\_.

You may want to consider:

- Key vocabulary used by the author
- Paragraph and sentence length or punctuation used by the author

**(12 marks)**

**Please see the practice papers for full examples.**

## **Section B:**

### **What will be required?**

Section B will contain a writing task and will require you to write one of the following types of text:

- A newspaper article.
- A letter.
- A speech.

It is important you **read the question carefully**. The question will tell you very clearly what is expected of you. You will find below the wording of a question from a past paper as an example:

***‘Imagine you work for a local magazine. Write an article about a hobby you have and the benefits it provides.***

***E.g. Chess playing and the way it improves logical thinking, problem solving and can create friendships and provide motivation to improve.’***

***Marks will be awarded for thoughtful, imaginative pieces, which have accurate and varied paragraphs and sentence structures, as well as accurate spelling and punctuation.***

You will be assessed on:

- Content (/10);
- Organisation (/10);
- Accuracy (/10)

You should aim to write about a page and you should not write more than two pages. You do need to edit your work.

### **How do I write a newspaper article?**

Firstly, do not organise your article into columns. To write a newspaper article, you will need to include the following features:

- A headline (although the question may give you this).
- A sub-heading ('Leicester storm to cup victory') below the headline.
- The article should be written in the third person.
- An introductory paragraph which briefly sets out what is happening (who, what, when, where, why, how).
- The article should clearly be divided into logically sequenced paragraphs.
- A brief interview and/or reported speech ('The Prime Minister commented that...').

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### **How do I write a letter?**

Firstly, there is no need to include either a date or address. The key points you need to include when writing a letter are set out below:

- Start with 'Dear...' followed by the name or title of the person you are writing to.
- Write in paragraphs and miss a line between them.
- Sign off the letter. If writing a formal letter, use 'Yours sincerely,' if you have addressed the letter to a named person and use 'Yours faithfully,' if you have addressed it to 'Dear Sir or Madam.'
- Remember that a formal letter must use formal English (even if writing to a friend or family member). You should write politely (even if complaining) and you should not use any slang.

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### **How do I write a speech?**

- The question will always ask you to write a speech in a relatively formal register.
- Think carefully about your audience i.e. who you are giving the speech to.
- You should divide your speech into logically sequenced paragraphs and include the following features:
- An introductory paragraph greeting audience and stating topic of speech.
- A concluding paragraph in which you make a final appeal to the audience's hearts and minds.

## **How do I revise or practice?**

There is no need to spend vast amounts of time on this. The best way **to revise for Section A** is to **read widely** and to **practise**.

It is likely you will have done some letters, speeches or articles in your classes. **Are there any particular areas which your teacher has flagged up that you need to be careful with?**

In addition, **are there any specific grammatical areas (for example, sentence structure or spelling) which you need to be careful with?**

Check you are confident in the main areas below so that you write accurately and effectively in the examination. These areas are:

- Nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs;
- Simple, compound and complex sentences (including conjunctions and connectives).
- Rules of three.
- Emotive/descriptive language.
- Rhetorical questions.

It is a good idea to **do a couple of short practice pieces of writing to help prepare**. There is **no need to do more than two thirds to a page for each**. When you have done them, ask a friend or parent to have a look at them. What suggestions do they make for improving them? Then, try to improve your writing.

You will find set out below some suggested tasks which will allow you to practise for creative writing:

### **Practising letters:**

- Write a letter to an inhabitant of a distant country in which you describe where you come from and your life at school. Include lots of descriptive detail;
- Think of an especially memorable holiday you went on and write a letter to a friend telling him or her all about it. Include lots of descriptive detail;
- Imagine you have been ship-wrecked on a desert island. Write a letter (to be placed in a bottle) describing how you got to the island, what it is like and your hopes for the future. Include lots of descriptive detail.

### **Practising speeches:**

- Write a speech in which you try to persuade the Headmaster to ban homework;
- Write a speech in which you try to persuade your friends to visit a particular location abroad for their holidays;
- Write a speech in which you try to persuade your parents to give you additional pocket money per week.

### **6.3 Practising newspaper articles:**

- Watch the local or national news and then plan and write a newspaper article based on a featured story.
- Write an article about a sporting fixture, trip or outing that you have been involved with.
- Write an article about the school uniform or school lunches and their benefits or drawbacks.