
Entrance Test Familiarisation Guide

About the Birmingham & Warwickshire Entrance Test

The Birmingham & Warwickshire Entrance Test is designed to assess whether grammar school is a suitable option for you. The questions in the test are designed to see how you use different types of reasoning skills and to test your ability in English and mathematics. The test is in two separate booklets, each one covering verbal, non-verbal and spatial reasoning skills, English and mathematics. Both tests are timed and consist of multiple-choice questions. You are required to mark your answers on a separate answer sheet, which is scored by computer. **You should always check that you are marking your answer in the box that has the same number as the test question.**

General Information about the Test Session

Important points regarding the test:

- Check that your name and date of birth are correct on the answer sheet.
- Read the instructions on the front of the test booklet carefully.
- Listen to the instructions as they are given on the audio soundtrack.

At the bottom of each page there are instructions telling you either to stop or to continue on to the next page.

The Tests

Each paper is divided into four types of questions: Verbal Reasoning; Non-Verbal and Spatial Reasoning; English; and Mathematics. The reasoning questions will test how well you can apply rules and work out relationships between words and letters (VR); between shapes and patterns (NVR); and between shapes and space (SR).

The Mathematics section will draw upon what you have been taught in class; however, there may be some questions that are more challenging than what you are used to. This is so that you can demonstrate how well you can use the skills you have gained already to solve new kinds of problems.

This guide is an introduction to the types of questions that may be included in the tests, but not all of the question types that are presented here will definitely be included in the real tests, and there will be some types of questions in the real tests that are not included here.

What you need for the tests

You will need an HB pencil, an eraser and a pencil sharpener. You need to use an HB pencil so that your answers are clear and can be marked.

You will **not** be allowed to use the following:

- a ruler
- a calculator
- a protractor
- scrap paper

Scrap paper is **not** permitted. However, you may do any working out in the test booklet.

Mobile phones, smart watches or any potential technological or web-enabled sources of information must **not** be taken into the examination. If a device is found, it will be confiscated for the duration of the test.

Timings of the tests

Each test will take around an hour, including the instructions, which will be given on the audio soundtrack.

Writing your answers

You will be given a separate answer sheet on which to mark your answers by drawing a line through the small box beside your selected answer, like this .

If you make a mistake, rub it out as completely as you can and put in your new answer. Do **not** cross out your answer as the computer will not be able to read your correct answer.

There is a sample answer sheet on page 11 of this booklet, which you can use to record your answers to the practice questions on pages 3–10. The correct answers to the practice questions are given on page 12.

Do **not** mark your answers in the test booklet. Following the real test, a computer is used to mark your answer sheet. Your question booklet will **not** be marked.

Example and Practice Questions

Verbal Reasoning

Word production

In these sentences, a word of **four letters** is hidden at the **end** of one word and the **beginning** of the next word.

Find the pair of words that contains the hidden word and mark this answer on the answer sheet.

Example The film ended happily after all.

- A** The film
- B** film ended
- C** ended happily
- D** happily after
- E** after all.

Answer **film ended**

In this sentence, the hidden four-letter word is **mend**, which is made up of the last letter of the word **film** and the first three letters of the word **ended**. So the pair of words that contains the hidden word is **film ended**.

Now try this question and mark your answer on the answer sheet on page 11.

1

She saw there was dust underneath the chair.

- A** She saw
- B** saw there
- C** there was
- D** was dust
- E** dust underneath

Vocabulary

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

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

Example (morning early wake) (late shop dark)

A morning

X late

B early

Y shop

C wake

Z dark

Answer **early late**

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

Now try this question and mark your answer on the answer sheet on page 11.

2

(structure build plan)

(demolish construct raise)

A structure

X demolish

B build

Y construct

C plan

Z raise

Words in sentences

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 the answer sheet.

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

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

Answer **LAW**

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.

Now try this question and mark your answer on the answer sheet on page 11.

3

We **SPRLED** seeds around the garden.

A RED **B** CAT **C** EEL **D** INK **E** AGO

Word relationships

In these questions, three of the five words are related in some way. Find the **two** words that do **not** go with these three and mark them **both** on the answer sheet.

Example black mouse red green hut

A black **B** mouse **C** red **D** green **E** hut

Answer **mouse** **hut**

The words 'black', 'red' and 'green' are related because they are all colours. The words **mouse** and **hut** do not go with these three words.

Now try this question and mark your answer on the answer sheet on page 11.

4

play jump hop swing skip

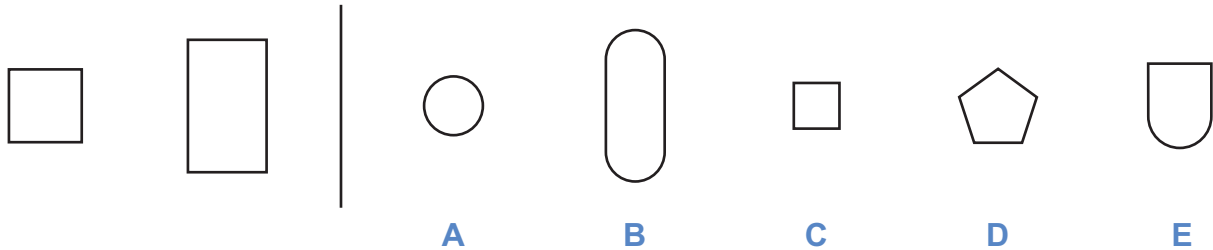
A play **B** jump **C** hop **D** swing **E** skip

Non-Verbal Reasoning

Figures alike

On the left of the example below there are two figures that are alike. On the right there are five more figures. One of these is **most like** the two figures on the left. Its letter has been marked on your answer sheet.

Example

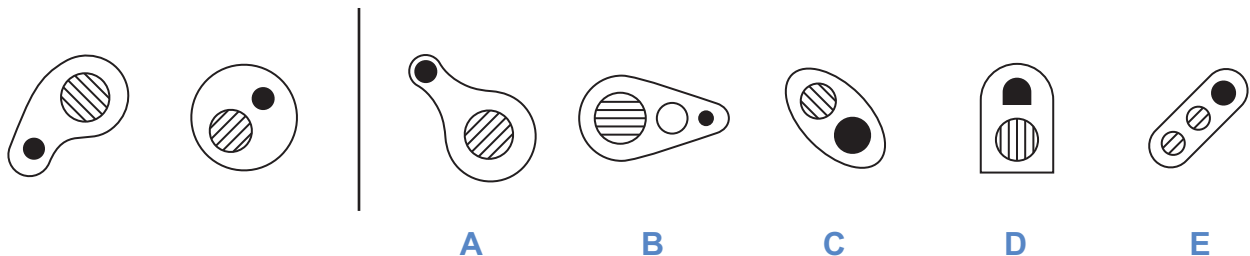


Answer: C

In the example above, the two figures on the left are quadrilaterals – they both have four sides. Therefore, **C** is the correct answer as it is the only one of the five shapes on the right that has four sides.

Now try this question and mark your answer on the answer sheet on page 11.

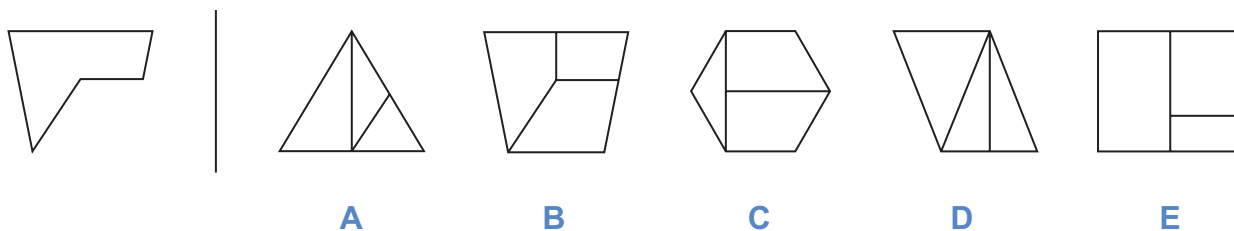
5



Hidden shapes

These questions contain hidden shapes. The shape on the left is the target shape. The target shape is hidden in one of the five diagrams to the right of the line. **It is exactly the same size as the target shape, but it may have been rotated (spun round) where it is hidden.** All of the sides of the target shape must be visible in the diagram where it is hiding. Choose which of the five diagrams to the right of the line contains the hidden target shape and mark its letter on your answer sheet on page 11.

Example



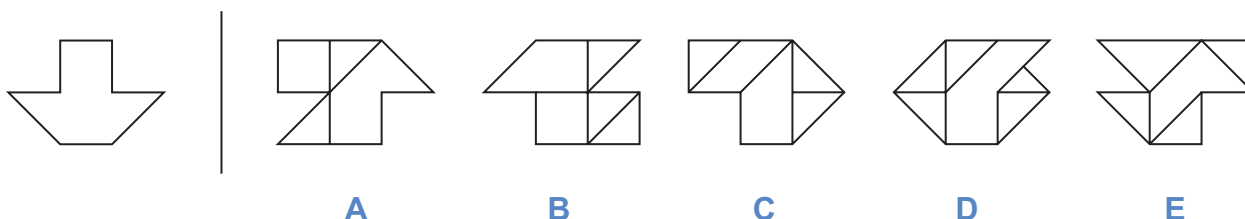
Answer: B

The hidden target shape is shown in bold below so that you can clearly see the answer is **B**, and this has been marked on the answer sheet on page 11.



Now try this question and mark your answer on the answer sheet on page 11.

6



Reading comprehension

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

Oceans

1. The surface of our planet is approximately 70% water split between five major oceans: the Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Pacific and Antarctic. Our oceans produce half of the oxygen we breathe and absorb half of all the carbon dioxide created by humans. In spite of their importance, we have only explored about 5% of our oceans. It is important
5. that we learn about our oceans in order to look after them.

The Pacific Ocean is the largest of the oceans, followed by the Atlantic Ocean, which separates Europe and Africa from North and South America. Many years ago, some people thought that the Earth was flat and that ships would just fall off the Earth somewhere out in the Atlantic Ocean. Christopher Columbus proved them wrong by

10. sailing across the Atlantic and discovering the Americas. The Atlantic gets its name from the Greeks who called it the Sea of Atlas.

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 on page 11.

7

What is the name of the second largest ocean on Earth?

- A Arctic
- B Atlantic
- C Indian
- D Pacific
- E Antarctic

8

What was the significance of Christopher Columbus's voyage across the Atlantic?

Choose TWO.

- 1 He discovered another ocean.
- 2 He discovered the Americas.
- 3 He learned about the Greeks.
- 4 He proved the Earth was flat.
- 5 He proved the Earth was round.

A 1 and 2

B 1 and 4

C 2 and 4

D 2 and 5

E 3 and 5

9

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

A divides

B joins

C shares

D defines

E dominates

10

What type of word is 'explored'? (line 4)

A noun

B adjective

C verb

D adverb

E conjunction

Mathematics

Try these questions and mark your answers on the answer sheet on page 11.

11

54 children each run 100 metres in a race.

How many metres have the children run altogether?

- A 540 B 1054 C 5400 D 154 E 5410

12

Mrs Woods ordered some school textbooks.
She worked out her order on rough paper.
She then began to copy the order onto the order form, as shown below.

Textbook	Price	Number required	Total price
Literacy	£6		
History	£7	3	£21
Maths	£6.50	5	£32.50
		Postage	£5.00
		Total	£82.50

How many literacy books did she order?

- A 6 B 5 C 4 D 8 E 3



Candidate's Name

School Name

DATE OF TEST

Day Month Year

CANDIDATE NUMBER

SCHOOL NUMBER

DATE OF BIRTH

Day Month Year

Please mark boxes with a thin horizontal line like this

VERBAL REASONING

EXAMPLE

The film ☐
film ended ☒
ended happily ☐
happily after ☐
after all. ☐

1

She saw ☐
saw there ☐
there was ☐
was dust ☐
dust underneath ☐

EXAMPLE

morning ☐ late ☒
early ☒ shop ☐
wake ☐ dark ☐

2

structure ☐ demolish ☐
build ☐ construct ☐
plan ☐ raise ☐

EXAMPLE

LAD ☐
LAW ☒
HAD ☐
RAW ☐
RED ☐

3

RED ☐
CAT ☐
EEL ☐
INK ☐
AGO ☐

EXAMPLE

black ☐
mouse ☒
red ☐
green ☐
hut ☒

4

play ☐
jump ☐
hop ☐
swing ☐
skip ☐

NON-VERBAL REASONING

EXAMPLE

A ☐
B ☐
C ☒
D ☐
E ☐

5

A ☐
B ☐
C ☐
D ☐
E ☐

EXAMPLE

A ☐
B ☒
C ☐
D ☐
E ☐

6

A ☐
B ☐
C ☐
D ☐
E ☐

ENGLISH

7

A ☐
B ☐
C ☐
D ☐
E ☐

8

A ☐
B ☐
C ☐
D ☐
E ☐

9

A ☐
B ☐
C ☐
D ☐
E ☐

10

A ☐
B ☐
C ☐
D ☐
E ☐

MATHEMATICS

11

540 ☐
1054 ☐
5400 ☐
154 ☐
5410 ☐

12

6 ☐
5 ☐
4 ☐
8 ☐
3 ☐

Answers

Verbal Reasoning

- 1** dust underneath
- 2** build, demolish
- 3** INK
- 4** play, swing

Non-Verbal Reasoning

- 5** A
- 6** C



English

- 7** B
- 8** D
- 9** A
- 10** C

Mathematics

- 11** 5400
- 12** 4

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

Typeset in Great Britain.

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