

11 Plus English

The format of the 11 Plus English paper varies considerably around the country. In some cases, the school simply sets its own paper and changes the style of the paper from year to year to keep the material fresh and to prevent parents passing on “inside information” about the test. Most schools, however, use a pre-set paper written by a publisher such as GL Assessment (formerly NFER) and this will usually be in a multiple-choice format.

A typical GL Assessment paper (NFER), with a time limit of 50 minutes, features:

- A comprehension exercise consisting of a two-page piece of prose followed by 18 questions about the content.
- 4 further questions about the meaning of words used in the test.
- 3 questions asking pupils to identify the grammatical type of words used – nouns, verbs, prepositions etc.
- 8 questions requiring the child to identify spelling errors in sentences.
- 8 questions requiring the child to identify errors in the use of capital letters and punctuation.
- 8 questions where the child needs to choose the best word from a list that will complete the sentence.

Other types of paper usually feature some (or all) of the following tasks:

- Ordering words to make a sentence.
- Punctuating sentences with capital letters, full stops, and question marks.
- Placing words in alphabetical order.
- Finding the odd words out (also found in verbal reasoning papers).
- Opposites (also found in verbal reasoning papers).
- Rhyming words.
- Ordering sentences to make a story.
- Use of capital letters, full stops, and question marks.
- Simple compound words (also found in verbal reasoning papers).
- A „Cloze“ exercise, requiring the child to fill the gaps in a sentence (usually from a bank of words provided) to make it read correctly.
- Comprehensions: read a passage and answer questions of fact, simple inferences, sometimes in sentences (“standard format”), but more typically in multiple choice format.

Write an essay/short story within a limited time frame – often 20 or 30 minutes, sometimes 50 minutes.

If a child has a good basic education in English and possesses an age-appropriate vocabulary, the main challenges in 11 Plus English are the comprehension exercise and the essay. These thus become the primary focus for **blt's** bespoke 11 Plus English tutorials.

Adapted from <http://www.elevenplusexams.co.uk/>