
NILE TUITION ACADEMY

EXCELLENCE IN 11+ PREPARATION

Sutton Selective Eligibility Test (SET) — Style Practice

English

MULTIPLE-CHOICE PAPER · PRACTICE PAPER 2

Time allowed	50 minutes
Number of questions	53
Total marks	53
Equipment	Pencil and eraser only

Candidate details

Name: _____

School: _____ Date: _____

Instructions to candidates

1. Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.
2. Write your name, school and the date in the spaces on this cover.
3. This paper has 53 questions in four sections. You have 50 minutes.
4. Read each text carefully before answering the questions on it.
5. Most questions need **one** answer (A–E). Some ask you to choose **TWO** answers, or to **select all** that apply — read each question carefully.
6. Mark your answers by filling the matching **lozenge(s)** on the Answer Sheet at the back.
7. Use a pencil. To change an answer, rub it out fully and fill your new lozenge.
8. If a question is difficult, leave it and come back to it later. Try to answer every question.

DO NOT TURN OVER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO BEGIN

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English

This paper has four sections. Answer all 53 questions and fill your answers on the Answer Sheet at the back. Read each question carefully — some need more than one answer.

Examples

X1. Choose the word spelled **correctly**. A freind B frend C friend D frind E freand → fill C: ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E

X2. Choose the **TWO** even numbers. A 3 B 6 C 7 D 8 E 9 → fill B and D: ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☒ D ☐ E

Section 1 — Spelling

Questions 1–10

Read each instruction carefully before choosing your answer(s).

- 1 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
 A beggining B begining C beginning D beginnning E beginning
- 2 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
 A different B differant C differnt D diffrent E diferent
- 3 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
 A favourite B favourate C faverite D favourit E favrite
- 4 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
 A calender B calander C calendar D calandar E callendar
- 5 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
 A rhythm B rhthym C rhythm D rythem E rythm
- 6 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
 A librarry B liberry C librery D libary E library
- 7 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
 A Wensday B Wednsday C Wedensday D Wednesday E Wendesday
- 8 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
 A grammar B grammor C grammer D gramamr E grammar
- 9 Which word is spelled **incorrectly**?
 A exercise B business C sentence D occured E address
- 10 Choose the **TWO** words that are spelled **correctly**. **Choose TWO answers.**
 A recieve B tomorrow C occured D seperate E definitely

Section 2 — Reading: Text A

Questions 11–28

Read Text A below, then answer the questions that follow. Some questions ask about words, phrases and techniques the writer uses.

TEXT A**The Last Morning**

Theo woke before the alarm, in the grey hush before dawn, and for one drowsy moment forgot that today was not like other days. Then he heard it: the hollow echo of the house, stripped of its furniture, his own breathing loud in rooms that had always been full. The removal van was due at nine.

He padded along the landing, past the ghostly rectangles on the walls where pictures had hung for as long as he could remember — paler than the faded paint around them, like windows onto a brighter past. The house felt both larger and smaller than before: larger, now that it was empty; smaller, because without their belongings it was merely a shell, a set of ordinary rooms that might have belonged to anyone.

In the kitchen, his mother was wrapping the last of the teacups in newspaper, her movements quick and purposeful. She smiled when she saw him. “Nearly there,” she said brightly. But Theo noticed that she had wrapped the same cup twice, and that she did not quite meet his eye.

He wandered into the garden while the kettle boiled. The apple tree he had climbed a hundred times stood waiting, its branches still scarred where his rope swing had worn the bark. He pressed his palm against the trunk, cool and rough, and found that he could not think of anything to say to it.

When the van arrived, the men worked with brisk efficiency, and the house emptied with astonishing speed. Boxes that had taken weeks to fill were carried out in minutes. Theo stood in the hallway, oddly reluctant to step outside, as though crossing the threshold one last time would make it final.

“Come on,” said his mother gently, holding the door. “A house is only bricks. We’re taking everything that matters with us.” Theo wasn’t sure he believed her. But as the car pulled away and the familiar street slid past the window for the last time, he found, to his surprise, that alongside the ache in his chest there was something else — a small, unexpected flicker of curiosity about what might come next.

- 11** At what time was the removal van due to arrive?
- A** ten o'clock
 - B** once the boxes were packed
 - C** before dawn
 - D** eight o'clock
 - E** nine o'clock
- 12** Why did Theo's own breathing sound loud to him that morning?
- A** All the windows had been left open
 - B** He was frightened of being alone
 - C** He was breathing heavily after running
 - D** The house was empty, so the bare rooms echoed
 - E** He was deliberately making a noise

13 Theo's mother had **“wrapped the same cup twice”** and **“did not quite meet his eye”**. What does this suggest about her?

- A She was careless and kept making mistakes
- B She was more upset about leaving than she was letting him see
- C She was simply in a great hurry to finish
- D She was annoyed with Theo for getting up
- E She could not decide which cups to pack

14 Why does the writer describe the pale marks on the wall as **“like windows onto a brighter past”**?

- A The pictures had all been of windows
- B The unfaded paint recalls earlier, happier times in the house
- C The wall had been damaged by the pictures
- D The morning sun was shining through them
- E There used to be real windows in those places

15 When the writer says the empty house was **“merely a shell”**, this suggests it was —

- A empty and lifeless, just an outer structure
- B found near the sea
- C hard and rounded in shape
- D brightly decorated
- E damaged and unsafe

16 Choose the **TWO** details that show Theo found it hard to leave. **Choose TWO answers.**

- A He shouted at the removal men
- B He pressed his hand to the apple tree, lost for words
- C He hid in his bedroom
- D He refused to get into the car
- E He was reluctant to step over the threshold

17 Why could Theo **“not think of anything to say”** to the apple tree?

- A He genuinely had no feelings about it
- B He was in too much of a hurry
- C Trees are unable to hear anything
- D The feeling of saying goodbye to something he loved was too big for words
- E He had grown bored of the tree

18 His mother says, **“A house is only bricks. We're taking everything that matters with us.”** What does she mean?

- A Their new house is also made of brick
- B The old house was badly built
- C The people and memories matter more than the building itself
- D Bricks are cheap to buy
- E They have packed all of the bricks

19 How does Theo's mother behave during the morning?

- A cheerful and capable on the surface, while hiding her sadness
- B angry and short-tempered all morning
- C openly crying as she packs
- D nervous and frightened of the move
- E genuinely happy and excited to be leaving

20 Select all the statements that are **true** according to the passage. **Select all the correct answers.**

- A Theo felt only sadness as the car drove away
- B Theo had once had a rope swing on the apple tree
- C The removal men worked slowly
- D By the end, Theo felt a flicker of curiosity about the future
- E The house was empty of furniture

21 The word “**reluctant**” in “**oddly reluctant to step outside**” means —

- A frightened and shaking
- B ready and waiting
- C tired and sleepy
- D eager and keen
- E unwilling and hesitant

22 Why was Theo “**oddly reluctant to step outside**”?

- A Crossing the threshold one last time would make the leaving feel final
- B He was waiting for the van to leave first
- C He had forgotten something upstairs
- D He was still hungry for breakfast
- E It was cold outside

23 The writer says the house felt “**both larger and smaller**”. This is mainly to show —

- A how strange and unfamiliar the empty house now felt to Theo
- B that the rooms had been measured wrongly
- C that the house was the wrong size for them
- D that the house had been rebuilt
- E that Theo had grown taller

24 Which of these is the **best summary** of the passage?

- A A boy argues with his mother about moving house
- B A family arrives excitedly at a brand-new home
- C A boy explores a house that does not belong to him
- D On the morning his family move out, a boy walks through his empty home, struggles to leave, and ends with mixed feelings
- E A boy helps some removal men carry boxes to a van

25 How do Theo's feelings change by the **end** of the passage?

- A His feelings do not change at all
- B He becomes completely happy and forgets the old house
- C He feels only relief that it is over
- D He grows angrier as the morning goes on
- E His sadness is joined by an unexpected flicker of curiosity about the future

26 In “**the men worked with brisk efficiency**”, the word “**brisk**” is a —

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

27 “**Boxes that had taken weeks to fill were carried out in minutes.**” This contrast mainly emphasises —

- A how many boxes there were
- B how strong the removal men were
- C how quickly something built up over a long time was undone
- D how slowly the morning passed
- E how heavy the boxes were

28 The word “**purposeful**”, describing his mother's movements, suggests she was moving —

- A** aimlessly and without direction
- B** slowly and sadly
- C** nervously and anxiously
- D** with clear, determined intention
- E** clumsily and carelessly

Section 3 — Reading: Text B

Questions 29–44

Read Text B below, then answer the questions that follow. Some questions ask about words, phrases and techniques the poet uses.

TEXT B

The Old Oak

Before the road, before the town,
this oak stood here and watched them rise;
it saw the first slow furrows ploughed
beneath the same unhurried skies.

Its roots go deeper than our names,
its bark is rough as weathered stone;
the children carve it, climb and fall,
and grow, and leave, and go unknown.

It does not hurry, does not fear
the turning of the restless year;
while we who shelter in its shade
are here one season, then are gone.

Yet every spring it wakes again,
unfurls its thousand hands of green —
a patient giant, vast and slow,
that keeps far more than it has seen.

- 29 What is the poem mainly about?
- A a sudden change in the weather
 - B a farmer ploughing a field
 - C an old oak tree and the passing of time
 - D a forest fire
 - E a group of children playing
- 30 In “**this oak stood here and watched them rise**”, what ‘rise’?
- A the road and the town being built over time
 - B the wind in a storm
 - C the children as they grow
 - D the sun each morning
 - E the other trees in the wood
- 31 “**its bark is rough as weathered stone**” is an example of —
- A a metaphor
 - B personification
 - C a simile
 - D a question
 - E alliteration
- 32 What does the poet mean by “**its roots go deeper than our names**”?
- A The tree is taller than a person
 - B The tree is far older and more lasting than the people who know it
 - C The roots are difficult to dig up
 - D People have forgotten the tree's name
 - E Its roots are buried underground

33 Choose the **TWO** examples of the poet giving the tree **human qualities**. **Choose TWO answers.**

- A it “does not fear” the turning year
- B the “first slow furrows ploughed”
- C it is “rough as weathered stone”
- D it “watched them rise”
- E its “roots go deeper than our names”

34 What is the main difference between the oak and people, according to the poem?

- A The oak cannot move from its spot
- B People are cleverer than the oak
- C The oak is green and people are not
- D The oak is taller than any person
- E The oak endures for ages, while human lives are short

35 “we... are here one season, then are gone.” What does the poet suggest by this?

- A The tree itself dies each season
- B Human lives are brief next to the long life of the tree
- C People move away from the area each autumn
- D People only visit the tree in one season
- E People dislike the cold weather

36 The repeated ‘sh’ sound in “**shelter in its shade**” is an example of —

- A a simile
- B alliteration
- C a rhyme
- D personification
- E a metaphor

37 **Select all** the statements that are **true** about the poem. **Select all the correct answers.**

- A The tree comes back to life each spring
- B The poem is set in a city park
- C The oak is older than the road and the town
- D The tree dies completely every winter
- E Children have carved their marks on the tree

38 The overall tone of the poem is best described as —

- A frightened and tense
- B calm and reflective
- C sad and hopeless
- D playful and funny
- E angry and bitter

39 “**unfurls its thousand hands of green**” — what does the poet compare the tree's leaves to?

- A the wind
- B green paint
- C a thousand people
- D hands opening
- E spring flowers

40 The poet calls the oak “**a patient giant**”. This mainly suggests the tree is —

- A frightening and dangerous
- B enormous and enduring, unhurried through the years
- C a real giant from a fairy tale
- D small and quick-moving
- E friendly and talkative

41 “**that keeps far more than it has seen**” suggests the oak —

- A cannot see very well
- B owns a large amount of land
- C keeps animals safe in its branches
- D simply has a great many leaves
- E holds memory and history beyond even what it has witnessed

- 42 The word “unhurried” in “the same unhurried skies” means —
- A bright and sunny
 - B stormy and wild
 - C grey and cloudy
 - D quick and sudden
 - E slow and calm, in no rush
- 43 Why does the poet repeat “before” in the first line (“Before the road, before the town”)?
- A To describe the start of a race
 - B To show the tree stands in front of the town
 - C To give a list of directions
 - D Only to make the line rhyme
 - E To emphasise how ancient the tree is
- 44 In “the turning of the restless year”, the word “restless” is a —
- A pronoun B verb C noun D adjective E adverb

Section 4 — Comparing the Texts

Questions 45–53

These questions compare **Text A** (“The Lighthouse”) with **Text B** (“The Fox”).

45 What theme do **both** texts share?

- A** adventure and danger **B** time, memory and change **C** friendship and teamwork
- D** science and discovery **E** humour and silliness

46 Both texts explore the idea that —

- A** everything stays the same forever
- B** the past was always better
- C** people should travel more often
- D** time passes and things change, while some things endure
- E** nature is always frightening

47 Choose the **TWO** statements that are true about **both** texts. **Choose TWO answers.**

- A** both are written as poems
- B** both are funny
- C** both are set at the seaside
- D** both use vivid imagery to create feeling
- E** both deal with the passing of time

48 One clear **difference** in form is that —

- A** both are stories
- B** both are poems
- C** Text A is a story written in prose, while Text B is a poem in verse
- D** Text B is a diary entry
- E** Text A is written in rhyme

49 How do the two texts differ in the way they present **change**?

- A** both describe exactly the same family
- B** Text A shows one boy's personal experience of leaving home, while Text B reflects more broadly on time across generations
- C** Text A is about a tree and Text B about a house
- D** neither of the texts is really about change
- E** Text A is a poem and Text B is a story

50 In Text A the feeling of loss is shown through one boy; in Text B, the passing of time is shown through —

- A** a group of farmers
- B** the changing weather
- C** a removal man
- D** a child climbing a wall
- E** the enduring old oak tree

51 Both texts contain —

- A** speech marks on every line
- B** figurative language, such as similes and metaphors
- C** a recipe
- D** numbered lists
- E** step-by-step instructions

52 Which of these **best describes** a difference in **mood** between the two endings?

- A** both texts end with a joke
- B** both texts end happily
- C** Text A ends with mixed sadness and curiosity, while Text B ends with a calm sense of endurance
- D** both texts end sadly
- E** Text A ends angrily and Text B fearfully

53 Text A is written in **paragraphs**. Text B is written in —

- A** verses (stanzas) **B** a numbered list **C** full sentences only **D** columns
- E** chapters

Answer Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Fill the **lozenge** for each answer with a pencil. To change an answer, rub it out fully and fill your new choice.

Questions needing more than one answer: 10, 16, 20, 33, 37, 47. For these, fill every lozenge the question asks for.

Q	A	B	C	D	E
1	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
7	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
11	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
12	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
13	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
14	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
15	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
16	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
17	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
18	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
19	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
20	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
21	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
22	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
23	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
24	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
25	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
26	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
27	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q	A	B	C	D	E
28	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
29	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
30	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
31	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
32	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
33	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
34	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
35	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
36	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
37	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
38	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
39	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
40	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
41	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
42	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
43	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
44	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
45	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
46	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
47	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
48	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
49	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
50	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
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END OF PAPER