

NILE TUITION ACADEMY

EXCELLENCE IN 11+ PREPARATION

Sutton Selective Eligibility Test (SET) — Style Practice

English

MULTIPLE-CHOICE PAPER · PRACTICE PAPER 3

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

Original practice material by Nile Tuition Academy, modelled on the Sutton SET format · niletuitionacademy.co.uk · Not affiliated with or endorsed by the Sutton grammar schools.

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 necessary B neccessary C necessary D nessessary E neccesary
- 2 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
A separate B saperate C separete D seperete E seperate
- 3 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
A embarrass B embarras C embarass D embarress E embaras
- 4 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
A definately B definatly C definitely D definitley E defenitely
- 5 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
A weild B werid C weird D weard E wierd
- 6 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
A believe B beleive C belive D beleive E believe
- 7 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
A Febuary B Februrary C Feberary D February E Febraury
- 8 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
A mischievous B mischievus C mischievious D mischeivous E mischevous
- 9 Which word is spelled **incorrectly**?
A possess B occasion C parallel D tommorow E address
- 10 Choose the **TWO** words that are spelled **correctly**. **Choose TWO answers.**
A begining B accommodate C goverment D enviroment E conscience

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 Crossing

Nadia had promised their mother she would have Sam home before the tide turned, and she had meant to keep that promise. But the cockle-beds were richer than they had ever seen them, and the bucket between them filled so slowly that the morning slipped away unnoticed. It was only when she straightened, her back aching, that she saw how far the grey water had crept across the sand.

Their father's boat — patched and faithful — sat lower now, the channel around it wider and darker than before. On the far shore the cottages of the village had shrunk to a row of pale dots. Between Nadia and home lay a stretch of moving water that had been a shallow trickle when they crossed at dawn.

“Get in,” she said to Sam, more sharply than she meant to. He looked up at her, and she made herself smile. “Race you to put the oars out.”

The wind had changed. It came now from the open sea, pushing low and steady, flattening the tops of the waves into hissing white. Nadia took the oars and pulled. The boat answered slowly, as though reluctant, and the shore did not seem to come any nearer. She pulled again, and again, settling into a rhythm, counting under her breath so that Sam would not hear the count waver.

Halfway across, a gust caught them sideways and the boat tilted; Sam's hand shot out and gripped the side, his knuckles white. Nadia did not stop rowing. She fixed her eyes on the church tower behind the village — a fixed thing, a thing that did not move — and pulled towards it. Spray stung her face. Her arms had begun to burn, and somewhere beneath the burning was a cold thought she refused to look at directly.

“Are we nearly there?” Sam asked, in a small voice. “Nearly,” she said. She did not look at the shore to check; she simply had to believe it, and rowing was easier if she did.

When at last the keel scraped shingle, Nadia found that her legs would not quite hold her steady. She lifted Sam out onto the bank, then sat down heavily on the wet stones, the oars still across her knees. Their mother was hurrying down from the cottages, and Nadia raised one arm to wave — and was surprised to find that the arm was shaking, and that she was laughing, though nothing at all was funny.

11 What had Nadia **promised** her mother?

- A that she would not take the boat out
- B that she would teach Sam to row
- C that she would be home before dark
- D that she would fill the bucket with cockles
- E that she would have Sam home before the tide turned

12 Why had the morning “slipped away unnoticed”?

- A They were waiting for the tide to come in
- B The boat had drifted away while they worked
- C They had fallen asleep on the sand
- D They were absorbed in gathering the unusually plentiful cockles
- E They had lost the path back to the village

- 13 The boat is described as “patched and faithful”. The word “**faithful**” suggests the boat was —
- A brightly painted
 - B reliable and long trusted
 - C brand new
 - D badly damaged
 - E difficult to row
- 14 The writer says the cottages “had shrunk to a row of pale dots”. This mainly shows —
- A that night was falling
 - B how far from home they now were
 - C that fog had hidden the village
 - D that the cottages were being knocked down
 - E that the cottages were very small buildings
- 15 Nadia spoke “more sharply than she meant to”, then “made herself smile”. What does this suggest about her?
- A She was anxious, but trying to hide it from Sam
 - B She was angry with Sam for being slow
 - C She thought the whole thing was funny
 - D She was certain there was no danger at all
 - E She was bored and wanted to go home
- 16 Why did Nadia count “under her breath” as she rowed?
- A Because her mother had told her to count
 - B To measure exactly how far they had travelled
 - C To work out how many cockles they had caught
 - D To time how long Sam could stay quiet
 - E To keep a steady rhythm and steady her own nerves
- 17 Nadia kept her eyes on the church tower, “a fixed thing, a thing that did not move”. She did this to —
- A signal to her mother on the shore
 - B see what the weather was doing
 - C check whether anyone was watching
 - D give herself a steady point to aim for
 - E admire the view of the village
- 18 What is meant by “a cold thought she refused to look at directly”?
- A a clever plan she was keeping secret
 - B her decision to give up and rest
 - C a fear she was trying not to let herself think about
 - D the chill of the spray on her skin
 - E a memory of a cold winter's day
- 19 How does Sam show that he is **frightened** during the crossing?
- A he grips the side of the boat with white knuckles and speaks in a small voice
 - B he stands up in the boat
 - C he tries to take the oars from Nadia
 - D he refuses to speak at all
 - E he begins to cry loudly

- 20 When Nadia says “Nearly” without looking at the shore, the writer shows that she —
- A had given up hope of reaching home
 - B could clearly see they had almost arrived
 - C was no longer paying attention to Sam
 - D was deliberately lying to upset Sam
 - E chose to believe they were close because it helped her keep going
- 21 Choose the **TWO** details that show how **tired** Nadia was. **Choose TWO answers.**
- A she could not stop crying
 - B she refused to carry Sam
 - C she fell asleep in the boat
 - D her legs would not quite hold her steady
 - E her arms had begun to burn as she rowed
- 22 Why is Nadia “laughing, though nothing at all was funny” at the end?
- A She is overwhelmed with relief now that the danger has passed
 - B She is pretending that nothing has happened
 - C She finds the whole adventure hilarious
 - D She is trying to make her mother laugh
 - E She is laughing at Sam for being scared
- 23 Which of these is the **best summary** of the passage?
- A A girl rows her younger brother back across dangerous water as the weather turns, mastering her fear until they reach the shore
 - B A girl argues with her mother about going out in the boat
 - C A girl is lost at sea and has to be rescued by fishermen
 - D A girl and her brother spend a happy morning collecting cockles by the sea
 - E A girl teaches her younger brother how to row their father's boat
- 24 In “she said... **more sharply** than she meant to”, the word “**sharply**” is a —
- A noun
 - B verb
 - C pronoun
 - D adverb
 - E adjective
- 25 “The boat answered slowly, as though **reluctant**”. The word “**reluctant**” here means —
- A light and easy
 - B eager and quick
 - C frightened and shaking
 - D heavy and broken
 - E unwilling, as if it did not want to move
- 26 “The boat answered slowly, as though reluctant”. By writing this, the author makes the boat seem —
- A almost alive, unwilling to move (personification)
 - B extremely fast
 - C brand new
 - D completely broken
 - E brightly coloured
- 27 In “her arms had begun to **burn**”, the word “**burn**” is used as a —
- A adverb
 - B adjective
 - C verb
 - D pronoun
 - E noun

28 How does the **mood** of the passage change from beginning to end?

- A** from boredom to excitement
- B** from anger to forgiveness
- C** from happiness to disappointment
- D** from rising tension and fear to relief and release
- E** it stays sad throughout, with no change

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 Gale

All night the restless wind had paced,
and dawn broke grey across the bay;
the sea rose up like beaten brass,
and hurled the little boats away.

The waves were wolves with silver teeth
that snapped and snarled along the shore;
the wind went wild and would not rest,
and shook the shutters, door on door.

And we who watched behind the glass
felt small against so vast a power;
the gulls were tossed like scraps of cloth
and flung across that furious hour.

Then, spent at last, the great sea sighed;
the dawn returned, and all was still.
The gale had spoken, fierce and proud,
and left its silence on the hill.

29 What is the poem mainly about?

- A a long, dry summer
- B a fishing trip that goes well
- C a great storm at sea and the calm that follows it
- D a peaceful day at the beach
- E the building of a harbour wall

30 “the sea rose up **like beaten brass**” is an example of —

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

31 “The **waves were wolves** with silver teeth” is an example of —

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

32 By calling the waves “wolves with silver teeth”, the poet suggests the waves were —

- A frozen solid
- B fierce and dangerous, like hunting animals
- C silver in colour and valuable
- D slow and tired
- E soft and gentle

33 Which phrase is an example of **alliteration**?

- A silver teeth
- B across the bay
- C scraps of cloth
- D snapped and snarled
- E door on door

- 34 “the **restless** wind had **paced**” gives the wind a human quality. This technique is called —
A a metaphor B onomatopoeia C a simile D alliteration E personification
- 35 What does the line “felt small against so vast a power” tell us about the people watching?
A They could not see the storm clearly
B They felt tiny and powerless beside the strength of the storm
C They were children, not grown-ups
D They were standing a long way from the sea
E They felt brave and unafraid
- 36 In “so **vast** a power”, the word “**vast**” means —
A very fast B very great in size C very distant D very sudden E very frightening
- 37 In “that **furious** hour”, the word “**furious**” means —
A cheerful and bright
B cold and wet
C violently fierce and stormy
D slow and tired
E calm and gentle
- 38 “the gulls were tossed **like scraps of cloth**” suggests the gulls were —
A made of fabric
B light and helpless, thrown about by the wind
C flying in a neat line
D heavy and strong
E brightly coloured
- 39 “the great **sea sighed**” suggests that, by the end, the sea was —
A full of fish
B still rising and roaring
C completely frozen
D growing tired and calm, like a person settling
E being pulled out by boats
- 40 How does the **mood** of the poem change in the final stanza?
A from happy to frightened
B from wild and violent to calm and still
C from calm to suddenly stormy
D from sad to angry
E it does not change at all
- 41 In “the **restless** wind”, the word “**restless**” is a —
A adverb B verb C pronoun D noun E adjective
- 42 In “**spent** at last, the great sea sighed”, the word “**spent**” means —
A frozen over B paid for with money C newly begun D spilled over
E worn out and exhausted

43 Choose the **TWO** lines in which the poet gives the storm **human actions**. **Choose TWO answers.**

- A** “the great sea sighed”
- B** “we who watched behind the glass”
- C** “and dawn broke grey across the bay”
- D** “with silver teeth”
- E** “the restless wind had paced”

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

- A** The poem is set in a hot desert
- B** The people watch the storm from inside, behind glass
- C** By the end of the poem the sea has become calm
- D** The storm lasts through the night and into the dawn
- E** The storm sinks a boat with people on board

Section 4 — Comparing the Texts

Questions 45–53

These questions compare **Text A** ("The Crossing") with **Text B** ("The Gale").

- 45** What do **both** texts have in common?
- A both are about farming the land
 - B both are about the power of the sea
 - C both are about a happy family holiday
 - D both are about a long train journey
 - E both are set in a busy city
- 46** Both texts explore the idea that —
- A the sea is best enjoyed from a boat
 - B the sea matters little to those who live near it
 - C people can easily control the sea
 - D the sea is powerful and can be dangerous to people
 - E the sea is always calm and safe
- 47** Choose the **TWO** statements that are true of **both** texts. **Choose TWO answers.**
- A both are set in summer sunshine
 - B both are written as poems
 - C both are funny
 - D both use figurative language to create a strong impression
 - E both describe rough, stormy conditions at sea
- 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 what they **focus on**?
- A both describe exactly the same event
 - B Text A follows one girl's personal struggle, while Text B describes the storm itself and the people watching it
 - C Text A is about a tree and Text B about a house
 - D neither text is really about the sea
 - E Text A is a poem and Text B is a story
- 50** In Text A the danger is faced by a girl rowing a boat. In Text B, the people mostly —
- A swim in the sea
 - B sleep through the storm
 - C sail straight into the storm
 - D do not appear at all
 - E watch the storm from safety
- 51** Both texts contain —
- A numbered lists
 - B figurative language, such as similes and metaphors
 - C a recipe
 - D speech on every line
 - E step-by-step instructions

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

- A** both texts end sadly with a loss
- B** both texts end with a joke
- C** Text A ends with relief after danger, while Text B ends with calm after the storm has blown itself out
- D** both texts end in the middle of the storm
- 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, 21, 43, 44, 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	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
51	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
52	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
53	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

END OF PAPER