
NILE TUITION ACADEMY

EXCELLENCE IN 11+ PREPARATION

Sutton Selective Eligibility Test (SET) — Style Practice

English

MULTIPLE-CHOICE PAPER · PRACTICE PAPER 8

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 libraray B library C librery D libary E liberry
- 2 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
A interupt B interrup C interrupt D intterrupt E interrpt
- 3 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
A gouvernement B goverment C government D government E govenment
- 4 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
A queu B queue C kew D que E queue
- 5 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
A rhythm B rhythm C rythm D rhthym E rythem
- 6 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
A conscience B consceince C conshience D conscence E consience
- 7 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
A dissappear B dissapear C disapear D disappear E disappeer
- 8 Choose the word that is spelled **correctly**.
A mischievus B mischievous C mischievious D mischevous E mischeivous
- 9 Which word is spelled **incorrectly**?
A embarass B grammar C vegetable D beautiful E recommend
- 10 Choose the **TWO** words that are spelled **correctly**. **Choose TWO answers.**
A surprise B paralel C Febuary D posess 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 Allotment**

Every Saturday, whether he liked it or not, Daniel went with his grandmother to her allotment. To him it looked like the least exciting place in the world: a muddy rectangle of earth behind a row of sheds, with nothing to do but dig, and weed, and wait.

Nana, though, moved among her rows of vegetables as if she were greeting old friends. She knew every plant by name and need — which one wanted water, which one wanted sun, which one was being quietly eaten by slugs. “Gardening,” she told him, pressing a seed into his palm, “is just patience with dirt on its hands.”

Daniel did not believe her. He pushed the seeds into the cold soil where she showed him, certain that nothing would ever come of them. They were so small, and the earth was so dark and ordinary, that it seemed impossible anything could be hidden inside such a tiny, wrinkled speck.

Weeks passed, and Daniel almost forgot about his row. Then one grey morning Nana called him over, and there, pushing up through the soil he had thought was empty, was a line of pale green shoots — fragile, determined, unmistakably alive. He crouched down and stared at them, and felt a strange, fierce pride, as though he had done something remarkable simply by waiting.

After that, the allotment changed for him. He began to notice things: the fat bees working the bean flowers, the way the soil smelled after rain, the slow miracle of a green tomato turning red. He learned that some things cannot be rushed, however much you want them to hurry.

When at last they carried home a basket of vegetables he had grown himself, Daniel understood what Nana had meant. The waiting had not been the boring part, as he had thought. The waiting had been the whole point.

- 11** How did Daniel feel about going to the allotment at the start?
- A** he was frightened of it
 - B** he found it exciting and new
 - C** he had never been before
 - D** he thought it was the least exciting place in the world
 - E** he loved it more than anywhere
- 12** Nana “moved among her rows of vegetables as if she were greeting old friends”. This suggests that she —
- A** knew and cared for her plants well, as if they were friends
 - B** was in a great hurry
 - C** was lonely and had no real friends
 - D** did not know much about plants
 - E** was meeting people she had known for years

- 13 Nana says gardening is “just patience with dirt on its hands”. What does she mean?
- A gardening is mostly about waiting patiently
 - B you must wash your hands when gardening
 - C gardening is a waste of time
 - D gardening always makes your hands dirty
 - E gardening is quick and easy
- 14 Describing patience as having “dirt on its hands” treats patience as if it were a person. This is an example of —
- A a question B a simile C a fact D personification E alliteration
- 15 Why did Daniel feel “certain that nothing would ever come of” the seeds?
- A he had planted them in the wrong place
 - B he had grown seeds before and failed
 - C the soil was far too wet
 - D Nana had told him they would not grow
 - E the seeds were so small that he could not imagine anything growing from them
- 16 When the shoots appeared, Daniel “felt a strange, fierce pride, as though he had done something remarkable simply by waiting”. Why?
- A he had finished all his chores
 - B he had proved Nana wrong
 - C he had grown the biggest plant
 - D he had won a gardening prize
 - E his patience had been rewarded, and the plants had grown after all
- 17 After the shoots appeared, what did Daniel begin to **notice**?
- A that the other gardeners were unfriendly
 - B that the allotment was boring
 - C that it always rained on Saturdays
 - D that his row had failed
 - E small details such as the bees, the smell of the soil, and a tomato turning red
- 18 The writer calls a tomato turning red “the slow miracle”. The word “miracle” suggests that, to Daniel, growing things seemed —
- A slow and dull
 - B ordinary and boring
 - C difficult and tiring
 - D strange and frightening
 - E wonderful and almost magical
- 19 What does Daniel finally **understand** by the end of the passage?
- A that vegetables are cheaper in shops
 - B that Nana was wrong about patience
 - C that gardening is a waste of time
 - D that the waiting was not the boring part but the whole point of gardening
 - E that he never wants to garden again

- 20** Choose the **TWO** details that show Daniel's attitude to the allotment **changed**. Choose **TWO** answers.
- A** he refused to plant anything
 - B** he gave all his vegetables away
 - C** he began to notice things like the bees and the smell of the soil
 - D** he felt a fierce pride when his seeds grew
 - E** he stopped going on Saturdays
- 21** Which of these is the **best summary** of the passage?
- A** A boy plants seeds that never grow at all
 - B** A boy who finds his grandmother's allotment boring learns the value of patience when his own seeds finally grow
 - C** A boy wins first prize at a gardening show
 - D** A boy and his grandmother argue about vegetables
 - E** A boy refuses to help his grandmother in the garden
- 22** In "he **pushed** the seeds into the cold soil", the word "**pushed**" is used as a —
- A** noun
 - B** adverb
 - C** pronoun
 - D** adjective
 - E** verb
- 23** In "a **tiny**, wrinkled speck", the word "**tiny**" is a —
- A** adverb
 - B** noun
 - C** adjective
 - D** pronoun
 - E** verb
- 24** The word "**fragile**", describing the shoots, means —
- A** delicate and easily broken
 - B** tall and thick
 - C** bright and colourful
 - D** strong and tough
 - E** fast-growing
- 25** The word "**determined**", describing the shoots, suggests they were —
- A** weak and dying
 - B** brightly coloured
 - C** pushing up firmly, as if they would not be stopped
 - D** very slow
 - E** frightened
- 26** The writer calls the ripening tomato "the slow miracle". Calling it a "miracle" is an example of —
- A** alliteration
 - B** a question
 - C** a metaphor
 - D** a simile
 - E** a list
- 27** How does the writer show how **surprised** Daniel was that the seeds grew?
- A** he "crouched down and stared" at the shoots in soil he had thought was empty
 - B** he had expected them all along
 - C** he ignored the shoots completely
 - D** he pulled the shoots straight out
 - E** he had planted no seeds at all
- 28** How do Daniel's feelings about the allotment **change** during the passage?
- A** from bored and doubtful to proud and genuinely interested
 - B** from excited to disappointed
 - C** from happy to angry
 - D** from frightened to calm
 - E** they do not 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

Seeds

A seed is such a little thing,
a speck, a crumb, a grain of brown;
you'd never guess it holds a tree
folded tight and waiting down.

We press them in the sleeping soil
and cover them, and walk away;
we cannot rush them, cannot beg —
they wake in their own time, not ours.

The rain comes down like patient hands,
the sun leans warm across the row;
and slowly, slowly, green by green,
the hidden gardens start to grow.

So if you want a thing to last,
don't tear it open, half-begun;
the best of things, like seeds and trust,
are grown in patience, one by one.

29 What is the poem mainly about?

- A a walk through a forest
- B a race between two plants
- C how seeds grow slowly, and the patience this takes
- D a storm destroying a garden
- E how to cook vegetables

30 The poet says a seed “holds a tree / folded tight and waiting down”. Giving the seed the human action of “waiting” is an example of —

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

31 What does the poet mean by saying a tiny seed “holds a tree”?

- A the seed is made of wood
- B the tree is holding the seed
- C inside the small seed is everything needed to grow into a tree
- D the seed is as big as a tree
- E someone is holding a tree

32 “The rain comes down like patient hands” is an example of —

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

- 33 Why does the poet compare the rain to “patient hands”?
- A the rain is in a great hurry
 - B the rain is cold and cruel
 - C the rain destroys the seeds
 - D the rain gently and slowly helps the seeds to grow, like careful hands
 - E the rain has real hands
- 34 “the sun leans warm across the row” gives the sun a human action. This is an example of —
- A alliteration
 - B a simile
 - C a metaphor
 - D personification
 - E a fact
- 35 Which phrase is an example of **alliteration**?
- A sleeping soil
 - B one by one
 - C grain of brown
 - D hidden gardens
 - E patient hands
- 36 What do the lines “we cannot rush them, cannot beg — / they wake in their own time, not ours” tell us about seeds?
- A you must shout at seeds to grow
 - B seeds will never grow at all
 - C seeds grow instantly
 - D seeds grow at their own pace and cannot be hurried
 - E seeds grow only at night
- 37 The poet calls the growing plants “the hidden gardens”. This is an example of —
- A a question
 - B alliteration
 - C a simile
 - D a list
 - E a metaphor
- 38 What is the poet really saying with “the best of things, like seeds and trust, / are grown in patience”?
- A nothing good ever grows
 - B you should only ever grow seeds
 - C important things such as trust, like plants, take time and patience to grow
 - D seeds are better than trust
 - E trust can be grown in a real garden
- 39 The overall **mood** of the poem is best described as —
- A frightening and tense
 - B calm and gently encouraging
 - C silly and joking
 - D sad and hopeless
 - E angry and impatient
- 40 The word “**speck**” in “a speck, a crumb, a grain of brown” suggests the seed is —
- A sharp and hard
 - B very small
 - C brightly coloured
 - D wet and soft
 - E very heavy
- 41 In “the **sleeping** soil”, the word “**sleeping**” describes the soil, so here it is acting as an —
- A pronoun
 - B adjective
 - C verb
 - D noun
 - E adverb
- 42 Why does the poet repeat “slowly, slowly” in the third stanza?
- A only to fill up the line
 - B to emphasise how gradually the plants grow
 - C to describe a slow song
 - D to show the plants grow quickly
 - E to show the poet is tired

43 Choose the **TWO** lines in which the poet gives something that is **not human** a human action. **Choose TWO answers.**

- A “the sun leans warm across the row”
- B “a speck, a crumb, a grain of brown”
- C “the best of things, like seeds and trust”
- D “The rain comes down like patient hands”
- E “they wake in their own time, not ours”

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

- A Seeds grow fully in a single day
- B The poem compares growing plants to building trust
- C The poem is about a thunderstorm
- D Seeds grow slowly and cannot be rushed
- E A seed contains everything it needs to grow

Section 4 — Comparing the Texts

Questions 45–53

These questions compare **Text A** ("The Allotment") with **Text B** ("Seeds").

- 45** What do **both** texts have in common?
- A** both are about cooking
 - B** both are about growing plants and the patience it takes
 - C** both are about the seaside
 - D** both are about a race
 - E** both are about winter
- 46** Both texts suggest that —
- A** seeds never really grow
 - B** gardening is quick and easy
 - C** growing things cannot be rushed and need patience
 - D** patience is a waste of time
 - E** plants grow best indoors
- 47** Choose the **TWO** statements that are true of **both** texts. **Choose TWO answers.**
- A** both are written as poems
 - B** both use figurative language to describe plants
 - C** both are set at the seaside
 - D** both are funny
 - E** both are about seeds and growing
- 48** One clear **difference** in form is that —
- A** Text A is written in rhyme
 - B** both are stories
 - C** Text B is a diary entry
 - D** both are poems
 - E** Text A is a story written in prose, while Text B is a poem in verse
- 49** How do the two texts differ in what they **focus on**?
- A** Text A tells the story of one boy learning patience, while Text B reflects more generally on seeds and patience
 - B** both describe the same boy
 - C** Text A is about the sea and Text B about a city
 - D** Text A is a poem and Text B is a story
 - E** neither text is about plants
- 50** Both texts teach a similar lesson, which is that —
- A** you should give up if things are slow
 - B** good things take time and patience to grow
 - C** plants are dangerous
 - D** winning is all that matters
 - E** gardening is pointless

51 Both texts contain —

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

52 Which best describes a **difference** between the two texts?

- A both are dull and lifeless
- B both are frightening
- C Text A shows the lesson through a boy and his grandmother, while Text B states it more directly as advice
- D both are sad
- E Text A is angry and Text B is funny

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

- A columns
- B verses (stanzas)
- C full sentences only
- D a numbered list
- 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, 20, 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