

# 11+ CEM English and Verbal Reasoning Paper 8

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## 11+ CEM English and Verbal Reasoning Paper 8

### Instructions:

- You have 50 minutes to answer 55 questions.
- There are 3 sections in this paper. The time allowed for each section is stated below.
  1. Comprehension - 20 minutes
  2. Missing Words - 15 minutes
  3. Antonyms - 15 minutes
- Read the instructions given at the beginning of each section before answering the questions.
- Each question is worth 1 mark.
- Put a line through the correct answer by choosing one of the options A-D or A-E in your answering booklet.

### Example:

The **Correct** way to mark your answers on the answer sheet:



**Correct**

The **Incorrect** way to mark your answers on the answer sheet:



**Incorrect**

**Use a pencil** to mark your answers. **Rub out any errors**, do not cross them out.

**Please take care** when marking your answers on your answer sheets.

Make sure you mark your answer **on the line that matches the question number and mark only one answer per line.**

### Information about the test papers:

- The page number is in the top right corner of each page.
- The timings for the different sections are shown on the example pages.

### Instructions at the bottom of the pages inform you:

- If you can continue to the next page
- When you should wait for instructions before you turn the page
- When you have reached the end of a section.

### The following symbols and phrases are used on the test papers.



**Symbol Description:**  
Time allowed for the section.



**Symbol Description:**  
Go to the next page.



**Symbol Description:**  
Do not turn the page until you are told to do so.



**Symbol Description:**  
STOP WORKING. You may check your work from this section only.



## Section 1 - Comprehension

### Instructions

Carefully read through the passage of writing, then answer the questions that follow.

Mark your chosen answer for each question on the answering sheet. You will have four options (A - D) for each question.

### Example Passage

The apathetic boy walked home from school. It started to rain.

#### Example i.

**i) Which of the following words is closest in meaning to the word “apathetic”**

- A. Uninterested
- B. Amazed
- C. Agitated
- D. Pitiful

The answer here is **A** as apathetic means “showing or feeling no interest or enthusiasm. Therefore, “uninterested” is closest in meaning to the word “apathetic”.

The answer A has been marked for you on your answer sheet

#### Example ii.

**ii) What happened as the boy walked home?**

- E. It got dark
- F. It began to rain
- G. He felt happy
- H. He got lost

The correct answer is **B**.

Mark the box with the letter **B** on your answering sheet.



**You have 20 minutes to answer 20 questions.**



## Pond and Stream

*by Arthur Ransome*

The Duck Pond is far away at the other side of the village. We walk a mile down over the fields, till we come to the village, and then we go through a little cluster of grey houses, past the tavern with the picture of the prancing Blue Unicorn hanging out over the door, past the little, grey church with the red tiled roof, past the farmyard by the smith's, where there is always a large sized piebald pig grunting in the yard, and out again into the fields. **5**

Then, on the left-hand side of the road, we come to three stacks, a horse trough, and a piece of commonland. The common is rough and untidy, with clumps of gorse, thistles and nettles. There is usually a spotty pony chewing the grass, and a goat with naughty looking horns and a grey beard. A tiny donkey with an enormous voice is tethered to a stake in the ground. There is a crowd of geese, who throw out their long necks in vicious curves, and hiss at strangers and sometimes frighten them. They do not hiss at us. **10**

Perhaps they know that we would not be very frightened if they did. The Elf likes this last part of the walk, because she loves to imagine she is a goosegirl in a fairy tale, who drives geese, until she meets a noble Prince, who finds out that really she is a Princess all the time. Some days the Imp is quite ready to pretend to be the Prince, and act the whole story. But other days he is in a precious hurry to get to the pond, and the poor Elf has to be a goosegirl without a Prince, and that is a poor business. She soon tires of it, and runs after us across the common. **15**

Long before we reach the pond, we hear the quack, quack of the ducks, and see them waddling along with their bodies very near the ground by the muddy edges of the water, flopping hurriedly first on one leg and then on the other. When we get near them, we can see that as they lift their feet they turn their toes in a manner that shows that they have not been at all properly brought up. Without warning they throw themselves forward along the water, and swim, looking, suddenly, quite graceful. Everything looks quite graceful in its proper place, and almost everything looks silly when it is anywhere else. **20**

Even swans, who are the most beautiful of all birds in the water, can look as ungainly as can be when they walk along the ground. And if you put a fish, who swims beautifully in a pool, out on to dry land, he just flops and dies, and that is not a pretty sight at all. **25**

The Duck Pond is very big and round. One bank of it is covered with dark trees that overhang and make green pictures of themselves in the water when the wind is still. And **30**

partly under the trees, and partly at one side of them, the bank is high and over-hanging and sandy, and in the sand there are little holes where the sandmartins have their nests. The sandmartins are rather like swallows, only instead of building clay nests under the roof edges of a house, they bore holes with their beaks in banks of earth, and make their nests inside them. A very, very long time ago, we used to do just like them, burrowing into the ground, making a passage with a cave at the end of it, and living there under the earth. There are some of these old homes of ours still left in some parts of the country. The Imp and the Elf are fond of the sandmartins, because they are always in a hurry like themselves. It is fine to see them fly swift and low over the pond, and flutter at the mouth of the hole, and then vanish into it, like mice into a crevice in the wall.

35

40

The birds who matter most for the Duck Pond People are, of course, the ducks. There are brown ducks, white ducks, speckly ducks and broods of golden ducklings that the Elf is fond of watching. The little ducklings waddle about just like their mothers, opening and shutting their dirty, yellow flat bills that are always far too large for their bodies. They look like bundles of grey fluff with crooked legs and waggly necks.

45

Often we lie flat on the green grass by the side of the pond, when the sun is high and hot, and white clouds and a blue sky are reflected in the water of the pond. We lie lazily and watch the ducks swimming about, looking for their food. We see them plunge in from the flat shelving mud, and swim out like a mottled fleet of boats. They move their heads to this

side and that, and suddenly plunge them down into the water, into the rotting leaves and mud that lie at the bottom of the pond. As they swing their heads up again, we see that something is going down inside. Sometimes, when the thing is big - a young and lively frog, or a wriggling worm - we see it hanging out of the duck's bill, waiting to be flung about, and gulped at until, at last, it goes politely down.

50



**1) Where was the Duck Pond located?**

- A. In the centre of the village
- B. At the far end of the village
- C. By the grey houses
- D. Next-door to the tavern

**2) Which of the following buildings did they not pass on their journey to the Duck Pond?**

- A. Several grey houses
- B. The tavern
- C. The farmyard
- D. The red tiled house

**3) Why are the words “Blue Unicorn” capitalised in the first paragraph (line 3)?**

- A. They are the name of the narrator
- B. They are at the beginning of a sentence
- C. To show their importance
- D. They are the name of the tavern

**4) Which literary technique is used in the following phrase: "A tiny donkey with an enormous voice" (line 9)?**

- A. Simile
- B. Personification
- C. Juxtaposition
- D. Metaphor

**5) What does the word “tethered” mean in line 9?**

- A. Tied with a rope or chain
- B. Shut in an enclosure
- C. Trapped in a cage
- D. Allowed to roam freely



**6) A collective noun is a word referring to a collection of things taken as a whole. Which of the following words is a collective noun used in the second paragraph?**

- A. Clumps
- B. Common
- C. Vicious
- D. Crowd

**7) What can we infer from the following line: “They do not hiss at us” (line 11)?**

**Option 1: The geese do not like to hiss**

**Option 2: The characters in this passage pass this way often**

**Option 3: The geese are not aggressive towards the characters in this passage**

**Option 4: The geese are aggressive to anyone who passes by**

- A. Options 1 and 2 only
- B. Options 3 and 4 only
- C. Options 2 and 3 only
- D. Options 1 and 4 only

**8) Why did the Elf like the “last part of the walk” (lines 12-13)?**

- A. She liked to imagine she worked with the geese
- B. She liked to play with the geese
- C. She liked to chase geese
- D. Geese were her favourite animals

**9) What did the Elf pretend to be?**

- A. A goose
- B. A prince
- C. A goosegirl
- D. An Imp

**10) What type of word is “precious” in line 16?**

- A. Adverb
- B. Adjective
- C. Verb
- D. Noun



**11) Which literary techniques are used in the following phrase “the quack, quack of the ducks” (line 18)?**

- Option 1: Onomatopoeia**
- Option 2: Repetition**
- Option 3: Exaggeration**
- Option 4: Personification**

- A. Options 1 and 2 only
- B. Options 3 and 4 only
- C. Options 2 and 3 only
- D. Options 1 and 4 only

**12) Which of the following words is closest in meaning to the word “manner” as it is used in line 22?**

- A. Way
- B. Aspect
- C. Demeanour
- D. Civility

**13) What does the phrase “they have not been at all properly brought up” mean (lines 22-23)?**

- A. The ducks had no parents
- B. The ducks were badly behaved
- C. The ducks did not walk well on land
- D. The ducks looked dishevelled and unloved

**14) When did the ducks appear to be suddenly “quite graceful” (line 24)?**

- A. When walking
- B. When swimming
- C. When flying
- D. When sleeping

**15) What does the word “ungainly” mean (line 26)?**

- A. Strong and stable
- B. Clumsy and awkward
- C. Funny and entertaining
- D. Elegant and graceful





**16) What “green pictures” are referred to in line 30?**

- A. The bank
- B. Trees
- C. The reflection of the trees
- D. The bottom of the Duck Pond

**17) What are sandmartins?**

- A. Insects
- B. Small mammals
- C. Birds
- D. Fish

**18) Where did the sandmartins live?**

- A. The banks of the pond
- B. The trees
- C. In the pond
- D. Under the roof edges of a house

**19) What types of duck are seen at the pond?**

- Option 1: Golden ducks**
- Option 2: Little ducks**
- Option 3: White ducks**
- Option 4: Speckly ducks**

- A. Options 1 and 4
- B. Options 2 and 3
- C. Options 1 and 2
- D. Options 3 and 4

**20) What does the author mean by the phrase, "...it goes politely down" (line 53)?**

- A. It escapes
- B. It is swallowed down and consumed
- C. It is set free
- D. It politely apologises

**End of Section 1. Remember to check your work.**



## Section 2 - Missing Words

### Instructions

In each of the following sentences, there are either one or two words missing.

For questions 1-9, put a line through the correct answer by choosing ONE of the five options (A-E). For questions 10-20, choose TWO of the five options A-E.

Each word can only be used once.

### Example i.

The eagle [QUESTION i] through the air.

|             |            |               |            |           |
|-------------|------------|---------------|------------|-----------|
| A           | B          | C             | D          | E         |
| <b>flew</b> | <b>ran</b> | <b>flying</b> | <b>fly</b> | <b>go</b> |

### Answer i.

The answer here is **A - flew**.

**A** has been marked in your answering booklet for you.

### Example ii.

The [QUESTION ii] travelled into [QUESTION iii].

|                  |              |              |             |             |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| A                | B            | C            | D           | E           |
| <b>spaceship</b> | <b>shops</b> | <b>space</b> | <b>home</b> | <b>went</b> |

### Answer ii. and iii.

The answers here are **A - spaceship** and **C - space**.

Mark example ii as **A** and example iii as **C** in your answering booklet.



**You have 15 minutes to answer 20 questions.**



Earthquakes can cause [QUESTION 1] damage to effected areas.

|             |                   |                |               |               |
|-------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| A           | B                 | C              | D             | E             |
| <b>some</b> | <b>reversible</b> | <b>minimal</b> | <b>severe</b> | <b>mighty</b> |

He found museums [QUESTION 2] yet tiring.

|            |               |                  |                     |                    |
|------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| A          | B             | C                | D                   | E                  |
| <b>old</b> | <b>boring</b> | <b>consuming</b> | <b>overwhelming</b> | <b>fascinating</b> |

The [QUESTION 3] smell was so terrible that the building had to be evacuated.

|                |                   |               |              |             |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| A              | B                 | C             | D            | E           |
| <b>pungent</b> | <b>delectable</b> | <b>mellow</b> | <b>fresh</b> | <b>nice</b> |

The [QUESTION 4] puppy was happy in its new home.

|                |                  |                  |             |                |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| A              | B                | C                | D           | E              |
| <b>abandon</b> | <b>neglected</b> | <b>forgotten</b> | <b>hurt</b> | <b>selfish</b> |

She [QUESTION 5] him never to return.

|               |               |              |                   |                 |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| A             | B             | C            | D                 | E               |
| <b>warned</b> | <b>advise</b> | <b>asked</b> | <b>questioned</b> | <b>supposed</b> |

Every day, the greengrocer sold more fruit than [QUESTION 6].

|               |                     |              |                   |              |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| A             | B                   | C            | D                 | E            |
| <b>fruits</b> | <b>refreshments</b> | <b>bread</b> | <b>vegetables</b> | <b>foods</b> |



After [QUESTION 7] all the ingredients, place the mixture in the oven.

|                  |               |                   |             |              |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| A                | B             | C                 | D           | E            |
| <b>combining</b> | <b>fusing</b> | <b>separating</b> | <b>join</b> | <b>mixed</b> |

His high [QUESTION 8] suggested he had fallen ill.

|                |                 |                    |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| A              | B               | C                  | D              | E               |
| <b>illness</b> | <b>feverish</b> | <b>temperature</b> | <b>disease</b> | <b>disorder</b> |

I spent too much money last week and ended up in [QUESTION 9].

|                 |              |             |                |              |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| A               | B            | C           | D              | E            |
| <b>currency</b> | <b>debit</b> | <b>debt</b> | <b>payment</b> | <b>check</b> |

"I will never [QUESTION 10]" cried the brave knight.

|                  |              |               |            |              |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| A                | B            | C             | D          | E            |
| <b>surrender</b> | <b>loose</b> | <b>defeat</b> | <b>win</b> | <b>admit</b> |

I was [QUESTION 11] after I was [QUESTION 12] of stealing the jewels.

|                |                |                 |                |              |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| A              | B              | C               | D              | E            |
| <b>accused</b> | <b>excused</b> | <b>offended</b> | <b>pleased</b> | <b>proud</b> |

Suncream helps [QUESTION 13] sunburn in hot [QUESTION 14].

|                  |            |                    |                |                |
|------------------|------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| A                | B          | C                  | D              | E              |
| <b>encourage</b> | <b>aid</b> | <b>temperature</b> | <b>weather</b> | <b>prevent</b> |



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After [QUESTION 15] their way up the mountain, they now had to [QUESTION 16].

| A      | B          | C         | D       | E        |
|--------|------------|-----------|---------|----------|
| ascend | navigating | searching | descend | steering |

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The actor gave a [QUESTION 17] speech after winning his [QUESTION 18] award.

| A          | B     | C         | D          | E            |
|------------|-------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| specialist | first | empowered | passionate | enthusiastic |

---

We celebrated after our [QUESTION 19] team won the final game of the [QUESTION 20].

| A          | B     | C         | D        | E      |
|------------|-------|-----------|----------|--------|
| tournament | match | favourite | champion | winner |

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**End of Section 2. Remember to check your work.**



## Section 3 - Antonyms

### Instructions

Select the word that means the opposite of the given word in each question.

Mark your answer on the answer sheet by choosing one of the options A - D.

There is only one right answer for each question.

### Example i.

#### i) tired

|                  |                  |              |              |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>energetic</b> | <b>exhausted</b> | <b>dream</b> | <b>alive</b> |
| A                | B                | C            | D            |

### Answer i.

The correct answer is **A** as energetic means the opposite of tired.

The answer A has been marked for you on your answer sheet.

### Example ii.

#### i) poor

|              |             |                     |             |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| <b>needy</b> | <b>paid</b> | <b>impoverished</b> | <b>rich</b> |
| A            | B           | C                   | D           |

### Answer ii.

The correct answer is **D. Rich** means the opposite of poor.

Mark the box with the letter D on your answer sheet.



**You have 15 minutes to answer 15 questions.**



1) **suspicious**

|                 |                |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| <b>trusting</b> | <b>strange</b> | <b>doubtful</b> | <b>understanding</b> |
| A               | B              | C               | D                    |

2) **spacious**

|              |                   |                |                |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>roomy</b> | <b>commodious</b> | <b>cramped</b> | <b>sizable</b> |
| A            | B                 | C              | D              |

3) **obscure**

|                  |              |              |               |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>uncertain</b> | <b>clear</b> | <b>vague</b> | <b>unsure</b> |
| A                | B            | C            | D             |

4) **extreme**

|               |               |               |                 |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <b>slight</b> | <b>severe</b> | <b>utmost</b> | <b>ultimate</b> |
| A             | B             | C             | D               |

5) **infamous**

|              |                |               |                  |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>known</b> | <b>unknown</b> | <b>famous</b> | <b>reputable</b> |
| A            | B              | C             | D                |

6) **vile**

|             |               |                 |                  |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>foul</b> | <b>common</b> | <b>pleasant</b> | <b>atrocious</b> |
| A           | B             | C               | D                |



7) **virtuous**

|               |                  |              |              |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>sinful</b> | <b>righteous</b> | <b>moral</b> | <b>clean</b> |
| A             | B                | C            | D            |

8) **extravagant**

|                 |               |              |                 |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <b>reckless</b> | <b>frugal</b> | <b>fancy</b> | <b>wasteful</b> |
| A               | B             | C            | D               |

9) **constant**

|                   |                  |                  |                     |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>persistent</b> | <b>sustained</b> | <b>continual</b> | <b>intermittent</b> |
| A                 | B                | C                | D                   |

10) **punctual**

|             |               |              |                  |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| <b>slow</b> | <b>prompt</b> | <b>tardy</b> | <b>opportune</b> |
| A           | B             | C            | D                |

11) **discourage**

|                 |                   |                |              |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>motivate</b> | <b>dishearten</b> | <b>unnerve</b> | <b>daunt</b> |
| A               | B                 | C              | D            |

12) **contribute**

|               |             |              |              |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>donate</b> | <b>gain</b> | <b>offer</b> | <b>grant</b> |
| A             | B           | C            | D            |





**13) opportune**

|                   |            |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| <b>auspicious</b> | <b>apt</b> | <b>favourable</b> | <b>disadvantageous</b> |
| A                 | B          | C                 | D                      |

**14) elderly**

|             |            |             |               |
|-------------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| <b>aged</b> | <b>old</b> | <b>spry</b> | <b>senile</b> |
| A           | B          | C           | D             |

**15) contemporary**

|               |               |              |                      |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------|
| <b>modern</b> | <b>sudden</b> | <b>often</b> | <b>old-fashioned</b> |
| A             | B             | C            | D                    |

**End of Section 3. Remember to check your work.**

