

ISEB Common Pre-Test English Paper 1

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ISEB Pre-Test English Paper 1


Instructions:

- You have 25 minutes to answer 20 questions.
- Read the instructions given at the beginning of each section before answering the questions.
- Put a line through the correct answer in the answer booklet by choosing one of the options A-E.
- Each question is worth 1 mark.
- There are 3 sections in this paper.
 1. Comprehension
 2. Missing words
 3. Spelling and punctuation errors

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 this test paper:

- The page number is in the top right corner of each page.
- The content of this paper is similar to that of the English ISEB Common Pre-Test taken in year 6/7 for independent school entry.
- Please remember that the real ISEB pre-test is taken online and students must click on their chosen answer for each question, rather than using an answering booklet. The answering booklet provided here is optional. Students may choose to circle their answers instead.
- When taking the ISEB pre-test, a countdown timer will be visible on screen. You may wish to set one up for your child before they start, using a smartphone or other device.
- A familiarisation test from ISEB showing how the test will appear for students on screen can be found here: <https://testwise.testingforschools.com/tests/player-demo-iseb/#/>

Section 1 - Comprehension

Instructions

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

Mark your chosen answer for each question on your answering booklet.

You will have five options (A - E).

The Secret Garden

by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Whilst wandering around the garden, a little girl called Mary discovered a key on the ground.

She looked at the key quite a long time. She turned it over and over, and thought about it. All she thought about the key was that if it was the key to the secret garden, and she could find out where the door was, she could perhaps open it and see what was inside the walls, and what had happened to the old rose-trees. It was because it had been shut up so long that she wanted to see it. It seemed as if it must be different from other places and that something strange must have happened to it during ten years. Besides that, if she liked it she could go into it every day and shut the door behind her, and she could make up some play of her own and play it quite alone, because nobody would ever know where she was, but would think the door was still locked and the key buried in the earth. The thought of that pleased her very much. **5**

Living in a house with a hundred mysteriously closed rooms and having nothing whatever to do to amuse herself, had set her inactive brain to working and was actually awakening her imagination. **10**

She put the key in her pocket and walked up and down her path. No one but herself ever seemed to come there, so she could walk slowly and look at the wall, or, rather, at the ivy growing on it. The ivy was the baffling thing. Howsoever carefully she looked, she could see nothing but thickly growing, glossy, dark green leaves. She was very much disappointed as she paced the path and looked over it at the tree-tops inside. It seemed so silly, she said to herself, to be near it and not be able to get in. She took the key in her pocket when she went back to the house, and she made up her mind that she would always carry it with her when she went out, so that if she ever should find the hidden door she would be ready. **15**

1) Which literary technique is used in the following sentence? “She turned it over and over” (line 1).

- A. Repetition
- B. Simile
- C. Personification
- D. Onomatopoeia
- E. Metaphor

2) Why could Mary not immediately open the door after finding the key?

- A. She had the wrong key
- B. The key needed to be cleaned
- C. She could not find the door
- D. She did not know where the garden was
- E. She could not reach the lock on the door

3) For how many years had the secret garden been locked?

- A. Five
- B. Seven
- C. Nine
- D. Ten
- E. Twelve

4) Why was Mary so eager to enter the secret garden?

- A. It was calling to her
- B. It was beautiful
- C. The other gardens were tiny
- D. It had a lake in the centre
- E. It had been locked away for so long

5) What are we told can be found in the secret garden?

- A. A pond
- B. Trees
- C. Flowers
- D. A vegetable garden
- E. An old house

6) Where had Mary found the key?

- A. In a tree
- B. In the dirt
- C. On the wall
- D. In the ivy
- E. In the house

7) What does the word “mysteriously” mean (line 10)?

- A. In a manner that is dark and spooky
- B. In a manner that is obvious and clear
- C. In a manner that is difficult to explain or understand
- D. In a manner that is exciting and wonderful
- E. In a manner that is creative and imaginative

8) What is Mary looking for as she “walked up and down her path” in line 12?

- A. The hidden door
- B. The key
- C. The house
- D. A place where she could climb up the ivy
- E. A nice place to play by herself

9) Which of the following words is a synonym for the word “baffling” (line 14)?

- A. Straightforward
- B. Opaque
- C. Understanding
- D. Ignorant
- E. Perplexing

10) Why did Mary make the decision to carry the key with her at all times at the end of this passage?

- A. So that we did not lose the key
- B. So no one else could steal her key
- C. To keep it separate from her other keys
- D. So she could open the secret door, whenever she found it
- E. So she could try the key in every door she passed

Section 2 - Missing Words

Instructions

In the following sentences, you have to choose the best word to complete each sentence so that it makes sense and is written in correct English.

Select the best answer and mark its letter in your answering booklet.

11) I think the red car is _____ than the blue car.

A	B	C	D	E
best	better	nice	prefer	preferable

12) My brother _____ football every Wednesday evening.

A	B	C	D	E
practice	kicks	is	goes	plays

13) I always feel _____ when getting on an aeroplane, as I have a fear of flying.

A	B	C	D	E
nervous	excited	confused	calm	deranged

14) Sandra _____ making a chocolate cake for the bake sale.

A	B	C	D	E
are	will	is	has	be

15) They decided to plant more apple trees in the _____.

A	B	C	D	E
bushes	forest	paddock	orchard	farmyard

Section 3 - Spelling and Punctuation Errors

Instructions

In the following sentences there are some spelling and punctuation mistakes.

On each numbered line there is either one mistake or no mistake.

Find the group of works with the mistake in it and mark its letter on your answer sheet.

If there is no mistake, mark N.

16) The greengrocers had a wide variety of vegetables, including pumpkins and cabbages.

A	B	C	D
---	---	---	---

17) "Remember to hand your homework in before you leave" called the teacher.

A	B	C	D
---	---	---	---

18) The cowboy hurt his sholder when he fell off his new horse.

A	B	C	D
---	---	---	---

19) My class at school consists of twelve boys and sixteen girls.

A	B	C	D
---	---	---	---

20) The ice cream shop only had four flavours strawberry, vanilla, cherry and toffee.

A	B	C	D
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End of paper.