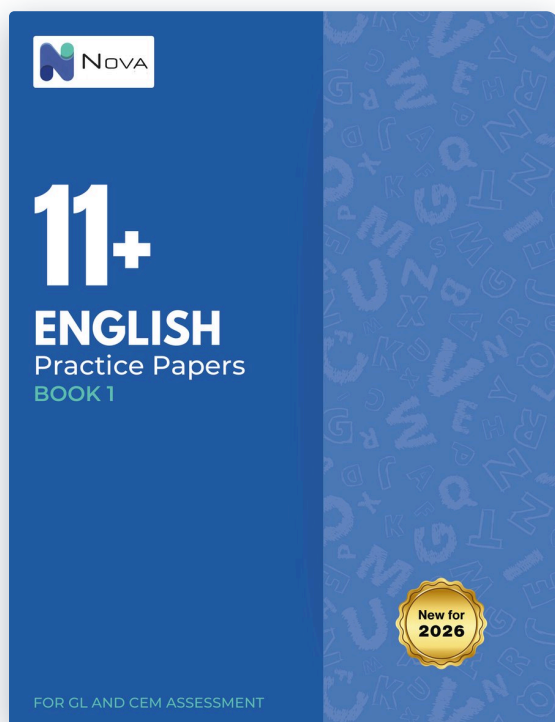


FREE SAMPLE PAGES

11+ English Practice Papers

Book 1 · Practice Test 1, Section 1

Reading comprehension: The Bobbsey Twins



Inside this sample

- p. 2** Practice Test 1 cover page
- p. 3** Reading passage, based on The Bobbsey Twins by Laura Lee Hope
- p. 4** Questions 1 to 4
- p. 5** Questions 5 to 10 (40 marks in total)
- p. 7** Answers, mark allocations and marking guidance

1

Print

Print on A4 at home. Every page fits the sheet, so choose “Fit to page” if your printer asks.

2

Have a go

Let your child work through the pages at their own pace. Allow 30 minutes.

3

Check together

Use the answers on page 7 and talk through anything that went wrong.

About the book

Four full-length 11+ English practice tests, each with a reading comprehension and a composition, written for GL Assessment, CEM and independent school tests. The answers section gives model answers, mark allocations and marked example compositions.

The full book is available on Amazon: amazon.co.uk/dp/B0G95FVSBR

PRACTICE TEST 1



1 **Section:** Reading Comprehension

2 **Section:** Composition



60 Minutes

ENGLISH 11+

Section 1: Reading Comprehension

1. The following passage is based on characters from *The Bobbsey Twins* by Laura Lee Hope.
2. Read the passage carefully, and then answer all the questions.
3. Pay careful attention to the marks available for each question and think about how you are going to best make use of your time.
4. Write each answer in the space provided. The number in brackets after each question is the number of marks for each question.

The Bobbsey twins (Bert, Nan, Freddie and Flossie) were playing in the garden one crisp autumn afternoon. The leaves, golden and brown, crunched under their feet as they ran about, laughing and calling to one another. Suddenly, Freddie, one of the younger twins, stopped short and pointed towards the road.

“Look! That wagon is going so fast! The wheel is coming off!” he cried.

A pedlar’s cart, piled high with pots, pans and bundles of cloth, was rattling down the street. The man driving it, an elderly fellow with a thick grey beard, seemed unaware that one of the back wheels was wobbling dangerously.

“Oh! He doesn’t know!” Flossie gasped, clutching her twin brother’s hand.

Bert, the older boy, acted quickly. “We have to warn him!” he said, dashing towards the road with Nan close behind.

“Stop! Your wheel is loose!” Nan shouted, waving her arms.

The pedlar turned his head, puzzled, and pulled back on the reins. Just as the wagon slowed, the wheel gave way with a sharp *crack!* and the whole cart tilted to one side. Pots and pans tumbled onto the road with a clatter.

“Oh dear!” the man exclaimed, climbing down as quickly as he could.

Freddie and Flossie ran up, their eyes wide with concern. “Are you hurt?” Freddie asked.

The pedlar smiled, though he looked a bit shaken. “No, no, just a fright, little one. That was quick thinking of you all!”

Continued...

Bert and Nan helped the man gather the scattered goods, while Flossie and Freddie picked up the smaller things rolling across the road.

“Thank you, my young friends,” the pedlar said warmly when everything was in order. “If not for you, I might have had a far worse accident.”

As he fitted the wheel back on and tightened the others, the twins waved him goodbye, feeling proud that they had helped prevent a disaster.

- 1** In the passage, the word “rattling” is used to describe the wagon.
What does “rattling” mean in this context?

[2 Marks]

Answer

- A) Moving smoothly and quietly
B) Making a series of quick, sharp sounds while moving
C) Stopping and starting suddenly
D) Swaying gently from side to side

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- 2** Find and explain a phrase in the passage that helps to create an image of autumn. [3 Marks]

- 3** What was Freddie’s first reaction upon seeing the wagon?

[2 Marks]

- 4** Put the following events in the correct order (number them 1 to 4):

[4 Marks]

- _____ The pedlar fitted the wheel back on.
_____ Freddie saw the wagon’s wheel wobbling.
_____ The children helped gather the fallen goods.
_____ The wheel broke and the cart tipped over.

5

Why did the pedlar smile, even though he had just had an accident?

[4 Marks]

6

Explain the meaning of “*The man driving it... seemed unaware that one of the back wheels was wobbling dangerously.*” What does this tell us about the situation? What effect does this have on the reader?

[5 Marks]

7

Summarise how the children helped the pedlar after the accident.

[5 Marks]

8

What does the phrase “clutching her twin brother’s hand” tell us about Flossie’s feelings?

[4 Marks]

9

What qualities does Bert show in this passage? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

[5 Marks]

10

How does the author create a sense of urgency in the passage? Provide examples from the text.

[6 Marks]

END OF SECTION ONE. TOTAL MARKS FOR COMPREHENSION: 40

Answers and Explanations

Practice Test 1

Section 1: Reading Comprehension Answers

1. B: Making a series of quick, sharp sounds while moving. (**2 marks** for the correct choice, B. No marks for any other answer or for more than one box ticked.)

2. The phrase “The leaves, golden and brown, crunched under their feet” creates a vivid image of autumn. Also accept “one crisp autumn afternoon”. The description of the leaves’ colour and the sensory detail of them crunching underfoot help to establish the seasonal setting. (**3 marks** – 1 for identifying the phrase, 2 for explaining its effect.)

3. Freddie stopped short, pointed towards the road and cried out to the others in alarm: “Look! That wagon is going so fast! The wheel is coming off!” (**2 marks** – 1 for identifying Freddie’s reaction, 1 for quoting or paraphrasing his words.)

- 4.
- Freddie saw the wagon’s wheel wobbling.
 - The wheel broke and the cart tipped over.
 - The children helped gather the fallen goods.
 - The pedlar fitted the wheel back on.

(Numbers as printed: 4, 1, 3, 2.) (**4 marks** – 1 mark for each correct placement.)

5. The pedlar smiled to reassure the worried children that he was not hurt (“just a fright”) and because he was grateful for their quick thinking, which prevented a worse accident. (**4 marks** – 2 for each reason explained with context.)

6. The phrase suggests that the pedlar did not realise his cart was in danger of losing a wheel. This adds tension to the passage because the reader understands that an accident is likely unless someone warns him. (**5 marks** – 1 for explaining the phrase, 2 for what it shows about the danger, 2 for its effect on the reader.)

7. After the wheel broke, Freddie and Flossie ran up to check the pedlar was not hurt. Bert and Nan then helped him gather the scattered goods, while Flossie and Freddie picked up the smaller things rolling across the road. Their teamwork meant all his belongings were saved. (**5 marks** – 2 for describing their actions, 2 for including key details, 1 for clarity.)

Continued...

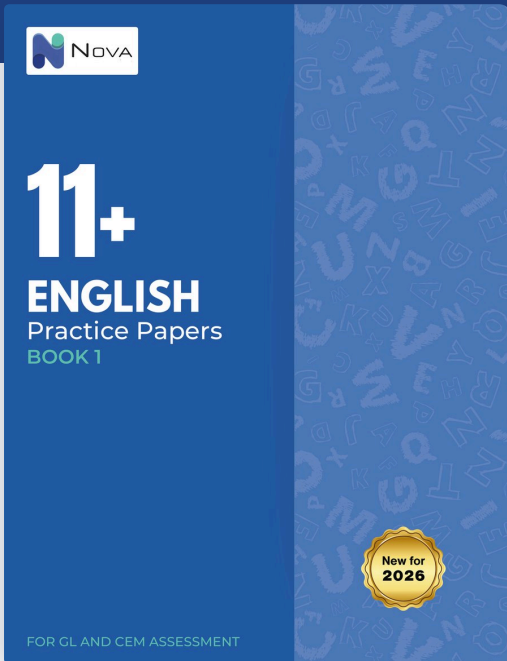
8. The phrase suggests that Flossie was frightened or anxious about what was happening. Clutching someone's hand is often a sign of seeking comfort or reassurance. **(4 marks** – 2 for identifying her emotion, 2 for explaining how the action conveys it.)

9. Bert shows leadership and quick thinking. When he realises the danger, he immediately takes charge, saying, "We have to warn him!" This shows that he is responsible and decisive. His willingness to help clean up after the accident further demonstrates his kindness. **(5 marks** – 2 for identifying qualities, 3 for supporting with evidence.)

10. The author creates urgency by using short, exclamatory sentences such as "*Look! That wagon is going so fast! The wheel is coming off!*" This makes the scene feel immediate and intense. The use of active verbs like "*rattling*", "*cried*" and "*dashing*" also adds to the fast-paced nature of the moment. Additionally, the description of the wheel "*wobbling dangerously*" builds tension, making the reader worry about what might happen. **(6 marks** – 2 for identifying the technique, 2 for providing examples, 2 for explaining their effects.)

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