



11+ GL-Style English Practice Paper 1

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This is original JDSscience practice. It is independent of, and not affiliated with, GL Assessment, CEM, CSSE, Bond, CGP or any other publisher or test provider. Spend about 25 minutes on the reading section, 15 minutes on vocabulary, grammar, punctuation and spelling, and 10 minutes on the short writing task. Write in full sentences when you are asked to explain.

Suggested time: 50 minutes · **Questions:** 24 questions

SECTION A — READING

On the first dry Monday after half-term, Ama climbed the narrow stair to the roof of Northfield Primary. The hatch stuck, as it always did, and she had to put her shoulder to the wood before the sky arrived all at once: a wide, pale lid over the playground and the dark line of the canal.

Mr Pell was already there, kneeling beside the weather hatch — a low timber box with a hinged lid, built years ago so the Year 6 science club could keep rain gauges and a wind vane out of the worst of the weather. The lid was swollen. One hinge hung by a single screw.

“We are not inventing the weather,” Mr Pell said, which was his way of beginning. “We are only trying to notice it honestly.”

Ama liked that. Last winter the club had written temperatures in a book that nobody checked, and the numbers had wandered. A thermometer left in a sunny corner had pretended July in January. Ama had felt foolish when she realised. Noticing honestly, she decided, was harder than it sounded.

They lifted the lid. Inside, a copper rain cup sat slightly crooked, and a paper wind rose had faded until the N for north was only a grey suggestion. Ama wiped the cup with a cloth that smelled of lemon soap. Mr Pell tightened the hinge and then sat back on his heels, waiting, as if the box might thank him.

From the roof you could see Mrs Kaur’s washing on the line behind the flats, and a heron standing in the canal like a grey question mark. The wind vane, once they had oiled it, swung toward the west and stayed there, trembling.

“West wind, dry day, high cloud,” Ama said, because she had been reading the old club notes.

Mr Pell smiled with only one side of his mouth. “Write it. Then check it at three o’clock. If the sky disagrees, we believe the sky.”

Ama wrote in a new notebook with a stiff blue cover. She wrote the date, the direction, the look of the cloud, and, in smaller letters, Hatch mended. She did not write about the heron, although she wanted to. That, she thought, was a different kind of noticing, and it belonged in a different book.

At three o’clock the playground was loud with skipping ropes. Ama went up alone. The vane still pointed west. The rain cup was empty. The sky, which had been pale, had taken on a thin brightness, like paper held up to a lamp. She added a tick beside her morning notes.

On the way down she paused on the stair and listened. The hatch no longer rattled. It sat quiet in the roof, doing the small work of keeping the instruments ready, which was not dramatic, and was exactly the point.

Read the passage, then answer questions 1 to 10.

1. Where does Ama go at the start of the passage? [1]
2. What is the weather hatch, and what is it used for? [1]
3. Give two details that show the hatch is in poor condition before they mend it. [1]
4. What does Mr Pell mean by “noticing it honestly”? [1]
5. Why had Ama felt foolish last winter? [1]
6. Find and copy a simile used to describe the heron. [1]
7. Look at Ama’s notebook. What four things does she write in the morning, and what does she choose not to write? [1]
8. “If the sky disagrees, we believe the sky.” What does this suggest about how Mr Pell wants Ama to work? [1]
9. How does the writer show that the afternoon check is successful? Use two pieces of evidence. [1]
10. What is “exactly the point” of the hatch at the end of the passage? [1]

SECTION B — VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

11. Section B — Vocabulary in context. What does swollen mean in “The lid was swollen”? [1]
12. Which word is closest in meaning to faded as used in the passage?
A) brightened B) disappeared completely C) lost colour / become paler D) torn [1]
13. Give a synonym of trembling as used of the wind vane. [1]

SECTION C — GRAMMAR, PUNCTUATION AND SPELLING

14. Section C — Grammar, punctuation and spelling. Choose the correctly punctuated sentence.
A) Ama wrote the date the direction and the cloud.
B) Ama wrote the date, the direction and the cloud.
C) Ama wrote, the date the direction, and the cloud. [1]
15. Rewrite in the past tense: The hatch sticks, and Ama puts her shoulder to the wood. [1]
16. Add the missing apostrophes: Amas notebook sat beside Mr Pells bag. [1]
17. Which word is an adverb? honest quietly timber pale [1]
18. Choose the correct spelling: recieve / receive / receive [1]
19. Choose the correct spelling: seperate / separate / seperete [1]
20. Choose the correct homophone: They climbed (to / too / two) the roof. [1]

SECTION D — SENTENCE IMPROVEMENT

- 21.** Section D — Sentence improvement. Rewrite this as one correct complex sentence: Ama liked the roof. The hatch stuck.
- [1]
- 22.** Improve this sentence by replacing the repeated word nice: It was a nice day and the view was nice.
- [1]
- 23.** Correct the sentence: Me and Mr Pell is mending the hinge.
- [1]

SECTION E — SHORT WRITING

- 24.** Section E — Short writing. Write a description (about 80–120 words) of arriving at a quiet place that is about to become busy. Include: a clear setting, two sensory details, and a change as people or noise arrive. Plan quickly, then write.