



A2Z Learning: 11+
Verbal Reasoning/English
(CEM Style)

This paper is a mixed verbal reasoning and English question paper on the lines of the CEM 11+.

Although CEM do not produce sample papers they do produce some guidance that has a selection of question types that may be used.

It is important to remember that CEM does not have a set format meaning that every year the papers may be slightly different.

- There could be two 45 minute mixed question papers.
- There could be four individual subject papers.
- There could be one paper.

Therefore, these papers can only offer a sample of what can be expected on a CEM 11+ paper.

Good luck! You can do this!

This paper has 40 questions and is worth 40 marks.

It should take you 30 minutes to complete.



Use of English

In each of the questions 1-10, there are four possible alternatives to choose from labelled a-d. Tick the sentence which you think answers the question best.

Questions 1-6: punctuation and grammar

1 Which of these sentences uses capital letters correctly?	
a On Tuesday, Max and Karim were walking in the lake district.	<input type="checkbox"/>
b on Tuesday, Max and Karim were walking in the Lake District.	<input type="checkbox"/>
c On tuesday, Max and Karim were walking in the Lake District.	<input type="checkbox"/>
d On Tuesday, Max and Karim were walking in the Lake District.	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 The prefix fore- can be added to the word see to make the word foresee . What does the word foresee mean?	
a To see immediately.	<input type="checkbox"/>
b To see earlier.	<input type="checkbox"/>
c To see beneath.	<input type="checkbox"/>
d To see again.	<input type="checkbox"/>

3 Which of these sentences are correctly punctuated?	
a Jane cried out "Can you hear me"?	<input type="checkbox"/>
b Jane cried out, "Can you hear me"?	<input type="checkbox"/>
c Jane cried out, "Can you hear me?"	<input type="checkbox"/>
d Jane cried out "Can you hear me?"	<input type="checkbox"/>

4 Which of these sentences contains a preposition ?	
a Harry wandered down the lane.	<input type="checkbox"/>
b Michael walked really quickly.	<input type="checkbox"/>
c Anita hurriedly ran home.	<input type="checkbox"/>
d Jeanette and Sanhita danced.	<input type="checkbox"/>

5 What is the subject of the sentence below? <i>In the field, the horse was galloping in circles, ridden by Seema.</i>	
a Field	<input type="checkbox"/>
b Horse	<input type="checkbox"/>
c Circles	<input type="checkbox"/>
d Seema	<input type="checkbox"/>

6 Which of these sentences contains a subordinate clause?	
a The stars shine brightly in the darkness of the night sky.	
b The Milky Way's glowing arch twinkles from afar.	
c Star-gazing is wondrous because it makes me feel so small.	
d My favourite constellations are the Great Bear and Orion's Belt.	

In questions 7-10 the words in capitals have, without changing their spelling, at least two different meanings. Choose the correct pair of meanings for each word.

7 LOCK	
a Canal gate/ lake in Scotland	
b Door fastener/ lake in Scotland	
c Canal gate/ door fastener	
d Hair curl/ quayside	

8 BAND	
a Flat loop of material/ prohibited	
b Curve in the road/ prohibited	
c Curve in the road/ musical group	
d Musical group/ flat loop of material	

9 POOR	
a Flow rapidly/ lacking money	
b Lacking money/ low quality	
c Very small opening/ rain heavily	
d Rain heavily/ flow rapidly	

10 PEAK	
a Look quickly/ top of a mountain	
b Stick out slightly/ leave car in a space	
c Front off a cap/ top of a mountain	
d Leave car in a space/ front of a cap	



Comprehension

Read the whole passage carefully then answer the questions that follow by marking one of the answers a-d.

'The Tom-Cat'

At midnight in the alley
A tom-cat comes to wail,
And he chants the hate of a million years
As he swings his snaky tail.

Malevolent, bony, brindled, 5
Tiger and devil and bard,
His eyes are coals from the middle of Hell
And his heart is black and hard.

He twists and crouches and capers 10
And bares his curved sharp claws,
And he sings to the stars of the jungle nights
Ere cities were, or laws.

Beast from a world primeval,
He and his leaping clan,
When the blotched red moon leers over the roofs, 15
Give voice to their scorn of man.

He will lie on a rug tomorrow
And lick his silky fur,
And veil the brute in his yellow eyes
And play he's tame, and purr. 20

But at midnight in the alley
He will crouch again and wail,
And beat the time for his demon's song
With the swing of his demon's tail.

Don Marquis



Choose one of the letters a-d which you think best answers the question.

11 Why does the poet claim that the cat's tails is 'snaky' in line 4

- a The cat has a pet snake with it.
- b The poet is emphasising the eerie curving and winding of the tail.
- c The poet is trying to make the tail seem dangerous.
- d The poet shows that the tail is covered in scales.

12 In line 7, why does the poet say that the cat's 'eyes are the coals from the middle of Hell'?

- a The cat is a demon.
- b The cat's eyes are hard and dark and round.
- c The cat's eyes are dark and full of evil.
- d The cat's eyes are on fire.

13 Why do you think the cat 'sings to the stars of the jungle nights' in line 11?

- a The cat feels it belongs in the jungle and not the city.
- b The cat has an incredible musical voice.
- c The cat is excited to be out in the city at night.
- d The cat is calling jungle animals to the city.

14 In line 15, why does the poet describe how 'the blotched red moon leers over the roofs'?

- a The moon is described as wailing along with the cat.
- b The moon's description makes the poem more funny.
- c The line reveals that the cat is angry with the moon.
- d The moon's description adds a threatening and sinister atmosphere to the night setting.

15 What does 'brindled' mean in line 5?

- a That the cat has its hackles up and is ready to pounce.
- b A brown colour with streaks of other colours in it, similar to a tiger stripe.
- c Sounds like bundled and means messy.
- d Fragile or delicate.

Choose one of the letters a-d which you think best answers the question.

16 In lines 17-20 the writer describes a friendly and contented house-cat. Why?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| a | The poet is revealing that the cat is deceitful, pretending to be content and friendly in the day. | |
| b | The poet is telling us that the cat is both contented and full of hatred. | |
| c | The cat is friendly and contented throughout. | |
| d | The poet is talking about a different cat. | |

17 The cat is given human emotions and abilities within the poem, such as hate in line 3 and beating time in line 23. How do you spell this technique?

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|--|
| a | Personifocation | |
| b | Peoplifecation | |
| c | Personification | |
| d | Parsonifacation | |

18 Line 5 uses a punctuation mark to individualise the items in the list. What is the mark called?

- | | | |
|---|---------------|--|
| a | Comma | |
| b | Hyphen | |
| c | Question mark | |
| d | dash | |

19 'But at midnight in the alley/He will crouch again'. Which are the verbs in this sentence?

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|
| a | Midnight and alley | |
| b | In and at | |
| c | Will and crouch | |
| d | But and again | |

20 Why is the apostrophe used in line 20: 'And play he's tame, and purr'?

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| a | It reveals that play belongs to him. | |
| b | It is short for 'he is'. | |
| c | It is short for 'he was'. | |
| d | It is a typographical error. | |



Missing Words

For questions 21-30, ten words have been missed out of the following passage. Each missing word has been given a number in the passage. Below the passage is a list of words, each identified by a capital letter. Choose the word from the list which best fits the meaning of the passage in each of the 10 places. Either write the word OR the capital letter which identifies the word you choose in the gap next to the number. Each word can only be used once.

The darkness grew apace: a cold (21) _____ began to blow in freshening gusts from the east, and the (22) _____ white flakes in the air increased in number. From the edge of the sea came a (23) _____ and a whisper.

Beyond these lifeless sounds the world was silent. It would be hard to convey the stillness of it. All the (24) _____ of man, the (25) _____ of sheep, the cries of birds, the hum of insects, the stir that makes the background of our lives - all that was over.

As the darkness thickened, the eddying flakes grew more (26) _____, dancing before my eyes; and the cold of the air more intense. At last, one by one, swiftly, one after the other, the white peaks of the distant hills vanished into blackness.

The breeze (27) _____ to a moaning wind. I saw the black central shadow of the eclipse sweeping towards me. In another moment the pale stars alone were visible. All else was rayless obscurity, the sky was (28) _____ black. A horror of this great darkness came upon me. The cold that smote my marrow, and the pain I (29) _____ in breathing overcame me. I shivered and a deadly nausea seized me. Then like a red-hot bow in the sky the (30) _____ of the sun appeared. I got off the machine to recover myself.

A	middle	B	bleating	C	dropped	D	absolutely
E	edge	F	feel	G	sights	H	stream
I	barking	J	complete	K	felt	L	sounds
M	shower	N	rose	O	rain	P	abundant
Q	needy	R	ripple	S	wind	T	showering



Logic and Data

In questions 31-35, read the passage below and then work out the answers to the questions.

Five friends each play a different sport and the teams they play for all play in different coloured shirts. Mina plays in a white shirt and David wears a yellow shirt. Ian plays football and Christine plays volleyball. The hockey team plays in white, the volleyball team have blue shirts, the lacrosse team play in green and the other sport played is rugby.

31. Who plays hockey? _____
32. What colour shirt does Christine play in? _____
33. What sport does David play? _____
34. Who plays in a red shirt? _____
35. what colour is Andrew's shirt? _____

For questions 36-40, study the table on the next page. The table shows in which foods we can get our vitamins and minerals. Then answer the questions below.

36. Which vitamin/mineral is **only** found in fish? _____
37. How many of the vitamins listed are found in eggs? _____
38. Of the vitamins which help with the digestive system, which one is found in dairy products? _____
39. For which vitamin/mineral is the recommended daily allowance (RDA) greater for women than men? _____
40. Of the vitamins/minerals which help or promote the nervous system, which one has the **lowest** RDA for men or women? _____



Table showing essential vitamins and minerals for a healthy life.

Vitamin/Mineral	Found in	Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA)	What it does
Vitamin A	Liver, eggs, dairy products, margarine.	0.7 mg for men 0.6 mg for women	Helps vision, develops bones, maintains healthy skin.
Vitamin B ₁ (Thiamin)	Whole grains, cereals, fresh and dried fruit	1.0 mg for men 0.8 mg for women	Promotes healthy nervous system, muscles and heart.
Vitamin B ₂ (Riboflavin)	Breads, cereals, milk, eggs, fish and green vegetables.	1.3 mg for men 1.1 mg for women	Metabolizes carbohydrates, fats and proteins
Vitamin B ₃ (Niacin)	Meat, whole grains and cereals, eggs	16.5 mg for men 13.2 mg for women	Helps with digestive system; maintains healthy skin.
Vitamin B ₆ (Pyroxidine)	Chicken, fish, and nuts; also meat, most fruits and vegetables, eggs and dairy products	1.4 mg for men 1.2 mg for women	Allows body to use protein; produces haemoglobin; helps with digestive system
Vitamin B ₁₂	Meat, fish, cheese and eggs.	0.002 mg for men and for women	Builds red blood cells.
Vitamin C (Ascorbic Acid)	Fruits and vegetables (especially citrus fruits, tomatoes)	40 mg for men and for women	Keeps cells healthy, promotes growth and health of bones, teeth, gums
Vitamin D	Red meat, eggs, oily fish	0.01 mg for men and for women	Builds strong bones and teeth, helps the nervous system.
Vitamin E	Vegetable oils, nuts, wheat germ	10mg for men 8mg for women	Maintains healthy skin and eyes
Vitamin K	Dark green leafy vegetables, vegetable oils	0.001mg for every kg of weight	Promotes normal blood-clotting. Helps wounds heal
Calcium (Ca)	Primarily in milk and dairy products; also dark-green vegetables	40 mg for men and for women	Builds bones and teeth; promotes blood clotting
Iodine (I ₂)	Saltwater fish, shellfish	0.14 mg for men and for women	Helps produce thyroid hormones
Iron (Fe)	Red meat, whole-wheat products, beans, nuts, dried fruits	10mg for men 15mg for women	Helps produce haemoglobin and red blood cells; delivers oxygen to muscles
Potassium (K)	Broccoli, dried fruits, bananas, nuts, fish, chicken, turkey	3500 mg for men and for women	Helps nervous system and muscles function; regulates heart

1	D
2	B
3	C
4	A
5	B
6	C
7	C
8	D
9	B
10	C
11	B
12	C
13	A
14	D
15	B
16	A
17	C
18	A
19	C
20	B
21	S
22	T
23	R
24	L
25	B

26	P
27	N
28	D
29	K
30	E

31	MINA
32	BLUE
33	RUGBY
34	IAN
35	GREEN
36	IODINE
37	6
38	Vit B/ Pyroxidine
39	Iron /Vit K
40	Vit D

