

Presidential Schools Grade 5 Selection Test

English Specification

Contents

1	Structure of the English test.....	3
2	Sample questions	4
3	Rules for selecting candidates for admission.....	9

1 Structure of the English test

The English test will consist of one 40-minute paper. The paper will contain 40 multiple-choice questions, with three options to choose from per question.

Each question is worth one mark.

Candidates record their answers on a separate answer sheet, which will be scanned.

The test will be divided into eight sections, as follows:

Question	Task type	Function
1-5	Notices and messages	Understand the purpose of a short text giving instructions
6-10	Definitions	Understand the meaning of a word, phrase or sentence
11-15	Social dialogues	Understand the functional purpose of an exchange
16-20	Sentences with multiple-choice gap-fill questions	Identify the appropriate vocabulary or grammatical option
21-25	Text with multiple-choice gap-fill questions	Identify the appropriate vocabulary or grammatical option
26-30	Text with multiple-choice questions	Understand a detail
31-35	Matching a detail to a text	Understand a detail
36-40	Text with multiple-choice questions	Understand a detail

There will be no penalty for incorrect answers, so candidates are advised to answer all the questions in the paper.

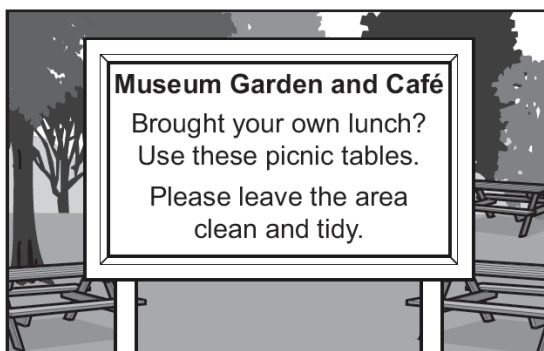
Calculators, mobile phones and any other electronic devices and unauthorized materials are **not** allowed.

2 Sample questions

The English test does not assess knowledge of a curriculum. These sample questions are provided to give an indication of the types of questions that will appear in the test. For the text-based questions, only the section of text relevant to the sample question is included.

Questions 1-5

For these questions, choose the correct answer **A**, **B** or **C**.



Visitors to the Museum Garden must not

- A** eat in the garden.
- B** drop any rubbish.
- C** use the café tables for picnics.

Correct answer: **B**

Questions 6-10

This is a big animal with four legs. You can ride it.

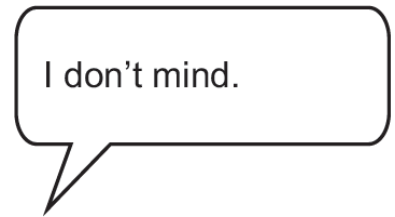
- A** a fish
- B** a bird
- C** a horse

Correct answer: **C**

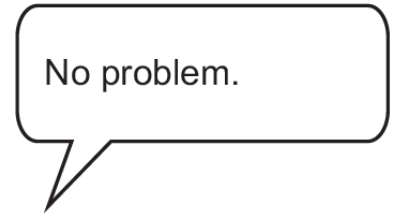
Questions 11-15



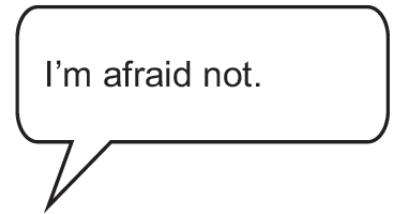
A



B



C



Correct answer: **C**

Questions 16-20

Read the sentences about Zoe and her school.

For each space, choose the correct answer **A**, **B** or **C**.

Zoe goes to a school that's her home.

A near **B** from **C** between

Correct answer: **A**

Questions 21-25

Read the text about two buildings.

For each space, choose the correct answer **A**, **B** or **C**.

Two buildings with amazing roofs



The Sydney Opera House has one of the most famous roofs in the world. The architect who designed it loved sailing, **(22)**..... he made the roof look like the sails of boats.

A because **B** so **C** or

Correct answer: **B**

Questions 26-30

Read the text about a young woman who flew a plane around the world.

For each question, choose the correct answer **A**, **B** or **C**.

19-year-old Zara Rutherford recently became the youngest woman to fly around the world alone. She had planned to do it in three months, but problems on the way added two months to her journey. She finally got home five months after leaving.

How long did Zara's journey take?

- A** two months
- B** three months
- C** five months

Correct answer: **C**

Questions 31-35

Read the texts below and the questions that follow.
For each question, choose the correct answer **A**, **B** or **C**.

Shopping

Alessia



There's a great shopping centre in my town. My friends and I go there together most weekends. It's got clothes shops, sports shops, jewellery shops – every kind, really. We don't buy much. We just look around and hang out. Sometimes I look at shopping websites on my phone, when I'm at home. I think about things I'd like to buy when I'm older and have a job.

Max



I didn't enjoy going to shops when I was younger because I thought it was boring. But a few months ago, I found a great sports shop in the city, and I loved it. Then a similar one opened in my local town, and now I go there a lot. Actually, I don't go in any other type of shop. This one has everything I need. Most of my friends go there, and it's got a great website, too.

Clara



My older sister loves going out to the shops, but I don't. If I have to go and choose a present for someone I'll go, but I never go just for fun. I think it's better to look for things to buy on the internet. It's easier to find exactly what you're looking for. When you go into clothes shops, for example, they often don't have your size, or the right colour.

Who prefers online shopping to going out shopping?

- A** Alessia
- B** Max
- C** Clara

Correct answer: **C**

Questions 36-40

Read the text about a girl who makes podcasts.
For each question, choose the correct answer **A**, **B** or **C**.

My life as a podcaster

by 14 year-old Maya Fellows



When I was 9, I started listening to podcasts for children – talk shows that you download from the internet – but all I could find were kids’ stories, or shows about fashion. I wanted to understand the news, but there was nothing available, so I decided to start one myself.

What is Maya’s podcast about?

- A** fashion
- B** news
- C** science

Correct answer: **B**

3 Rules for selecting candidates for admission

Scores in the Selection Test determine the 24 applicants in each region who will be admitted to a Presidential School.

The Selection Test consists of two papers: the test of Thinking Skills and the test of English. 40 questions assess candidates' thinking skills and 40 questions assess their English language skills. However, in view of the importance of well developed thinking skills as a predictor of academic success, candidates' scores for the Thinking Skills paper are doubled to give a maximum possible of 80 marks. Although 40 questions are likewise needed to reliably measure candidates' English language skills, this part of the test is less crucial as a predictor of academic success, so candidates' scores for English are halved to give a maximum possible of 20 marks.

The maximum 'weighted' scores of 80 for Thinking Skills and 20 for English combine to give a practical, easy to use maximum score of 100 for the Selection Test as a whole.

This score out of 100 is used to rank candidates in descending order. The top 24 candidates in each region are awarded a place in the Presidential School in their region. Where there are tied scores around 24th place in the rank order, preference is given to the candidate with the highest score for Thinking Skills and, if still tied, with the highest score on the following components in the following order of priority:

1. The score on the problem solving component in Thinking Skills
2. (If still tied) the score on the critical thinking component in Thinking Skills
3. (If still tied) the score on the reading component in English
4. (If still tied) the score on the grammar component in English.

If candidates' scores are still tied, the younger candidate will be ranked higher.