

Presidential Schools Grade 5 Selection Test

Thinking Skills Specification

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1 Structure of the Thinking Skills test

The Thinking Skills test will consist of one 90-minute paper.

The paper will contain 40 multiple-choice questions. All questions will be worth one mark.

Each question will have four options from which candidates select one option. Candidates record their answers on a separate answer sheet, which will be scanned.

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

The test comprises questions that assess **Problem Solving** and **Critical Thinking**. Problem Solving questions test candidates' ability to organise and evaluate information to find a solution to an unfamiliar problem. Critical Thinking questions test candidates' ability to evaluate arguments.

There are 24 Problem Solving questions and 16 Critical Thinking questions in each test. The categories of Problem Solving questions are:

- Identifying Similarity
- Finding Procedures
- Relevant Selection

The categories of Critical Thinking questions are:

- Evaluating Evidence
- Evaluating Reasoning
- Identifying Mistakes
- Logical Analysis

There will be a similar proportion of each category of question for both Problem Solving and Critical Thinking in each test.

Examples of each of these question types are given in Section 2, Subject content and sample questions.

2 Subject content and sample questions

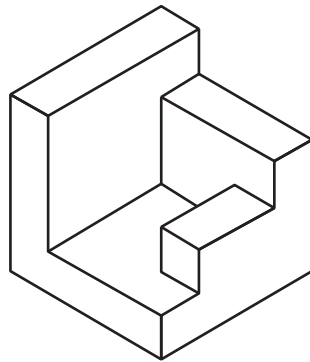
The Thinking Skills test does not assess knowledge of a curriculum. The content of the test is exemplified by these sample questions.

Identifying similarity

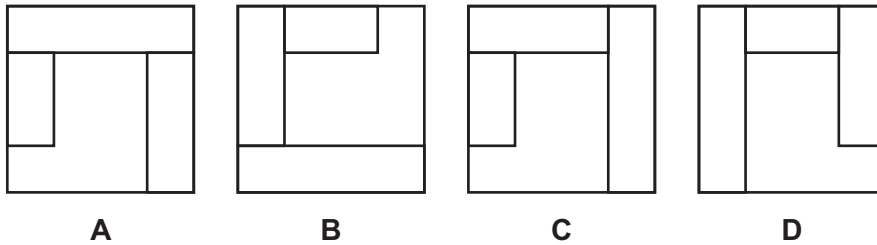
Information or data will be represented in more than one way (including charts, tables, rotations, reflections, etc.). Candidates will need to recognise logical relationships and identify any similarity in the data they represent.

Example:

One piece of a toy is shown below.



Which one of the following shows a view of the piece from above?



Correct answer: **B**

Finding procedures

Candidates have to use the information presented to find the method or procedure to reach the correct solution.

Example:

Kumush has 5 hours of work to complete. She has decided she will take a 10-minute break every time she has worked continuously for 90 minutes. She will not take any other breaks. She starts work at 8:15 in the morning.

At what time does she finish her work?

- A** 13:15
- B** 13:25
- C** 13:35
- D** 13:45

Correct answer: **D**

Relevant Selection

Candidates are presented with information, often in the form of a table, graph, or chart, and must select the information relevant to solve the problem given.

Example:

Five contestants took part in a quiz.

There were 3 rounds of questions, with 10 questions in each round.

In round 1, each correct answer scored 1 point.

In round 2, each correct answer scored 3 points.

In round 3, each correct answer scored 5 points.

Feruzha was the winner with a total of 60 points, despite answering fewer questions correctly than any of the other contestants.

The results are shown in the table below.

	Points scored			Total score
	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	
Feruzha	5	15	40	60
Jasur	6	21	30	57
Nargiza	8	18	30	56
Sardor	6	24	25	55
Umid	8	15	30	53

Who answered the greatest number of questions correctly?

- A Jasur
- B Nargiza
- C Sardor
- D Umid

Correct answer: **B**

Evaluating evidence

A simple claim being made by a named character, which would be further supported by one of four pieces of information. Candidates must determine which one.

Example:

Kamola is talking to a friend who is going on an activity holiday next week. She says: "If you get the opportunity, you should try playing a sport you have never played before."

Which one of these statements, if true, best supports Kamola's advice?

- A** Sports are a good way to develop fitness.
- B** Different people have different favourite sports.
- C** People on the activity holiday often choose a different activity each day.
- D** Playing new sports allows you to develop a wider range of skills.

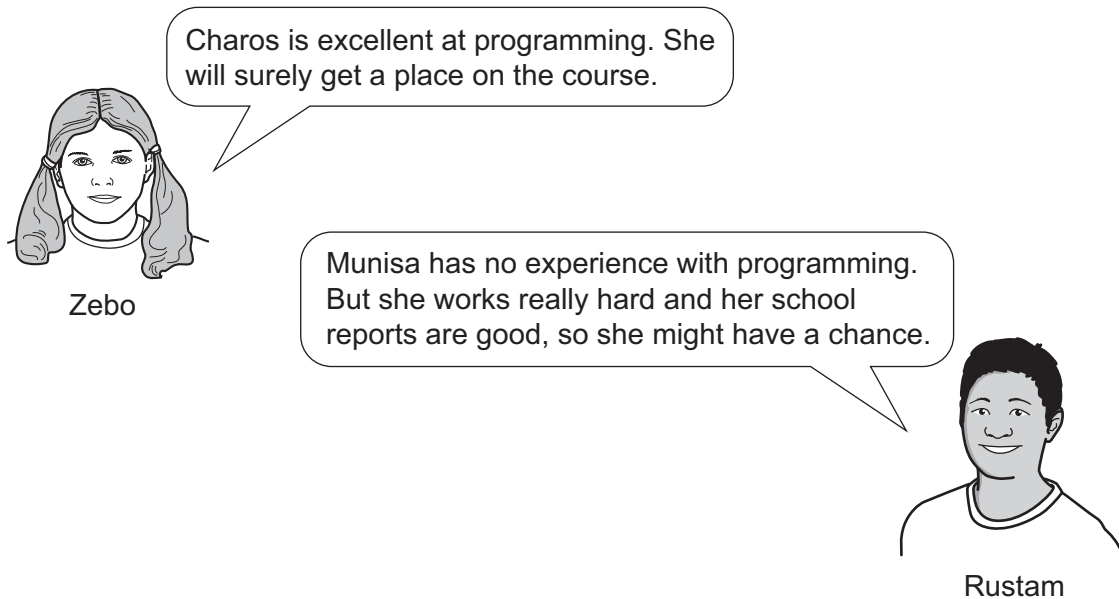
Correct answer: **D**

Evaluating reasoning

A short statement from which two named characters attempt to make valid deductions. Candidates must determine which of the inferences is valid.

Example:

The new computer programming course at the university is very popular. They receive a lot of applications. As a result, only people who are already good at computer programming are considered for a place.



Zebo

Charos is excellent at programming. She will surely get a place on the course.

Rustam

Munisa has no experience with programming. But she works really hard and her school reports are good, so she might have a chance.

Who is right?

- A Zebo only
- B Rustam only
- C Both Zebo and Rustam
- D Neither Zebo nor Rustam

Correct answer: **D**

Identifying mistakes

One or two short statements, followed by a claim from a named character which includes or implies an invalid deduction from those statements. Candidates must choose the best description of the mistake the speaker has made from four options.

Example:



Which one of the following statements shows the mistake that Said has made?

- A** Javlon's team may not contain many skilful players.
- B** Having a poor team spirit may be enough to cause a team to lose.
- C** The team Javlon's side are due to play against are the strongest in the league.
- D** The team which won the league last year had a poor team spirit.

Correct answer: **B**

Logical analysis

Logical puzzles, which require candidates to reason about the truth values of a small number of simple statements or make deductions from information presented.

Example:

In a competition five people had to solve as many puzzles as they could in 30 minutes.

- Maftuna solved more puzzles than Azamat, but fewer puzzles than Dildora.
- Nozima solved more puzzles than Komil, but fewer puzzles than Dildora.
- Three people solved more puzzles than Nozima.
- No one solved the same number of puzzles as anyone else.

Who solved the third largest number of puzzles?

- A** Komil
- B** Azamat
- C** Dildora
- D** Maftuna

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.