

SELECTIVE ELIGIBILITY TEST FOR SEPTEMBER 2026 ENTRY

Information about the English Paper for 2026 Entry

We would encourage you to go through the various question types with your son / daughter prior to him/her sitting the test.

Candidates are advised to spend the time suggested below on each section. These timings will also be written on the front of the examination paper and indicated by the invigilator before the exam starts. Candidates will be allowed to spend as much of the given time as they like on any of the sections and return to questions at any time – the timings are just recommendations

☑ Section A: Spelling; 5 minutes

☑ Section B: Text 1; 25 minutes

☑ Section C: Text 2; 10 minutes

☑ Section D: Comparison of Texts 1 & 2; 10 minutes

Question Types

Section A tests a candidate's spelling. Sections B, C and D involve reading and responding to texts. All questions are multiple choice in format, but there are different types and so the instructions for each question must be read very carefully. Examples of all of the question types are below with a commentary.

Which of these is the correct spelling?

- A. Accidental
- B. Acidentally
- C. Accidentally
- D. Accidently
- E. Accadentially

Examiner's Commentary: The candidate must choose just one answer from those given.

What dangers do the narrator and his uncle face in this environment? Select **all that are correct**.

- A. It is very cold
- B. They are isolated
- C. There are animals threatening them
- D. They do not have enough food
- E. Their hut is uncomfortable

Examiner's Commentary: The candidate must read the text and choose as many answers as they believe to be correct – this could be 2, 3 or 4 correct answers. The correct answer will never be all five (see marking note below).*

Select the **TWO** most accurate words to describe the narrator's feelings in lines 9-11.

- A. Lonely
- B. Excited
- C. Panicked
- D. Tired
- E. Depressed

*Examiner's Commentary: The candidate must read the text and choose the most accurate **two** words.*

Why does the narrator think that his uncle is back in lines 13-15? Pick the **most accurate** explanation.

- A. He sees footprints in the snow
- B. He sees footprints which he thinks belong to his uncle
- C. He sees footprints leading to a closed door
- D. He sees footprints leading towards the house
- E. He sees two tracks of footprint

*Examiner's Commentary: The candidate must read the relevant text and choose the **most accurate** explanation from those given.*

Look carefully at lines 19-25. Which of these is NOT correct? Select **one** answer.

- A. The bird thinks her sisters are unpredictable
- B. The bird thinks she looks impressive
- C. The bird doesn't like her life on the island
- D. The bird thinks her feathers are valuable
- E. The bird knows that her song is dangerous

Examiner's Commentary: The candidate must read the relevant text and choose the one incorrect answer.

Think about the uncle and the bird. From the texts, which of these statements are true about BOTH? **Select all that are correct.**

- A. They have human qualities.
- B. They are dangerous to humans.
- C. They live in cold areas.
- D. They are larger than humans.
- E. They want to communicate with humans.

Examiner's Commentary: The candidate must consider both texts and select all of the answers which are correct. There could be 2, 3 or 4 correct answers.

Marking Notes

For questions where the candidate is told to select **two** of the multiple choice options, candidates will only gain marks if they select **both** of the correct answers. No marks are awarded if only one of the correct answers is selected. No marks are awarded if the candidate selects more than two answers.

For questions where the correct answers involve a range of possible answers (2, 3 or 4 options) without specifying the number, a marking approach will be taken which does not require the candidate to get all of the right answers to score a mark (unless the candidate selects all five options, which will automatically score zero). We will not be sharing further detail about this approach.