

Magdalen College School



ENGLISH TEST

For entry to the Junior School at 9+

SAMPLE PAPER

cassowaries

Rima stepped back and looked critically at his handiwork. He grunted with satisfaction, and smiled down at his son.

'Well?'

5 The new hut stood foursquare in the corner of the garden. The plaited bamboo walls curled tightly round a stout frame of beech poles, cut and stripped by Rima with the big bush knife he had brought up from the trade-store when Joseph had run down to tell him the news.

'It's marvellous, father,' said Joseph. 'She won't get out of that.'

10 He bent down and stroked the shining plumage of a large bird that lay at his feet, trussed up with creepers. The bonds were too tight to allow the muscular body any movement, but the bird crossly jerked its head and opened its pointed beak to hiss at Joseph's fingers. The face and neck were coloured bright blue and red, and the head was topped with an oval dome of bone. The feathers were long and limp, hanging in
15 silky strands. Under the creeper bindings twitched stumps of flightless wings.

'That's a fine cassowary,' Rima remarked. 'Did she give you much trouble?'

'No: after all, there were eight of us. Aieee! She ran like the wind!'

20 The village boys had caught the cassowary that morning, coming on her suddenly in the bush and chasing her down a long slope. Her strong legs were capable of taking her clear of pursuers on the level or going

uphill. But once she was on a downward incline she could only run faster and faster, squawking with fury as she lost her balance, till she
25 tripped over and fell in a tumble of feathers and feet.

Then Joseph and another boy, outrunning the others, had flung themselves on top of the flapping bird and held her down, while the remaining young hunters had torn down bush creepers for rope. The trickiest part was keeping the feet with their fearsome claws underneath
30 the body while she was lashed up like a parcel. The whooping and laughing boys carried her back to the village, her head dangling down from a branch slotted between her feet. Joseph and the other boy had drawn playing cards for her, and Joseph's ten of hearts had just beaten David Mali's nine of diamonds.

35 Joseph was overjoyed to have his own cassowary. She would always be bad-tempered, liable to peck out an eye or lash out dangerously with those sharp claws. But safely shut in her new home, fed on taro scraps and berries, she would grow fat; and one day in the future she would make a tough but tasty roast for a clan gathering. Then the story of the
40 capture would be told, with Joseph as the hero.

Magdalen College School English Exam

9+ Entry. Time allowed: 35 minutes

Attempt all the questions. All answers are to be written on this question and answer sheet.

Carefully read the extract from the story on the sheet first, then answer the questions.

1. From your reading of the passage, which of the birds pictured below do you think is a cassowary? *Simply write (a), (b), (c) or (d).*

I think picture is the cassowary



a.



b.



c.



d.

(1 mark)

2. What is the relationship between Rima and Joseph? (1 mark)

.....

3. a. When Rima looks at his 'handiwork' (line 1), what exactly is he looking at?

.....

(1 mark)

b. What do you think 'handiwork' means here?

.....

.....

(2 marks)

4. In what **two** ways have they made sure that the cassowary cannot escape?

.....

.....

.....

(4 marks)

5. Can the cassowary fly? What, in the story, tells you this?

.....

.....

.....

(2 marks)

6. Explain **in detail** and in your own words (you should write **6-7 lines** for this answer) the plan the boys used to catch the cassowary. *Use lines 21 onwards for this answer.*

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.....

(8 marks)

7. Write in the space provided the correct meaning of these words (*simply write down the letter of the answer*):

Foursquare (line 4) means: a. having four straight walls
b. four feet square c. built from four other huts
d. four miles away

Plumage (line 9) means: a. beak b. feathers c. talons d. plum

Pursuers (line 22) means: a. farmers b. enemies c. chasers d. sounds

Incline (line 23) means: a. river b. tumble c. slope d. speed

(4 marks)

8. What were the **drawbacks** or **disadvantages (problems)** of having a cassowary?

.....
.....

(3 marks)

9. How is it that Joseph came to own the cassowary? Explain carefully.

.....
.....
.....

(4 marks)

Total: 30 marks

Magdalen College School
9+ English Writing Paper
Total Time Taken: 30 minutes



You should spend **15 minutes** on **BOTH** of these two pieces of writing. You will be told when the first 15 minutes has passed, and should move to the next question close to that time.

You may write in pen or pencil.

1. Imagine that the next day the cassowary escapes from Rima and Joseph, and that they set out on their own to capture it. In about 150 – 180 words, write the account of what happens. (20 marks)

Try in this piece of writing to use as much detail as you can about the bird; make your account exciting or humorous (or both!). Aim to write accurately; punctuate clearly; write clearly and neatly.

- 2 This is a piece of **descriptive** writing.

Write about any **building** that you know well enough (*this could be a castle, a hall, your own home if it is old and interesting, an Oxford college, a church etc.*)

Imagine a character from a story is approaching it and / or entering it. Describe it from his point of view, trying to bring the building alive in our minds. (20 marks)

Eg (if this were about a cave):

He approached the entrance to the cave with no little sense of dread. The entrance was dark and forbidding, covered with dark ivy and dying branches. From the innermost depths he thought he could almost hear a faint scratching, but perhaps that was only his imagination.

Magdalen College School



Mathematics Test

For entry to the Junior School at 9+

Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Current Age _____ years _____ months

Current School _____

Instructions - *please read carefully*

- Please attempt all questions
- You may leave a question out and return to it later
- Please answer questions in the space provided
- Please show workings out – you may be awarded marks, even if your answer is incorrect
- You have 45 minutes to complete the test

RAW SCORE

PERCENTAGE

Mathematics Test 9+

1. Write in figures the number four thousand and nine:

2. Round 576 to the nearest 10:

3. How many quarters are there in $1\frac{1}{4}$?

4. How many twelfths are there in one whole?

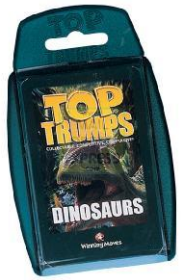
5. What is the total of 345 and 65?

6. Decrease 256 by 19:

7. Put the correct sign in the box to complete this sum:

$$15 \quad \square \quad 5 = 3$$

8. 3 boys have 168 top trump cards. How many cards do they have each if the cards are shared equally?



9. Put a ring around the number sentence which is NOT TRUE:

$$8 \times 5 = 40$$

$$80 \div 5 = 40$$

$$40 \times 5 = 200$$

$$200 \div 40 = 5$$

10. Write $>$ or $=$ or $<$ in the box provided:

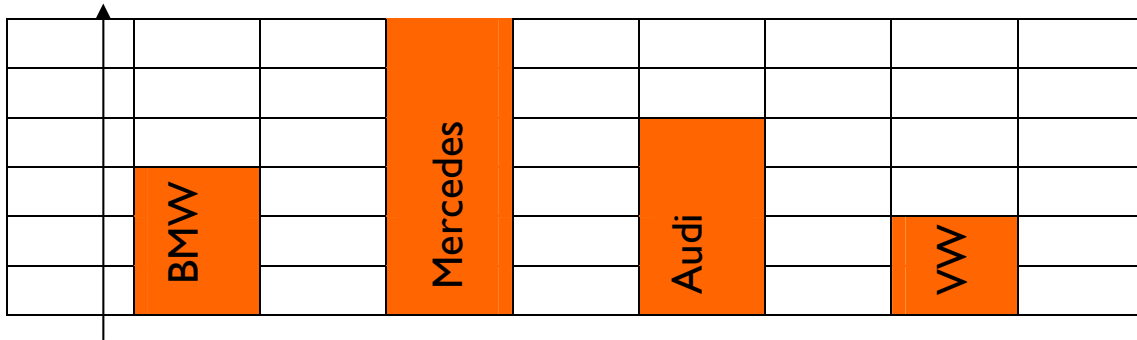
$$20 - 5 \quad \square \quad 20 \div 5$$

11. $230 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times 10$

12. What is the value of the TENS digit in 4269?

13. 66 less than 100 is _____

14. What is one quarter of £3.00?



This bar chart shows how many cars were in a car park at 9am on Wednesday. There were 12 Audis.

15. How many BMWs were there?

.....

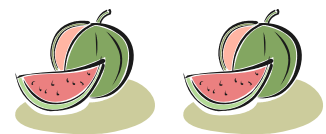
16. How many cars were there altogether?

.....

17. Which of these is the smallest fraction? Put a ring around your answer:

$$\frac{1}{2} \quad \frac{3}{4} \quad \frac{1}{4}$$

18. I have two whole watermelons. I cut each into EIGHTHS. How many pieces of watermelon are there?



.....

19. What is the cost of 9 packets of sweets at 32p each packet?

.....

20. Complete this number pattern:

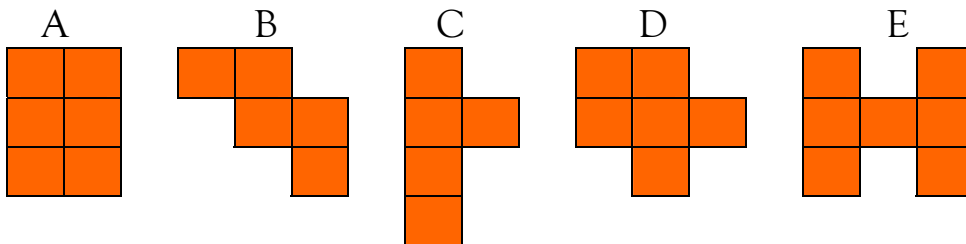
6 12 ____ 24 30 36 ____

21. 24 boys are in a class. Each boy has one pen, one pencil and one ruler. How many items do they have altogether?

22. What must be added to 17 to make 417?

23. 100 more than 7919 is _____

24. Which of these shapes has the same area as shape A? Put a ring around your answer:



25. Circle the numbers which can be divided exactly by 4:

4 14 18 24 28 34 38 48

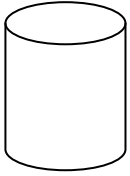
26. Calculate:

$$(7 \times 6) + 15 = \text{-----}$$

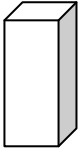
27. Comics cost 75p each. How many can I buy for £5.00?

28., 29., 30., 31

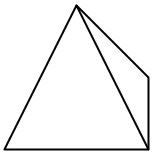
Join each shape to its correct name:



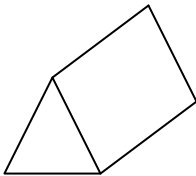
Cube



Sphere



Pyramid



Cuboid

Triangular Prism

Cone

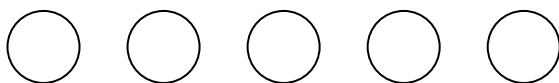
Cylinder

32. Put these amounts in order, smallest first:

£2.43 245 pence £0.03 5p

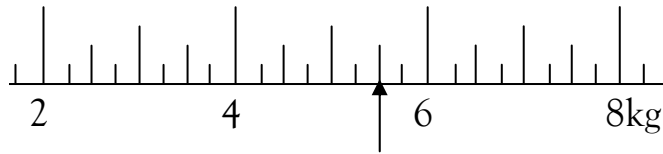
33. Grapes cost £3.50 a kilogram. How much would 200g cost?

34. I have five coins which add up to 35p. What are they?



35. 13 multiplied by 6 is _____

36. Look at this scale:



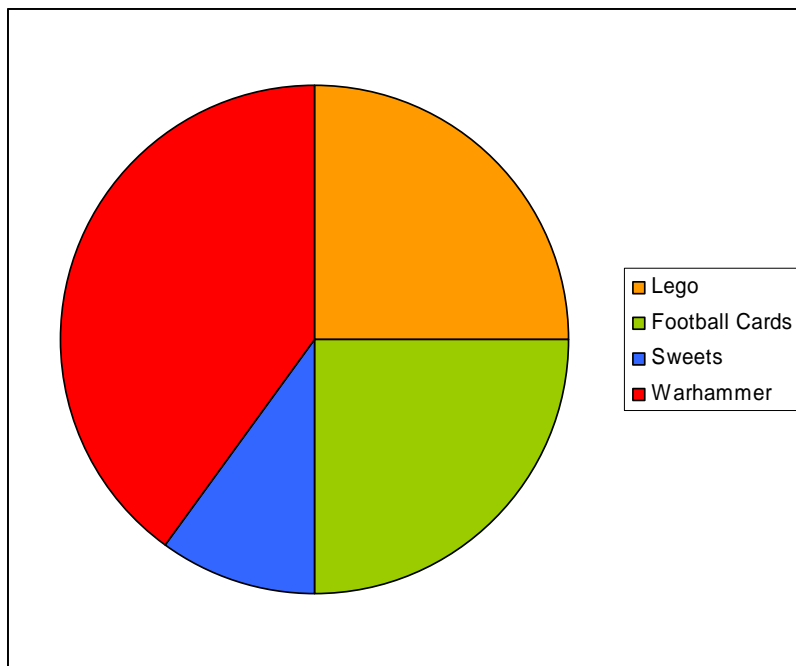
What weight in kg does the arrow point at? _____ kg

37. Circle the letters which can be cut exactly in half, so that both halves are the same:

M Q A P U E

38. How many 9cm ribbons can be cut from a 3m length of ribbon?

39. John had £20.00 to spend. This pie chart shows how he spent it. How much money did he spend on Lego?



40. $24 \times 8 = 192$

How many twenty-fours are there in a hundred and ninety-two?

41. Put a **tick** by the statements that are **very likely**:
Put a **cross** by the statements that are **very unlikely**:

There is a boy named James in my school

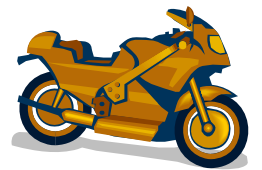
My teacher has been to the planet Mars

There will be no school on Christmas Day

We will eat worms for supper this evening

42. Circle the approximate length of a real motorbike:

22m 2m 22cm 220m 22km



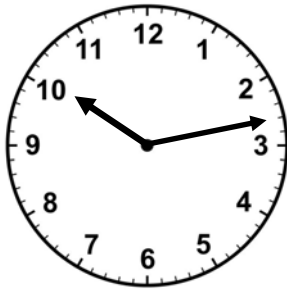
43. I am thinking of a number. I double the number then I add 17. The answer is 59.

What was the number I was thinking of? _____

44. I am facing North. I turn clockwise through one right angle. Which direction am I facing now?

45. Ninety six divided by twelve equals _____

46. Look at this clock. The time is:



47. Anne's parcel cost 40p to post.
She stuck on **five** stamps.
Each stamp was either 10p or 5p.
How many of each stamp did Anne stick on her parcel?

Anne stuck on _____ 10p stamps and _____ 5p stamps

Fill in the missing numbers:

48.
$$\begin{array}{r} \square \quad 8 \\ + \quad 3 \quad 1 \\ \hline 7 \quad 9 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 8 \quad 3 \\ - \quad \square \quad 2 \\ \hline 4 \quad 1 \end{array}$$

49. Using any method you wish, calculate 675×14 :

50. A man has to be at work by 9:00 a.m. It takes him 15 minutes to get dressed, 20 minutes to eat and 35 minutes to walk to work. What time should he get up?

Well done. You have completed the test. Please check through your answers carefully.