

11 Plus

English Comprehension

On the Education Quizzes website there are 70 quizzes to help you prepare for the **11-Plus English** exam paper

This paper contains 26 questions.

The total marks for this paper is 60.

10 minutes reading time

60 minutes to complete the test



Instructions

Suggested timing for candidates:

READING TIME.....10 minutes

SECTION ONE: COMPREHENSION30 minutes

SECTION TWO: APPLIED REASONING.....10 minutes

SECTION THREE: CONTINUOUS WRITING..... 20 minutes

Read the passage that starts on the next page carefully when you are told to do so. After 10 minutes has ended you will have 60 minutes to complete the test. Answer the questions which are on the following pages

The passage is from "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens



Section 1: COMPREHENSION

As the passage begins, it is approaching Christmas and we join Scrooge working in his counting house. The weather is very cold.

1. Once upon a time-of all the good days in the year- on Christmas Eve old Scrooge sat busy in his counting-house.
2. It was cold, bleak, biting weather: foggy withal:
3. and he could hear the people in the court outside, go wheezing up and down, beating their hands upon their breasts, and stamping their feet upon the pavement stones to warm them.
4. The city clocks had only just gone three, but it was quite dark already-it had not been light all day
5. - and candles were flaring in the windows of the neighbouring offices, like ruddy smears upon the palpable brown air.
6. The fog came pouring in at every chink and keyhole,
7. and was so dense without, that although the court was of the narrowest, the houses opposite were mere phantoms.
8. To see the dingy cloud come drooping down, obscuring everything, one might have thought that Nature lived hard by, and was brewing on a large scale.
9. The door of Scrooge's counting-house was open that he might keep his eye upon his clerk,
10. who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters.
11. Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal.
12. But he couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room;
13. and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part.
14. Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter, and tried to warm himself at the candle; in which effort, not being a man of a strong imagination, he failed.
15. "A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!" cried a cheerful voice.
16. It was the voice of Scrooge's nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach.
17. "Bah!" said Scrooge, "Humbug"
18. He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge's, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again.



19. "Christmas a humbug, uncle!" said Scrooge's nephew. "You don't mean that, I am sure?"
20. "I do," said Scrooge. "Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough."
21. "Come, then," returned the nephew gaily. "What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough."
22. Scrooge having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment, said, "Bah!" again; and followed it up with "Humbug."
23. "Don't be cross, uncle!" said the nephew.
24. "What else can I be," returned the uncle, "when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas! 25. What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, but not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and having every item in 'em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you? 26. If I could work my will," said Scrooge indignantly, "every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. He should!"
27. "Uncle!" pleaded the nephew.
28. "Nephew!" returned the uncle sternly, "keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine."
29. "Keep it!" repeated Scrooge's nephew. "But you don't keep it."
30. "Let me leave it alone, then," said Scrooge. "Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!"
31. "There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, I dare say," returned the nephew.
32. "Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round-apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin,
33. if anything belonging to it can be apart from that-as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time;
34. the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys.
35. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"



1.1

When did the story take place? (Tick one box)

☐

1 Mark

- A. In the future[]
- B. In the present[]
- C. On Christmas Eve[]
- D. In the winter.....[]

1.2

How does the writer describe the weather? (line 2)

☐

4 Marks

1.3

As the story opens, what time is it?

☐

1 Mark

2

Which of the following words is NOT a word Scrooge's nephew uses to describe Scrooge? (Tick one box)

☐

1 Mark

- A. morose[]
- B. rich..... []
- C. poor[]
- D. dismal.....[]



3

How does the clerk feel about Scrooge? (Tick one box)

☐

1 Mark

A. He loves Scrooge[]

B. He respects Scrooge[]

C. He admires Scrooge.....[]

D. He fears Scrooge[]

4

Read the following sentences: *"He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge's, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome...."*

☐

1 Mark

4.1

What does the word 'ruddy' mean as used in the passage? (Tick one box)

☐

1 Mark

A. Pleasant[]

B. Good-looking.....[]

C. Flushed[]

D. Pale[]

4.2

what had caused his nephew's face to be 'ruddy'?

☐

2 Marks



5

What is the passage mostly about? (Tick one box)

☐

1 Mark

A. The weather on a winter day[]

B. How Scrooge treats his clerk.....[]

C. How people celebrate Christmas.....[]

D. How Scrooge feels about Christmas.....[]

6

According to this passage, why does Scrooge's nephew like Christmas? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.

☐

4 Marks

7

Based on this passage, how might someone describe Scrooge? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.

☐

4 Marks



8

The question below is an incomplete sentence.
Choose the word that best completes the sentence.



2 Marks

Scrooge's nephew came to wish his uncle a Merry Christmas,
_____ his uncle hates the holiday.

- A. but
- B. because
- C. and
- D. so

9

Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.



3 Marks

Once upon a time — of all the good days in the year, on
Christmas Eve — old Scrooge sat busy in his counting-house.

Who? old Scrooge

What? _____

Where? _____

When? _____

10

Vocabulary: 'Morose' Use this vocabulary word in a sentence.



2 Marks

11

What words/wording does the author use to describe
how thick the fog is in lines 6-8



5 Marks



12

In line 13, what wording does the writer use to describe how Scrooge prevents his clerk from replenishing the coal?

3 Marks

13

In line 14, how does the clerk try to warm himself?

2 Marks

14.1

In lines 16-22, both Scrooge and his nephew use a word to describe Christmas which we think of as a sweet, what is this word?

1 Mark

14.2

Reading lines 31-35, does Scrooge's nephew appear to be interested in money? Answer yes/no

1 Mark



Section 2: APPLIED REASONING (5 Marks)

Complete the words using the same letter in each gap.

Example:

Fi()h ()orry should be Fi(s)h (S)orry

1 Cha()m) t()ead

1 Mark

2 B()ast) st()at

1 Mark

Complete the words using consecutive letters in each gap.

Example:

Tra()n Ma()or should be completed tra(i)n ma(j)or

Tra()e Tra()e should be completed tra(c)e tra(d)e

3 Squa()e s()one

1 Mark

4 Scar() chan()e

1 Mark

5 Other words can be made by re-arranging the letters of the word 'Treacle'

1 Mark

For example: Clear

Find three other words of 5 letters or more that can be made from the word 'treacle'

1

2

3



Section 3: CONTINUOUS WRITING (Answer BOTH questions) (15 Marks)

1 Write 5 or 6 sentences describing your typical Saturday.



Write down, in 5 or 6 sentences, instructions to a younger sister, brother, or friend on how to wash up after evening meal.



MARKING SCHEME

SECTION ONE 40 marks total

- 1.1 When did the story take place? (Tick one box) [1 mark]
- A. In the future
 - B. In the present
 - C. **On Christmas Eve ✓**
 - D. In the winter
- 1.2 How does the writer describe the weather? (line 2) [4 marks]
1 mark for each correct answer
- Cold ✓**
 - Bleak ✓**
 - Biting ✓**
 - Foggy ✓**
- 1.3 As the story opens, what time is it? [1mark]
Just gone three (Accept three/three o'clock)
2. Which of the following words is NOT a word Scrooge's nephew uses to describe Scrooge? [1 mark]
- A. Morose
 - B. Rich
 - C. **poor ✓**
 - D. dismal
3. How does the clerk feel about Scrooge? [1 mark]
- A. He loves Scrooge
 - B. He respects Scrooge
 - C. He admires Scrooge
 - D. **He fears Scrooge ✓**



4. Read the following sentences: *"He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome...."*
- 4.1 What does the word ruddy mean as used in the passage? [1 mark]
- A. Pleasant
 - B. Good-looking
 - C. Flushed ✓**
 - D. Pale
- 4.2 What had caused his nephew's face to be "ruddy" [2 marks]
- Heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost**
one mark each for 'heated himself' and 'rapid walking'
5. What is the passage mostly about? [1 mark]
- A. The weather on a winter day
 - B. How Scrooge treats his clerk
 - C. How people celebrate Christmas
 - D. How Scrooge feels about Christmas ✓**
6. According to this passage, why does Scrooge's nephew like Christmas? Use evidence from the story to support your answer. [4 marks]
- One mark each for four of any of the following:
- Good time ✓**
 - Veneration ✓**
 - Kind ✓**
 - Forgiving ✓**
 - Charitable ✓**
 - Pleasant ✓**



7. Based on this passage, how might someone describe Scrooge?
[4 marks]

One mark each for four of any of the following:

Grumpy ✓

Mean ✓

Stingy ✓

Dismal ✓

Morose ✓

Cross ✓

Hates Christmas ✓

Unpleasant ✓

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Scrooge's nephew came to wish his uncle a Merry Christmas,
_____ his uncle hates the holiday. [2 marks]

A. but ✓

B. because

C. and

D. so

Two marks for 'but', one mark for 'because'

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Once upon a time — of all the good days in the year, on Christmas Eve — old Scrooge sat busy in his counting-house.

Example: Who? old Scrooge [3 marks]

What? **Sat busy ✓**

Where? **Counting-house ✓**

When? **Once upon a time/of all the good days in the year/
on Christmas Eve ✓** (one mark for any of these)



10. Vocabulary: **Morose**. Use this vocabulary word in a sentence

[4 marks]

Example: sullen, ill-tempered, miserable, unsociable, depressed
"she was morose and silent when she got home"

Answers may vary as long as correct definition, context and sense:

two marks for getting definition, full four marks for good stand-alone sentence with word in context

11. What words/wording does the author use to describe how thick the fog is in lines 6-8 [5 marks]

One mark each for following:

Pouring in ✓

Dense without ✓

Houses opposite were mere phantoms ✓

Dingy cloud ✓

Obscuring everything ✓

The fog **came pouring** in at every chink and keyhole, and **was so dense** without, that although the court was of the narrowest, **the houses opposite were mere phantoms**.

To see the **dingy cloud come drooping down, obscuring everything**, one might have thought that Nature lived hard by, and was brewing on a large scale.



12. In line 13, what wording does the writer use to describe how Scrooge prevents his clerk from replenishing the coal? [2 marks]

Predicted clerk and shovel would part (or words in that sense eg "take shovel from the clerk") ✓

(Full answer required for two marks)

13. In line 14, how does the clerk try to warm himself? [2 marks]

One mark each for:

White comforter ✓

Warm by candle ✓

- 14.1 In lines 16-22, both Scrooge and his nephew use a word to describe Christmas which we think of as a sweet, what is this word?

[1 mark]

Humbug ✓

- 14.2 Reading lines 31-35, does Scrooge's nephew appear to be interested in money? Answer yes/no [1 mark]

No ✓

SECTION TWO (APPLIED REASONING) 5 MARKS TOTAL

1. **Answer = 'r' ✓**

Cha(r)m) t(r)ead

[1 mark]

2. **Answer = 'o' ✓**

B(o)ast) st(o)at

[1 mark]



Complete the words using consecutive letters in each gap

Example:

Tra(-)n Ma(-)or should be completed tra(i)n ma(j)or

Tra(-)e Tra(-)e should be completed tra(c)e tra(d)e

3. Squa(r)e s(t)one [1 mark]

4. Scar(f) chan(g)e [1 mark]

5. Other words can be made by
Re-arranging the letters of the word

'Treacle'

For example: **clear**

Find three other words of 5 letters or more that can be made
from the word "treacle"

Any three from following: (must be three for one mark)

alert ✓	cereal ✓
alter ✓	claret ✓
arete ✓	cleat ✓
carat ✓	crate ✓
carle ✓	create ✓
cartel ✓	creel ✓
cater ✓	eater ✓
cerate ✓	eclat ✓

SECTION THREE (CONTINUOUS WRITING) 15 MARKS

This will be marked as one piece of work and candidates will be expected to write in appropriate styles for the two contrasting questions. Candidates will be assessed on accuracy, spelling, punctuation, the quality of writing and originality.

