

Student Name _____

Beyond English Coaching Selective High School Practice Test

Reading Question Paper Free Practice Test 2

40 Minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES



Please read this page carefully.

There are 30 multiple-choice questions in this paper.

For each question, choose the one correct answer and record your choice on the separate answer sheet. If you make a mistake, erase thoroughly and try again.

You will not lose marks for incorrect answers, so you should attempt all 30 questions.

You must complete the answer sheet within the time limit. There will not be any extra time at the end of the exam to record your answers on the answer sheet.

You can use the question paper for notes, but no extra paper is allowed.

Please note that some words and phrases are in bold in the texts as they are referred to in some questions.

Dictionaries and calculators may NOT be used.

Note: Writing Practice Exam is at the bottom of the this document

Extracts A and B — Theme: Uncertainty

Read the two extracts below on the theme of uncertainty. Then answer the questions that follow.

Extract A

The envelope had been sitting on the kitchen table all afternoon, its thin edge catching the light from the window. Daniel had noticed it the moment he walked into the room, but he had deliberately avoided picking it up. Instead, he poured himself a glass of water, rearranged the fruit bowl, and even glanced through yesterday's newspaper, though he had already read every article.

The envelope remained where it was, quiet but impossible to ignore.

From the corner of his eye, Daniel could see the neat printed logo in the top corner. It was the same logo he had seen online a hundred times while checking the application portal. For weeks he had imagined the message it might contain, rehearsing how he would react if the answer was yes or no.

Now that the answer was finally within reach, he found himself strangely reluctant to know.

Outside, the afternoon breeze stirred the leaves in the garden, their soft rustling drifting through the open window. Daniel finally reached for the envelope, turning it slowly between his fingers. The paper felt ordinary, almost disappointingly so. Whatever it contained would change nothing about the quiet kitchen around him — and yet it might change everything about what came next.

For a long moment, he simply held it there, unopened.

Extract B

The hiking trail narrowed as it climbed higher along the ridge, eventually splitting into two paths that curved away in opposite directions. One disappeared into a dense forest of tall pines, while the other wound upward toward an exposed rocky slope.

Lena stopped at the fork, adjusting the straps of her backpack as she studied the faded wooden signpost. The letters carved into the wood had been worn by years of wind and rain, leaving only fragments of the original directions.

Behind her, the valley stretched wide and peaceful, but ahead the paths seemed to promise completely different journeys. The forest route looked shaded and quiet, though its twists quickly vanished from sight. The rocky trail, on the other hand, offered a clear view of the mountain above but appeared steep and challenging.

These free papers are a small sample of the structured Selective preparation we provide at [Beyond English Coaching](https://www.beyondenglishcoaching.com).

For full program details, additional free resources, and weekly updates:

[beyondenglishcoaching.com](https://www.beyondenglishcoaching.com) Follow us on Facebook: [Beyond English Coaching](https://www.facebook.com/beyondenglishcoaching)

Lena checked the map on her phone, though the signal flickered uncertainly between bars. For a moment she considered waiting for another hiker to appear, someone who might know which direction was correct. But the trail remained silent.

After standing there for several minutes, she realised that the only way to discover where either path led was to begin walking. With one final glance at the signpost, Lena stepped forward and chose a direction.

Questions

1. In both extracts, the characters

- A. must make a choice without complete information
- B. are given clear instructions about what to do
- C. immediately make confident decisions
- D. receive help from other people

2. Which extract shows the character delaying action because they are unsure about the outcome?

- A. Extract A
- B. Extract B
- C. Both
- D. Neither

3. In Extract A, the description of the envelope mainly helps to

- A. explain how the letter was delivered
- B. emphasise Daniel's anticipation and hesitation
- C. show that the kitchen is untidy
- D. suggest that the letter is unimportant

4. Which detail in Extract B best highlights Lena's uncertainty about which path to take?

- A. The peaceful valley behind her
- B. The faded letters on the signpost
- C. The steep rocky slope
- D. The tall pine trees

5. In both extracts, references to the surrounding environment mainly serve to

- A. distract readers from the characters' thoughts
- B. create humour about the situation
- C. reflect the characters' uncertainty and decision-making
- D. explain how the settings were built

6. In Extract A, why does Daniel hesitate to open the envelope?

- A. He believes the envelope belongs to someone else
- B. He wants to wait until evening to read it
- C. He feels uncertain about what the message might say
- D. He does not know how to open it

These free papers are a small sample of the structured Selective preparation we provide at [Beyond English Coaching](https://www.beyondenglishcoaching.com).

For full program details, additional free resources, and weekly updates:

[beyondenglishcoaching.com](https://www.beyondenglishcoaching.com)  Follow us on Facebook: [Beyond English Coaching](https://www.facebook.com/beyondenglishcoaching)

7. How do the characters' responses to uncertainty differ between the extracts?

- A. Daniel acts immediately while Lena hesitates
- B. Daniel avoids deciding while Lena eventually takes action
- C. Both characters quickly solve their problems
- D. Both characters refuse to make a decision

8. Which statement best compares the endings of both extracts?

- A. Both characters leave their situations unresolved
- B. Both characters receive clear answers
- C. One character remains uncertain while the other chooses to act
- D. Both characters ask someone else for help

Fill in the Blank – Question 9

Read the text below and select the correct word or phrase for each gap from the options below.

The Evolution of Weather Prediction

Long before satellites and supercomputers transformed meteorology, attempts to forecast the weather were based largely on observation and experience. Early scholars carefully monitored the sky, wind patterns and seasonal changes, _____ (1) relatively primitive tools to anticipate future conditions.

Under the _____ (2) of intellectual curiosity, these early investigators recorded their observations in journals and almanacs, gradually building a body of knowledge about recurring atmospheric patterns. It may be difficult to _____ (3) today, but predictions were frequently derived from personal interpretation rather than systematic measurement.

As scientific understanding advanced, specialised instruments were introduced to measure temperature, pressure and humidity with increasing precision. Forecasts that once required hours of careful calculation could eventually be produced in a _____ (4) of the time. Nevertheless, even with technological improvements, forecasting remained an uncertain science, demanding _____ (5) analysis of highly variable atmospheric data.

In the modern era, satellites and complex computer models allow meteorologists to observe global weather systems almost instantaneously, _____ (6) both the speed and precision of forecasts. Despite these advancements, accurate prediction still relies on human expertise, reminding us of the _____ (7) equilibrium between scientific knowledge and the unpredictable forces of nature, as well as humanity's enduring _____ (8) to understand and anticipate the world around us.

Options

These free papers are a small sample of the structured Selective preparation we provide at [Beyond English Coaching](https://www.beyondenglishcoaching.com).

For full program details, additional free resources, and weekly updates:

[beyondenglishcoaching.com](https://www.beyondenglishcoaching.com)  Follow us on Facebook: [Beyond English Coaching](https://www.facebook.com/beyondenglishcoaching)

(1)

- A. constrained by
- B. accompanied by
- C. supported by
- D. overshadowed by

(2)

- A. influence
- B. motivation
- C. pressure
- D. supervision

(3)

- A. verify
- B. perceive
- C. imagine
- D. justify

(4)

- A. fragment
- B. fraction
- C. segment
- D. division

(5)

- A. deliberate
- B. cautious
- C. routine
- D. casual

(6)

- A. disguising
- B. enhancing
- C. diminishing
- D. substituting

(7)

- A. delicate
- B. permanent
- C. predictable
- D. rigid

These free papers are a small sample of the structured Selective preparation we provide at **Beyond English Coaching**.

For full program details, additional free resources, and weekly updates:

 [beyondenglishcoaching.com](https://www.beyondenglishcoaching.com)  Follow us on Facebook: **Beyond English Coaching**

(8)

- A. curiosity
- B. hesitation
- C. reluctance
- D. indifference

Poem

Read the poem below by Robert Louis Stevenson then answer the questions below.

The Swing

How do you like to go up in a swing,
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing
Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,
Till I can see so wide,
River and trees and cattle and all
Over the countryside—

Till I look down on the garden green,
Down on the roof so brown—
Up in the air I go flying again,
Up in the air and down!

Questions

10. What does the speaker's description of seeing "over the wall" most strongly suggest?

- a. the wall prevents the child from seeing very far
- b. the child dislikes being confined to the garden
- c. the countryside is very close to the house
- d. the swing allows the child to imagine exploring beyond everyday boundaries

11. What does the phrase "pleasantest thing ever a child can do" imply about the speaker's perspective?

- a. the speaker prefers being alone rather than with others
- b. the speaker believes swinging is the only enjoyable activity

These free papers are a small sample of the structured Selective preparation we provide at [Beyond English Coaching](https://www.beyondenglishcoaching.com).

For full program details, additional free resources, and weekly updates:

[beyondenglishcoaching.com](https://www.beyondenglishcoaching.com)  Follow us on Facebook: [Beyond English Coaching](https://www.facebook.com/beyondenglishcoaching)

- c. the speaker values simple experiences more than complicated ones
- d. the speaker is exaggerating to entertain the reader

12. Why does the poet contrast the wide countryside with the small details of the house and garden?

- a. to highlight the changing viewpoint as the swing moves
- b. to show the speaker prefers the countryside to home
- c. to suggest the countryside is more beautiful than the garden
- d. to demonstrate that the child is afraid of heights

13. What does the phrase “I go flying again” suggest about how the child experiences swinging?

- a. the child wishes to become a pilot
- b. the child believes they can literally fly
- c. the child is worried about falling from the swing
- d. the child feels a sense of freedom similar to flight

14. How does the repetition of “Up in the air” affect the reader’s experience of the poem?

- a. it helps the reader imagine the rhythmic motion of the swing
- b. it emphasises the speaker’s fear of being high above the ground
- c. it slows the pace of the poem to create suspense
- d. it shows the speaker becoming bored with the activity

15. What deeper idea about childhood does the poem subtly suggest?

- a. ordinary activities can feel extraordinary through imagination
- b. children prefer nature to living indoors
- c. children are more adventurous than adults
- d. outdoor activities are the best form of exercise

Fill in the Statement – Question 16

Read the text below.

Six sentences have been removed from the text so that there are six gaps.

Vertical Farming

As global populations continue to grow, cities are searching for new ways to produce food sustainably. One increasingly popular approach is vertical farming, where crops are grown

These free papers are a small sample of the structured Selective preparation we provide at [Beyond English Coaching](#).

For full program details, additional free resources, and weekly updates:

[beyondenglishcoaching.com](https://www.beyondenglishcoaching.com) Follow us on Facebook: [Beyond English Coaching](#)

indoors in stacked layers using controlled lighting and climate systems. Supporters argue that this method allows food to be produced closer to consumers while reducing the need for large areas of farmland. **(A)** _____.

However, critics point out that vertical farming requires significant amounts of energy to power lighting, temperature control, and water systems. They argue that unless renewable energy sources are used, the environmental benefits may be limited. **(B)** _____. For this reason, some experts believe the technology must continue to improve before it can become widely adopted.

Researchers studying vertical farms have found both advantages and limitations. Some facilities produce crops very efficiently, particularly leafy vegetables such as lettuce and herbs. **(C)** _____. This means that vertical farming is currently better suited to certain types of crops than others.

Another issue concerns the economic cost of building and maintaining indoor farming facilities. Advanced technology and specialised equipment can make these farms expensive to establish. **(D)** _____. As a result, many projects rely on investment or government support during their early stages.

Despite these challenges, interest in vertical farming continues to increase. Urban planners and scientists believe the approach may help cities strengthen their local food supply. **(E)** _____. These benefits have encouraged further experimentation with the technology in different parts of the world.

Nevertheless, most experts agree that vertical farming should not be seen as a replacement for traditional agriculture. **(F)** _____. Instead, it may function best as one part of a broader strategy for producing food in a growing and changing world.

Choose from the sentences below the one which fits each gap.

There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

1. Vertical farming cannot solve global food security challenges on its own.
2. Crops such as wheat or corn are generally impractical to grow in vertical systems.
3. Many cities hope this approach will reduce the distance food travels to reach consumers.
4. Some indoor farms also aim to operate entirely without soil.
5. Energy consumption remains one of the most frequently discussed concerns.
6. In some cases, produce can be harvested year-round regardless of outdoor weather conditions.
7. As technology develops, construction costs are expected to gradually decrease.

Extracts A–D — Theme: Curiosity and Discovery

Read the four extracts below. Then answer the questions that follow.

For each question, choose the correct extract (**A, B, C or D**).

The extracts may be chosen **more than once**.

Extract A

The old telescope had been standing in the corner of the science room for as long as anyone could remember. Its metal frame had dulled with age, and a faint layer of dust had settled along the edge of the lens. Most students passed it without hesitation, assuming it was either broken or too outdated to be of any practical use.

One afternoon, while waiting for the lesson to begin, I found myself lingering beside it. Out of curiosity, I brushed away the dust and adjusted the lens toward the pale afternoon sky outside the window. At first, the image appeared completely blurred, and I was close to abandoning the attempt altogether.

After several careful adjustments, however, the view gradually sharpened. A bright circle came into focus, and suddenly the craters of the moon appeared with remarkable clarity. What had once seemed like an ordinary object in the room now felt like a gateway to something far beyond the classroom walls. In that moment, I realised the telescope had never been useless at all—it had simply been overlooked.

Extract B

Curiosity is frequently described as the driving force behind discovery. Psychologists suggest that when individuals encounter something unexpected or puzzling, the brain becomes motivated to search for explanations. This impulse encourages people to ask questions, test possibilities, and investigate unfamiliar ideas.

Research has also shown that curiosity can strengthen learning by increasing both attention and memory. When someone genuinely wants to understand an answer, they are far more likely to remember the information they uncover. In this way, curiosity not only leads to new knowledge but also deepens the process through which knowledge is acquired.

Importantly, curiosity is not limited to scientists or specialists working in laboratories. Everyday observations—such as wondering how a device operates or noticing patterns in the natural world—can spark the same investigative process that leads to more significant discoveries.

Extract C

While walking along the beach after a powerful storm, I noticed something unusual partly buried in the sand. At first it resembled an ordinary shell, but as I brushed away the

These free papers are a small sample of the structured Selective preparation we provide at [Beyond English Coaching](https://www.beyondenglishcoaching.com).

For full program details, additional free resources, and weekly updates:

[beyondenglishcoaching.com](https://www.beyondenglishcoaching.com)  Follow us on Facebook: [Beyond English Coaching](https://www.facebook.com/beyondenglishcoaching)

surrounding grains, I saw delicate ridges arranged in a pattern I had never encountered before.

I lifted the shell and examined it more closely, turning it slowly in my hands. Its surface was both fragile and intricately shaped, as though it had been carefully carved. For several minutes I stood there considering where it might have originated and how it had arrived on this particular stretch of coastline.

Later that evening, curiosity prompted me to search through books and online resources, comparing images and descriptions. Gradually, the explanation became clearer. The shell belonged to a species that typically lived far offshore and was rarely found along this coast. What had begun as a casual observation during a quiet walk now felt like a small but meaningful discovery.

Extract D

Curiosity often begins with a simple question, yet its influence can extend far beyond that initial moment of interest. When individuals choose to pursue their questions rather than dismiss them, they begin to develop habits of investigation and thoughtful reflection.

Over time, these habits can shape the way people approach challenges. Curious learners tend to examine information carefully, weighing different explanations and seeking additional evidence before forming conclusions. Instead of accepting ideas immediately, they pause to question whether those ideas are convincing.

For this reason, many educators emphasise the importance of encouraging curiosity in learning. When students learn to explore questions independently, they become more confident thinkers who are capable of investigating unfamiliar problems with patience and persistence.

Questions

1. Which extract explains curiosity using psychological or scientific ideas?
2. Which extract describes an ordinary object becoming unexpectedly meaningful?
3. Which extract suggests that small discoveries can alter how an experience is perceived?
4. Which extract involves searching for information in order to resolve a question?
5. Which extract implies that curiosity can gradually influence how people think and solve problems?
6. Which extract shows curiosity beginning with a moment of uncertainty or puzzlement?

These free papers are a small sample of the structured Selective preparation we provide at [Beyond English Coaching](https://www.beyondenglishcoaching.com).

For full program details, additional free resources, and weekly updates:

[beyondenglishcoaching.com](https://www.beyondenglishcoaching.com)  Follow us on Facebook: [Beyond English Coaching](https://www.facebook.com/beyondenglishcoaching)

7. Which extract describes careful observation leading to understanding?
8. Which extract suggests that curiosity is not limited to experts or professionals?
9. Which extract indicates that curiosity encourages questioning rather than immediate acceptance?
10. Which extract shows the writer recognising the significance of something previously ignored?

End of Comprehension Exam

Student Name _____

Beyond English Coaching Selective High School Practice Test

Writing Paper Free Practice Test 2

30 Minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Please read this page carefully.



This question paper contains one task.

There is space on the question paper for notes. Your answer must be written on the answer sheet provided. No additional answer sheets may be used.

The task provides an opportunity for you to show how well you can select, develop and organise ideas and communicate them effectively in writing.

Before you begin writing, take time to think carefully about what you need to say and the ways in which the organisation and layout of your response might help express your message.

You must complete your response within 30 minutes.

Dictionaries and calculators are NOT permitted.

You can use this space and the back page for any planning or notes.

These free papers are a small sample of the structured Selective preparation we provide at **Beyond English Coaching**.

For full program details, additional free resources, and weekly updates:

 [beyondenglishcoaching.com](https://www.beyondenglishcoaching.com)  Follow us on Facebook: **Beyond English Coaching**

Read the task below and write your answer on a separate answer sheet.

A mysterious glowing object has been discovered floating in a small lake in a local park. Early this morning, several joggers noticed the object drifting near the edge of the water and alerted authorities. Soon after, police and curious residents gathered at the scene while experts arrived to investigate what the object might be.

Write a **newspaper report** about this incident for the local paper.

In your report, you could:

- explain how the object was discovered
- describe the reaction of people at the scene
- include comments from witnesses or investigators.

End of Writing Exam