

GL Buckinghamshire Mock 1 Verbal Skills



Verbal Skills

- This test contains English and Verbal Reasoning sections.
- The English section consists of a 5-minute practice section and a 25-minute test.
- The Verbal Reasoning section consists of two 5-minute practice sections and a 20-minute test.
- All responses should be marked on the separate answer sheet provided.

Please turn over the page to begin the English Practice Section.

English Practice Section

(5 minutes)

This practice section gives an example of the sort of questions you will be faced with in this test, with the correct answer filled in on the answer sheet so that you can see how to do it.

There are also some practice questions that don't have the answers filled in, so that you can practise working them out for yourself and filling in the answer sheet.

Read this passage carefully and then answer the questions that follow.

The Great Wall of China

1 The Great Wall of China, an iconic symbol of ancient engineering, stretches over
2 13,000 miles across northern China, winding up and down across mountains and
3 plateaus like a dragon. Construction of the wall began in the 7th century BC, with
4 significant expansions during the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644 AD). Originally built to defend
5 against invasions, the wall now stands as a testament to China's rich history and attracts
6 millions of visitors annually.

Answer these questions. Look at the passage again if you need to. You should choose the best answer and mark its letter on your answer sheet.

A Example

Approximately how long is the Great Wall of China?

- A 5,000 miles
- B 8,000 miles
- C 10,000 miles
- D 13,000 miles
- E 15,000 miles

*The answer is **D**. The passage states that the Great Wall stretches over 13,000 miles across northern China.*

*The answer **D** has been marked on your answer sheet.*

Now try this practice question. You should choose the best answer and mark its letter on the answer sheet.

1 Practice

What was the primary purpose of the Great Wall of China when it was built?

- A To serve as a trade route.
- B To defend against invasions.
- C To mark territorial boundaries.
- D To promote tourism.
- E To display architectural prowess.

Now try this practice question about a literary device that is used in the passage.

2 Practice

What is the quote below an example of?

'winding up and down across mountains and plateaus like a dragon.'

(Lines 2–3)

- A Alliteration
- B Onomatopoeia
- C Simile
- D Metaphor
- E Personification

In this next type of question, you have to choose the **best word**, or **group of words**, to complete the sentence so that it makes sense and is written in correct English. You should choose one of the five answers and mark its letter on the answer sheet.

B Example

The scientist's groundbreaking research provided a new

perspective	illusion	mirage	obstacle	hindrance
A	B	C	D	E

on the causes of climate change.

*The answer is **A** because 'perspective' is the word that makes the most sense in the sentence as a whole.*

Now try this practice question. Choose the best word to complete the sentence so that it makes sense and is written in correct English. Mark its letter on the answer sheet.

3 Practice

The ancient ruins were a

abstract	fleeting	vague	distant	negligible
A	B	C	D	E

reminder of the once-great civilisation that inhabited the area.

In this type of question, you have to identify a spelling or punctuation error in a sentence. Take a look at **Example C** below.

In each sentence, there may be a spelling mistake. Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark its letter on your answer sheet. If there is no mistake, mark N.

C Example

The scientist's theory was met with scepticism by her peers.

A	B	C	D
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*The word 'scepticism' is spelt incorrectly. Therefore the answer is **C**.*

*The answer **C** has been marked on the answer sheet.*

Now try this practice question. In each sentence, there may be an error in the use of capital letters or punctuation. Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark its letter on your answer sheet. If there is no mistake, mark N.

4 Practice

We travelled to paris, via the Eurostar train from London.

A	B	C	D
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END OF PRACTICE SECTION

The English test begins on the next page.

- You have 25 minutes to complete the English test.
- There are 25 questions to answer.
- Your time will start when you turn over the page.
- Do not turn over the page until you are told to do so.

English

(25 minutes)

Read this passage carefully and then answer the questions that follow.

***Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson**

The appearance of the island when I came on deck next morning was altogether changed. Although the breeze had now utterly ceased, we had made a great deal of way during the night and were now lying becalmed about half a mile to the south-east of the low eastern coast. Grey-coloured woods covered a large part of the surface. This
5 even tint was indeed broken up by streaks of yellow sand-break in the lower lands, and by many tall trees of the pine family, out-topping the others—some singly, some in clumps; but the general colouring was uniform and sad. The hills ran up clear above the vegetation in spires of naked rock. All were strangely shaped, and the Spy-glass, which was by three or four hundred feet the tallest on the island, was likewise the strangest in
10 configuration, running up sheer from almost every side and then suddenly cut off at the top like a pedestal to put a statue on.

The Hispaniola was rolling scuppers under in the ocean swell. The booms were tearing at the blocks, the rudder was banging to and fro, and the whole ship creaking, groaning, and jumping like a manufactory. I had to cling tight to the backstay, and the world turned
15 giddily before my eyes, for though I was a good enough sailor when there was way on, this standing still and being rolled about like a bottle was a thing I never learned to stand without a qualm or so, above all in the morning, on an empty stomach.

Perhaps it was this—perhaps it was the look of the island, with its grey, melancholy woods, and wild stone spires, and the surf that we could both see and hear foaming and
20 thundering on the steep beach—at least, although the sun shone bright and hot, and the shore birds were fishing and crying all around us, and you would have thought anyone would have been glad to get to land after being so long at sea, my heart sank, as the saying is, into my boots; and from the first look onward, I hated the very thought of Treasure Island.

25 We had a dreary morning's work before us, for there was no sign of any wind, and the boats had to be got out and manned, and the ship warped three or four miles round the corner of the island and up the narrow passage to the haven behind Skeleton Island. I volunteered for one of the boats, where I had, of course, no business. The heat was sweltering, and the men grumbled fiercely over their work. Anderson was in command of
30 my boat, and instead of keeping the crew in order, he grumbled as loud as the worst. "Well," he said with an oath, "it's not forever."

I thought this was a very bad sign, for up to that day the men had gone briskly and willingly about their business; but the very sight of the island had relaxed the cords of discipline.

35 All the way in, Long John stood by the steersman and conned the ship. He knew the passage like the palm of his hand, and though the man in the chains got everywhere more water than was down in the chart, John never hesitated once.

“There’s a strong scour with the ebb,” he said, “and this here passage has been dug out, in a manner of speaking, with a spade.”

40 We brought up just where the anchor was in the chart, about a third of a mile from each shore, the mainland on one side and Skeleton Island on the other. The bottom was clean sand. The plunge of our anchor sent up clouds of birds wheeling and crying over the woods, but in less than a minute they were down again and all was once more silent.

The place was entirely land-locked, buried in woods, the trees coming right down to
45 high-water mark, the shores mostly flat, and the hilltops standing round at a distance in a sort of amphitheatre, one here, one there. Two little rivers, or rather two swamps, emptied out into this pond, as you might call it; and the foliage round that part of the shore had a kind of poisonous brightness. From the ship we could see nothing of the house or stockade, for they were quite buried among trees; and if it had not been for the chart

50 on the companion, we might have been the first that had ever anchored there since the island arose out of the seas.

There was not a breath of air moving, nor a sound but that of the surf booming half a mile away along the beaches and against the rocks outside. A peculiar stagnant smell hung over the anchorage—a smell of sodden leaves and rotting tree trunks. I observed the
55 doctor sniffing and sniffing, like someone tasting a bad egg.

“I don’t know about treasure,” he said, “but I’ll stake my wig there’s fever here.”

Answer these questions. Look at the passage again if you need to. You should choose the best answer and mark its letter on your answer sheet.

- 1 What is the position of the ship when Jim came on deck the next morning?
- A Anchored near the western coast.
 - B About half a mile to the south-east of the low eastern coast.
 - C Sailing swiftly along the northern shore.
 - D Docked at a bustling port.
 - E Moored beside a sandy beach.
- 2 Choose a synonym for the word '**becalmed**', in the context of the passage.
- A anchored
 - B stranded
 - C motionless
 - D damaged
 - E rapid
- 3 What does the phrase '**spires of naked rock**' suggest about the hills? (Line 8)
- A They are covered in thick vegetation.
 - B They are smooth and rounded.
 - C They are made of soft soil.
 - D They are covered in thick snow.
 - E They are tall, pointed and bare.

- 4 What is described in the extract as **'running up sheer from almost every side and then suddenly cut off at the top like a pedestal to put a statue on'**?
- A The grey-coloured woods
 - B The yellow sand-breaks
 - C The tall pine trees
 - D The Spy-glass hill
 - E The ship's mast
- 5 What can be inferred about the author's first impression of the island?
- A Excited and eager to explore.
 - B Indifferent and uninterested.
 - C Fearful and anxious.
 - D Disappointed by its size.
 - E Disgusted by the smell.
- 6 What is the quote below an example of?
'being rolled about like a bottle' (Line 16)
- A alliteration
 - B simile
 - C personification
 - D onomatopoeia
 - E metaphor

- 7 What was the crew's task in the morning?
- A Exploring the island and starting a fire.
 - B Repairing the ship and replenishing stock.
 - C Fishing for food.
 - D Boats manned and the ship warped.
 - E Mapping the coastline.
- 8 Who was in command of the boat the author worked on?
- A The captain
 - B The steersman
 - C Anderson
 - D John
 - E Jim
- 9 What does the word '**conned**' mean in the context:
'Long John stood by the steersman and conned the ship'?
- A deceived
 - B navigated
 - C repaired
 - D cleaned
 - E crashed

- 10 What action does the plunge of the anchor cause?
- A The birds to fly up over the woods.
 - B Clouds of sand to engulf the boat.
 - C The trees come down.
 - D It turns the rivers into swamps.
 - E It buries the house amongst the trees.
- 11 What do you think is meant by, '**the foliage round that part of the shore had a kind of poisonous brightness**'?
- A The vegetation appeared unusually vibrant, almost suggesting it might be toxic or dangerous.
 - B The plants were emitting a bright light, indicating the presence of bioluminescence.
 - C The foliage was glowing due to the reflection of the setting sun.
 - D The leaves had a metallic sheen, implying they were covered in a harmful substance.
 - E The plants were wilting and discoloured, showing signs of being poisoned.
- 12 Choose an antonym for the word '**stagnant**'.
- A flowing
 - B frozen
 - C still
 - D smelly
 - E fragrant

13 What observation did the doctor make about the anchorage?

- A He believed it was an ideal spot for treasure hunting.
- B He suspected the area might be prone to fever.
- C He thought the water was too shallow for anchoring.
- D He noticed abundant wildlife in the vicinity.
- E He felt the anchorage was well protected from storms.

Spelling

In these sentences there are some **spelling** mistakes.

On each numbered line there is either **one** mistake or no mistake.

Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark its letter on your answer sheet. **If there is no mistake, mark N.**

14 The politician's speech was filled with ambiguities that left

A	B	C
----------	----------	----------

the audience confused.

D

15 *The miscelaneous items in the drawer included pens, paperclips

A	B	C
----------	----------	----------

and old receipts.*

D

16 The entrepreneur launched a successful startup in the

A	B	C
----------	----------	----------

technology industry.

D

17 The garden was a stunning display of floresent beauty, with

A	B	C
----------	----------	----------

every plant in full bloom.

D

Punctuation

In these sentences there are some **punctuation** mistakes.

On each numbered line there is either **one** mistake or no mistake.

Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark its letter on your answer sheet. **If there is no mistake, mark N.**

18 "Are we really going to climb that mountain," asked Sarah, her

A	B	C
----------	----------	----------

eyes wide with excitement.

D

19 The old mansion – abandoned for decades – stood at the end of the

A	B	C
----------	----------	----------

eerie, fog-covered lane.

D

20 Emily, Jack and Liam (who had been friends since nursery) decided to

A	B	C
----------	----------	----------

start a band.

D

21 She had three goals for the day: finish her essay practise the piano

A	B	C
----------	----------	----------

and read a new book.

D

Sentence Completion

In this passage you must choose the **best** word, or **group of words**, to complete each numbered line so that it makes sense and is written in correct English.

Choose the **best** answer and mark it on your answer sheet.

- 22 The artist's latest painting was a

chaotic	harmonious	discordant
---------	------------	------------

A B C
- | | |
|------------|-------|
| monotonous | bland |
|------------|-------|

 blend of colours and textures, captivating all who viewed it.
D E
- 23 Despite the team's best efforts, the project remained

incomplete	flawless
------------	----------

A B
- | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| accelerated | successful | profitable |
|-------------|------------|------------|

 due to unforeseen challenges.
C D E
- 24 The novel's protagonist faced a moral

certainty	solution	clarity
-----------	----------	---------

A B C
- | | |
|------------|---------|
| resolution | dilemma |
|------------|---------|

 that tested his integrity and values.
D E
- 25 The athlete's

sporadic	occasional	halfhearted	unwavering	indifferent
----------	------------	-------------	------------	-------------

A B C D E
- dedication to training resulted in her winning the championship.

END OF ENGLISH TEST
DO NOT TURN OVER THE PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

Verbal Reasoning Practice Section

(10 minutes)

This practice section gives an example of the sort of questions you will be faced with in this test, with the correct answer filled in on the answer sheet so that you can see how to do it.

There are also some practice questions that don't have the answers filled in, so that you can practise working them out for yourself and filling in the answer sheet.

In the questions below, find the **two** words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning. Select the **two** words from the options below.

Mark the letters on your answer sheet.

A Example

(persuasive obstinate reliable) (compliant enthusiastic stubborn)

A. persuasive

X. compliant

B. obstinate

Y. enthusiastic

C. reliable

Z. stubborn

The answer is **B. obstinate** and **Z. stubborn**. Both words describe someone who is unwilling to change their opinion or action, despite persuasion.

These letters have been marked on your answer sheet.

Now try the practice questions and mark your answers on the answer sheet.

1 Practice

(concerned precise patient) (meticulous careless lenient)

A. concerned

X. meticulous

B. precise

Y. careless

C. patient

Z. lenient

2 Practice

(vivid authentic ostentatious) (intense earnestly jovially)

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| A. vivid | X. intense |
| B. authentic | Y. earnestly |
| C. ostentatious | Z. jovially |

In the questions below, find the **two** words, one from each group, that are most opposite in meaning. Select the **two** words from the options below.

Mark the letters on your answer sheet.

B Example

(reluctant hare bold) (logical hesitant irrational)

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| A. reluctant | X. logical |
| B. hare | Y. hesitant |
| C. bold | Z. irrational |

The answer is **C. bold** and **Y. hesitant**. 'Bold' means confident and willing to take risks, whilst 'hesitant' means unsure and reluctant.

These letters have been marked on your answer sheet.

Now try the practice questions and mark your answers on the answer sheet.

3 Practice

(scarce abundant ordinary) (dull cautious plentiful)

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| A. scarce | X. dull |
| B. abundant | Y. cautious |
| C. ordinary | Z. plentiful |

4 Practice

(maintain expand restrict)

(hostile limit apathetic)

A. maintain

X. hostile

B. expand

Y. limit

C. restrict

Z. apathetic

In the questions below, find the number that continues the series in the most sensible way.

Mark your answer on the answer sheet.

C Example

5, 10, 20, 40, 80, ?

A. 100

B. 120

C. 140

D. 160

E. 180

The answer is **D**. The rule is that the number doubles each time.

This has been marked on your answer sheet.

Now try the practice questions and mark your answers on the answer sheet.

5 Practice

670, 334, 166, 82, 40, ?

A. 17

B. 22

C. 18

D. 20

E. 19

6 Practice

18, 3, 27, 5, 36, ?

A. 45

B. 9

C. 7

D. 38

E. 11

In the questions below, move **one** letter from the word on the left to the word on the right, to create **two** new words. The letters **must not** be rearranged. Both new words must make sense. Choose the letter that moves. **Mark your answer on the answer sheet.**

D Example

crate old

A. c B. r C. a D. t E. e

The answer is **A**. The 'c' is moved to create the two new words, 'rate' and 'cold'.

This has been marked on your answer sheet.

Now try the practice questions and mark your answers on the answer sheet.

7 Practice

brink read

A. b B. r C. i D. n E. k

8 Practice

timber road

A. t B. i C. m D. b E. r

END OF PRACTICE SECTION

The Verbal Reasoning test begins on the next page.

- You have 20 minutes to complete the Verbal Reasoning test.
- There are 32 questions to answer.
- Your time will start when you turn over the page.
- Do not turn over the page until you are told to do so.

Verbal Reasoning

(20 minutes)

In the questions below, move **one** letter from the word on the left to the word on the right, to create **two** new words. The letters **must not** be rearranged. Both new words must make sense. Choose the letter that moves. **Mark your answer on the answer sheet.**

- 1** place sort
A. p B. l C. a D. c E. e
- 2** stone hand
A. s B. t C. o D. n E. e
- 3** space door
A. s B. p C. a D. c E. e
- 4** beaker plum
A. b B. e C. a D. k E. r
- 5** rifle below
A. r B. i C. f D. l E. e
- 6** cover bawl
A. c B. o C. v D. e E. r
- 7** factor ray
A. f B. a C. c D. t E. o

In the questions below, one word in capitals has had **three consecutive letters taken out**. These three letters on their own make **one correctly spelt word**, without changing the order. Choose the three-letter word from the options below.

8 Elsie was relieved that everyone was so FRILY on her first day at the new school.

- A. and B. can C. end D. ten E. tan

9 Joseph enjoyed WALG the dogs early each morning.

- A. tin B. ran C. pin D. kin E. pan

10 Our new house has a lot of STOE space.

- A. rag B. ink C. pea D. tea E. bag

11 It took a lot of CAGE to admit he had made a mistake.

- A. air B. our C. ear D. far E. are

12 We keep our toothbrushes and toothpaste in the CAET above the sink.

- A. ran B. tin C. bin D. man E. hat

13 In the DISCE, Audrey could hear birdsong.

- A. bed B. cat C. end D. tat E. tan

14 The house was NOLE for its large garden and bright front door.

- A. can B. lab C. tab D. ban E. bad

In the questions below, find the **two** words, one from each group, that are most similar in meaning. Select the **two** words from the options below.

15 (cascade dissatisfied rain) (content course dribble)

A. cascade

X. content

B. dissatisfied

Y. course

C. rain

Z. dribble

16 (aid assist prevent) (hinder conclusion encapsulate)

A. aid

X. hinder

B. assist

Y. conclusion

C. prevent

Z. encapsulate

17 (despondent effervescent unfortunate) (achievement euphoric exuberance)

A. despondent

X. achievement

B. effervescent

Y. euphoric

C. unfortunate

Z. exuberance

- 18** (weary bore hind) (perforate tedious exhilarate)
- A. weary X. perforate
- B. bore Y. tedious
- C. hind Z. exhilarate
-
- 19** (depletion amiable amplification) (multiplies augmentation continual)
- A. depletion X. multiplies
- B. amiable Y. augmentation
- C. amplification Z. continual
-
- 20** (unfortunate greatly deplorably) (fatigued cruelly lamentably)
- A. unfortunate X. fatigued
- B. greatly Y. cruelly
- C. deplorably Z. lamentably

In the questions below, find the **two** words, one from each group, that are most opposite in meaning. Select the **two** words from the options below.

21 (fervent apathetic manifest) (enthusiastically avid reveal)

A. fervent

X. enthusiastically

B. apathetic

Y. avid

C. manifest

Z. reveal

22 (coherent distinctly cryptic) (explicit blemished void)

A. coherent

X. explicit

B. distinctly

Y. blemished

C. cryptic

Z. void

23 (financial affluent indifferent) (prosperous integrates impoverished)

A. financial

X. prosperous

B. affluent

Y. integrates

C. indifferent

Z. impoverished

24 (strenuous perpetual persist) (unique arduous effortless)

A. strenuous

X. unique

B. perpetual

Y. arduous

C. persist

Z. effortless

25 (favourable optimist constant) (quench adverse conclusion)

A. favourable

X. quench

B. optimist

Y. adverse

C. constant

Z. conclusion

26 (placid excitable tranquility) (privacy isolation commotion)

A. placid

X. privacy

B. excitable

Y. isolation

C. tranquility

Z. commotion

In the questions below, find the number that continues the series in the most sensible way. **Mark your answer on the answer sheet.**

27 38, 45, 52, 59, 66, 73, ?

- A. 79 B. 81 C. 77 D. 80 E. 78

28 112, 172, 222, 262, 292, ?

- A. 312 B. 302 C. 310 D. 322 E. 332

29 4, 11, 25, 53, 109, ?

- A. 221 B. 184 C. 233 D. 176 E. 152

30 55, 44, 32, 19, 5, ?

- A. 1 B. -10 C. -15 D. -8 E. 14

31 8, 27, 64, 125, 216, ?

- A. 325 B. 289 C. 343 D. 401 E. 309

Read the following information, then find the correct answer and mark its letter on your answer sheet.

32 Read the statements below and then choose one option that must be true.

Rome is the capital city of Italy. Italy is in Europe.

- A. Spain is in Europe.
B. The euro is the currency used in Europe.
C. People from Italy speak Italian.
D. Rome is a European city.
E. Italy is famous for its pizza.

END OF VERBAL REASONING TEST.

