

GL Buckinghamshire Mock 3 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 sheets 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 Keeper of the Light

- 1 The lighthouse had stood at the cliff's edge for over a century, its white walls bleached
2 pale as bone by the salt wind. Every evening, old Maren climbed the spiral staircase
3 alone, her knees aching with the familiar effort. She did not mind. The moment the great
4 lamp blazed to life, flooding the dark water below with gold, the tiredness left her
5 entirely. Ships crept past in the distance like slow thoughts, and Maren watched each
6 one until it vanished into the horizon. She had never once let the light go out.

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

What does the final sentence suggest about Maren?

- A She is afraid of the dark.
- B She enjoys watching ships for entertainment.
- C She is deeply dedicated to her duty.
- D She has worked at the lighthouse for only a few years.
- E She is lonely and wishes for company.

*The answer is **C**. The last sentence suggests she loves her work and is dedicated to her duties at the lighthouse.*

*The answer **C** 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

'Its white walls bleached pale as bone by the salt wind.'

What literary device is used in this phrase?

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

2 Practice

What does the word '**bleached**' mean, as it is used in the passage?

- A Crumbled
- B Darkened in colour
- C Polished
- D Strengthened
- E Drained of colour

In this 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 sudden flash of lightning

calmed	dazzled	organised
--------	---------	-----------

A B C

collected	rested
-----------	--------

 everyone in the room.
D E

*The answer is **B** because 'dazzled' 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

He

eagerly	cheerfully	reluctantly	rapid	frequently
---------	------------	-------------	-------	------------

A B C D E

agreed to tidy his room after being asked three times by his mother.

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

We booked our accomodation in advance to avoid disappointment.

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

*The answer **B** 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

The scientist carefully measured the temperature of the solution.

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

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.

***The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur Conan Doyle.**

Sir Henry Baskerville and Dr. Mortimer were ready upon the appointed day, and we started as arranged for Devonshire. Mr. Sherlock Holmes drove with me to the station and gave me his last parting injunctions and advice.

5 "I will not bias your mind by suggesting theories or suspicions, Watson," said he; "I wish you simply to report facts in the fullest possible manner to me, and you can leave me to do the theorizing."

"What sort of facts?" I asked.

"Anything which may seem to have a bearing however indirect upon the case, and especially the relations between young Baskerville and his neighbours or any fresh
10 particulars concerning the death of Sir Charles. I have made some inquiries myself in the last few days, but the results have, I fear, been negative. One thing only appears to be certain, and that is that Mr. James Desmond, who is the next heir, is an elderly gentleman of a very amiable disposition, so that this persecution does not arise from him. I really think that we may eliminate him entirely from our calculations. There remain the people who
15 will actually surround Sir Henry Baskerville upon the moor."

"Would it not be well in the first place to get rid of this Barrymore couple?"

"By no means. You could not make a greater mistake. If they are innocent it would be a cruel injustice, and if they are guilty we should be giving up all chance of bringing it home to them. No, no, we will preserve them upon our list of suspects. Then there is a groom at
20 the Hall, if I remember right. There are two moorland farmers. There is our friend Dr. Mortimer, whom I believe to be entirely honest, and there is his wife, of whom we know nothing. There is this naturalist, Stapleton, and there is his sister, who is said to be a young lady of attractions. There is Mr. Frankland, of Laffer Hall, who is also an unknown factor, and there are one or two other neighbours. These are the folk who must be your very
25 special study."

"I will do my best."

"You have arms, I suppose?"

"Yes, I thought it as well to take them."

"Most certainly. Keep your revolver near you night and day, and never relax your
30 precautions."

Our friends had already secured a first-class carriage and were waiting for us upon the

platform.

"No, we have no news of any kind," said Dr. Mortimer in answer to my friend's questions.

"I can swear to one thing, and that is that we have not been shadowed during the last
35 two days. We have never gone out without keeping a sharp watch, and no one could
have escaped our notice."

"You have always kept together, I presume?"

"Except yesterday afternoon. I usually give up one day to pure amusement when I come
to town, so I spent it at the Museum of the College of Surgeons."

40 "And I went to look at the folk in the park," said Baskerville.

"But we had no trouble of any kind."

"It was imprudent, all the same," said Holmes, shaking his head and looking very grave.

"I beg, Sir Henry, that you will not go about alone. Some great misfortune will befall you if
you do. Did you get your other boot?"

45 "No, sir, it is gone forever."

"Indeed. That is very interesting. Well, good-bye," he added as the train began to glide
down the platform. "Bear in mind, Sir Henry, one of the phrases in that queer old legend
which Dr. Mortimer has read to us, and avoid the moor in those hours of darkness when
the powers of evil are exalted."

50 I looked back at the platform when we had left it far behind and saw the tall, austere
figure of Holmes standing motionless and gazing after us.

The journey was a swift and pleasant one, and I spent it in making the more intimate
acquaintance of my two companions and in playing with Dr. Mortimer's spaniel. In a very
few hours the brown earth had become ruddy, the brick had changed to granite, and

55 red cows grazed in well-hedged fields where the lush grasses and more luxuriant
vegetation spoke of a richer, if a damper, climate. Young Baskerville stared eagerly out
of the window and cried aloud with delight as he recognized the familiar features of the
Devon scenery.

"I've been over a good part of the world since I left it, Dr. Watson," said he; "but I have
60 never seen a place to compare with it."

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** Where are Sir Henry Baskerville and Dr. Mortimer travelling to?
- A London
 - B Baker Street
 - C Devonshire
 - D Cornwall
 - E Yorkshire
- 2** What does the word '**bias**' mean? (Line 4)
- A Purposely confuse
 - B Unfairly influence
 - C Mislead into danger
 - D Distract
 - E Frighten
- 3** What does Holmes ask Watson to do, rather than suggesting theories himself?
- A Investigate Stapleton independently.
 - B Follow Sir Henry at all times.
 - C Interview all the neighbours on the moor.
 - D Keep a written diary of events.
 - E Report facts as fully as possible.

- 4** Why does Holmes say they can 'eliminate' James Desmond from their calculations? (Lines 11-14)
- A He has a confirmed alibi.
 - B He is too old and fragile to carry out the persecution.
 - C He has already been arrested for the crime.
 - D He is described as having a pleasant, gentle character.
 - E He is not related to the Baskerville family.
- 5** Why does Holmes refuse Watson's suggestion to dismiss the Barrymore couple?
- A They have already confessed to suspicious behaviour.
 - B Sir Henry has forbidden it.
 - C If they are guilty, sending them away would remove all chance of proving it.
 - D They are needed to run the Hall.
 - E Holmes believes they are innocent.
- 6** Choose a synonym for the word '**amiable**', in the context of the passage. (Line 13)
- A Unfriendly
 - B Affable
 - C Cogent
 - D Tenacious
 - E Impeccable

- 7 Holmes lists several people as 'suspects' for Watson to study. What does this suggest about Holmes's approach to the case?
- A He is panicking and suspecting everyone randomly.
 - B He has already identified the guilty person.
 - C He believes the threat is not serious.
 - D He is methodical and rules no one out without evidence.
 - E He trusts Watson to make the final decision.
- 8 What does Holmes tell Watson to keep near him 'night and day'? (Line 29)
- A A notebook
 - B A telegraph machine
 - C A lantern
 - D His revolver
 - E A copy of the Baskerville legend
- 9 Holmes describes Stapleton's sister as '**a young lady of attractions**'. What does the word '**attractions**' most likely mean here? (Line 23)
- A Good looks and charm.
 - B The ability to draw large crowds.
 - C A talent for entertaining others.
 - D Wealth and social status.
 - E A mysterious and dangerous nature.

- 10** Choose an antonym for the word '**imprudent**', in the context of the passage. (Line 42)
- A Judicious
 - B Reckless
 - C Intrepid
 - D Tentative
 - E Proclaim
- 11** Holmes warns Sir Henry to 'avoid the moor in those hours of darkness when the powers of evil are exalted'. What effect does this warning create?
- A It suggests Holmes does not believe in the legend at all.
 - B It creates a sense of supernatural dread and foreboding.
 - C It reassures Sir Henry that the danger is predictable.
 - D It implies Holmes knows exactly when an attack will happen.
 - E It suggests the moor is only dangerous at certain times of year.
- 12** Throughout this extract, Holmes repeatedly emphasises safety and caution. What theme does this most strongly suggest?
- A The importance of friendship and kindness.
 - B The conflict between science and superstition.
 - C The constant presence of danger and the need for vigilance.
 - D The beauty of the English countryside.
 - E The unreliability of Watson as a narrator.

- 13** Sir Henry says he has 'never seen a place to compare' with Devon. How does this moment contrast with the mood Holmes created at the station?
- A It confirms Holmes's fears that Sir Henry is careless about danger.
 - B It suggests Sir Henry will refuse to follow Holmes's advice.
 - C It shows that Devon is genuinely safer than Holmes believed.
 - D It implies Watson is becoming too relaxed about the case.
 - E It creates a contrast between innocent joy, and the dark threat that surrounds Sir Henry.

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 accident occured at the junction near the school.

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

15 It is not always neccessary to complete every section of the form.

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

16 She was delighted to recieve a letter from her pen pal.

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

17 The committee agreed that the decision was unanimous.

A	B	C	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** The team celebrated it's victory with a parade through

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

the town centre.

D

- 19** After the match we headed straight to the café for lunch.

A	B	C	D
----------	----------	----------	----------
- 20** The journey – longer than expected – had left everyone exhausted.

A	B	C	D
----------	----------	----------	----------
- 21** "What time does the movie start tonight" Matilda asked

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

her father excitedly.

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 coach praised the team for their

laziness	carelessness	distraction
----------	--------------	-------------

A B C
- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| perseverance | confusion |
|--------------|-----------|

 after such a difficult season.
D E

- 23** Fresh water was

abundant	scarce	polluted	pleasant	useful
----------	--------	----------	----------	--------

A B C D E
- in the desert, so they had to ration what little they had.

- 24** Before publishing the article, the journalist needed to

ignore	recite
--------	--------

A B
- | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| invent | delete | verify |
|--------|--------|--------|

 every fact carefully.
C D E

- 25** The old bridge was considered

attractive	historic	sturdy
------------	----------	--------

A B C
- | | |
|--------|---------|
| unsafe | popular |
|--------|---------|

 and was closed to traffic.
D E

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 these questions, you need to work out the correct word to complete the sentence. The word on the left in bold, is a clue. It rhymes with a synonym of the missing word, but not the word itself. **Mark your answer on the answer sheet.**

A Example

violent The librarian asked everyone to remain _____.

A. noisy B. calm C. quiet D. silent E. loud

1 Practice

lighten The cave was so dark they needed to _____ it.

A. brighten B. decorate C. explore D. illuminate E. darken

2 Practice

sneer The crowd began to _____ at the comedian.

A. laugh B. mock C. jeer D. clap E. heckle

In each question, find one letter that will complete the word in front of the brackets and begin the word after the brackets. The same letter must fit into both sets of brackets.

Mark your answer on the answer sheet.

B Example

JUNGL (____) AGL

KARAT (____) NGINE

A. A

B. E

C. I

D. O

E. U

3 Practice

GARDE (____) AP

PLAI (____) EEDLE

A. M

B. N

C. D

D. R

E. T

4 Practice

BRIDG (____) ASE

HORS (____) RADICATE

A. A

B. I

C. E

D. O

E. U

In each question, there are three pairs of words. Complete the third pair so they have the same connection as the first two pairs. **Mark your answer on the answer sheet.**

C Example

(chatty, cat) (planet, pan) (shears, ____)

A. sea

B. ash

C. rash

D. her

E. she

5 Practice

(training, rain) (grinding, rind) (bringing, ____)

A. grin

B. rig

C. ring

D. bring

E. brig

6 Practice

(flanked, led) (blanket, let) (cranked, _____)

A. red B. ran C. can D. end E. crane

In each question, there are two pairs of words. You must select a word from the options below that will go equally well with both pairs. **Mark your answer on the answer sheet.**

D Example

(festival, carnival) (just, reasonable)

A. equal B. honest C. proper D. fair E. balanced

7 Practice

(dismiss, remove) (shoot, launch)

A. fire B. reject C. ignite D. spark E. release

8 Practice

(skill, talent) (present, donation)

A. ability B. reward C. offering D. endowment E. gift

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 these questions, you need to work out the correct word to complete the sentence. The word on the left in bold, is a clue. It rhymes with a synonym of the missing word, but not the word itself. **Mark your answer on the answer sheet.**

- 1 glare** The visitors stopped to _____ at the impressive castle.
- A. inspect B. ignore C. gaze D. admire E. stare
- 2 moan** The child began to _____ about the long journey.
- A. explain B. laugh C. grumble D. groan E. sing
- 3 steep** The burglar tried to _____ into the house unnoticed.
- A. rush B. escape C. creep D. sneak E. enter
- 4 dreary** The long hike left the children feeling _____.
- A. exhausted B. lively C. weary D. tired E. cheerful
- 5 broom** The flowers began to _____ in early spring.
- A. bloom B. blossom C. grow D. pollinate E. wilt
- 6 snow** The stars seemed to _____ brightly overhead.
- A. sparkle B. disappear C. shadow D. glow E. appear
- 7 tearful** The children remained _____ despite the rain.
- A. patient B. excited C. cheerful D. upbeat E. melancholy

In each question, find one letter that will complete the word in front of the brackets and begin the word after the brackets. The same letter must fit into both sets of brackets.

Mark your answer on the answer sheet.

- 8** RADI (___) PERA HER (___) BEY
- A. A B. C C. O D. U E. D
-
- 9** LEMO (___) EST CAPTAI (___) UMBER
- A. T B. L C. S D. M E. N
-
- 10** PIAN (___) ASIS FLAMING (___) RCHESTRA
- A. O B. N C. I D. S E. F
-
- 11** PAINTE (___) OUND SOLA (___) OBOT
- A. D B. R C. S D. T E. W
-
- 12** BANNE (___) OCKET ACTO (___) ABBIT
- A. D B. S C. R D. T E. W
-
- 13** JOURNA (___) IME ANIMA (___) ANTERN
- A. N B. R C. T D. L E. B
-
- 14** CLAS (___) EAT FIS (___) OPE
- A. P B. H C. M D. S E. T

In each question, there are three pairs of words. Complete the third pair so they have the same connection as the first two pairs. **Mark your answer on the answer sheet.**

15 (cattle, ate) (throat, hot) (attire, _____)

A. tie B. tea C. art D. rat E. tar

16 (chamber, cab) (channel, can) (chapter, _____)

A. cap B. hat C. cat D. art E. ate

17 (dominate, one) (computer, our) (hospital, _____)

A. his B. lit C. sat D. oil E. pit

18 (footage, foe) (freckle, fee) (flatter, _____)

A. ate B. art C. fat D. let E. far

19 (address, adds) (bandage, bang) (ballads, _____)

A. bold B. bald C. ball D. balm E. band

20 (ancient, cent) (backlog, clog) (airfare, _____)

A. bare B. hare C. rare D. fare E. fair

21 (husband, hand) (setback, sack) (pendant, _____)

A. pact B. want C. pant D. pent E. ant

In each question, there are two pairs of words. You must select a word from the options below that will go equally well with both pairs. **Mark your answer on the answer sheet.**

22 (tournament, contest)

(equal, correspond)

A. rival

B. balance

C. pair

D. match

E. same

23 (mistake, error)

(blame, responsibility)

A. defect

B. fault

C. apology

D. offence

E. accident

24 (support, assist)

(help, relief)

A. service

B. aid

C. favour

D. guidance

E. rescue

25 (border, edge)

(advantage, benefit)

A. margin

B. boundary

C. profit

D. outline

E. side

26 (observe, watch)

(guard, protect)

A. defend

B. inspect

C. supervise

D. patrol

E. monitor

The words in these questions below are a jumbled sentence with one extra word. Identify the superfluous word from the sentence. **Mark your answer on the answer sheet.**

27 borrowed fascinating paperback from yesterday library I the a novel

A. paperback

B. library

C. fascinating

D. yesterday

E. borrowed

28 after brightly colourful storm rainbow appeared suddenly the the

A. brightly

B. colourful

C. storm

D. appeared

E. rainbow

- 29** carefully microscope scientist test under the fragile the examined specimen a
- A. microscope B. examined C. test D. specimen E. scientist
- 30** weary reached the mountain the eventually climbs summit hikers
- A. weary B. mountain C. reached D. climbs E. summit
- 31** beautifully audience tonight the performed musical before orchestra the
- A. performed B. audience C. musical D. tonight E. orchestra
- 32** Priya, Marcus, Zoe and Theo have been given their scores in a spelling test. Marcus scored twice as many points as Zoe. Priya scored 5 points more than Marcus. Theo scored 16 points, which was 4 more than Marcus.
- Which statement is true?
- A. Zoe scored 8 points.
- B. Marcus and Zoe scored 20 points between them.
- C. Priya scored the most points.
- D. Theo scored 3 more points than Priya.
- E. Zoe scored 5 fewer points than Theo.

END OF VERBAL REASONING TEST.

