Free GL-style 11+ Mini-Mock: answers and explanations

For parents. Keep this away from your child until the mock is finished.

About this taster. A short sample of the question types in the GL-style 11+ test used for the Buckinghamshire Secondary Transfer Test. It is much shorter than the real test, so the score is only a rough guide and cannot predict a result or be turned into a standardised score.

How to mark. One mark per question. A question left blank scores 0, and a question with more than one lozenge marked scores 0. There is no negative marking. Keep a note of how many questions in each section were not attempted, as well as how many were wrong.
What the score means. These are raw practice marks. They are not Buckinghamshire standardised scores and cannot be converted into one: real scores are age-standardised against everyone who sat the live test. Use the result to find topics to practise, not to predict a pass.

Section	Q	Answer	Topic	Explanation
EN	1	**A**	Comprehension: retrieval	Correct answer: inside a book about sailing ships. She opened "a fat, dusty book about sailing ships" and "a folded piece of paper slid out".
EN	2	**C**	Comprehension: inference	Correct answer: It showed very few houses in the town. Sam says, "But look how few houses there are. This must be ancient." The town has grown since the map was drawn.
EN	3	**E**	Comprehension: language	Correct answer: Reading can lead you to new places and ideas. A door leads somewhere new. She meant that opening a book takes you into new worlds, which fits with the notebook of stories she left behind.
EN	4	**D**	Comprehension: vocabulary	Correct answer: worn and damaged. The notebook had been buried in a rusty tin box for many years, so "battered" means old, worn and damaged.
EN	5	**B**	Comprehension: inference	Correct answer: He had become lost in the stories. He was disappointed "for a moment", but once he "turned the first page" he kept reading, which shows the stories had gripped him.
EN	6	**B**	Spelling	The mistake is in group B. "hiden" should be "hidden", with a double d.
EN	7	**C**	Punctuation	The mistake is in group C. The umbrella belongs to their mother, so it needs an apostrophe: "mother's umbrella".
EN	8	**E**	Grammar	Correct answer: much. We say "much heavier". "More heavier" and "very heavier" are wrong because "heavier" already does the comparing.
VR	1	**C**	Compound words	sauce + pan = saucepan.
VR	2	**D**	hiddenWord	The hidden word is "seat": house | at. Read across the gap between the two words.
VR	3	**A**	Word analogies	The Earth is a planet; the Sun is a star.
VR	4	**B**	Word-letter codes	Each letter moves 2 places back in the alphabet.
VR	5	**B**	Number series	The rule is: two series are interleaved: one adds 5, the other subtracts 4. The next number is 46.
VR	6	**E**	moveLetter	Move "y": party becomes "part" and man becomes "many".
NVR	1	**A**	Series	The arrow turns 90° clockwise each time, the small shape moves one corner clockwise, and the shading alternates.
NVR	2	**B**	Odd one out	The other four are the same figure turned round. The odd one out has been flipped over (it is a mirror image), and turning cannot make a mirror image.

NVR	3	**E**	Matrices	Each row keeps the same shape. Each column keeps the same shading and number of dots.
NVR	4	**B**	Cube nets	Faces opposite each other on the cube can never be seen together, and the three faces you can see must meet in the same order as on the folded net. Only one cube passes both checks.
MA	1	**E**	Rounding	To round to the nearest thousand, look at the hundreds digit: 5 or more rounds up, 4 or less rounds down. 87,571 rounds to 88,000. Watch out for 87,000: you get that if you round the wrong way.
MA	2	**A**	Money	Total cost £7.45. Change = £10.00 − £7.45 = £2.55. Watch out for £7.45: you get that if you give the total instead of change.
MA	3	**B**	Fractions of amounts	65 ÷ 5 = 13, then × 3 = 39. Watch out for 13: you get that if you find one part only.
MA	4	**D**	Perimeter	Perimeter = 12 + 7 + 12 + 7 = 38 cm. Watch out for 19 cm: you get that if you add only two sides.
MA	5	**A**	Percentages	75% of £160 is £120. £160 − £120 = £40. Watch out for £120: you get that if you give the reduction not the new price.
MA	6	**D**	Algebra	135 − 36 = 99. 99 ÷ 11 = 9. Watch out for 99: you get that if you forget to divide.
MA	7	**B**	Ratio	There are 4 + 7 = 11 parts. One part is 77 ÷ 11 = 7. Nadia gets 7 parts = 49. Watch out for 28: you get that if you give the other share.

Practice questions (not marked)

Section	Q	Answer	Topic	Explanation
EN	P1	**B**	Practice (not marked)	The mistake is in group B. "slowley" should be "slowly": slow + ly.
EN	P2	**B**	Practice (not marked)	The mistake is in group B. Items in a list need commas: "a map, a key, a note and an old coin".
VR	P1	**D**	Practice (not marked)	The first letters move 1 each time; the second letters move -1 each time.
MA	P1	**B**	Practice (not marked)	90 × 8 = 720 and 3 × 8 = 24. Total 744. Watch out for 734: you get that if you make a slip adding the two parts (it is 10 too few).

Topic index: what to practise after this mock

Circle the question numbers your child got wrong. Any topic with a circled number is worth a short practice session, using the matching topic pack and the worked solutions.

Topic	Questions
Algebra	MA 6
Compound words	VR 1
Comprehension: inference	EN 2, EN 5
Comprehension: language	EN 3
Comprehension: retrieval	EN 1
Comprehension: vocabulary	EN 4
Cube nets	NVR 4
Fractions of amounts	MA 3
Grammar	EN 8
Matrices	NVR 3
Money	MA 2

Number series	VR 5
Odd one out	NVR 2
Percentages	MA 5
Perimeter	MA 4
Punctuation	EN 7
Ratio	MA 7
Rounding	MA 1
Series	NVR 1
Spelling	EN 6
Word analogies	VR 3
Word-letter codes	VR 4
hiddenWord	VR 2
moveLetter	VR 6