Free Tiffin Boys-style 11+ Mini-Mock: answers and explanations

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

About this free taster. A short sample of the multiple-choice English and maths questions in Tiffin School's Stage One, written independently by Fair Eleven. It is much shorter than the real test and has no written papers, so the score is only a rough guide: it cannot be converted into the school's standardised scores or predict an offer. Tiffin School's admissions policy for entry in September 2027 describes Stage One as English and maths questions marked by computer, and Stage Two as written English and maths tests. Quest's parent guidance for the Tiffin School 11+ assessment sat in 2027 (which is for a later year of entry) also describes a written Stage 1 paper, so we include one for practice. The two sources cover different admissions years and formats can change, so **check the exact guidance for your child's intended year of entry**.

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 Tiffin School 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	**B**	Comprehension: retrieval	Correct answer: forty minutes. Mrs Pengelly tells Tom: "Forty minutes either side of low water, and not a second more." Thirty-five minutes is how much time had already passed when Tom checked his watch.
EN	2	**E**	Comprehension: retrieval	Correct answer: He had been searching the rock pools for a crab worth photographing. The passage says "he had dawdled on the island, scrambling over the rock pools in search of a crab worth photographing".
EN	3	**A**	Comprehension: inference	Correct answer: The tide comes in at its own time whatever people want, so the time limit must be obeyed. To "negotiate" is to bargain and agree a deal. You cannot bargain with the sea for a few extra minutes, which is why she says "not a second more".
EN	4	**D**	Comprehension: language	Correct answer: Panic takes away your ability to think clearly. A thief takes things from you. The grandfather says panic "stole your common sense", so panicking robs you of clear thinking. That is why Tom makes himself "breathe slowly".
EN	5	**C**	Comprehension: vocabulary	Correct answer: dangerous, in a way that could easily catch you out. The shiny wet stones look harmless but are slippery: straight afterwards, "Twice his trainers skidded". Something treacherous hides a danger.
EN	6	**E**	Comprehension: inference	Correct answer: He fears he has wandered off the causeway and no longer knows where he is. Earlier he told himself that if he "kept the cobbles beneath his feet, he could not go far wrong". Now there is only sand, and he asks, "Had he strayed off the path?"
EN	7	**B**	Comprehension: inference	Correct answer: He used to find it a mild annoyance, but now he is overjoyed to hear it because it guides him to safety. He had "dismissed it as a quaint nuisance", but now "it sounded like the sweetest music in the world". He runs towards it and reaches the slipway.
EN	8	**A**	Comprehension: inference	Correct answer: She sounds cross with Tom, but she has been very frightened for his safety. Her "stern" voice tells Tom off for "cutting it a bit fine", but the word "but" points to a different feeling underneath: her trembling hand shows how scared she was.
EN	9	**D**	Spelling	Correct answer: disappeared. "Disappeared" is "dis" + "appeared": one s and a double p.

EN	10	**C**	Punctuation	Correct answer: "Cutting it a bit fine, weren't you?" said Mrs Pengelly. The question mark goes inside the speech marks, "weren't" needs an apostrophe for the missing letter, and "said" stays lower case because the sentence carries on after the speech.
EN	11	**E**	Grammar	Correct answer: Tom and I were soaked by the time we reached the slipway. "I" is used for the person doing the action (you would say "I was soaked", not "me was soaked"); two people need "were"; and "reached" keeps the whole sentence in the past.
EN	12	**B**	Vocabulary	Correct answer: forceful. Someone who is emphatic says something firmly and clearly so that it cannot be ignored, just as Mrs Pengelly does with "not a second more".
MA	1	**E**	Money	Total cost £4.84. Change = £5.00 − £4.84 = 16p. Watch out for 6p: you get that if you make a slip in the tens when subtracting.
MA	2	**B**	Measures	There are 1000 metres in 1 kilometre. 9.32 × 1000 = 9,320. Watch out for 932 m: you get that if you multiply by 100.
MA	3	**B**	Sequences	The sequence goes up by 6. The 8th number is 24 + 7 × 6 = 66. Watch out for 48: you get that if you ignored the starting number.
MA	4	**C**	Scaling (proportion)	For 1 person: 240 ÷ 6 = 40 g. For 10 people: 40 × 10 = 400 g. Watch out for 244 g: you get that if you add the number of extra people to the grams.
MA	5	**D**	Scale	Each centimetre is 10 km. 80 ÷ 10 = 8 cm. Watch out for 800 cm: you get that if you multiply instead of dividing.
MA	6	**C**	Comparing fractions	Change them to a common denominator, or to decimals: 9/11 ≈ 0.82, 1/7 ≈ 0.14, 2/5 = 0.4, 7/8 = 0.875, 1/4 = 0.25. The largest is 7/8. Watch out for 9/11: you get that if you think a bigger denominator means a bigger fraction.
MA	7	**A**	Compound area	Area of the whole rectangle: 10 × 6 = 60 m². Take away the missing corner: 5 × 2 = 10 m². 60 − 10 = 50 m². Watch out for 60 m²: you get that if you find the area of the whole rectangle and forget to take away the corner.
MA	8	**C**	Problem solving	Now, their ages add up to 31 − 10 = 21. That is 3 equal parts (2 for Maya, 1 for Sam), so one part is 7. Maya is 2 × 7 = 14. Watch out for 7: you get that if you give the age of Sam.

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
Comparing fractions	MA 6
Compound area	MA 7
Comprehension: inference	EN 3, EN 6, EN 7, EN 8
Comprehension: language	EN 4
Comprehension: retrieval	EN 1, EN 2
Comprehension: vocabulary	EN 5
Grammar	EN 11
Measures	MA 2
Money	MA 1
Problem solving	MA 8
Punctuation	EN 10
Scale	MA 5

Scaling (proportion)	MA 4
Sequences	MA 3
Spelling	EN 9
Vocabulary	EN 12