

Common Entrance Assessment: Sample Test Items

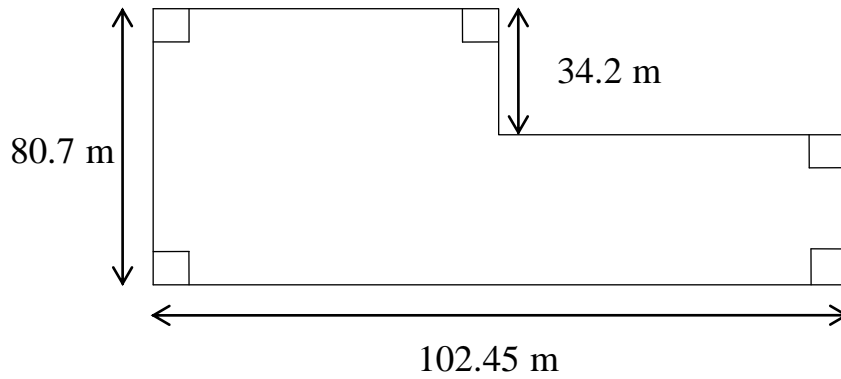
Section A of this document provides exemplars of the type of mathematics item which will appear on the CEA.

Section B provides exemplars of the English items. There will be three comprehension passages with approximately six items related to each passage.

There will be approximately 30 mathematics items per test paper, with equal marks allocated to mathematics and English. There will be no science items. Each test will be one hour in duration.

11. John walks once around the edge of a car park.

Here is a diagram of the car park:

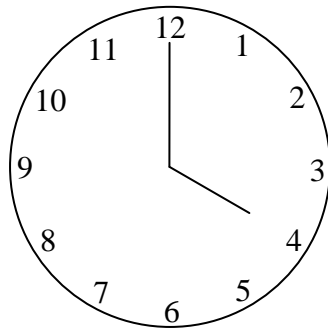


Use the diagram to find out how far he walks in metres.

_____ m

12. The time shown on the clock is 4.00 p.m.

What time will it be when the minute hand moves through 210° ?
Write your answer in the space below.



Marie plays a computer game 12 times.

The range of her scores is 6.

Her lowest score is 2.

Her mean (average) score is 5.

13. What is Marie's highest score? _____

14. What is Marie's total score for the 12 games? _____

15. Write these numbers in the correct place in the Carroll diagram.

3 4 8 9 12 16 25 30

	Factor of 36	Not a factor of 36
Square number		
Not square number		

Passage 1**The potter**

An old, worn man slouches into the room,
A rough, swarthy hand clasping his cane,
His importance outside the pottery may be small,
But the potter's workshop is his domain.

The sodden lump of dripping clay,
He caresses like his only child,
His foot pedals softly and the clay begins to dance,
Its dizzy twirling, both graceful and wild.

With an air of excitement he draws up the shape,
To a spiralling tower circling from his fingertips,
He coaxes the clay sides with his thumbnails,
Then over the top, a watery lump flips.

The wheel slowly stops its swirling masquerade,
And when his hands no longer slap water on the clay walls,
The bowl sits elegantly by its creator's hands,
Which he swiftly wipes on his brown overalls.

An old, worn man slouches out of the room,
A rough, swarthy hand clasping an exquisite bowl,
It's being carried by the old man to the kiln,
To be fired, then painted, glazed and sold.

**Mark
Pinkerton**

Sample items for passage 1 (2 of 6)

1. The poem mentions the potter's cane. Why does the potter need a cane?

Tick ✓ the best answer.

He uses the cane to shape the clay.

He's old and uses the cane to help him walk.

He uses the cane to stop the wheel.

He uses the cane to keep intruders out of his workshop.

2. Look at the second verse of the poem. Which phrase of six or seven words tells you that the potter takes great care in his work and handles the clay gently? Write your answer in the space below.

Passage 2

What's on television tonight?

The information below appeared on the Television Page of a newspaper. The newspaper tells its readers that the four programmes below are worth watching. The newspaper owner was annoyed to find a few spelling and punctuation errors on the Television Page.

It happened one night (BBC2, 10:50 AM) (line 1)

This humorous film stars Claudette Colbert as an heiress (line 2)
and Clark Gable as a reporter working for a newspaper. (line 3)
This film is an old-fashioned romantic comedy. A scene (line 4)
from this film inspired the Bugs Bunny animators. (line 5)

The supersizers go (BBC2, 9:00 PM) (line 6)

What did English people eat and drink during the (line 7)
period 1660 to 1685. Giles Coren and Sue Perkins (line 8)
sample the food and drink of Restoration England. (line 9)
Giles and Sue survive for a week on a diet of animal (line 10)
fat and beer. (line 11)

The world's fattest pet and me (Channel 4, 10:00 PM) (line 12)

Mark Dolan meets people who have large pets. Gibson is (line 13)
the world's tallest dog and his owner, Sandy, claims Gibson (line 14)
has written a book. According to Sandy, because Gibson (line 15)
can't hold a pencil very well, he tells the story to Sandy, (line 16)
who then writes it down. Sandy tries to convince Mark (line 17)
Dolan that Gibson is the world's tallest canine author. (line 18)

Imagine (BBC 1, 11:35 PM) (line 19)

Alan Yentob interviews the winner of the 2007 (line 20)
Nobel prize for literature, Doris Lessing. (line 21)
Doris Lessing, the author of such books as (line 22)
"The grass is singing," talks about her life (line 23)
as a writer, her mother and her childhood. (line 24)

Sample items for passage 2 (3 of 6)

1. Mrs Hughes likes television programmes about the lives of great writers. Which of the four programmes should she watch?
Tick ✓ the best answer.

- It happened one night
- The supersizers go
- The world's fattest pet and me
- Imagine

2. A question mark should be used instead of a full stop in one of the lines. Which line? Tick ✓ the correct answer.

- line 4
- line 8
- line 13
- line 18

3. There is a spelling mistake in one of the lines. Which line?
Tick ✓ the correct answer.

- line 4
- line 10
- line 16
- line 24

Passage 3

The life of a golf ball

I was with my two friends when I heard voices from the outside world. “I’d like to buy a golf ball, please.” “Certainly Sir, what type would you like?” “I’d like one of these over here.”

Through the plastic window in the box I could see a man coming towards me, pointing with his finger – I knew he wanted to buy one of us. I began to get very worried for I knew I was at the end of the pack. The man lifted up our pack, opened it at my end and tipped me out onto his hand. He only wanted one ball, I had no company, separated from my friends. The man dropped me into a large dark cavern, with lots of other balls. Some seemed to be very badly beaten up, cut and scraped. Was this what was going to happen to me? I lay there, depressed and rejected by the other balls, jealous because I was in such good condition.

Days passed without seeing light when I began to hear voices, lots of voices. What was going on? Suddenly the cavern opened up and the light shone in. The noise was magnificent. A hand reached in for me. I began to get excited. I was raised out into the open air, I could not believe it, there were thousands of people stretching out into the distance, lining a long stretch of grass. This could only mean one thing, I was working for a professional. I felt a sense of pride and excitement. People were here to watch me, to cheer me on. It was a dream come true.

Stuart Evans

Sample items for passage 3 (2 of 6)

1. Which of these words best describes the passage?

Tick ✓ the best answer.

scientific

humorous

tragic

serious

2. Find the **word** closest in meaning to each of the statements below.

You will find the word you need somewhere in the **second** paragraph. Write the word in the space.

a deep cave

a sphere

a group of animals of the same kind
