

WALLINGTON COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

11+ English Entrance Examination

Practice Paper — 2025 Style

Time allowed: 45 minutes

Total marks: 35

Questions: 5

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer ALL questions.
- Show your working where required — marks may be awarded for method.
- Write your answers clearly in the spaces provided.
- You may NOT use a calculator unless stated otherwise.
- Check your work if you finish early.

Question 1

[1 mark]

Read the passage below, then answer the questions.

"The old lighthouse stood at the edge of the cliff, its white paint peeling like bark from a birch tree. For decades, it had guided ships safely through the treacherous waters below, its beam sweeping across the dark sea like a giant's torch. But now the lighthouse was silent. The last keeper had left three years ago, replaced by an automated system that hummed quietly in the darkness. The seabirds, once startled by the keeper's footsteps, had made their nests in the abandoned rooms above."

What does the simile "peeling like bark from a birch tree" tell us about the lighthouse?

- A** The lighthouse is made of wood
- B** The lighthouse is old and neglected
- C** The lighthouse is surrounded by trees
- D** The lighthouse has recently been painted

Question 2

[2 marks]

Based on the passage, why have seabirds made nests in the lighthouse?

Answer:

Working space:

Question 3

[1 mark]

Which word is closest in meaning to "treacherous"?

- A calm
 - B dangerous
 - C shallow
 - D beautiful
-

Question 4

[1 mark]

Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- A Its a lovely day, isnt it?
 - B It's a lovely day, isn't it?
 - C Its a lovely day, isn't it?
 - D It's a lovely day, isnt it?
-

Question 5

[1 mark]

Choose the correct spelling: The children showed great _____ during the competition.

A) determanation B) determination C) determinasion D) detirmination

- A determanation
 - B determination
 - C determinasion
 - D detirmination
-

— End of Paper —

ANSWER KEY & WORKED SOLUTIONS

Wallington County Grammar — 11+ English Practice Paper

QUICK ANSWERS

Q	Answer	Marks
1	The lighthouse is old and neglected	1
2	Because the keeper has left and the rooms are now empty/abandoned	2
3	dangerous	1
4	It's a lovely day, isn't it?	1
5	determination	1
Total		35

WORKED SOLUTIONS

Question 1 — Answer: The lighthouse is old and neglected

Read the passage below, then answer the questions. "The old lighthouse stood at the edge of the cliff, its white paint ...

1. A simile compares two things using 'like' or 'as'.
2. The paint is 'peeling like bark' — bark peels from old, weathered trees.
3. This suggests the lighthouse paint is flaking away from age and lack of care.
4. This tells us the lighthouse is old and neglected.

Similes help us picture something by comparing it to something else. Here, the peeling paint is compared to peeling bark, emphasising decay and neglect.

Question 2 — Answer: Because the keeper has left and the rooms are now empty/abandoned

Based on the passage, why have seabirds made nests in the lighthouse?

1. The passage says the last keeper left three years ago.
2. The birds 'once startled by the keeper's footsteps' suggests they were previously scared away by human presence.
3. Now that no one is there, the birds feel safe enough to nest in the 'abandoned rooms'.

We need to make an inference: the birds moved in because there is no longer anyone to disturb them. The word 'abandoned' is our key evidence.

Question 3 — Answer: dangerous

Which word is closest in meaning to "treacherous"?

1. Treacherous
2. In the passage, it describes waters that could cause shipwrecks.
3. Dangerous

'Treacherous' comes from 'treachery' (betrayal) and means dangerous in a hidden or unexpected way. The waters look passable but hide risks.

Question 4 — Answer: It's a lovely day, isn't it?

Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

1. "It's" = "it is" (contraction needs an apostrophe).
2. "isn't" = "is not" (contraction needs an apostrophe).
3. "Its" without an apostrophe means "belonging to it" (possessive).
4. Option B correctly uses both apostrophes for contractions.

A common mistake is confusing 'its' (possessive, no apostrophe) with 'it's' (it is, needs apostrophe). Both contractions in this sentence need apostrophes.

Question 5 — Answer: determination

Choose the correct spelling: The children showed great _____ during the competition. A) determanation B) determination ...

1. The correct spelling is 'determination'.
2. Common mistakes: '-manation' (wrong vowel), '-nasion' (wrong suffix), '-mination' (wrong vowel in stem).

Determination comes from 'determine' + '-ation'. The '-ation' suffix is one of the most common in English for making nouns from verbs.
