



## 11+ ENGLISH TEST

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### Instructions to Candidates

1. Do **NOT** start until you are told to do so.
2. Either write or underline the correct answer when appropriate.
3. Write answers clearly in the spaces provided and neatly cross out any mistakes.
4. If you cannot do a question, leave it and go on to the next one.
5. Pay attention to handwriting, spelling, punctuation and neatness.
6. You will have **30 minutes** to complete the test. Try to spend 10 minutes on Section A (comprehension), 5 minutes on Section B (language) and 15 minutes on Section C (composition)
7. You must **stop** when you are told to do so.

## SECTION A

**Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.**

Years ago, even before the Indian had set foot in America, there lived a colony of beavers on the banks of a tributary of the Mattawamkeag River in upper Maine. Semi-mountainous, it was a beautiful place with willow, elm and pine trees and plants such as fern and duckweed. The banks of the tributary were dotted with meadows of wild grass created by the beavers in the cutting of trees to build their dam.

The beaver colony worked very hard to dam the small river. Although the beavers took occasional breaks, usually for not more than half an hour, one beaver relished sitting at the water's edge deep in thought. He worked harder and faster just so he could sit still longer.

One day in early spring, while he was sitting on the bank deep in thought about why trees should shed their leaves in winter, he was distracted by a loud "quack-wack-wack" and "rab-rab-rab". He looked up to see four mallard ducks attacking a smaller one that limped, chasing her from the water onto the bank near him. She struggled to get a foothold, suffering numerous pecks, and he saw anguish in her eyes. It was too much for his sense of fairness. "Stop that," he blurted out.

The ducks ceased their pecking and fell back astonished. They were accustomed to being ignored by beavers so what was this? He glared at them but didn't say anything more, so all but the small one that limped jumped back in the water. She caught her breath before quacking, "Why did you do that?"

The beaver shrugged, "They're always picking on you. I got tired of it."

"Well," she said, "They didn't used to pick on me. But nobody else cares -- not ducks, and certainly not beavers. It's... very curious."

"Curious?"

"Why, yes." The duck began preening her feathers, pretending indifference. "I notice things. If I didn't I couldn't keep out of the way of those hooligans always chasing me. I notice you sit here far more than other beavers do, and that makes me curious."

The beaver sighed. "Oh, I like that word *curious*." He rolled the sounds over his tongue like the taste of a tender willow sprig. "I am myself curious about many things. For instance, what is your name?"

"Miena."

The beaver lowered his voice as if they were co-conspirators. "Miena, my name is Dooro. I have a question. I've often wondered about those objects that hang in the sky. Not the clouds, but the round things, that very big bright one during the day, and the dimmer one at night along with all the sparkles. Have you flown there? Can you touch them?"

"Oh, no!" she said. "It doesn't matter how high I fly, they're always further. I suspect I could fly for ten summer times and never reach them."

**Answer the following questions in full sentences and in your own words as far as possible:**

1. What does "semi-mountainous" mean?

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2. What had made the meadows alongside the tributary and how?

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3. a. Why did the beaver tell the ducks to stop pecking the lame duck?

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b. Why were they astonished?

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4. Have the other ducks always picked on the lame one? Quote a sentence from the passage to explain your answer.

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5. Underline the correct answer:

“The duck began preening her feathers, pretending indifference”  
This means that she was:

- a. trying to be different from the other ducks.
- b. trying to fit in with the other ducks.
- c. trying to show that she didn't care.
- d. trying to show that she liked the beaver.

6. The beaver tells Miena he is curious about certain objects. What are they?

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7. In your own words, explain what the word “curious” means.

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## SECTION B

1. Write out the plurals of each of the following

words: a. secretary \_\_\_\_\_

b. ox \_\_\_\_\_

c. postman \_\_\_\_\_

d. mouse \_\_\_\_\_

e. leaf \_\_\_\_\_

2. Complete the following sentences with the correct preposition from the box below:

for to from of on
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a. My parents are very proud \_\_\_\_\_ my results.

b. You cannot rely \_\_\_\_\_ public transport.

c. This chair is different \_\_\_\_\_ all the others in the room.

d. This school has reputation \_\_\_\_\_ good results.

e. My haircut is similar \_\_\_\_\_ David Beckham's.

## SECTION C

**Choose ONE of the following titles and write a composition. You are advised to spend about 15 minutes on your essay.**

1. Suppose you could be anyone in the world. Who would you be and why?
2. Write a story entitled “The Cave”
3. Write a letter to a person in another country, telling them about yourself and your life.
4. Write about any of the ideas in this poem:

I sat next to the duchess at tea  
It was just as I feared it would be.  
Her rumblings abdominal  
Were simply phenomenal  
And everyone thought it was me!

5. Look closely at the picture below and write about it in any way you choose:



## ANSWERS

### SECTION A

1. It is partly mountainous and partly flat. (1)
2. The beavers have made the meadow by cutting down all the trees to use in building their dams. (2)
3. a. He told them to stop because he did not like to see her suffering. (1)  
b. They were astonished because the beavers normally ignored them. (1)
4. No. "They didn't used to pick on me." (2)
5. **c. trying to show that she didn't care.** (1)
6. The beaver is curious about the sun and the moon. (1)
7. "Curious" means enquiring, inquisitive, wanting to know more about things. (1)

### SECTION B

1. a. secretaries (1)  
b. oxen (1)  
c. postmen (1)  
d. mice (1)  
e. leaves (1)
2. a. of (1)  
b. on (1)  
c. from (1)  
d. for (1)  
e. to (1)