

The following represents a sample of the sorts of questions asked in the English Selective Eligibility Test. The sample does not represent all of the question types used in recent years but should provide an idea about the level of difficulty and the way the questions are laid out.

**Sample 1: Punctuation – a series of sentences in which common punctuation is missing. Candidates choose from five options to indicate which punctuation mark is required.**

Example:

**Group A was pleased with its work group B was less so.**

- A. apostrophe
  - B. exclamation mark
  - C. comma
  - D. semi-colon
  - E. speech marks
- 

**Sample 2: Spelling – a sentence with a gap in it along with five spellings of the missing word is presented. Candidates choose which spelling for the missing word is correct.**

Example:

**The child's \_\_\_\_\_ from school was having a detrimental effect on his performance.**

- A. absence
  - B. abscence
  - C. absince
  - D. absents
  - E. absance
- 

**Sample 3: A definition of a word is given and candidates choose the correct word that matches the definition.**

Example:

**Definition – to make something clear**

- A. to bedazzle
  - B. to infer
  - C. to confuse
  - D. to eradicate
  - E. to clarify
-

**Sample 4: A sentence contains a word that is highlighted in bold and candidates have to choose the closest synonym to the word from a list of five.**

Example:

“Stop being so **obtuse**.”

- A. dull
  - B. annoying
  - C. angular
  - D. dim-witted
  - E. calm
- 

**Sample 5: A sentence contains a word that is underlined and candidates are asked to identify which part of speech the word comes from.**

Example:

Her spelling was, alas, riddled with errors.

- A. adjective
  - B. preposition
  - C. interjection
  - D. conjunction
  - E. adverb
- 

**Sample 6: A group of words contains one word, which does not fit with the other four. Candidates identify which word is the odd one out.**

Example:

- A. exciting
  - B. dynamic
  - C. illuminating
  - D. entice
  - E. stupendous
-

**Sample 7: Candidates read a text from which several words have been removed. For each gap in the text, they select the most appropriate word from a set of five words and write the corresponding letter.**

Example: Read the following text entitled “Signs that a Civilisation is ending” and decide which word or phrase for each gap would be most appropriate.

Luke Kemp is a \_\_ [1] \_\_ based at the Centre for the Study of Societal Risk at the University of Cambridge. He \_\_ [2] \_\_ the lifespans of nearly 100 historic global \_\_ [3] \_\_ from Egypt to the Byzantine Empire.

The average \_\_ [4] \_\_ was 336 years, and they all displayed common conditions when \_\_ [5] \_\_ drew near. Today, he warns, many of those signs are flashing red – but being \_\_ [6] \_\_ by the media and the public.

1.

- A. student
- B. research
- C. DJ
- D. researcher
- E. teacher

2.

- A. counted
- B. designed
- C. analysed
- D. will compare
- E. likes

3.

- A. civilisations
- B. countries
- C. companies
- D. republics
- E. holiday destinations

4.

- A. age
- B. lifespan
- C. period
- D. era
- E. eon

5.

- A. end
- B. disasters
- C. evening
- D. collapse
- E. alliances

6.

- A. ignoring
  - B. exaggerated
  - C. ignored
  - D. written
  - E. reported
-

## 1. Write about the best birthday party ever

You may wish to consider the following:

- sentence structures
- punctuation
- vocabulary
- spelling
- descriptive language
- use of paragraphs

## 2. You see the following headline in your local newspaper:

**Another playing field sold for house building!**

Your task is to write a letter to your local council to *persuade* them to not sell the playing field.