



THE GL 11+ GUIDE BOOKS

Verbal Reasoning

for the GL 11+

Every question type on the GL Verbal Reasoning paper, one chapter each: what it looks like, a method that works under the clock, a worked example, the traps, and ten questions to circle. Then a timed test with the real answer sheet.

23

question types

230

practice questions

69

traps explained

WHAT IS INSIDE

- One chapter for every question type on the paper
- A method in five steps, written to be said aloud
- A worked example with every wrong option explained
- The three traps the setters rely on
- Ten practice questions a type, exam level from question 4
- A timed test with the real answer sheet, and a progress page
- Every answer at the back with the reason

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For Year 5, with an easier start in every chapter so a Year 4 child can begin.
Every practice question checked twice: by machine, and by a person reading it.

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BEFORE YOU START

The GL paper, explained

What the paper is

GL Assessment sets the 11+ for most grammar areas outside Essex. Verbal Reasoning is one of up to four papers, alongside English, Maths and Non-Verbal Reasoning; each area chooses which papers to use, and the school's admissions page says which.

The paper is multiple choice. Every question has five options, A to E, and the answer is marked on a separate answer sheet with a pencil line, not written on the question paper. Around twenty question types appear, in short blocks, with the instructions and a worked example printed at the start of each block.

Timing

Most versions allow around 50 minutes for 80 questions, which is under 40 seconds a question. Nobody works at that pace on every type; the point is to be fast on the types that can be fast, so that the ones that need thought get the time. The minutes given at the top of each chapter are what that type usually needs.

How to use this book

One chapter is one question type. Read parts 1 to 4 first, then do the ten questions in part 5 with a timer, circling the answers. Mark them from the answers at the back and write the score on the progress page.

Questions 1 to 3 in every chapter are easier than the paper, so a Year 4 child can start. Questions 4 to 10 are exam level.

The chapters are grouped by skill, not by the order the paper uses: the letter-moving types together, then meanings, then codes, then numbers. A child who is secure on the first group finds the second easier, so the order is worth keeping.

When every chapter has a score, sit the timed test at the end under exam conditions, with the answer sheet, and use the answers page to see which chapters to read again.

Guessing

There is no penalty for a wrong answer. Never leave a question blank: cross out the options you know are wrong and choose from what is left. On this paper a good guess is worth the same mark as a certainty.

TYPE 1 · MAKING AND CHANGING WORDS

about 3 minutes on the paper

Insert a letter

1 WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

The same letter finishes the word on the left and starts the word on the right. Find it.

Example

LIGH () ENT

A S

B T

C N

D K

E D

T makes LIGHT and TENT. The answer is B. Circle it.

2 THE METHOD

- 1 Read the left-hand fragment and say it aloud. Think of the letters that could finish it into a real word, and write them down. Do not stop at the first one.
- 2 Read the right-hand fragment and do the same: which letters could start it?
- 3 Find the letter that is on both lists. There is exactly one.
- 4 Say both finished words to yourself. If either is not a real word, you have the wrong letter.
- 5 Circle the letter. Check that the letter you circled is the one you found, not a neighbour.

3 WORKED EXAMPLE

STAC () ING

A N

B K

C R

D T

E D

- STEP 1** Left fragment STAC. Letters that finish it: K makes STACK. Nothing else makes a word. Write down K.
- STEP 2** Right fragment ING. Letters that start it: K makes KING, R makes RING, S makes SING, W makes WING, D makes DING. Write down K, R, S, W, D.
- STEP 3** K is on both lists. STACK and KING are both real words.
- STEP 4** K is option B. Circle B.

Why the others are wrong

- A **N** STACN is not a word
- C **R** STACR is not a word, though RING is
- D **T** STACT is not a word, and neither is TING
- E **D** STACD is not a word, though DING is

4 THE THREE TRAPS

Answering from one side. A letter that finishes the left word is not the answer unless it also starts the right one. The setters always include a letter that works on one side only, and it is the commonest wrong answer on this type.

Stopping at the first word you think of. LIGH could become LIGHT, and that is the only one, but many fragments have two or three finishers. List them all before you look at the right-hand side.

Reading the fragment as a word. THIN is a word, so a child assumes it is finished. It is a fragment: THING, THINK and THINS are all possible. Treat every fragment as unfinished.

WORKING SPACE for the ten questions on the next page: lists, alphabets, crossings out

SAMPLE CHAPTER

10 questions, 6 minutes

5 TRY IT

Questions 1 to 3 are a little easier than the paper. From 4 on they are exam level. Circle your answer.

1 QUIC () IND

A K

B B

C L

D A

E H

2 TRUC () ICK

A L

B N

C P

D H

E K

3 FIEL () ESK

A G

B D

C C

D H

E P

4 SWEE () RIP

A G

B R

C D

D T

E C

5 WITC () AND

A M

B W

C H

D D

E R

6 STIC () EPT

A K

B R

C W

D S

E H

7 STOR () ILK

A S

B W

C Y

D E

E M

8 SPEN () UST

A F

B D

C H

D O

E G

9 CLIM () ONE

A F

B A

C I

D B

E W

10 CHAL () ITE

A M

B C

C K

D V

E W