

# The 11+ Comprehension Course– Preview

This preview is designed to show you in some depth the work we'll go through in this course. This course is designed for children who will be sitting a written comprehension exam. It covers **ten different types of written comprehension question** that we have identified and includes **tips that will help you develop the correct technique** for answering these questions. It also contains **games and puzzles** that will help you develop the skills needed for this exam. The course is made up of four parts and each part includes a **comprehension test** where children can put what they've learnt into practice. **Full answers** are provided for every question in the course.

## Who is this course right for?

- The course is designed for pupils preparing to sit a written comprehension exam. The written comprehension exam is normally a required part of independent school entry exams. Some grammar schools also require pupils to sit a written comprehension exam. This course is also useful for any students wanting to move their skills to a new level.
- It is also very useful for any child using a tutor or going to a tuition centre. **Many Tutors use our courses as the basis of their work, especially for setting homework. If your tutor doesn't give homework then this course will fill the gap.**
- The course is made up of **4 parts** and each part is very thorough. Ideally, your child will be completing this course alongside courses designed to prepare for other aspects of 11+ entrance exams, such as maths and verbal reasoning. We therefore recommended that the course is completed over a period of **8 weeks**. However, if done intensively, the course could be completed in 4 weeks.

## Why is the course so successful?

- The course is **fully planned and structured**, which makes life much easier for parents than using books alone.
- Tests are gradually introduced so that **children build their skills and confidence as they go.**
- While the course is regularly updated, the core of it has been used for many years with proven success.

**SCROLL DOWN TO SEE COURSE EXAMPLES**



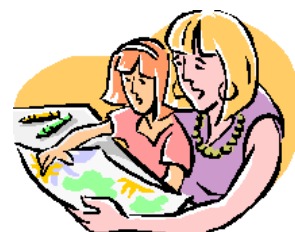
# THE 11 PLUS COMPREHENSION COURSE

## What we cover in Part 1

1. **An overview of tackling comprehensions:** All of the parts of this course are packed full of **handy guides and tips** on how to approach comprehensions.
2. **The importance of reviewing your work:** Why it's vital to always take time to go over your answers.
3. **A recommended reading order of these books:** They are the kinds of texts which are **organised for you**.  
*One of the main problems with using books is that it is difficult to know which ones to buy, which order to do the work in and what to cover. Parents have fed back to us that this programme solves that problem, leaving them free to help their child.*
4. **Starting off:** There's a lot of work that looks tough. Read the book and you'll soon find them a lot easier.
5. **Typical question types:** In Part 1, we tackle **discovery, evidence and in your own words**.
6. **Technical tips:** We go through **repeating the question or not, how to write quotes** and whether to use **simple or complex English**.
7. **Skills development:** There are lots of **skills** that you will need to **work on** to make sure you can produce excellent answers to written comprehension tests. We've got some handy **games** and **puzzles** to make it fun as well as **paired reading**.
8. **Comprehension exercise:** Don't do this before you have gone through the rest of the part first. Here's where you will put **all you have learned** into practice.
9. **Answer guides:** Don't worry if you are confused by anything in the comprehension exercise. The answer guide will point you in the **right direction!**

- Please sign below when you have completed everything.
- Your helper may have to test you on some things.

**Signed:** (Parent/Teacher and Pupil).....



# My Personal Words List

Each week you will find new words or words you haven't quite learnt yet. Familiarisation and a wide vocabulary only develops with frequent exposure. Use this sheet to identify new words, then revise them regularly.

[illegible]

# QUESTION TYPE 1

## DISCOVERY



### What is a Discovery question?

A Discovery question is the most straightforward type of comprehension task and probably the one you are most familiar with. The information that you need will be clearly stated in the text. You simply need to "discover" where the information is hiding, check that it is the right information for what you are being asked, and give the answer.

### An example of a Discovery question:

#### The passage:

Bradley often left for school at the same time as his brother. He was always pleased when this happened as he could get a lift off to his friends. It always made him late for school like someone who was in Year 10!

#### The question:

Why was Bradley pleased when he left school at the same time as his brother?

- A: Because he could get a lift.
- B: Because he was proud of him.
- C: Because he would meet his friends.
- D: Because it meant his brother wouldn't be late.
- E: We are not told.

#### The answer:

B: Because he was proud of him.

#### The technique:

We are told in the text that "He was always pleased when this happened as he was very proud of Jack...", so we know that the answer must be because he was proud of him.



Now have a go at the following  
ten **discovery** questions

# QUESTION TYPE 1

## DISCOVERY

In the exam you may face a mix of multiple choice and written answers. Here where we give you a multiple choice question we ask you to explain your reasoning but you wouldn't have to do this in an exam.

### 1. The passage:

Before leaving for school, Krishan always checked he had everything in the same order. Firstly, he made sure he had his homework, then his green pencil case and finally his jacket.

### The question:

What was the final thing Krishan checked?

- A: His homework.
- B: The order of his things.
- C: His jacket.
- D: His green pencil case.
- E: We are not told.

### Your answer:

### Your explanation:

### **Practice questions**

We then provided 10 practice questions per question type for children to have a go at. The majority of these are written, but there are some multiple choice. These practice questions allow children to really develop their comprehension technique. All answers are provided.

### 2. The passage:

A huge cherry-tree grew outside, so close that its boughs tapped against the house, and it was so thick-set with blossoms that hardly a leaf was to be seen.



### The question:

Why were the boughs of the cherry-tree tapping against the house?

(1 mark)

### Free text answer:

# Jane Eyre - Charlotte Bronte



ROCHESTER had given me but one week's leave of absence: yet a month elapsed before I quitted Gateshead. I wished to leave immediately after the funeral; but Georgiana entreated

*Paired reading (reading out loud together while both following the text) works magically to improve a child's reading skills and vocabulary knowledge.*

me to stay till she could get off to London, which she was now at last invited by her uncle, to settle the family affairs. I got neither sympathy in my grief, nor any help from her; she was more with her feeble hands, than my best in sewing for me. I thought to myself, I would commence

my matters on a different footing: I should not settle tamely down and being the forbearing party; I should assign you your share of labour, and compel you to accomplish it, or else it should be left undone: I should insist, also, on your keeping some of those drawling, half insincere complaints hushed in your own breast. It is only because our connection happens to be very transitory, and comes at a peculiarly mournful season, that I consent thus to render it so patient and compliant on my part."

At last I saw Georgiana off: but now it was Eliza's turn to request me to stay another week. Her plans required all her time and attention, she said: she was about to depart for some unknown bourne; and all day long she stayed in her own room, her door bolted within, filling trunks, emptying drawers, burning papers, and holding no communication with any one. She wished me to look after the house, to see callers, and answer notes of condolence.

One morning she told me I was at liberty. "And," she added, "I am obliged to you for your valuable services and discreet conduct. There is some difference between living with such a one as you, and with Georgiana: you perform your own part in life, and burden no one. Tomorrow," she continued, "I shall go to the house, near Lisle—a nunnery; I shall devote myself for a time to the study of the workings of their machinery, calculated to ensure the doing of their duty. Rome and probably take the

*It is especially useful to do this with classic texts where children can be exposed to the sort of challenging texts they will come across in the comprehension exam. Paired reading excerpts are included in every part of the course.*

I neither expressed surprise at her vocation will fit you to a hair," I thought: "much good may it do you!"

When we parted, she said: "Good-bye, cousin Jane Eyre; I wish you well: you have some sense."



# TECHNICAL TIP 1

## You don't need to repeat the question in your answer

In free text comprehensions, you should **always write a complete sentence** unless specifically asked not to.

However, on most **occasions you do** answer. It takes longer and can be a complete sentence (not in note form).

Let's look at **Discovery Questions**.

What caused the watchers on the cliff to shudder?

Example Answer:

They shuddered because they realised the danger the boat was in.

This is just as acceptable, and considerably quicker, than writing:

The watchers on the cliff were caused to shudder because they realised the danger the boat was in.

### Technical Tips

Throughout the course we provide useful tips that help your child perfect their technique for written comprehension tests. These include tips on how to write quotes, whether to use simple or complex English, and how to express opinions on a character. Technical tips also come with helpful examples.

### THINK:

- FULL SENTENCE
- CONCISE
- NO NEED TO REPEAT THE QUESTION

# COMPOUND WORD PUZZLE

Compound words do not have to be traditional e.g. **black** and **board** - **blackboard**, but can simply be two parts of a word that have an unrelated meaning by themselves e.g. **or** and **bit** - **orbit**.

Often you will have to alter pronunciation to solve the puzzle e.g. **pop** and **pies** - **poppies** or **do** and **me** - **dome**.

**Find ten compound words from these parts of words. (Use each part only once.)** Write out the words you have found underneath. Learn meanings and spellings if you don't know them - this is a learning exercise, not a test.

show  
day  
fan  
some  
noon  
key  
fare  
dream

## Skills development

*This compound word puzzle is an example of the type of games that are included within the course to help your child develop the skills needed to answer written comprehension questions. Learning compound words can help build a child's vocabulary and their confidence approaching longer words. The puzzles and games are also a fun way learn.*

case

1/ \_\_\_\_\_ 2/ \_\_\_\_\_ 3/ \_\_\_\_\_ 4/ \_\_\_\_\_  
5/ \_\_\_\_\_ 6/ \_\_\_\_\_ 7/ \_\_\_\_\_ 8/ \_\_\_\_\_  
9/ \_\_\_\_\_ 10/ \_\_\_\_\_

*Clues: 1: boat gone down 2: lost in thought 3: no-one in particular 4: things that have fallen behind 5: old fashioned word processor 6: time of day 7: display something 8: unwittingly give a bargain 9: modern typing on this 10: introductory flourish*



# WHICH STATEMENT IS TRUE?

Reading and understanding detailed text is a difficult skill but is important for comprehension tests. This exercise will help to develop your detail reading skills. Creating a diagram to help you to sort the information may help.

Read the text and work out which statement must be true.

## Question 1.

At the fairground Tom won four prizes and Melissa, who won twice as many as Tom, won the most prizes anybody else.

- A Jimmy won two prizes.
- B Melissa won one prize.
- C Jimmy won one prize.
- D Parm won five prizes.
- E Melissa won three prizes.

### **Skills development**

*This is another example of an exercise included in the course designed to help your child develop the skills necessary to sit a written comprehension exam. These questions will test and develop your child's attention to detail. All answers are provided.*

## Answer:

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## Question 2.

Ten cards with the numbers one to ten on them were put in a bag. Four people then randomly picked out a card and did not return it to the bag. Steve was the only person to pull out an odd number. Roger pulled out a four and Clara pulled out a number three higher than Steve. Lawrence's number was five fewer than Steve's.

- A Steve's number was 7.
- B Clara's number was 6.
- C Steve's number was 3.
- D Clara's number was 8.
- E Steve's number was 5.

## Answer:

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# FULL COMPREHENSION TEST 2

Now it's time to put into practice everything you have learned so far.

## Comprehension Test 2

- Please arrange to sit this test in a quiet room under exam conditions.
- Please go back and check your answers if you have time at the end and actively look to improve.

- Pay particular attention to the instructions.

- Ensure all your answers are clearly written.

### **Timed Tests**

*Each part of the course contains a timed test, with part 4 containing two timed tests. These are designed to get children used to timed exam conditions. They also allow children to put into practice everything they have learnt in each part of the course. The test extracts are taken from classic texts to get children used to the level of difficulty they will encounter in the exam.*

## AFTER THE TEST

**Note for parents.**

Please mark the paper as soon as possible after the test. Marking should be done through any areas which could have been improved upon. The largest levels of improvement come from marking and feeding back as quickly as possible after the test.

**Time Allowance - 30 Mins**

# FULL COMPREHENSION TEST 2

12)

In what practical ways had the monster “been creeping into knowledge experimentally”? Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.

.....

.....

## **Timed Tests**

*This is an excerpt from one the tests. Each test will cover the types of questions your child has learnt in that part of the course, with the part 4 tests combining all 10 question types. This allows children to immediately put into practice everything they have learnt. The questions are designed to replicate the toughest comprehension test your child could face, even for the most difficult schools.*

13)

Where were the monster's hiding places? Why did they work so well? Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

(3 marks)

14)

Why did the Professor think that Harker should “not despair”? (line 60)

- A: Because the monster's plan won't work.
- B: Because they could escape the monster.
- C: Because that wouldn't get them anywhere.
- D: Because the monster had turned.
- E: Because the monster worked out the plan too late.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

(1 mark)

# PART 1 ANSWERS

## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1

C

We are told that "f  
his jacket.

2

Because the tree w  
to the house.

3

C

We are told that Marilla had returned  
"from her cellar pilgrimage".

4

They were shuddering because they  
realised how much danger the boat was  
in.

5

E

We are told that they "hid in a door".

6

How intense Anne's feelings were, as  
the ups and downs of life might really  
affect her.

7

C

The transition from resentment to

## Answer sheets

*There are answers provided for every question in each part of the course. Including detailed explanations where necessary.*

9

D

We are told he was "hungry and vicious".

10

He was reluctant to get out of bed  
because it was late, the "bed was warm",  
it was very cold, he was only wearing  
light clothing and he was suffering from  
a cold.

## COMPOUND WORD PUZZLE

1. handsome
2. oatmeal
3. jigsaw
4. henceforth
5. jellyfish
6. sunbathe
7. rainfall
8. nobody
9. teammate
10. teapot