

ENGLISH

Comprehension Test Pack 2

for SEAG Entrance Assessment

SAMPLE



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Introduction

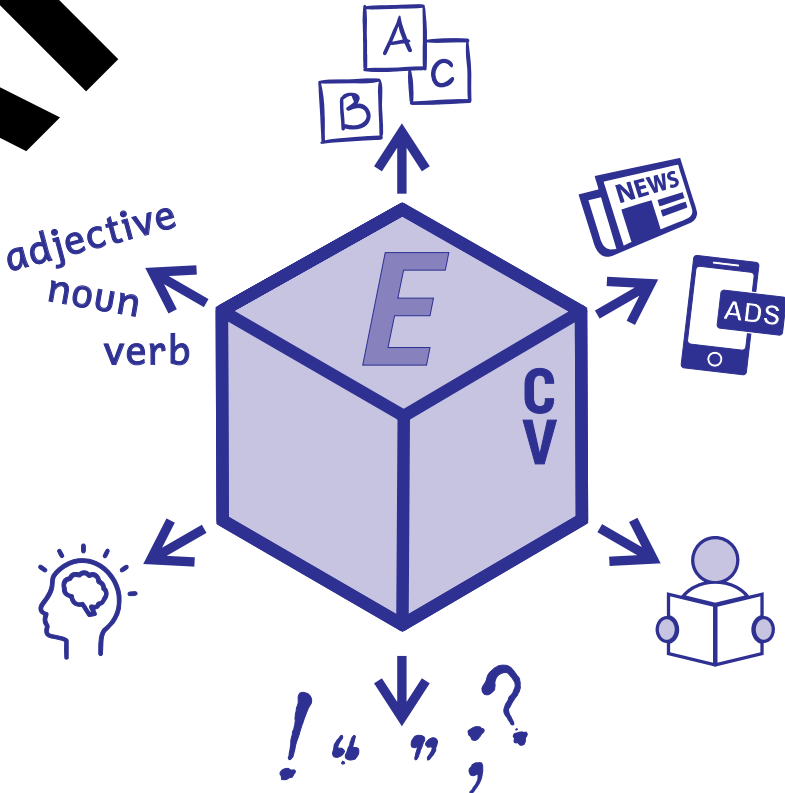
This Information File is a complete revision package covering all aspects of the **Comprehension and Vocabulary** element required for the SEAG Entrance Assessment. It also covers the content and syllabus of the Northern Ireland Curriculum for Language and Literacy at the end of Key Stage 2.

The Comprehension Pack comprises:

- * Test material assessing children's understanding of a variety of texts (factual, stories, letters, encyclopaedias/contents, reading for understanding/information) and questions related to:
 - * word meanings;
 - * True/False statements;
 - * Fact/Opinion statements;
 - * identifying parts of speech;
 - * awareness of text organisation/layout;
 - * how text written or presented in different ways convey meaning, e.g. bold, italics, asterisks, headlines etc.
 - * comparing two extracts; and
 - * contents pages assessing children's understanding of alphabetical order.

Factual

SAMPLE



COMPREHENSION AND VOCABULARY (FACTUAL)

Mark: / 13

Test 3

Children should have 15 minutes to complete this test.

Candidate's Name

DATE OF TEST					
Day		Month		Year	

Read the whole passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

1. **Motorcar Madness**

2. The private motorcar is becoming an increasing problem in today's
3. society. It is responsible for considerable damage in relation to
4. pollution, congestion and environmental destruction.

5. Congestion charging has already been introduced into several cities,
6. making drivers pay if they want to bring their vehicle into the city
7. centre. A scheme was set up in London to encourage people to think
8. again about using their private motorcar and to consider alternative
9. forms of transport. However, it does not solve the motorcar
10. problem, it does have some benefits. The congestion within the
11. charging zone across the city has reduced by 30%, traffic levels have
12. been reduced by 10%. While in Durham there has been a staggering
13. 90% drop in traffic since the charges were introduced in October 2002.

14. The motorcar has brought increased fatalities in society, being
15. responsible for over 20% of recorded deaths in the UK every year,
16. while also contributing significantly to the huge problem of pollution.
17. Of the 500 million tonnes of carbon dioxide we disperse into the
18. environment annually, the exhaust fumes from motorcars makes up a
19. substantial part. Carbon dioxide is a main greenhouse gas and most
20. scientists believe it acts like a blanket around the earth preventing
21. the escape of heat. The more carbon dioxide in the air the more heat
22. will be trapped and this will lead to global warming.

23. These fumes also affect people directly as well. The exhaust of a car
24. not only expels carbon dioxide but also releases other dangerous
25. gases such as nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide
26. which have been linked to serious breathing difficulties in children
27. and adults.

Please answer the following questions. (Look at the passage again if you need to.)

You should choose the **best** answer and mark the box beside its letter with a thin horizontal line like this .

1 Where would you find this sort of passage?

- A** in a novel
 B in an advertisement
 C in a newspaper
 D in a dictionary
 E in a biography

2 Which of the following is a suitable alternative title for this piece of writing?

- A** Day's Society
 B Car Club
 C Durham and Durham
 D Breathing Difficulties
 E Carbon Dioxide

3 By how much has traffic been reduced by in the centre of Durham?

- A** 18%
 B 20%
 C 30%
 D 90%
 E 500%

For these questions you have to **write your answers**, neatly, in the box beside the question.

8 Which one word from the passage has a similar meaning to the word 'deaths'?

9 Which one word from the passage has a similar meaning to the word 'different'?

10 Which one word from the passage has a similar meaning to the word 'advantages'?

11 Which one word from the passage has a similar meaning to the word 'covered'?

12 What part of speech is the word 'into' (line 5) as used in the passage?

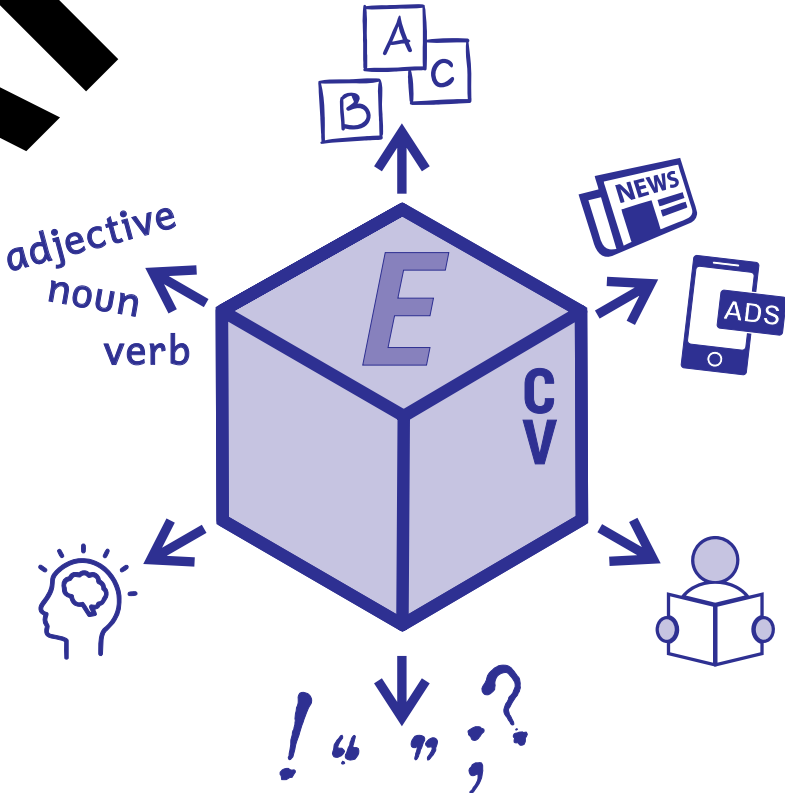
13 What part of speech is the word 'significantly' (line 16) as used in the passage?

SAMPLE

END OF TEST

Encyclopaedias & Contents

SAMPLE



COMPREHENSION AND VOCABULARY (ENCYCLOPAEDIAS & CONTENTS)

Mark: / 13

Test 5

Children should have 15 minutes to complete this test.

Candidate's Name

DATE OF TEST					
Day		Month		Year	

Read the whole table carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

The contents page of a book about English Skills was listed as shown below:

Chapters	Pages
1. Advertisements	6
2. Poems	9
3. Letter writing	15
4. Spelling	21
5. Book Reports	29
6. Questionnaires	37
7. Grammar	42
8. Writing a report	49
9. Timetables	63
10. Tracking Codes	81
11. Interviewing	92
12. Predicting	104

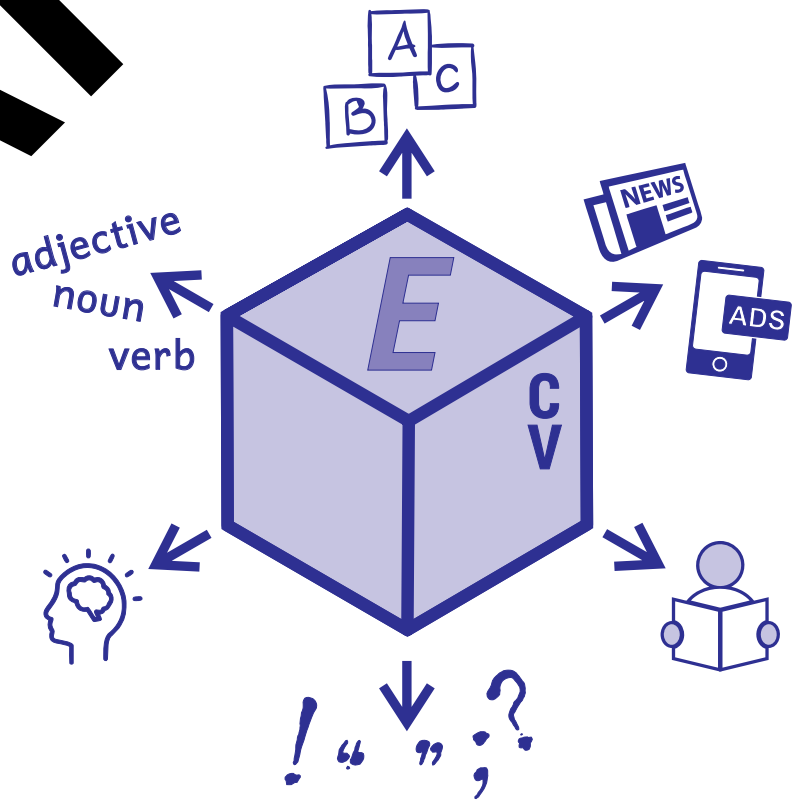
For these questions you have to write your answers, neatly, on the line beside the question.

In which chapter or chapters might you find information about the following subjects?

- 1 Crosswords Chapter _____
- 2 Nouns _____
- 3 Doing a survey _____

Stories & Letters

SAMPLE



Read the **whole** passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

1. **New Blood Donors Required Urgently**

2. A report today by the Cumbrian Blood Transfusion Service highlighted
3. a marked decline in the numbers of people coming forward to
4. give blood. "This trend," Philip Stewart of the Transfusion Service
5. commented, "could lead to serious blood shortages in many of our
6. area hospitals for the foreseeable future."

7. Around 10,000 new donors are required each year to replace those
8. who retire annually from the panel of donors. "The reason of the
9. current situation," Mr Stewart stated, "is that two hundred people are
10. required to come forward as new donors every week in order to meet
11. our targets."

12. Approximately 1,500 units of blood are used every week in Cumbrian
13. hospitals for both emergency and routine operations. The Blood
14. Transfusion Service is appealing for new donors to come forward
15. either by calling the Freephone number 0300 61616 or dropping into
16. their headquarters at the General Hospital between 9 a.m. and
17. 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Please answer the following questions. (Look at the passage again if you need to.)

You should write the **best** answer and mark the box beside its letter with a thin horizontal line like this

8

Where might you find the passage?

- A a dictionary
- B an atlas
- C a novel
- D a newspaper
- E a comic

- 9 Which of the following statements is TRUE?
- A There is a surplus of blood in the Cumbrian area.
- B Blood is required for emergency operations only.
- C Exactly 1,500 units of blood are required every week in the Cumbrian hospitals.
- D You can only give blood by first phoning the Freecall number.
- E Some people stop giving blood every year.

- 10 What word from the list below describes the current position of blood supplies in the Blood Transfusion Service?
- A abundant
- B substantial
- C plentiful
- D insufficient
- E huge

For these questions you have to write your answers, neatly, in the box beside the question.

- 11 Which one of the words from the list below has a similar meaning to the word 'adequate'?

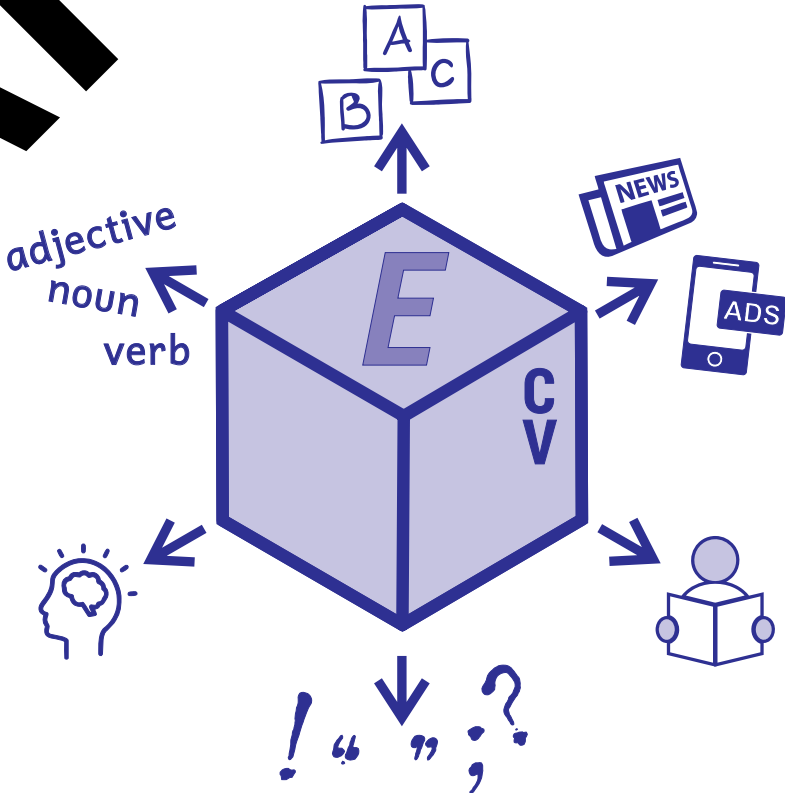
- 12 What part of speech is the word 'reality' (line 7) as used in the passage?

- 13 What part of speech is the word 'reality' (line 8) as used in the passage?

END OF TEST

Reading for Understanding/ Information

SAMPLE



COMPREHENSION AND VOCABULARY (READING FOR UNDERSTANDING)

Mark: / 13

Test 14

Children should have 15 minutes to complete this test.

Candidate's Name

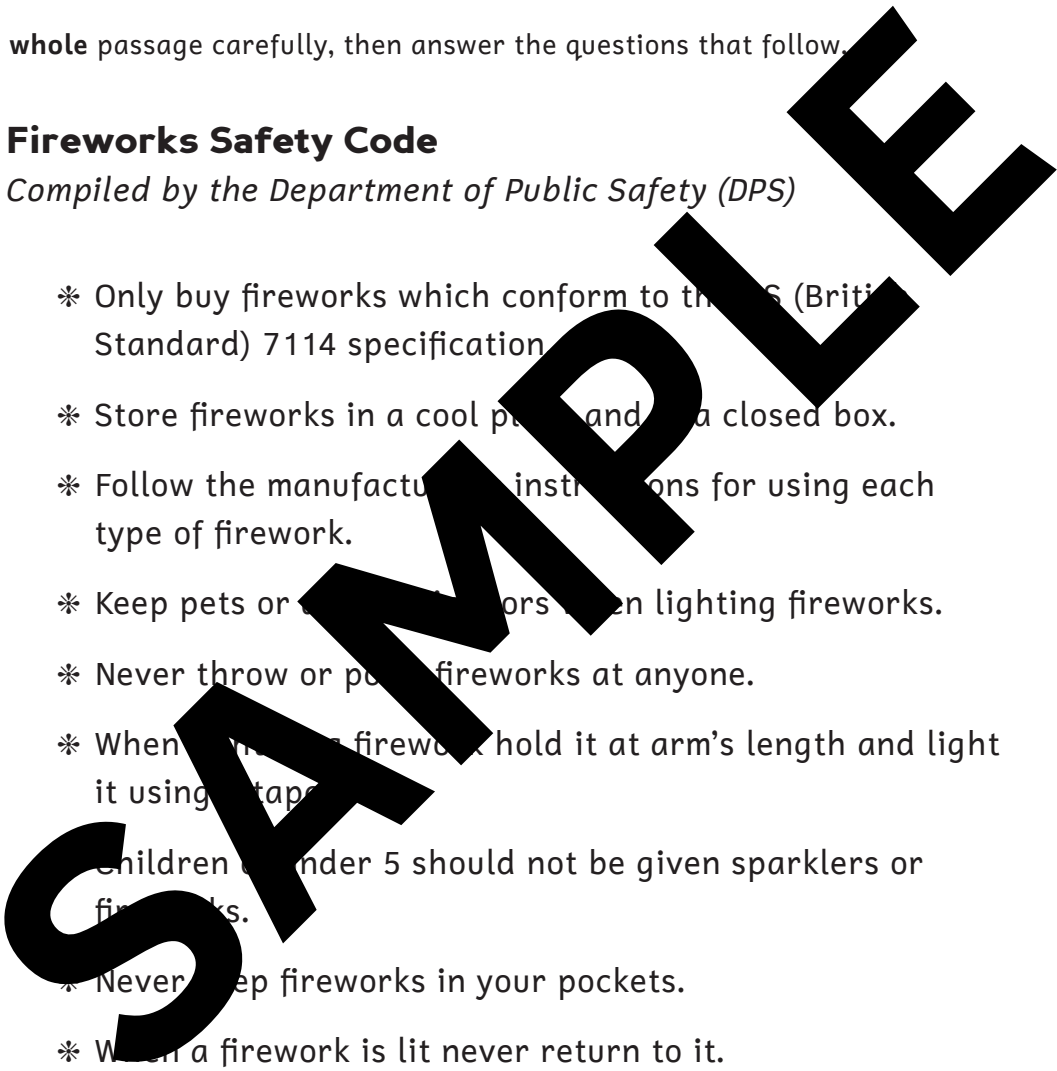
DATE OF TEST					
Day		Month		Year	

Read the whole passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

1. **Fireworks Safety Code**

2. *Compiled by the Department of Public Safety (DPS)*

3. * Only buy fireworks which conform to the BS (British Standard) 7114 specification.
4. * Store fireworks in a cool place and in a closed box.
5. * Follow the manufacturer's instructions for using each type of firework.
6. * Keep pets or children away from fireworks when lighting fireworks.
7. * Never throw or point fireworks at anyone.
8. * When lighting a firework hold it at arm's length and light it using a taper.
9. * Children under 5 should not be given sparklers or fireworks.
10. * Never keep fireworks in your pockets.
11. * When a firework is lit never return to it.
12. * Always wear gloves when lighting and holding sparklers.
13. * Extinguish or dispose of fireworks 24 hours after their use in a bucket of water.



Please answer the following questions. (Look at the passage again if you need to.)

You should choose the **best** answer and mark the box beside its letter with a thin horizontal line like this .

1 Which statement below is TRUE?

- A** Fireworks should not be disposed of in water after their use.
- B** Fireworks should be lit using a match.
- C** Any fireworks are safe if you light them correctly.
- D** Gloves should always be worn when using sparklers.
- E** You can keep fireworks in your pocket.

2 How, according to the passage, should fireworks be kept safely before using them?

- A** indoors
- B** at arm's length
- C** in a bucket of water
- D** in a cold environment and a closed box
- E** according to BS 7114 specification

3 What statement below is FALSE?

- A** Only fireworks that conform to BS 7114 specification should be purchased.
- B** Children below the age of 5 should not use fireworks.
- C** It is recommended to wear gloves when holding fireworks.
- D** Follow the maker's instructions for individual firework items.
- E** The Department of Public Safety does not yet have a fireworks safety code.

**Answer
Key**

SAMPLE



STORIES & LETTERS

9. Strange Happenings *page 38*

1. C – in a novel
2. C – 15 hours
3. B – exhausted
4. C – the hotel
5. D – unhappy
6. C – make a collection
7. B – 9 a.m.
8. adjective
9. adverb
10. preposition
11. extra [line 13]
12. announced [line 8]
13. strange [line 16]

10. The Disappearance *page 41*

1. C – in a novel
2. D – worried
3. D – by the lights from the train
4. noun *or* proper noun
5. express [line 4]
6. plunged [line 14]

Magnificent

7. A – a newspaper
8. E – Neil is the most talented skater in Britain
9. E – The British Senior Ice Skating Championship took place in Birmingham.
10. D – thrilled
11. ambition [line 10]
12. commentators [line 13]
13. noun

11. MPs set to abolish fox-hunting

page 47

1. D – a newspaper
2. C – abolish
3. C – October
4. D – there is not other way to manage the fox population
5. signatures [line 10]
6. culling [line 15]
7. adjective

Blood Donors

8. D – a newspaper
9. E – Some people stop giving blood
10. D – inefficient
11. D – a noun
12. D – a noun
13. noun *or* abstract noun

12. £7 million contract

page 52

1. E – a newspaper
2. C – Asia
3. D – lifeline
4. C – It has broken into a new European market.
5. worldwide [line 20]
6. important [line 8]
7. verb

Dolby

8. D – between 1 and 2 years
9. C – line 9
10. C – local representative
11. auditorium [line 1]
12. versatile [line 6]
13. verb