**Last Minute Tips for the Selective School Exams**

**ENGLISH**

* **READING COMPREHENSION**

**SKIM through each passage** (and observe any **graphics**), getting a **rough idea** of **what it is about;** then go straight to the **QUESTIONS**, making sure that you understand ***exactly*** what each question is asking you to do and making sure that you check **ALL** of the multiple choice answers, even if one of the first ones seems to be the correct one.

When looking for the answers, look for the **key words mentioned** in the **question**. If the passage is **too complex** for you, **guess it** and **move on** with the aim to **revisit it later**.

Another part of this exam is focused on **grammar** and **punctuation**. Do you know the difference between a **noun vs pronoun** **vs verb vs adverb vs preposition vs conjunction**? Do you know when to use **question marks**, **exclamation** **marks**, **speech marks,** **colons**, **semi-colons** and **commas**?

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* **VERBAL REASONING**

This is testing what you need to have developed from being a long term **avid reader**. However, there are some strategies still in play. Look at your **multiple choice options**: if there are a few that are **synonyms** (the same) then they are **not** the **answer**; if there are some **big words** **you've never heard of,** they too are probably **not** the **right answer**. It's tough but **keep calm** and if you have **no idea,** make an **educated guess** and **move on** to the **next one.**

The more **vocabulary** that you know (feel comfortable with/own) the better! Review the ***Useful Vocabulary, Instructional Words. Literary Terms* and *Literary Devices* notes** that I have sent you.

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**GENERAL**

**1. REPARATION:**

* Have all your **pens, pencils** etc., ready the **night before.**
* Know **where** the exam is and check it out the week before, unless you have already been there.
* Know **when** the exam is and try to get there at **least 30 minutes** **early**.
* Bring an **ANALOGUE watch** (not a digital which might express sound)

**2. BRING to EXAM:**

* Your **exam ID number** supplied by the Department. You will receive this ID about **one week** before the test day
* Your **photo ID**
* **Two 2B** or **4B pencils**, a **sharpener** and an **eraser**. A **blue** or **black biro** is optional for the **writing tasks** (I would suggest using a **pen** for them because it will then be **easier to read**).
* A **snack** and **drink** for the break. A good **energy snack** is a chocolate bar or an apple.

**3, DON’T BRING:**  
Mobile phones, digital watches, pencil cases, rulers, scrap paper, calculators, dictionaries, or bags.

**4. The NIGHT BEFORE:**

* **Don't study** the day before**. Take the night off** and watch a movie or something; **keep relaxed.**
* Get a **good night's sleep** before the exam. It will do wonders, especially if you are waking up earlier than usual.
* Tell your parents and siblings that you will need them to be very **positive** and **encouraging** for you during this time.
* Have your room **as quiet as possible** and with as **little light** in it as possible.

**5. The DAY of the EXAM:**

* **Double and triple check** to make sure you have **everything** they've told you to **bring**.
* If they still hold the exam in the **Royal Exhibition Building**, it will be cold so **rug up**! If you have a **runny nose**, ask for some **tissues!**
* **Stay away from nervous people** because they'll make **YOU** nervous.
* Bring some **water** with you to the exam but **leave** it on the **floor** (you don’t want to risk dropping it all over your work by accident, which does happen)
* When you get into the exam hall, if your table is **wonky,** or you can'tsee the **clock,** or something else is wrong, **LET THE SUPERVISORS KNOW *before*** the start so that they can help you to get a new seat or fix up the table or whatever. It is too late to ask once the exam has started.
* Fill in your **ANSWER SHEET**, NOT the question booklet (unless the instructions say otherwise). **ALWAYS go with the exam instructions!**
* If you are **running** out of **TIME**, ***guess*** the rest of the answers
* The last thing you want to do is to end up spending a lot of time on a question you will not get right and, as a result, leave out the **last 5 questions** you could have got right. **Random guessing** is a good ideain the last minute of the exam. **Keep an eye on the clock at all times** and make sure you attempt the **whole paper** to the **best** of your **ability. Never leave out a question**. This includes skipping questions - **always fill it out**. This is so that you don't leave it **blank** by accident. Also, this will prevent you from accidentally wrongly **filling in the next answer** where that one should have been and consequently **screwing up your whole sheet** which takes ages to fix up. If you are

rubbing a bubble out**, rub it out completely**!

* If you **finish a paper** early, **go back** and **check over** your **answers!**
* **Keep calm.**
* If it **doesn't go well for you**, don't lose faith in your **academic prowess.** Maybe it just wasn't your day

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**GOOD LUCK and DO YOUR BEST!**

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