

# PiAcademy

## 11+ English

### GL Style - Pack 2

### Test Paper 8

#### Instructions:

1. The time allowed is 50 minutes for 50 questions
2. This is a multiple-choice test and each question carries 1 Mark.
3. There are 4 sections in this question paper
  - ( i ) Reading comprehension
  - ( ii ) Spelling Exercises.
  - ( iii ) Capital Letter and Punctuation Exercise
  - ( iv ) Grammar Exercise, identifying the best word/words
4. Answers should be clearly marked in pencil on the provided answer sheet.
5. No Marks are lost for an incorrect answer.
6. If you have marked the wrong answer, erase it and mark the new one. Make sure that your final answer is clear.

#### Symbols used:



Go to the next page.

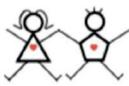


Do not turn the page until told to do so.



Stop working and await instructions.

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Read the following passage carefully and answer the following questions.

# The Goldfinch

by Donna Tartt

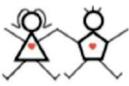
Para 1 Things would have turned out better if my mother had lived. As it was, she died when I was a kid; and though everything that's happened to me since then is thoroughly my own fault, still when I lost her I lost sight of any landmark that might have led me someplace happier, to some more populated or congenial life.

Para 2 Her death the dividing mark: Before and After. And though it's a bleak thing to admit all these years later, still I've never met anyone who made me feel loved the way she did. Everything came alive in her company; she cast a charmed theatrical light about her so that to see anything through her eyes was to see it in brighter colours than ordinary – I remember a few weeks before she died, eating a late supper with her in an Italian restaurant down in the Village, and how she grasped my sleeve at the sudden, almost painful loveliness of a birthday cake with lit candles being carried in procession from the kitchen, faint circle of light wavering in across the dark ceiling and then the cake set down to blaze amidst the family, beatifying an old lady's face, smiles all round, waiters stepping away with their hands behind their backs – just an ordinary birthday dinner you might see anywhere in an inexpensive downtown restaurant, and I'm sure I wouldn't even remember it had she not died so soon after, but I thought about it again and again after her death and indeed I'll probably think about it all my life: that candlelit circle, a tableau vivant of the daily, commonplace happiness that was lost when I lost her.

Para 3 She was beautiful, too. That's almost secondary; but still, she was. When she came to New York fresh from Kansas, she worked part-time as a model though she was too uneasy in front of the camera to be very good at it; whatever she had, it didn't translate to film.

Para 4 And yet she was wholly herself: a rarity. I cannot recall ever seeing another person who really resembled her. She had black hair, fair skin that freckled in summer, china-blue eyes with a lot of light in them; and in the slant of her cheekbones there was such an eccentric mixture of the tribal and the Celtic Twilight that sometimes people guessed she was Icelandic. In fact, she was half Irish, half Cherokee, from a town in Kansas near the Oklahoma border; and she liked to make me laugh by calling herself an Okie even though she was as glossy and nery and stylish as a racehorse. That exotic character unfortunately comes out a little too stark and unforgiving in photographs – her freckles covered with makeup, her hair pulled back in a ponytail at the nape of her neck like some nobleman in *The Tale of Genji* – and what doesn't come across at all is her warmth, her merry, unpredictable quality, which is what I loved about her most. It's clear, from the stillness she





Para 4 emanates in pictures, how much she mistrusted the camera; she gives off a watchful, tigerish air of steeling herself against attack. But in life she wasn't like that. She moved with a thrilling quickness, gestures sudden and light, always perched on the edge of her chair like some long elegant marsh-bird about to startle and fly away. I loved the sandalwood perfume she wore, rough and unexpected, and I loved the rustle of her starched shirt when she swooped down to kiss me on the forehead. And her laugh was enough to make you want to kick over what you were doing and follow her down the street. Wherever she went, men looked at her out of the corner of their eyes, and sometimes they used to look at her in a way that bothered me a little.

Para 5 Her death was my fault. Other people have always been a little too quick to assure me that it wasn't; and **yes, only a kid, who could have known, terrible accident, rotten luck, could have happened to anyone**, it's all perfectly true and I don't believe a word of it.

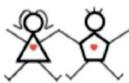
Para 6 It happened in New York, April 10, 14 years ago. (Even my hand balks at the date; I had to push to write it down, just to keep the pen moving on the paper. It used to be a perfectly ordinary day but now it sticks up on the calendar like a rusty nail.)

Para 7 If the day had gone as planned, it would have faded into the sky unmarked, swallowed without a trace along with the rest of my eighth-grade year. What would I remember of it now? Little or nothing. But of course the texture of that morning is clearer than the present, down to the drenched, wet feel of the air.

Para 8 I was 13. I hate to remember how awkward we were with each other that last morning, stiff enough for the doorman to notice; any other time we would have been talking companionably enough, but that morning we didn't have much to say to each other because I'd been suspended from school. They'd called her at her office the day before; she'd come home silent and furious; and the awful thing was that I didn't even know what I'd been suspended for, although I was about 75 per cent sure that Mr Beeman (en route from his office to the teachers' lounge) had looked out the window of the second-floor landing at exactly the wrong moment and seen me smoking on school property. My mother hated smoking.

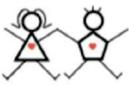
Para 9 But I'd been in trouble at school for a while. It had all started, or begun to snowball rather, when my father had run off and left my mother and me some months before; we'd never liked him much, and my mother and I were generally much happier without him, but other people seemed shocked and distressed at the abrupt way he'd abandoned us (without money, child support, or forwarding address), and the teachers at my school on the Upper West Side had been so sorry for me, so eager to extend their





Para 9 understanding and support, that they'd given me – a scholarship student – all sorts of special allowances and delayed deadlines and second and third chances: feeding out the rope, over a matter of months, until I'd managed to lower myself into a very deep hole. So the two of us – my mother and I – had been called in for a conference at school.



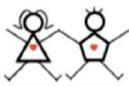


# Comprehension

Read the following passage carefully and answer the following questions. Mark the correct answer on the provided answer sheet by choosing one of the options A - E.

- 1** Which of these words is the best synonym for congenial?
- A. fortunate
  - B. agreeable
  - C. prosperous
  - D. busy
  - E. constructive
- 2** What literary technique is being used when the narrator says 'Her death the dividing mark'?
- A. metaphor
  - B. irony
  - C. simile
  - D. oxymoron
  - E. imagery
- 3** Why does the author capitalize the words 'Before' and 'After'?
- A. Because they are proper nouns
  - B. Because they are words related to time
  - C. To emphasize the significance of these two states
  - D. Because they come after a colon
  - E. Because he is trying to personify the two states
- 4** What is it that the narrator liked about his mother?
- A. She was very charming
  - B. She was a theatrical and dramatic person
  - C. She had an infectious interest in life
  - D. She had a very artistic vision
  - E. She was very affectionate





# Comprehension

**5** 'Painful loveliness' are two words with almost opposing meanings. What do we call this literary technique?

- A. alliteration
- B. contrast
- C. oxymoron
- D. chiasmus
- E. zeugma

**6** How was the birthday cake carried from the kitchen?

- A. By several people
- B. By one person
- C. By a group of people
- D. By a line of people
- E. Very slowly and carefully

**7** What type of words are 'sure' and 'ordinary'?

- A. Adjectives
- B. Adverbs
- C. Nouns
- D. Verbs
- E. Conjunctions

**8** A 'tableaux vivant' is a French expression. What do you think the best translation for this phrase might be?

- A. Memorable image
- B. Table of friends
- C. Living memory
- D. Beautiful scene
- E. Living picture

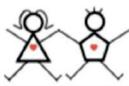




# Comprehension

- 9** What does the narrator feel he lost when he lost his mother?
- A.** The ability to enjoy everyday things
  - B.** All pleasure in life
  - C.** Someone to share important occasions with
  - D.** A source of moral guidance
  - E.** A role model
- 10** What does the narrator mean when he says her beauty was 'almost secondary'?
- A.** It's the second thing he will tell us
  - B.** His mother didn't prioritize her beauty
  - C.** His mother hid her beauty
  - D.** It is the second important thing about her
  - E.** It is of lesser importance than her presence
- 11** Which of these is the best definition of 'eccentric'?
- A.** beautiful in an odd way
  - B.** unconventional and slightly strange
  - C.** strongly juxtaposing
  - D.** pointed and defined
  - E.** a perfect combination of two things
- 12** In what ways is the narrator's mother like a racehorse?
- A.** She is skittish and well-groomed
  - B.** She is a brilliant prize
  - C.** She is extremely beautiful and elegant
  - D.** She is very competitive
  - E.** She is nervous, anxious person





# Comprehension

**13** What bothers the narrator most about photos of his mother?

- A. They cannot capture her beauty
- B. They make his mother look harsh and unpleasant
- C. They cannot capture her friendly personality
- D. They make his mother tense and stressed
- E. They remind him of her death

**14** Which of these words is the best synonym for 'emanates'?

- A. exudes
- B. displays
- C. maintains
- D. attempts
- E. discovers

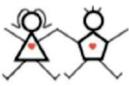
**15** What do you think the narrator's mother might look like physically?

- A. Slender and lithe
- B. Tall and bony
- C. Very small
- D. A large powerful presence
- E. Gawky and thin

**16** What do you think the narrator means when he says that people have always been 'a little too quick' to assure him his mother's death was not his fault?

- A. He means that people are uncomfortable talking about it
- B. He means that people are sympathetic and supportive
- C. He means that he believes people secretly think that it was his fault
- D. He means that he hates talking about it with other people
- E. He means that people cut him off quickly when he tries to talk about it





# Comprehension

**17** Why is some of the text in paragraph 5 italicized?

- A. To suggest an ironic tone
- B. To provide emphasis
- C. To represent speech
- D. To increase the pace
- E. To show the narrator does not believe it

**18** What is the best definition of the word 'balks'?

- A. To show resistance and reluctance
- B. To shake and be nervous
- C. To show fear and loathing
- D. To show disgust and horror
- E. To have a tantrum

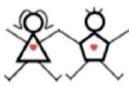
**19** What literary technique is being used when the writer says 'like a rusty nail'?

- A. comparison
- B. simile
- C. suspense
- D. metaphor
- E. personification

**20** How clearly does the narrator remember April 10, 14 years ago?

- A. He remembers little or nothing
- B. He has vague memories of that day
- C. He remembers the wet feel of the air most clearly
- D. The day is even more distinct than his current life
- E. He has some clear memories of that day





# Comprehension

**21** Why do you think the narrator hates to remember how awkward he was with his mother that morning?

- A.** Because the doorman noticed and he was embarrassed
- B.** Because he hated his mother being angry with him
- C.** Because it was the last day she was alive
- D.** Because the two normally got on well
- E.** Because he had been suspended

**22** How old is the narrator?

- A.** 24
- B.** 25
- C.** 26
- D.** 27
- E.** 28

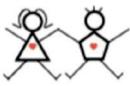
**23** What do you think the phrase 'en route' means?

- A.** On the way
- B.** Between
- C.** Coming from
- D.** Beside
- E.** Commuting

**24** What do you think the word 'snowball' means in this context?

- A.** Hit hard
- B.** Get in a fight
- C.** Start happening
- D.** Get rapidly worse
- E.** Be shocking





# Comprehension

**25** Which of these words is the best synonym for 'abrupt'?

- A. Difficult
- B. Confusing
- C. Cruel
- D. Tragic
- E. Sudden

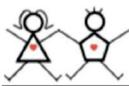
**26** What type of nouns are 'understanding' and 'support'?

- A. proper
- B. concrete
- C. common
- D. abstract
- E. collective

**27** The narrator's teachers give him a lot of special allowances in order to help him, but this results in him doing worse. How can we describe this sort of situation?

- A. Ironic
- B. Cynical
- C. Tragic
- D. Confusing
- E. Bathetic

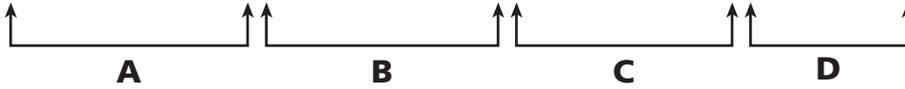




# Spelling Exercises

In the following sentences, on each line there is either **one spelling** mistake or **none**. Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark the correct answer on the provided answer sheet. **If there is no mistake mark 'N'**.

28 Everyone believed that the sculpture was a desireable piece of art.



29 Eve was sorry to dissapoint her guests, but her sickness was overwhelming.



30 Tom's hampster had a tendency to scratch the furniture and make a mess.



31 To rebuke others while making no attempt to change yourself is blatant hypocrisy.



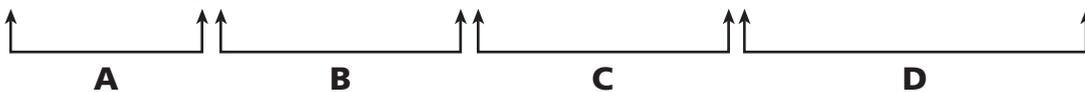
32 Some philosophers argue that morality is inate, but others strongly disagree.



33 Susie's pregnancy was barely noticable due to the loose dresses she wore daily.



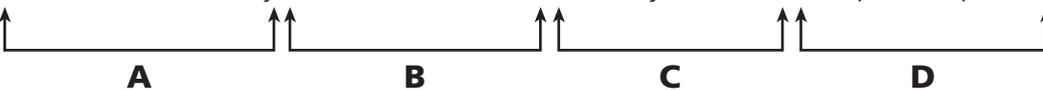
34 After receiving such good service, John felt he would reccomend the company.



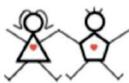
35 It is rediculous to suggest that education does not provide benefits.



36 Sarah felt extremely nervous: it was her first day, and her first public speach.







# Grammar Exercises

Identify the **best** word or **group of words** to complete each sentence in the following passage so that it make sense and it is written in correct English. You should choose one of the following answers A - E and mark the correct answer on the provided answer sheet.

43 The next day, amid a thousand fears and a thousand curiosities, I set    
**A B**  
   with a towel and a book toward the beach.  
**C D E**

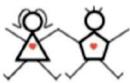
44 The trip seemed very long, and I met no one coming up or    
**A B**  
   down.  
**C D E**

45 When I arrived, the beach was deserted, and the sea gave     
**A B C**  
  an intense odour.  
**D E**

46 I stood      for a long time  
**A B C D E**  
at that great mass of water, uncertain what to do.

47 How had it      that I lived so  
**A B C D E**  
near the coast and had never learnt to swim?





# Grammar Exercises

Identify the **best** word or **group of words** to complete each sentence in the following passage so that it make sense and it is written in correct English. You should choose one of the following answers A - E and mark the correct answer on the provided answer sheet.

48 And yet it was so. I advanced cautiously, letting the water    
A B

from my feet to my ankles, to my thighs.  
C D E

49 Then I missed a step and sank. Terrified, I gasped      
A B C D

air, swallowed water, and returned to the surface.  
E

50 Then I realized that it     , naturally to move  
A B C D E

my feet and arms in a certain way to keep myself afloat.

51 Suddenly, I was swimming. The joy was so    
A B

C D E

52 that I grinned and screamed aloud, with no one      
A B C D

to hear me celebrate.  
E



11+ English - GL Style (Pack 2) - Test Paper 8  
ANSWER MARKING SHEET



Name:

Date:

School Name:

Please mark boxes with a thin horizontal line like this - .

### Comprehension

|                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |
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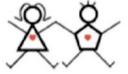
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| 21                         | 22                         | 23                         | 24                         | 25                         | 26                         | 27                         |
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### Spelling Exercises

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|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 28                         | 29                         | 30                         | 31                         | 32                         | 33                         | 34                         | 35                         | 36                         |
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### Capital Letter or Punctuation Exercises

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### Grammar Exercises

43

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44

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46

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48

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49

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50

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52

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#### For Parents use only

Marks Scored: ..... Time taken: .....

Comments: .....

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